

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	re: Panama (6 pages)	11/00/1997	P1/b(1)
002. cable	re: Panama (4 pages)	10/00/1997	P1/b(1)
003. cable	re: Panama (8 pages)	09/00/1997	P1/b(1)
004. letter	William J. Hughes to Hillary Rodham Clinton [partial] (1 page)	02/05/1998	b(6)
005. cable	re: Panama (7 pages)	09/00/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20048

FOLDER TITLE:

Panama

2013-0534-S

rc1824

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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file

10/8/97

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
STATEMENT FOR SIGNING USAID GRANT
PANAMA CITY, PANAMA
OCTOBER 9, 1997**

It gives me great pleasure to be here with the First Lady of Panama to announce a new cooperative agreement between the United States Agency for International Development and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights.

I can think of no more fitting moment to put this agreement in place than today, for this morning's session of the First Ladies' Conference has focused on the obstacles that continue to prevent millions of women in the Americas from fully exercising their most fundamental rights.

I can also think of no more fitting organization to receive our support. Since its founding in Costa Rica in 1980, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights has been this hemisphere's pre-eminent human rights organization. During the years when dictatorships darkened the region, the institute stood as a beacon of hope to millions of men and women. The institute trained lawyers, judges, government officials, and private citizens from every country in the Americas to recognize, observe and fight for basic human rights.

It also offered crucial support to the brave individuals throughout the region who formed non-governmental human rights groups. These men and women spoke out against torture and repression at a time when such acts often meant risking one's job, one's home -- even one's life.

It is no exaggeration to say that the institute and its staff have played an indispensable role in rekindling democracy and human rights in the Americas.

Since 1990, the institute has opened an entire new frontier of human rights advocacy: It has established a formal program on gender and human rights. In May, I had the privilege of visiting the institute in San Jose along with the First Lady of Costa Rica and Secretary of State Albright. We had the opportunity to meet and speak with women who are in the forefront of women's rights issues throughout Central America.

We also had the opportunity to hear about how the institute is working to bring us closer to the day when women's rights are finally seen as human rights. Indeed, the goals of this conference mirror those of the institute: to ensure that women are full participants in the political lives of their countries... to address the problems of domestic and sexual violence...to repair inequities within the law...to find ways to rebuild the lives of refugees, many of whom are women and children...to see to it that women and girls have access to the same tools of opportunity -- education, health care, credit -- as men.

All of us have a responsibility to help the institute continue its efforts to promote freedom and human rights throughout the Americas. That is why USAID, through the agreement to be signed today, will make available to the institute a grant of \$4.7 million for the next three years. These resources will go toward a wide range of important initiatives -- from supporting free elections to enabling the institute to expand its Gender and Human Rights program.

To those who work to advance the cause of liberty and democracy for **all** the citizens of the world -- the United States will always be your partner.

I would now like to invite Mark Schneider, Assistant Administrator of USAID for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Dr. Juan Mendez, Executive Director of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, to sign this cooperative agreement on behalf of their respective organizations.

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file Panama

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 01 OF 05

PRT: FIRST LADY

SIT: DELAURENTIS DESOUZA DOBBINS HOFMANN ORFINI PICCONE

SIT: NSC

<PREC> ROUTINE <CLAS> UNCLASSIFIED <DTG> 171442Z OCT 97

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0078

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 2162

INFO RHEHAAA/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PANAMA 004559

USIA FOR AR(M.COFFIN)

STATE FOR ARA/CEN (D.NOBLE)

WHITE HOUSE FOR OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY (J.MASON)

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORT - OCT. 8-10 VISIT TO PANAMA OF FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

1. SUMMARY: FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON'S THREE- DAY VISIT TO PANAMA TO ATTEND THE SEVENTH CONFERENCE OF SPOUSE OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS RECEIVED EXTENSIVE AND POSITIVE COVERAGE. DURING THE VISIT, FRONT PAGES OF THE MAIN NEWSPAPERS PROMINENTLY FEATURED PHOTOS AND REPORTS ON THE FIRST LADY'S ACTIVITIES. ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS FOCUSED ON EMPOWERMENT ISSUES FOR WOMEN, USG INTEREST IN THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE LEADERSHIP ROLE MODEL PRESENTED BY THE FIRST LADY HERSELF. POST- VISIT COMMENTARY CONTINUES TO BE COMPLIMENTARY, INCLUDING IN THE PANAMANIAN TABLOID PRESS, WHICH TRADITIONALLY FEATURES THE MOST ANTI-U.S. EDITORIAL LINE.

END SUMMARY.

2. 10/9 ALL NEWSPAPERS COVERED MRS. CLINTON'S ARRIVAL. LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA PRENSA" RAN FRONT PAGE STORY HEADLINED, "HILLARY CLINTON WILL INTERCEDE IN THE GUSTAVO GORRITI CASE" EXCERPTS FOLLOW: "UNITED STATES FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON MAY USE HER VISIT TO THIS COUNTRY TO DISCREETLY PRESS IN FAVOR OF LA PRENSA ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR GUSTAVO GORRITI, WHO THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT WANTS TO DEPORT, A U.S. OFFICIAL TOLD REUTERS. I THINK THAT MRS. CLINTON, WILL SURELY FIND THE OCCASION TO SAY SOMETHING IN PRIVATE TO THE PANAMANIAN AUTHORITIES, SAID THE OFFICIAL PHOTO OF MRS. CLINTON WAVING AT JOURNALISTS UPON ARRIVAL AND AN ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE REPORTING ON HER SCHEDULE IN PANAMA ALSO WERE CARRIED.

INDEPENDENT "EL UNIVERSAL" STORY EXCERPTED FROM THE ARRIVAL STATEMENT, "U.S. FIRST LADY ARRIVED YESTERDAY IN PANAMA":

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"...I AM DELIGHTED TO BE IN PANAMA, A NATION OF DIVERSE CULTURE WITH WHOM THE UNITED STATES HAS LONG ENJOYED A CLOSE, UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP," MRS. CLINTON SAID "...WE ARE BUILDING A NEW, MATURE RELATIONSHIP -- ONE BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT AND A CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC VALUES, TO PROGRESS, AND THE PROSPERITY OF BOTH OUR PEOPLES."

3. 10/10 CONSERVATIVE DAILY "EL PANAMA AMERICA" RAN FRONT PAGE PHOTO OF PANAMANIAN FIRST LADY DORA PEREZ BALLADARES AND MRS. CLINTON AT SIGNING CEREMONY FOR USAID DONATION TO INTERAMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE UNDER THE HEADLINE "FIRST LADIES PROMISE TO FIGHT POVERTY." QUOTE FROM ARTICLE: "DURING THE SUMMIT, U.S. FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON SAID THAT THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE DEMOCRACY SURVIVE AND PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY, IS TO GIVE WOMEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LIFE OF THEIR COUNTRIES."

INDEPENDENT DAILIES "LA PRENSA" AND "EL UNIVERSAL" CARRIED PAGE-ONE COLOR PHOTO OF HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON SIGNING THE PANAMA DECLARATION AT CONFERENCE END.

