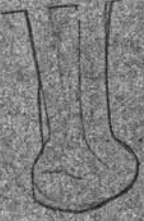


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UNCLASSIFIEDTRAFFICKING IN UKRAINE: OVERVIEW AND ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE

Of the over one million women and children of all nationalities estimated to be trafficked across international borders each year, about 100,000 are from the Newly Independent States (NIS). According to a recent CIA report, approximately 5,000 of the 45,000 to 50,000 women and children trafficked annually into the United States are from the Newly Independent States and Eastern Europe. The NIS now rank with Thailand and the Philippines as the top three sources of trafficked women and children.

The major NIS countries of origin are Russia and the Ukraine, with 55,000 and 35,000 females each, respectively. Nearly all of the trafficking in women from and within the NIS is for the commercial sex industry.

At a March 11, 1998 White House ceremony you announced an executive order outlining a broad global attack on trafficking in women and children. You also directed the USG to work specifically with Ukraine to develop a strategy to combat this growing problem. To this end, Secretary Albright negotiated a cooperative agreement with Ukraine to combat trafficking through prevention of the crime, protection for victims, and prosecution of the traffickers. A comprehensive cooperative effort with Ukraine is currently underway.

Within the context of the New Transatlantic Agenda, the USG worked with the European Union in 1998 to develop and implement coordinated information campaigns to prevent trafficking in women in Ukraine and Poland. The U.S. funded the campaign in Ukraine, while the EU funded a campaign in Poland. During her November 1997 visit to L'viv, the First Lady kicked off the campaign, which targeted potential victims to warn them of methods used by traffickers and provided information to local border and consular officials to help them recognize and deter trafficking in women from third countries through the region. The campaign was implemented April-June 1998. Participating nations, meeting in L'viv at the U.S.-EU Transatlantic Seminar to Prevent Trafficking in Women July 1998, agreed that the initiative demonstrably increased awareness of the danger of trafficking among potential victims.

The Gore-Kuchma Commission established a law enforcement working group which is cooperating on combating organized crime, including trafficking in women and children. This cooperative effort includes training programs for Ukrainian law enforcement officials. To that end, the U.S. and

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Ukraine will host an anti-trafficking Law Enforcement Workshop in Kiev, June 21-23 2000. The U.S. Embassy has continued to urge the Ukrainian procurator general's office to devote increased resources to prosecute criminal gangs engaged in trafficking under the relatively new Ukraine anti-trafficking legislation.

AID has committed \$3.1 million to the important prevention component of developing economic alternatives for women in countries of origin, most notably Ukraine. Projects include support for a consortium of NGOs to establish "trafficking prevention" or crisis centers, job skills training programs, and providing seed grants to other NGOs for a wide variety of activities to combat trafficking. During the recent Vital Voices Global Exchange State Department, White House, and Congressional officials heard first-hand from Ukrainian NGO representatives how crucial these preventative measures are, and the importance of the U.S.-Ukraine cooperative agreement. Mrs. Clinton also met with the Ukrainian representative.

Your announcement for economic development in Ukraine will help address the root cause of this problem, economics. Poverty and a lack of viable economic alternatives make women vulnerable to trafficking schemes that promise employment. The economic situation in Ukraine is even worse than in Russia, with real employment at about 30%. The development of microcredit programs will create a crucial link in our defenses and protection against trafficking in women children.

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MV: Want to make certain you're "cool" with this. I'd like a reference to POTUS in 1st para.
THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
Kiev, Ukraine
How about you?
Thanks, JT

For Immediate Release

June 5, 2000

FACT SHEET

Workshop on Trafficking in Human Beings

Trafficking in human beings is one of the world's fastest growing criminal enterprises lagging only behind guns and narcotics as the largest source of profits for international organized crime. Today, Presidents Clinton and Kuchma, recognizing Ukraine as a major source country for trafficked women and children, announced an important step to combat this criminal activity.

Reference to POTUS priority Ukraine as model for what we do.

The State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the Government of Ukraine will co-sponsor a workshop on combating trafficking in women and children for international law enforcement officials from June 21-23 in Kiev. The workshop will bring officials from key destination countries (Turkey, Israel, Germany, Italy, Greece, the Netherlands) and transit countries (Czech Republic, Poland, Albania, Hungary, Romania, Moldova) to Kiev for concrete discussions with their Ukrainian counterparts. Topics will include trafficking as an aspect of transnational organized crime, investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases, international cooperation and exchange of information, and assistance to victims and law enforcement. International organizations including the European Union, United Nations, OSCE, ILO and International Organization on Migration will also participate

Both Governments seek to enhance concrete contacts between Ukraine and key transit and destination countries, and develop new procedures for sharing information that would enable law enforcement to more effectively prosecute traffickers and protect victims.