4. 10/11 EVERY NEWSPAPER CARRIED PHOTOS AND/OR ARTICLES COVERING FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON'S ACTIVITIES. PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY "LA ESTRELLA" DEVOTED A FULL PAGE, PAGE TWO TO AN ARTICLE ON THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT TO A WOMAN'S AGRO-FORESTRY MICRO-ENTERPRISE IN THE REMOTE VILLAGE OF CHICA IN THE PANAMANIAN INTERIOR. THE SPREAD INCLUDED FOUR COLOR PHOTOS FROM THE CHICA TRIP. HEADLINE READS : "AN HISTORIC VISIT TO CHICA." EXCERPTS FOLLOW: "MRS. CLINTON'S VISIT TO CHICA WAS AN HISTORIC EVENT IN THE COUNTRY MAKING IT THE FIRST RURAL COMMUNITY VISITED BY A FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. ... MRS. CLINTON ... DIDN'T WASTE A MOMENT TO RELISH EVERY DETAIL OR KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE AGROFORESTRY PROJECT, SUBSIDIZED IN PART BY THE GOVERNMENT LED BY HER HUSBAND, BILL CLINTON. RUN ESSENTIALLY BY WOMEN, THE OBJECTIVE IS THE PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT..TO IMPROVE THE SELF-ESTEEM OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND THE USE OF THE LAND..."IT IS A BEAUTIFUL PROJECT,' COMMENTED MRS. CLINTON,.. "I WILL NEVER FORGET THE FACES OF THE CHILDREN, THE WELCOMING WORDS OF THE WOMEN ... AND THE PLANTS.' A VISIBLY EMOTIONAL FAUSTINA NUNEZ SAID, "I NEVER DREAMED OR IMAGINED THAT THE FIRST LADIES OF PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES COULD BE HERE TO SEE OUR PROJECT.'"

CONSERVATIVE "EL PANAMA AMERICA" RAN TWO FRONT-PAGE PHOTOS OF MRS. CLINTON. ONE PHOTO DEPICTS THE FIRST LADY GREETING US PILOTS AT HOWARD AIR BASE. THE OTHER PHOTO WAS TAKEN AT CHICA AND IS HEADED, "HILLARY IS SURE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA WILL ENDURE." ARTICLE EXCERPTS FOLLOW: "... HILLARY CLINTON SAID YESTERDAY THAT

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WHAT SHE HAS EXPERIENCED IN PANAMA DURING THE LAST THREE DAYS, "HAVE CONVINCED ME THAT THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL ENDURE AND GROW STRONGER INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM.' AT HOWARD SHE TOLD SOLDIERS THEY WERE . PRIVILEGED TO LIVE HERE DURING THE HISTORIC MOMENT OF THE CANAL TRANSITION. "...AS MUCH AS I HAVE ENJOYED THE LAST TWO DAYS HERE IN PANAMA, MY VISIT WOULD NOT BE COMPLETE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PANAMA 004559

USIA FOR AR(M.COFFIN)
STATE FOR ARA/CEN (D.NOBLE)
WHITE HOUSE FOR OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY (J.MASON)

E.O. 12958: N/A
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WITHOUT COMING HERE TO SEE ALL OF YOU. THE MEN AND WOMEN AND FAMILIES OF THE UNITED STATES IN PANAMA. ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING AND DEDICATED SERVICE ON BEHALF OF OUR NATION.' "

INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA PRENSA" RAN A FRONT-PAGE PHOTO OF THE FIRST LADY AT CHICA AND A WIRE STORY (REUTER) HEADLINED, "HILLARY CLINTON RAISED JOURNALIST GUSTAVO GORRITI'S CASE. QUOTING FROM THE ARTICLE: "DURING HER VISIT TO PANAMA, UNITED STATES FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE PERUVIAN JOURNALIST PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS WANT TO DEPORT, SAID A U.S. OFFICIAL YESTERDAY. THE OFFICIAL, WHO ASKED NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED, SAID"MRS. CLINTON TOLD MEMBERS OF THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT, IN PRIVATE, THAT THE U.S. HOPES THE CASE WOULD BE SOLVED.' THE OFFICIAL DECLINE THE PANAMANIAN AUTHORITIES, BUT SAID MRS. CLINTON ALSO DISCUSSED THE CASE OF THREE PANAMANIAN CITIZENS ON TRIAL FOR THE 1992 DEATH OF A U.S. SOLDIER IN PANAMA. "WE WANT JUST AND FREE TRIAL.' SAID THE OFFICIAL, BUT REFUSED TO GIVE MORE DETAILS." SAME DAILY ALSO RAN PAGE-TWO ARTICLE ON MRS. CLINTON'S VISIT TO HOWARD.

5. 10/12 NEWSPAPERS CARRIED PHOTOS OF MRS. CLINTON IN CHICA AND AT A GRANT SIGNING CEREMONY. PRO-GOVERNMENT "LA ESTRELLA" CARRIED PAGE TWO EDITORIAL CARTOON DEPICTING MRS CLINTON'S WELCOME AT CHICA. IT IS A DRAWING OF A FIGURE RESEMBLING THE U.S. FIRST LADY WEARING A TRADITIONAL PANAMANIAN "MONTUNO" HAT , WALKING DOWN A DIRT ROAD WITH TWO CHILDREN ON EACH SIDE WEARING TRADITIONAL CLOTHING, AN ONE HOLDING AN AMERICAN FLAG AND THE OTHER A PANAMANIAN FLAG. THERE IS A SIGN THAT READS 'CHICA WELCOMES HILLARY'. THE COMMUNITY STANDS IN THE BACKGROUND APPLAUDING WHILE AN ONLOOKER SAYS, "THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A U.S. FIRST LADY VISITS A RURAL COMMUNITY."

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6. 10/13 INDEPENDENT "LA PRENSA" DEDICATED A FULL INSIDE MAGAZINE PAGE TO THE FIRST LADIES' SUMMIT AND WHICH FEATURED A COLOR PHOTO OF MRS. CLINTON AND COMMENTED ON HER SPEECH AT THE CONFERENCE AS FOLLOWS, "...THEY ALSO DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY, ALWAYS AND WHEN THE ELEMENTS TO EXIST TO DO SO. THIS WAS MADE CLEAR BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON IN HER AMPLE AND VERY GENERAL SPEECH, IN WHICH THE RURAL WOMAN WAS GIVEN A COMPLETE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. THE AMERICAN FIRST LADY EMPHASIZED THAT FAMILY PLANNING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS ARE THE EFFORTS WHICH HAVE BROUGHT EXCELLENT RESULTS AT EMPOWERING WOMEN TO TAKE THEIR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES AWAY FROM POVERTY..."

7. 10/14 INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA PRENSA" RAN A FULL PAGE ON THE CONFERENCE'S FINAL DECLARATION, ACCOMPANIED BY A CLASS PHOTO OF THE FIRST LADIES. SENSATIONALIST TABLOID "EL SIGLO" FEATURED COLUMNIST TOMAS CABAL WROTE AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "HILLARY CLINTON'S VISIT." QUOTES FOLLOW: "THE VISIT OF THE U.S. FIRST LADY TO PANAMA HELPED CALL REMARKS BEFORE THE FIRST LADIES OF THE AMERICAS, MRS. CLINTON SPOKE ABOUT THE NEED TO ALLOW WOMEN TO GET INVOLVED IN THE FORMAL ECONOMY AND POLITICAL LIFE. ... ANALYZING THE U.S. FIRST LADY'S SUCCESS, WE CAN APPRECIATE WHAT WOMEN CAN ACHIEVE IF GIVEN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES. MRS. CLINTON WAS A TRUE EXAMPLE OF WHAT IS GOOD AND NOBLE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THOSE OF US WHO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET HER, AGREE THAT HER TRIP TO PANAMA HELPED CEMENT THE TRADITIONAL TIES OF FRIENDSHIP THAT UNITE BOTH OUR COUNTRIES."

8. 10/15 FEATURED EDITORIAL WRITER TOMAS CABAL AGAIN WROTE ON THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT IN SENSATIONALIST TABLOID "EL SIGLO." THE COLUMN WAS HEADED, "THE FIRST LADIES": "THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL DISTINGUISHED PERSONALITIES AND THE OVERALL HIGH LEVEL OF THE SPEECHES SPOKE WELL OF THE DEGREE OF ORGANIZATION...THE VISIT OF HILLARY CLINTON SERVED TO HIGHLIGHT THE EVENT EVEN MORE. . WITH HER PRESENCE IN PANAMA, MRS. CLINTON COULD LEARN ABOUT ADVANCES MADE FOR THE GENDER, AND DISCUSS WHAT THE AMERICANS CALL THE "EMPOWERMENT" (IN ENGLISH) OF WOMEN, BUT THERE IS STILL MUCH TO BE DONE...."

9. COMMENT: PANAMANIAN NEWS COVERAGE OF THE U.S. TENDS TO FOCUS ON THE THORNIER ASPECTS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE COVERAGE OF THE VISIT OF FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON MADE A NOTEWORTHY EXCEPTION. THE USG PUBLIC PROFILE IN PANAMA HAS BEEN UPLIFTED CONSIDERABLY AS A RESULT OF THE VISIT OF THE FIRST LADY. DUDDY

<^SECT>SECTION: 01 OF 02

<^SSN>4559

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<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

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<MSGID> M2980921

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file Panama
Embassy of the United States of America

Office of the Ambassador

Panama City, Panama

January 22, 1998

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20523

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

It is with pleasure that I send you and your staff my sincere greetings for a healthy and prosperous 1998.

I am very happy to inform you that the four-burner gas stove, which you generously pledged to the elementary school of Chica in Altos de Campana during your successful visit to the community in October, 1997, was presented to the Chica school in a Christmas holiday ceremony held on January 5, 1998.

I should also note that members of the American business community, who attend a monthly breakfast meeting at my residence, responded enthusiastically to my request for donations for the Chica Christmas holiday ceremony by generously providing Christmas gifts and financial contributions for clothing, toys and food.

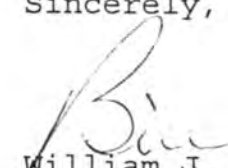
At the ceremony, members of our staff, (Robert G. Hellyer and Patricia Rodriguez of the United States Agency for International Development in Panama - USAID), also delivered presents, food and clothes to approximately 200 children (ranging in age from six months to twelve years) representing 100 families, 15 senior citizens and 5 single mothers of handicapped children.

The program event included a choral presentation by Chica's Teenager Choir comprised of 9 girls and 6 boys. They provided songs with guitar accompaniment during a manger scene reenactment. (The manger was built by members of the community for this special occasion). The three wise men of the East arrived at the crib offering their respects with gold, myrrh and incense. Character representations were played by children of the elementary school. Following thereon, toys and bags of assorted food were distributed to the children and families. Also, elderly people and families with handicapped members, received bags with food and clothes. The celebration concluded with a toast of refreshments, apples and cookies.

In this regard, I am pleased to enclose pictures of the delivery of the stove, presents, clothes, and food. I am confident that you will share in our satisfaction of the rewarding experience of providing happiness and warm moments to the children, families and elderly citizens in the rural and distant community of Chica.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Sincerely,



William J. Hughes
Ambassador

P.S. The "HRC Slept Here" brass plaque for the guestroom is in the works and we will have an appropriate dedication ceremony.

cc: Melanne Verveer, Chief of Staff

Enclosures

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CEN

CC MLS
GW
RSD

**PROPOSED GRANT-SIGNING WITH
THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
(IIDH, Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos)
PANAMA, OCTOBER 9, 1997**

The Inter-American Institute for Human Rights is an independent, international, educational institution which works in Latin America and the Caribbean "to promote and strengthen respect for human rights and consolidate democracy through research, education, training, political mediation, and technical assistance..." It was created in 1980 under an agreement between the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Republic of Costa Rica, where its headquarters is located. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was its first donor and has remained among the major donors.

The next grant to IIDH is about to be signed. As discussed we hope to sign this grant during the Conference. A key feature of the new grant will be an expanded IIDH gender and human rights activity. It will focus on regional grassroots organizations which address human rights issues affecting women and help women get access to the legal support for those rights. The broader IIDH program includes a wide range of conferences, seminars, publications, and technical assistance to governments and non-governmental organizations on many aspects of human rights and elections. The US\$4.8 million grant will support this program and core institutional costs during the period 1998-2000.

We propose holding the signing ceremony during the morning break of October 9th in a room adjacent to the Conference proceedings. Both Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Perez de Balladares would witness the signing which will be executed by IIDH's Executive Director Juan Mendez and USAID's Assistant Administrator for the Latin America and the Caribbean Bureau, Mark L. Schneider.

TALKING POINTS FOR PANAMA CONFERENCE

- **We have come a long way since meeting in Miami in 1994, and we must commend ourselves for all that we have accomplished.** I know that each one of you here today has taken an important leadership role in advancing the status of women in the Americas. You have worked toward the reduction of maternal mortality in our hemisphere, toward the elimination of measles and the advancement educational reform. And you have gone on to rally support for the empowerment of women, and it is on this last goal that I wish to focus my remarks today.
- The word "empowerment" I am told, does not translate well, yet I am sure that each of us here in this room knows something about its meaning. **Empowerment means many things:** Empowerment means the right to participate in the political and economic life of our countries; Empowerment means protection from sexual and domestic violence; Empowerment means access to justice when our rights as full citizens are denied -- and education about those rights so that we know we have them in the first place; and empowerment means that we value ourselves enough, as human beings, to deserve such rights to begin with. We ask nothing more than to be treated as full citizens in our countries and we expect nothing less.
- During my travels as a First Lady, to Latin America and the Caribbean and other areas of the world, **many women have taught me what this struggle means to them.** In Costa Rica, women have pushed through a law against domestic violence and have worked to incorporate domestic abuse issues in police training. In El Salvador, recent legislation has overturned archaic laws mandating the acquittal of rapists who agreed to marry their victims, and another law was passed forcing politicians to prove they have paid up their child support before running for office. In Guatemala, the nation's highest court has recognized international law as a precedent to overthrow national laws that treated women who cheated on their spouses more harshly than men who did the same.
- **And I am continuing to learn about this struggle.** Here in Panama, I am told, the Legislative assembly has reformed the Family Code to better regulate such matters as alimony, child support and child custody. And in Argentina the National Legislature has passed a law establishing that women must constitute 30 percent of a political party's candidate list.
- **At the same time I have been able to reflect more keenly on what this struggle means for women in my own country.** I am happy to say that all 50 states in the U.S. now have STOP Violence Against Women plans, funded at least in part by the

Department of Justice, each outlining actions to provide services, training, officers and prosecution of offenders. And on a more personal level I have heard from women who once believed that they weren't worth very much; that nobody really cared too much about them. I have heard how they gained the ability to believe in themselves. As one young women said, "Five years ago, I was in a battered women's shelter in Fayetteville, Arkansas...and my face looked as though it had been run over by a truck. All of a sudden there were people there who convinced me that I could make something of myself and care for my nine-month-old son. I thought to myself, how can these people believe in me, that I could go to college, that I could support myself. How could these people care about me when my own husband didn't care about me." (International Women's Day 1997). Because they cared, this young woman learned to care for herself as well. ✓