We hope to follow this workshop with other practical steps to address the complex issue of trafficking. Additional efforts may amplify ongoing efforts to provide economic alternatives to vulnerable populations, public awareness campaigns and support for returned victims.

**Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Ivan Franko Opera and Ballet**

L'viv, Ukraine
November 18, 1997

Thank you, very much, Mr. Kuchma, Ambassador Miller, Ministers, Mayor, distinguished members of the community, representatives of the governments of both my country and of Ukraine. It is a great honor and pleasure for me to be here today.

I want particularly to thank Mrs. Kuchma for being with me yesterday and today, and for the warm hospitality she has extended to me now on two occasions in Ukraine during the visit with my husband and during this visit. I would also like to thank my Chief of Staff, Melanne Starinshak Verveer, for her introduction of me today. But more than that, I want to thank her for her wisdom, compassion, and good humor all of these I attribute in large measure to her Ukrainian heritage. Melanne and her husband attended Georgetown University with my husband and have been dear friends of ours ever since. Like the more than one million Ukrainian-Americans, she has made immeasurable contributions to the life of my country, and I want to thank her on behalf of all of us who value her many, many attributes.

The writer, Ivan Franko, after whom this beautiful opera house is named, wrote that, "There will come a time when you will sit in the circle of free nations." That time for Ukraine is now and I am honored to be sharing that time with you. I don't believe that there is a more beautiful opera house anywhere in the world. I must confess that being here on the stage, looking at the galleries and glorious decorations, I am tempted to join the many famous performers who have appeared here to sing. However, in the interest of preserving the strong and warm ties between our countries, I will not do so. I would like, however, to talk with you about the voices of women, the voices of young people, all those throughout Ukraine and the New Independent States [NIS] who are speaking a new language of freedom and democracy and then turning their words and ideas into concrete actions.

I can think of no better place to do this than Ukraine. It was in L'viv in 1879 that the Union of Ukrainian Women was established. This organization, one of the largest women's organizations in Europe between the two world wars, went into villages to teach women and their families how to start small businesses, how to start child care centers, how to pool their resources to purchase first aid materials that would save lives in rural areas.

Like so much that is good, the Union was crushed by communism. And like so much that is good, it was reborn in 1990, along with your sovereignty. With each year of freedom, the Union has grown stronger. This fall, thousands of people gathered when the remains of the Union's last pre-communist president, Milena Rudnyska, were brought back here to L'viv for eternal rest.

Today I return home to the United States after a week-long journey to Central Asia, Russia, and now here in Ukraine. When I first came to Ukraine, it was with my husband in 1995. The sun of freedom was rising in the sky. In the time that I have been here, I have seen how much farther the sun has traveled.

In only six years, you have done much to sweep away the oppressive structures

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HRC HANDWRITING

of communism. You have developed a constitution and held free and fair elections which have resulted in the peaceful transfer of power, the first ever in the NIS.

Now the challenge is to build upon this architecture of freedom with a structure supported by the rule of law, an independent judiciary, and an expanded free press that is able to tell the truth in print and over the airwaves. In only six years, you have done much to tear down a rigid state-controlled economy that stifled human ingenuity and enterprise. You have reduced inflation and privatized small businesses.

Now, the challenge is to create a vibrant marketplace based fundamentally on private property; a marketplace where business can be conducted in an atmosphere of openness and fairness; where private activity can thrive without government interference; and where hard-working people can lift themselves up without the fear of crime and corruption. Neither the rule of law nor the free market alone can be sustained in isolation. If we do not have true democracy in my country or yours, we cannot or should not rest. If we do not have a free market, we cannot and should not rest. But if we also do not have the space between what the market should do and what the government should do, what we call the civil society, we also cannot and should not rest. Each the free markets, democracy, and the civil society is indispensable to the blessings of liberty and prosperity.

In this space between the free market economy on the one hand, and a democratic government on the other hand, in this space we call civil society, resides family and community life, religious traditions, and participation in voluntary associations. For democracy ultimately depends on individual citizens believing that they have a role to play in the life of their country. It depends on people choosing, not being compelled to, but choosing to participate in society. It depends on seeing to it that what Alexis de Tocqueville called "the habits of the heart" are passed on from one generation to the next.

If you think of a modern, independent, well-functioning society as a three-legged stool, then you and this audience have been working to strengthen each of the three legs. You have worked in government to make the government democratic and transparent. You have worked to build a free market economy that gives more opportunity to individuals. You have worked to create the third leg of this stool, that we call civil society. You have chosen to help build civil society by fighting for women's health, by running for political office, by cleaning up the environment, by starting child care centers and beginning summer camps for the children at Chernobyl, and in many other ways.