- **And yes, this struggle for women is nothing new.** In the 1980's for example, I know that women in Argentina and Chile took bold actions against repressive dictatorships. Women in El Salvador and Guatemala spoke out for peace in the region. I only know that public awareness of these actions seems greater than ever before, the tangible rewards more apparent and the velocity of change continues to climb. In each of our countries we know of women in mothers' clubs, in health committees, in neighborhood organizations and more. But for the first time there is a feeling among these women that they are not alone. They and we are part of something larger, something happening in Panama and Paraguay, in Mexico and Miami, in Beijing and around the world. We are taking our place in politics and the economy: we are buying businesses and paying back loans; we are stopping wars and electing presidents.
- **Democracy is about all these kinds of empowerment.** And in the transition to Democracy I must admit that my own country has some distance to go to fully empower its citizens. I support the U.S. Secretary of State Albright and the U.S. government's desire to ratify the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- **Indeed, in spite of all the accomplishments we have made, we still have a long and difficult road ahead. Many challenges remain to realize the full legal, economic and political citizenship of women and girls in our hemisphere. And our challenge is to continue this struggle. We must recognize that a legal framework to guarantee such citizenship is often not completely in place, and that women's rights continue to be violated. We must persist in bringing public attention to the fact that domestic and sexual violence against women is one of the most serious and under reported human rights violations affecting women in the region. We**

can encourage our governments to pass legislation consistent with the international conventions on violence against women, where such legislation has not already been passed. And where such legislation does exist, we must move on to focus on its implementation. We can encourage governments and NGOs to actively train police and judicial personnel in how to deal with such violence both positively and fairly.

- The economic rights of women are similarly violated. Even when legal guarantees do exist, women, particularly poor and less educated women, are often not aware of their legal rights in the workplace, or with respect to property and inheritance. We can encourage NGO and government programs which actively work with women to educate them about their legal rights in the workplace and the family, and about how to seek redress or protection when those rights are violated. We can encourage governments to establish effective mechanisms to investigate violations of the rights of women in the workplace, in the family, or by any public official, including mechanisms such as ombudspersons or human rights commissions.
- And finally, we must recognize that the participation of women in the political life of our countries, and particularly their service as elected government officials, has remained well below the potential, even as the legal barriers to participation have diminished. (Italics above are paraphrases of suggested language for conference Declaration). We must recognize that we face a choice: to lead or be left behind. In order to be full participants and full beneficiaries of national development we must get involved -- yet many women simply lack the skills and tools to do so.
- "Implementing these rights must start with the education of girls." As Charlotte Bunch, a leading proponent for the human rights of women, advises. "Their unequal access to education is one of the most fundamental abridgements of human rights and one that perpetuates their weakened position, making them vulnerable to oppression and ultimately to violence. In addition to the obvious benefits of literacy and numeracy, education gives girls the confidence to make the most of their abilities....[and] Girls' education is the assured route to women's economic empowerment. Earning money [likewise] elevates a woman's self-esteem and her standing in her home and community" (Bunch 1997:44-45). Education and earning power provide the foundation for democratic growth.
- For ideas on how to proceed, we can look to many of the innovative programs throughout the region. In Peru, for example, the Congressional Women's Commission has formed a coalition of progressive and conservative women who work together in furthering a political agenda that is beneficial

for women as well as men. Also in Peru, many grassroots organizations are run by women: the comedores populares, the vaso de leche program, and numerous mother's clubs, to name a few. In Peru and elsewhere in the region, various USAID activities work to strengthen the legal status of women by legitimating the work of legal advocates and academics writing and teaching from a gender perspective at the Catholic University's college of law. Other activities seek to foster women's political participation in the region at large, strengthening advocacy capabilities, training women to run for office and strengthening the skills of women politicians. These are only a few of the many exciting activities that are already underway and to which we can lend our unique support.

- **And I say to you today that we must continue to work for this reality and hold ourselves accountable in the process.** We must monitor progress on the commitments we make here and those our countries have made in Miami and Beijing. The government of Nicaragua has coordinated regional efforts to measure our progress on Miami Item #18: Strengthening the Role of Women in Society. Additional monitoring of governments' progress on Beijing commitments are underway in most countries as well, via local NGOs, national government offices and international organizations. Each country must have, minimally, an office, with adequate resources and staff, to ensure implementation of and compliance with obligations agreed to during the Summit of the Americas meeting in Miami in 1994 and the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995.
- **We can see that "democracy is not just about legally protected rights, elections or free-market economies. It is about the internalization of democratic values in people's hearts and minds. It is about how, in the absence of either hot or cold wars, democracy is rooted in people's everyday lives"** (International Women's Day 1997). We see grassroots women who have been widowed or abandoned finding the will to participate, we see humble women such as Mother Teresa and those of "privilege" such as the Princess of Wales, each of them taking some part, all of them participating in some way. Do not we, too, have such an obligation - an obligation to work from the topmost positions in our society to further women's status, as others work in their soup kitchens and communities, in their local councils and courts, so that the two can someday meet. As our Secy. of State Albright has put it: "Whether one is bumping against a glass ceiling or standing on a dirt floor, equality remains - for most - more aspiration than reality." We have an obligation to work to change this aspiration to reality.

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PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION REVITALIZATION IN THE AMERICAS

In September 1996, USAID approved a cooperative agreement allocating six million dollars to help establish the Partnership for Educational Revitalization in the Americas. The Partnership (in Spanish, Programa para la Promoción de la Reforma Educativa en la América Latina y el Caribe, PREAL) is implemented through a Secretariat at the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington-based NGO dedicated to promoting hemispheric cooperation. Drawing on a diverse membership of institutions, networks, and individuals throughout the Americas, the Partnership's objectives center on improving finance, quality, equity, and decentralization of public primary education.

Recently, the Partnership collaborated with the Ministry of Education in Colombia to hold a regionwide conference on education finance. It is also working with the Chilean Ministry of Education to organize a MERCOSUR workshop on educational statistics, to be held in Santiago, Chile, in late 1997. Also in Chile, the Partnership is developing joint activities with the UNESCO regional education office, and will co-sponsor, with the Chilean NGO PARTICIPA, a conference on "Education, Democracy and Sustainable Development in the Framework of the Second Summit of the Americas". Other Summit-related activities include follow-up on progress by various countries on the education initiatives from the Miami Summit and planning of meetings to be held in Washington and Santiago on the theme of education and trade. The Partnership is also working with business groups in a number of countries to increase business leaders' involvement in education.

The Partnership's biggest challenge is to sustain the current unprecedented level of attention to educational reform among top policy makers in the region. Moreover, policy debate must be transformed into concrete programs with visible and measurable results. To be successful, improving finance of public primary schooling, decentralization and increased community participation in school management, the application of national standards and achievement testing, ensuring equity of rural and indigenous students with their urban counterparts, and other education reforms will need support from national governments as well as local advocacy organizations and the private sector.

Because of its high profile in top policy circles, the Partnership can play a vital role in keeping up the pace of education reform throughout the region. Progress is by no means assured and much remains to be done. The political moment, moreover, is conducive to education reform. The proposed bilateral US-Brazil Partnership for Education will stimulate greater cooperation between the two countries in that area, and education is a major topic at the upcoming Santiago Summit.

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UPDATE: MATERNAL MORTALITY INITIATIVE

- Maternal mortality continues to be a critical problem in the Americas. Although data collection and reporting are often unreliable in many countries, it is estimated that Latin American women have a moderate Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 3.1 and a Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) median ranging between 140-190 which translates into approximately 23,000 women dying annually from pregnancy related causes. However, these aggregate figures mask wide variations. The World Health Organization and UNICEF estimate a low MMR of 55 in Panama juxtaposed to Haiti which has the highest MMR in the region with 1,000 women dying for every 100,000 live births. (Argentina's MMR is estimated at 100, Brazil at 220, and Venezuela at 120.) Particularly at risk are indigenous women, women living in rural areas, and adolescents.
- The major causes of maternal mortality include hemorrhage, hypertension related to pregnancy, sepsis, and obstructed or prolonged labor. These conditions can largely be prevented or controlled by increasing use of family planning, prenatal care, clean delivery, and postpartum services, and improving care for obstetric emergencies.
- During the Sixth Conference of First Ladies held in La Paz, Bolivia, Mrs. Clinton witnessed the signing of a USAID/PAHO grant to support the Regional Maternal Mortality Reduction Initiative in the Americas. USAID support is designed to provide more effective delivery of essential obstetric care. This will be accomplished by generating community demand for services and improving the quality of services within a supportive policy environment.
- USAID's regional initiative is targeted in 11 countries which have MMR above the average in the region: Bolivia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru. PAHO is working in these same target countries to improve the policy environment. Three of these countries--Bolivia, Ecuador, and Honduras--have been selected as demonstration sites to test out field interventions at the district level. The MotherCare Project is working on improving the community's response to essential obstetric care. The Quality Assurance Project is based at the clinic/hospital level working to ameliorate the quality of care pregnant women receive during their deliveries. The conceptual model, which encompasses a three tiered approach for reducing maternal mortality--at community, facility, and policy levels,--will be crystallized through the lessons learned from these three pilot sites.
- Two events help illustrate the important work that this maternal mortality reduction initiative is advancing. In May, in coordination with the Guatemalan Center for Reproductive Health, USAID, the Centers for Disease Control, and with the support of PAHO, a meeting was held in Central America on *Guidelines for the Surveillance of Maternal Deaths*. Representatives of Central American countries discussed their experiences with the surveillance system and were assisted in adapting the system to their country needs. In November, PAHO is sponsoring a regional Senior Technical Advisory Group (STAG) meeting in the Dominican Republic which will focus on Emergency Obstetric Care. STAG is composed of a core of eight experts in the area of reproductive health with representation from UNFPA, UNICEF, International Plan Parenthood Federation, CDC, and Family Health International.

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LATIN AMERICA: MEASLES ELIMINATION INITIATIVE

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), with support from USAID's Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, assists countries to implement an immunization program which includes the elimination of the measles virus from the Western Hemisphere by the year 2000. The vaccination strategies recommended by PAHO in the Americas are being considered by several countries in Africa and Asia, where measles continues to be a considerable health burden.

- Measles transmission has been interrupted in major portions of the Americas. In 1996, twenty-seven countries in the Americas reported zero cases of measles - this includes all countries in Central America and the Caribbean.
- Substantial progress has been made towards achieving the goal of measles elimination in the Americas. During 1996, there were only 2,109 confirmed cases of measles, a record low in the region and a 67% decrease from 1995 when there were 6,489 cases.
- In the eight countries where USAID provides support to the vaccination program, the number of cases of measles was reduced from 2,997 in 1994 to only 160 in 1996, a dramatic 95% reduction.
- However, in 1997, there was an increase in circulation of the measles virus. This started with an outbreak in Sao Paulo, Brazil (4,000 confirmed cases) which then spread to Paraguay, Chile and Peru including four importations to the U.S. This illustrates the importance and need for continued partnership development and coordination to implement the strategies for elimination of measles from the region.
- The diversity of organizations, in both the private and public sectors, which are now involved in supporting the measles elimination program requires heightened collaboration and coordination. This may be through new or existing mechanisms such as the National Inter-agency Coordinating Committees.

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**VII CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF
HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT OF THE
AMERICAS**

***PANAMA
DECLARATION***

Panama, October 8th and 9th.

DATE: SEPTEMBER 17th

VII CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS

PANAMA DECLARATION

We, the First Ladies of the Americas and the designated representatives on behalf of the Governments of

gathered in Panama from _____, 1997, to attend the VII Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, under the motto "Let us Build the Future of the Americas with Human Rights and a Culture of Peace", to evaluate achievements attained and renew our commitment to address social problems in our Continent, agree to subscribe to the following Declaration:

1. We acknowledge that our countries face similar social problems and their solutions demand the participation and the commitment of all sectors of society.
2. We firmly believe that the promotion of and respect for human rights, the attainment of equity, and the strengthening of values such as solidarity, tolerance, culture of peace, diversity, and respect for pluralism and self-determination, are fundamental conditions for the development and integration of a community of nations.
3. We recognize that there are certain segments of our populations that are highly vulnerable to the adverse impact of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration. Among these are children, youth, rural and urban women, the elderly and the disabled, who require programs and policies to enable them to fully participate in and benefit from development.

4. We reiterate our willingness to be negotiators, mobilizers, facilitators or convenors for social programs and policies serving our countries, focusing on vulnerable groups, in accordance with our respective national interests and inspired by dialogue, negotiation and mutual respect.
5. We will continue to act according to the recommendations and decisions supported by our governments at the World Summit on Children (1990); United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992); The Geneva Declaration on Rural Women (1992), The World Conference on Human Rights (1993); The International Conference on Population and Development (1994); The World Summit on Social Development (1995); The IV World Conference on Women (1995); The World Summit on Food (1996) and The Summit of the Americas (1998).
6. Acknowledging the accelerated changes happening in the world today, we reiterate our commitment to support the enlargement of the educational scope as well as the improvement of the quality in the education, training, information and technology systems. This will enable us to provide our people with the necessary tools to successfully assume their responsibility to contribute to the development of their countries.
7. We reiterate our commitment to continue to support the compliance of our agreements on:
 - Education and training of women and girls
 - Health of women and children
 - Domestic violence
 - Participation of women in spaces of power and the decision-making process
 - Rights of children and youth

8. We value the work done in the countries of the continent regarding the promotion of campaigns to protect children from measles and other preventable diseases that endanger their integral development. We also reiterate our commitment to continue our assistance toward this effort.
9. We continue to be deeply concerned about the persistent inequity and poverty of rural women in the Americas. As a priority, this requires the design of expeditious actions that strongly integrate rural women in commercial and productive activities, and we are confident that international, regional and private institutions will recognize their responsibility to provide access to technical and financial support for this effort.
10. It is necessary that the formative process of children and adolescents include the development of knowledge, skills and a sense of responsibility to care for their health in an integrated way. This will guarantee and promote their rights and foster peaceful coexistence, non-discrimination, gender equity and the resolution of conflicts through dialogue, communication, negotiation and mutual respect.
11. We commit our efforts to contribute to the eradication of child labour-- specially the most unbearable ways of labour, such as hard labour, and prostitution-- which undermines the education and development of boys and girls. Hence the request the declaration of an International Year for the Eradication of Child Labour.
12. We acknowledge the urgency for all countries to adopt the necessary measures to fully comply with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to address the elimination of the trafficking of children's organs and of child pornography and

prostitution, which irreparably mutilate and lacerate children's bodies and spirit.

13. We invite all countries that have not yet ratified the Interamerican Convention to Prevent, Sanction and Eradicate Violence Against Women, better known as The Convention De Belém Do Pará.

14. We support initiatives directed to the promotion of human rights, to lay down the foundation for a true culture of peace and development.

We also support the initiatives to overcome poverty throughout our continent.

15. We recognize the valuable participation and contribution of the international organizations and the financial institutions that have supported the endeavors of the First Ladies and are making possible the implementation of projects that serve the most needy and vulnerable sectors of our societies.