Whether you are gathering in civic associations, voluntary efforts to help others, places of worship, or even in your neighbor's home, you are strengthening civil society and making it clear that the most important person in any democracy is, not my husband or Mrs. Kuchma's husband, but the citizen. Governments cannot be serious about democracy unless they recognize and work with non-governmental organizations. Yesterday I saw citizens of this city building a civil society. I stood with thousands of people at the new Memorial Honoring Victims of Communist Repression. This memorial was erected not by the government. It was a gift of the victims of communism, their families, and private organizations. They didn't have to do this but they did.

I visited a health clinic filled with children balanced between life and death, infants born prematurely, some critically ill. But for their cries, these children

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have no voice. They cannot compel someone to come to their aid. Yet doctors, nurses, parents, and communities, from both Ukraine and the United States, chose to do so. As one mother told me, doctors and nurses she didn't even know saved her child's life. They didn't have to do this. Ukrainian and American nurses and doctors didn't have to work together but they did. I stood in the beautifully restored Gilad Synagogue, where citizens can once again worship freely. There the rabbi told me what it meant to open a Jewish school after so many years of unspeakable hardship. It had given him faith that the community would survive. The community didn't have to do this for its children but it did.

I stood in the magnificent renovated St. George's Cathedral. For too many years, the faith of the people whom I met had been driven underground. The congregation prayed in hidden places; the beautiful symbols of their faith were hidden away in cellars and attics. Today, the members of St. George's practice their religion in the clear light of day. They are using their faith not only to worship as they please, but also to reach out to others whom society pushed away, such as children with disabilities. The people of St. George's didn't have to do this but they did.

What an irony that on the property of St. George's Cathedral, the Soviets installed radio-jamming antennas. Yet as powerful as they were, they could not silence the voices of faith and freedom.

*women
Prognosis*

It is especially important that the voices of women be heard, for the legacy of communism placed special strains on women especially in the old state structures. Too many women are the first to lose their jobs and the last to get new ones. Too many women often live in fear of violence at the hand of family members. For them, home provides no refuge, the law no protection, and public opinion no sympathy. Too many women are prevented from getting proper health care, either because quality care is not available, or because they are simply unable to find the time, between family and work obligations, to care for themselves. Through all of this in too many countries, not enough women are sitting at the table when decisions are made.

→ T

It is clear that democracy without the full participation of women is a contradiction in terms. Human rights are women's rights and they must be respected. It is, for example, a violation of human rights when women are trafficked, bought, and sold as prostitutes. As my husband has said, this is nothing less than modern-day slavery. And I know that many of you here today are working hard to end this practice once and for all.

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Today I am pleased to announce that the United States government, in cooperation with the United Nations, will be working with NGOs [Non-Governmental Organizations] in Ukraine to launch a new information campaign to reach women who may be in danger. The program will also inform law enforcement and consular offices, and international organizations so that they can be on the look out for, and ultimately put a stop to, this crime against humanity.

I will return home with many impressions and wonderful memories. I will also return home to speak to my own people, the citizens of the United States. I will tell my fellow citizens what I have seen and why the United States must stay constantly engaged to support forward-looking reform and leaders who are working on reform. In recent days, I have seen first-hand what America, working hand in hand with the people of Ukraine, has accomplished fostering innovative health clinics, providing loans to start small businesses, and sending Peace Corps volunteers to work with the people here.

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HRC HANDWRITING

I want all of the American citizens to know what I now know, and I wish that I had brought all of them with me, to see what I have seen. The work that has been done between our governments and organizations, such as the United States Agency for International Development and through the private sector, business to business, and through the voluntary, non-governmental sector, has made it very clear that we are strengthening our bonds and building stronger societies together.

Later this week Vice President Gore and President Kuchma will join together to reach out to members of the international community to secure more support for safely encasing the Chernobyl Reactor Number 4. What could be more important than the United States and Ukraine working together to contain one of the greatest environmental threats facing Europe and the world today?

Just as I hope to be able to explain to Americans what I have seen, I hope also that the people of Ukraine see what I, and my party, have seen here. In the last few days, I saw citizens and spoke with leaders determined to make further progress. In six short years, you have done so much to erase seven long decades of Communist waste and misrule. There is no doubt that your path has not been an easy one and that many challenges remain especially as you expand private activity so that Ukraine can become competitive in today's fast-paced global economy.

As Americans have learned through the years, democracy is a never-ending struggle. We became a "new independent state" in 1776. For the past 221 years our democracy has been a work in progress. It took us more than ten years to draft a constitution; 89 years to rid our nation of slavery; 144 years to give women the vote; and 188 years to make all our citizens equal under the law. A critical difference, of course, is that the modern world is much less forgiving. With global communications and with a global economy, everything moves at a much faster pace, and countries and societies must reform more quickly in order to take their rightful place in such a new world.