16. We are grateful and accept the kind offer, of the First Lady of Chile to host the VIII Conference of Wives of Heads of States and Government of the Americas in 1998, as well as of the First Lady of _____ to host the IX Conference.

17. We thank the First Lady of Panama, Dora Boyd de Pérez Billadares; also, the people and government of Panama for the kind attention bestowed during our visit.

Signed in the city of Panama in two original versions, Spanish and English, on the _____ 1997.



AGENDA

(Provisional, up to September 9th)

Tuesday, October 7th

Arrival of Delegations - Registration in Atlapa

Wednesday, October 8th

Inauguration: President and First Lady 9:00-9:40

Inaugural Conference

Rebeca Grynspan-Vicepresident of Costa Rica 9:40-10:40

Coffee Break 10:40-11:00

Presentation of the Pro-Tempore Secretariat's Report

H.E Dora Boyd de Pérez Balladares

First Lady of Panama 11:00-11:45

Presentation of two Projects:

1. Rural Woman - IICA 11:50-12:10

2. Education for Human Rights and Peace Culture

UNESCO - Dr. Ana Isabel Prera 12:10-12:30

Inauguration of an Exhibit - UNESCO 12:30-1:00

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<i>Lunch</i>	<i>1:00-2:00</i>
<i>Conference on Child Abuse:</i> <i>Ofelia Calzeta Santos</i> <i>UN Special Rapporteur</i>	<i>2:00-2:45</i>
<i>1st Cycle of First Ladies</i> <i>Children's Health and Education</i>	<i>2:45-4:00</i>
<i>Coffee Break</i>	<i>4:00-4:15</i>
<i>Presentation of the Project</i> <i>Erradication of Child Labor-ILO</i>	<i>4:15-4:35</i>
<i>Domestic Violence Videotape - IADB</i>	<i>4:35-5:00</i>
<i>Reception at the Presidential Palace</i>	<i>7:30 p.m.</i>

Thursday, October 9th

Presentation of one Project:
XXI Century School: Forming for Life
Dr. George Alleyne - PAHO *for schools to be in*
with 6 lower primary *9:00-9:20*

Nancy Birdsall *Presentation of the Leadership Fund -IADB* *9:20-9:40*

Empowerment *2nd Cycle of First Ladies(*)* *one - 15 mins.*
Encouragement of Rights and Participation *9:45-10:45*

Coffee Break()* *signing 4.8 m grant for* *10:45-11:15*
the dist. *from a general*

Conference: Dr. Ruth Cardoso *11:15-12:00*

3rd Cycle of First Ladies
Women's Health and Education *12:00-1:00*

+ Perez-B
** itee*
+ signing

<i>Lunch</i>	<i>1:00-2:00</i>
<i>Discussion of the Action Plan</i>	<i>2:00-4:30</i>
<i>Coffee Break</i>	<i>4:30-5:00</i>
<i>Panama Declaration</i>	<i>5:00-6:00</i>
<i>Closing of the Conference</i>	<i>6:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Closing Cocktail</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>

FIRST LADY'S VISIT TO PANAMA
October 8-10, 1997

**I. BACKGROUND FOR SCENARIO No. 3: VISIT RELATED TO
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE -
PANAMA CANAL WATERSHED**

A. Project Background

1. Project Name and Number:

Natural Resources Management Project (MARENA) No.
525-0306.

2. Project Description:

The MARENA Project was authorized on June 7, 1991 for \$18 million for 7 years. The project addresses the problem of unplanned and destructive use of the natural renewable resources of Panama. The project goal is to promote sustained economic and social development. The purpose is to protect and manage Panama's renewable natural resources, with an emphasis on the Panama Canal Watershed (PCW). The primary Government of Panama implementation agency for the project is the National Institute for Renewable Natural Resources (INRENARE). The project contains four components: Watershed Management; Parks and Wildlife Management; Reforestation, and the Environmental Trust program.

B. Environmental Trust Program:

1. As a component of the MARENA project, the \$25.0 million **Environmental Trust program** was established in February, 1995 with funding of \$8.0 million from USAID, \$2.0 million from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and \$15 million from the Government of Panama (GOP). The Trust is intended to be maintained in perpetuity. The Trust provides funding support for conservation and environmental activities in National Parks and Protected Areas throughout Panama. Additionally, the Trust provides grants to non-government organizations to conduct environmental activities with emphasis on the Panama Canal Watershed.

2. Site of one grant recipient:

Soberania National Park located in the Panama Canal Watershed.

Community: Chilibre Centro (Southwest sector) of the Soberania National Park.

Over 400 species of birds and 1,000 species of plants can be found in the 43,766 acre Soberania National Park. It is one of the most accessible tropical forest preserves in Latin America. This park helps protect the Panama Canal Watershed and is a key site for scientific research, environmental education, ecotourism and easy access recreation.

3. Type of Activity:

- Reforestation activities and environmental education.

4. Soberania National Park Reforestation Activity Description:

This activity is attempting to recover 150 has. of degraded areas which through the slash and burn practices has been invaded by the elephant grass (*Saccharum spontaneum*). It is located in the eastern sector of the Soberania National Park. With adjoining community participation and the use of the Rio Cabuya Agroforestral Demonstration Center, it is intended to initiate a process of recovering of the forest.

Assistance is being provided through "Asociación Nacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (ANCON)", an experienced and well-known Panamanian PVO. Activities began in 1995 with a five-year grant of US\$274,000 from the Environmental Trust Fund along with ANCON's counterpart funds of US\$312,000 to reforest the degraded areas of the Soberania National Park. The effort has been very successful. Bolstered by the success of the program effort, ANCON is proposing complementary activities to this program. Specifically, ANCON has submitted to the European Economic Community a proposal entitled "The Participation of the Panamanian Women in the Self-sustaining Development Activities in the Panama Canal Watershed". This proposal contemplates agroforestry activities,

reforestation and extension activities which will provide support to complement the on-going development activities of the program.

5. Activity Amount and date of initiation/completion:

US\$274,000

From: October 30, 1995

To: October 30, 2000

6. Partner Involved:

Fundacion NATURA

NATURA is a private, non-profit organization established in Panama in 1990. Its purpose is to advance knowledge, and to promote the conservation of the environment in Panama by working through government and non-governmental organizations, community groups and private voluntary associations.

7. Grant funds recipient:

"Asociación Nacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (ANCON)"

ANCON is a Panamanian non-profit organization whose mission is to protect and conserve Panama's natural resources and biodiversity for present and future generations of Panamanians. It was founded in 1985 by a group of prominent scientists, business and community leaders.

8. Hectares to be reforested:

300 acres. (75 acres reforested per year for 4 years)

9. Communities and Work Program:

(a) Communities

There are seven (7) communities involved in the project. (i.e., Agua Buena, Tranquilla, Nuevo Caimitillo, Río Indio, Soberanía, Chilibre Centro and Quebrada Ancha).

(b) Work Program

(1) Collection, seed germination and production of native species:

- 8 Families (eight (8) males and eight (8) females, in addition to their children) from Alajuela Lake and Mocambo areas;

(2) Processing and germination of native seedlings:

- Seven (7) women and thirteen (13) men at the Rio Cabuya nursery;

(3) Reforestation of the Soberania National Park:

- Thirty seven (37) persons;

(4) Agroforestry activities (native plants and agricultural products, grains and root crops):

Eighty six (86) persons, distributed as:

- Twelve (12) women and twelve (12) men in the La Tranquilla community;
- Nine (9) Women and Twenty-One (21) men in the Chilibre Centro community;
- Twelve (12) women and twenty (20) males in the Agua Buena community.

10. Total Participants Involved:

183 approx.

SOBERANIA NATIONAL PARK REFORESTATION PROGRAM VISIT

SCENARIO No. 3

A. Proposed Program:

1. Place:

Chilibre Centro, Panama.

2. How:

By car.

3. Estimated Duration:

2 hours 30 minutes.

4. Proposed Schedule:

Lv. 08:00 a.m. Depart hotel, Panama City, by car;

Driving on the Gaillard road, paralleling the Panama Canal; passing the Miraflores and Pedro Miguel Locks; passing through the Soberanía National Park to the Agroforestry Program site. The site is located on the border of the Soberanía National Park.

Ar. 08:40 a.m. Agroforestry Program site (at Rio Cabuya Center);

25-minute ceremony.

- Introduce NATURA's Board of Directors and staff;
- Introduce ANCON's Board of Directors and staff, INRENARE staff and members of the communities involved in the reforestation process;
- Briefing by the NATURA's Executive Director on the Environmental Trust Fund.
- Briefing on the reforestation program by Juan Carlos Navarro, Executive Director of ANCON.

Lv. 09:05 a.m. Agroforestry Program site (15-minute walk to the Reforestation site);

Ar. 09:20 a.m. Reforestation site at edge of Soberanía National Park;

- Visit the reforestation site;
- Tree planting ceremony.

Lv. 09:35 a.m. Return to the Agroforestry Program site at Rio Cabuya. (15-minute walk)

Ar. 09:50 a.m. Agroforestry Program site to depart to Panama City.

Ar. 10:30 a.m. Ar. hotel.

5. Participants during the visit:

- First Lady/staff,
- USAID/Panama's Director/staff,
- U.S. Embassy staff,
- NATURA, ANCON, INRENARE and community members.

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09/16/97-09/19/97 - Scenario #3
revised: 04:27 pm.- 05:40 p.m. 06:13 p.m.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. letter	William J. Hughes to Hillary Rodham Clinton [partial] (1 page)	02/05/1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20048

FOLDER TITLE:

Panama

2013-0534-S

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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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file Panama
Embassy of the United States of America

Office of the Ambassador

Panama City, Panama

February 5, 1998

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

All of us here at the Embassy thoroughly enjoyed your visit to Panama. I hope you found it to be interesting and productive.

Since your departure, we have received two letters from

(b)(6)

[004]

(b)(6) is seeking help in obtaining funding for a kidney transplant for her son, (b)(6) who suffers from chronic kidney failure. (b)(6) fears that (b)(6) condition could deteriorate if he continues with dialysis treatments. (b)(6) have recently completed tests confirming that they are potential kidney donors. However, (b)(6) (b)(6) says they do not have the money to pay for a transplant.

(b)(6) remembers your visit fondly and has asked us to see whether you would be able to help her. We have examined various options, but have been unable to find a source of funding for the medical procedure. I am writing you to see whether your office is aware of any program we have overlooked that might provide assistance.

With kindest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

W. J. Hughes
William J. Hughes
Ambassador

cc:
Melanne S. Verveer
Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady

Piccone, Theodore J.

From: SitRoom
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 1997 1:56 PM
To: DeLaurentis, Jeffrey J.; DeSouza, Patrick J.; Dobbins, James F.; Hofmann, Karl W.; Piccone, Theodore J.
Subject: PANAMA: PROTOCOL AND ETIQUETTE

UNCLAS PANAMA 004221

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, PM
SUBJECT: PANAMA: PROTOCOL AND ETIQUETTE

1. ~~IN TERMS OF RACE, ETHNICITY, AND RELIGION, PANAMA IS VERY DIVERSE.~~ PANAMANIAN TRACE THEIR ANCESTRY TO ALL OVER THE WORLD; MANY ARE DESCENDANTS OF THE LABORERS AND CRAFTSMEN WHO CAME FROM ALL OVER THE CARIBBEAN, ESPECIALLY BARBADOS AND JAMAICA, TO WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PANAMA CANAL. PANAMA ALSO HAS LARGE NUMBERS OF CITIZENS OF EUROPEAN AND OF ASIAN ORIGIN; IN ADDITION, IT HAS A SMALL INDIGENOUS POPULATION. WHILE THE CONSTITUTION RECOGNIZES THE SPECIAL ROLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, PANAMA HAS A STRONG TRADITION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND TOLERANCE.

2. FORMAL EDUCATION IS HIGHLY VALUED, ESPECIALLY AN AMERICAN EDUCATION. A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE PANAMANIAN ELITE HAS BEEN EDUCATED IN THE U.S. AND ENGLISH IS WIDELY SPOKEN. PANAMANIAN CONSIDER THEMSELVES THE MOST AMERICANIZED COUNTRY IN LATIN AMERICA (E.G., THE US DOLLAR IS THE OFFICIAL CURRENCY), WITH MANY CELEBRATING HALLOWEEN AND THANKSGIVING. BASEBALL IS A NATIONAL PASSION, WITH AMERICAN FOOTBALL, THANKS TO CABLE TV, CATCHING ON. PANAMANIAN ARE OVERWHELMINGLY PRO-AMERICAN AND SEE THEMSELVES AS HAVING A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH THE UNITED STATES. POLLS CONSISTENTLY SHOW THAT PANAMANIAN SEEK A CONTINUING U.S. PRESENCE IN PANAMA.



*Amer. close
to Panama*

3. PANAMANIAN ARE FASHION CONSCIOUS. ATTENDEES AT RECEPTIONS TEND TO DRESS UP; AMONG MEN, SUITS AND TIES HAVE MADE A STRONG COMEBACK AFTER HAVING BEEN DISPLACED FOR SOME TIME BY GUAYABERAS. WOMEN ALSO TEND TO DRESS FORMALLY. WHEN GREETING EACH OTHER, MEN WILL GENERALLY SHAKE HANDS, PAT EACH OTHER'S SHOULDER OR BRIEFLY EMBRACE. MEN AND WOMEN GREETING EACH OTHER OR WOMEN GREETING EACH OTHER WILL ALSO SHAKE HANDS AND OFTEN TOUCH CHEEKS. PANAMANIAN TALK TO EACH OTHER AT VERY CLOSE RANGE; UNACCUSTOMED VISITORS CAN FIND THEMSELVES BACKING AWAY FROM THEIR INTERLOCUTORS. THIS IS CONSIDERED RUDE.

4. IN ANY FORMAL PUBLIC ADDRESS, SPEAKERS ARE EXPECTED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESENCE OF THE VIPS IN THE AUDIENCE IN PROTOCOL ORDER AND EMPLOYING THEIR FULL TITLES, E.G., "MR. PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA AND MRS. PEREZ BALLADARES, FOREIGN MINISTER AND MRS. ARIAS, . . . AMBASSADORS AND MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN." THIS CAN PROVE A LENGTHY PROCESS AND ONE FOR WHICH US SPEAKERS ARE NOT ALWAYS PREPARED.

O'DONNELL

Piccone, Theodore J.

From: SitRoom
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 1997 1:55 PM
To: DeLaurentis, Jeffrey J.; DeSouza, Patrick J.; Dobbins, James F.; Hofmann, Karl W.; Piccone, Theodore J.
Subject: PANAMA: WOMEN IN POLITICS

UNCLAS PANAMA 004220

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, PM
SUBJECT: PANAMA: WOMEN IN POLITICS

1. THERE ARE NO LEGAL BARRIERS IN PANAMA TO PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS ON THE BASIS OF SEX, RACE, RELIGION, OR ETHNICITY. WOMEN CURRENTLY HOLD 5 OF 72 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SEATS AND 1 OF 11 CABINET POSITIONS. WOMEN ARE PROMINENT IN THE JUDICIARY: 2 OF THE 9 SUPREME COURT JUSTICES ARE WOMEN, AND AN EVEN GREATER PERCENTAGE OF LOWER COURT JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS ARE WOMEN. THE MAYOR OF PANAMA CITY IS A WOMAN, AS ARE THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS OF PANAMA, COLON, AND VERAGUAS.

2. IN JULY 1997, THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PASSED AN AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTORAL CODE REQUIRING THAT NO LESS THAN 30 PERCENT OF ANY POLITICAL PARTIES' CANDIDATES FOR THEIR OWN INTERNAL POSITIONS OR FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE BE WOMEN. THE NATIONAL FORUM FOR WOMEN IN POLITICAL PARTIES, A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION SUPPORTED IN PART BY THE U.S. LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, HAS MEMBERS IN EACH OF THE MAJOR PARTIES AND IS COMMITTED TO MAKING THAT NEW LEGISLATION A REALITY IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS.

3. POLITICS IN PANAMA IS MORE THAN ANYTHING A FUNCTION OF PERSONALITIES. THE WOMEN LISTED BELOW ARE ALL PRESIDENTIAL TIMBER FOR PANAMA'S 1999 ELECTIONS:

DORA BOYD DE PEREZ BALLADARES: THE CURRENT FIRST LADY, A LAWYER BY PROFESSION, HAS HELD A HIGH PROFILE IN ADMINISTERING SOCIAL PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY DRUG EDUCATION, AND DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL NGOS. ALTHOUGH SHE SUPPORTS HER HUSBAND'S EFFORT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR HIS REELECTION TO A CONSECUTIVE TERM, SHE IS A LEADING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN THE RULING PARTY (PRD) IN HER OWN RIGHT IF THE REELECTION BID FAILS.

MIREYA MOSCOSO: PRESIDENT OF THE LARGEST OPPOSITION PARTY, THE "ARNULFISTAS," MOSCOSO WAS THE SECOND-PLACE FINISHER IN THE 1994 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. SHE IS THE WIDOW OF A FORMER PRESIDENT, BUT HAS TAKEN OVER FIRM CONTROL OF HER PARTY, MOSTLY BY ARDUOUS ORGANIZATIONAL WORK AND TRAVEL AROUND THE COUNTRY. SHE IS EXPECTED TO HEAD THE OPPOSITION'S 1999 PRESIDENTIAL TICKET.

MAYIN CORREA: PANAMA CITY MAYOR MAYIN CORREA IS PANAMA'S MOST POPULAR POLITICIAN. SHE ROUTINELY TOPS NATIONWIDE POLLS ON APPROVAL RATINGS, SCORING IN THE RANGE OF 80 PERCENT. ALTHOUGH CURRENTLY UNAFFILIATED, SHE IS WATCHED CLOSELY BY EVERY PARTY, ALL OF THEM WITH AN EYE TOWARD EITHER DRAFTING HER

*women's
group*

** * Mrs P-B.
ambassadors*

*moya 9
Panama*

FOR THEIR OWN TICKET OR MAKING SURE SHE STAYS OUT OF
THE RACE.

O'DONNELL

PREC: ROUTINE CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED SSN: 4222 DOCID: M2944108

RAAUZYUW RUEHZPA4222 2661644-UUUU--RHEHAAA.
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 231644Z SEP 97
FM AMEMBASSY **PANAMA**

FM: AMEMBASSY **PANAMA**
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9901

INFO: RHEHAAA/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC

UNCLAS **PANAMA** 004222

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, PHUM, PM
SUBJECT: **PANAMA**: **WOMEN'S** ISSUES

1. PANAMANIAN FIRST LADY DORA BOYD DE PEREZ BALLADARES HAS BECOME A STRONG ADVOCATE ON "FAMILY ISSUES." THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO SPECIFIC OFFICE CHARGED WITH PROTECTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, THEREFORE, THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY HAS ASSUMED AN ADVOCACY ROLE ON CHILDREN'S ISSUES. IN MARCH, THE FIRST LADY'S OFFICE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH UNICEF TO SPONSOR NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR STREET CHILDREN AND SCHOOL DROPOUTS. THE FIRST LADY HAS ALSO BEEN ACTIVE ON THE ISSUE OF TEEN PREGNANCY; NEARLY ONE-FIFTH OF ALL LIVE BIRTHS IN **PANAMA** ARE TO MOTHERS UNDER THE AGE OF 19.

*united
street kids*

2. PANAMANIAN LAW CONTAINS STRONG PENALTIES FOR A VARIETY OF CRIMES AGAINST **WOMEN** AND CHILDREN. THE FAMILY CODE OF 1995 CRIMINALIZES FAMILY VIOLENCE, INCLUDING PSYCHOLOGICAL, PHYSICAL, OR SEXUAL ABUSE. THE CODE ALSO RECOGNIZES JOINT OR COMMON PROPERTY IN MARRIAGES. CRITICS, HOWEVER, NOTE THAT: INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES LIMIT ENFORCEMENT OF THE CODE'S PROVISIONS; AND, THAT THE LEGAL PROCESS INVOLVED CAN PROVE DEGRADING FOR VICTIMS. THE CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WOMAN ESTIMATES THAT AS FEW AS 20 PERCENT OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS ARE REPORTED. A LEGISLATOR INTRODUCED A BILL IN MAY TO REFORM THE FAMILY CODE TO ALLOW SERIOUS JUVENILE OFFENDERS TO BE TRIED AND PUNISHED AS ADULTS. CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY GROUPS, INCLUDING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE FIRST LADY'S OFFICE, OPPOSED THE MEASURE; NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON THE BILL.

3. A 1995 REPORT FROM THE LATIN AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF **WOMEN** ASSERTED THAT ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF FEMALE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HAVE ENDURED

SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE. A BILL TO CRIMINALIZE SEXUAL HARASSMENT FAILED TO PASS IN 1995. PANAMANIAN LAW, HOWEVER, DOES PROHIBIT SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE, CITING SUCH HARASSMENT AS CAUSE FOR DISMISSAL.

4. THE CONSTITUTION MANDATES THE SAME PAY FOR MEN AND **WOMEN**, BUT WAGES PAID TO **WOMEN** ARE OFTEN LOWER. A 1994 U.N. REPORT NOTED THAT **WOMEN** OCCUPY ONLY 4 PERCENT OF THE MANAGERIAL POSITIONS IN PANAMA. THERE ARE CREDIBLE REPORTS OF HIRING PRACTICES BASED ON AGE AND ATTRACTIVENESS.

5. A NUMBER OF **WOMEN'S** RIGHTS GROUPS, INCLUDING ONES FOR INDIGENOUS **WOMEN**, CONCENTRATE ON DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ABOUT **WOMEN'S** RIGHTS, COUNTERING DOMESTIC ABUSE, ENHANCING EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER SKILLS, AND PRESSING FOR LEGAL REFORMS. THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF **WOMEN** SAID THAT IT PROVIDED COUNSELING ASSISTANCE TO 555 **WOMEN** IN 1995, PRINCIPALLY IN THE AREAS OF LEGAL ADVICE, ALIMONY, PHYSICAL ABUSE, AND FAMILY DISPUTES.

O'DONNELL

DIST:

SIT: DELAURENTIS DESOUZA ROBBINS HOFMANNK PICCONE SIT: NSC

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- 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]

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