Just six years after your independence, you have much to be proud of. The sun of freedom is higher in the sky. And yes, it has a way to travel. I know that the people of Ukraine will stay the course. As you do, please know that the American people will stand with you. I hope that you take great pride in where Ukraine stands today and that I hope you take great confidence in the fact that the United States will be your partner and your friend, as we travel together into the twenty-first century and the new millennium.

Thank you very much. God bless the United States and God bless Ukraine.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's Trip to Central Asia, Russia, Ukraine



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
(Kiev, Ukraine)

For Immediate Release
2000/419

April 14, 2000

Press Availability with
Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and
Ukrainian Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk
Rus Hotel
Kiev, Ukraine

April 14, 2000

FOREIGN MINISTER TARASYUK [unofficial translation]: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I am glad to have this opportunity to welcome you on the occasion of the visit by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. This is the Secretary's second visit to Ukraine. The first one, as you remember, took place in March 1998.

During this visit, the key event in the schedule of the Secretary's stay in Ukraine was her meeting with the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, which has just been completed. This was a very important meeting both in terms of its length and in terms of its contents. The Secretary also had a meeting with Prime Minister Victor Yushchenko. And negotiations between the two delegations took place in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The visit itself, the atmosphere that surrounded this visit, the negotiations and their content confirm that a strategic partnership exists between Ukraine and the United States.

I will just list the topics that were on the agenda of our meetings: specifically, the Secretary's meetings with the President, with the Prime Minister, and in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They included the issue of a future visit to Ukraine by the President of the United States. Madeleine Albright received President Kuchma's letter to President Clinton on Ukraine's proposal to hold a UN Security Council summit. The issue of the next session of the Ukrainian-American Binational Commission was discussed, the issue of cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, the long-term legislative basis for bilateral relations. Questions were discussed such as the status of a normal trade partner. The Kharkiv Initiative, compensation for the victims of Nazism, cooperation in Kosovo, and in particular, Ukraine's participation in KFOR and U.S. assistance. We discussed the issue of cooperation in the United Nations Security Council, the issue of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, OSCE, the World Trade Organization, Ukraine's cooperation with the European Union, reform of the energy sector, and, in this context, the Ukrainian route for Caspian oil.

Generally, one can say that in every one of those topics we achieved mutual understanding. The strategic partnership between Ukraine and the U.S. is confirmed. The Secretary of State expressed support for the course of reforms conducted by the President and the government of our country. She showed understanding for the unique situation Ukraine currently finds itself in.

In general, I can state without exaggeration that the visit was successful.

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Thank you very much. *Dobriy vechir* and I want to begin by thanking you, Mr. Foreign Minister, for your hospitality and for joining me in what has been a very productive series of meetings today.

On every visit to this city, previously as a private citizen and also on the visit that the Foreign Minister spoke about, I am reminded always that this is one of the loveliest capitals in Europe. "*Vesna v Kiyive prikrasna.*" [Springtime in Kiev is beautiful.]

It's true that spring is nature's season of renewal. And from what I heard today, this is shaping up as a season of renewal in Ukraine's political life, as well.

In last winter's presidential elections, the Ukrainian people made it clear that they want to move forward with essential reforms, and not slide backward towards a Communist past.

And President Kuchma and Prime Minister Yushchenko clearly recognize that now is the time to attack old problems such as energy reform with a new vigor.

The United States strongly supports the economic reform policies of President Kuchma and the Prime Minister. The success of reform here is crucial for Ukraine's ability to create a prosperous future for its people.

We talked today about the next steps in the reform process, and we look toward continuing that discussion when Prime Minister Yushchenko visits Washington next month.

Internationally, Ukraine has already proven the worth of its distinctive partnership with NATO, and so I am pleased to announce that the United States, with the support of our allies in Europe, will help fund Ukraine's continued participation in KFOR as part of the Polish-Ukrainian peacekeeping battalion.

The Ukrainian government has also been an essential partner in the effort to halt the trafficking of women and children, and we look forward to a conference that our two governments plan to co-host on trafficking in June here in Kiev. We will be bringing together law enforcement officials and NGOs from several countries to increase cooperation in prosecuting trafficking cases and protecting the victims.

Ukraine is also moving closer toward a goal shared by the people of Ukraine, Europe and America -- and that is closing Chernobyl this year. The United States and our G-7 partners will continue to support reforms needed to help make that happen.

Chernobyl was a dark stain in the bleak history of the Soviet era.

But even darker crimes were perpetrated under Stalin, and earlier today I laid a wreath at the Memorial to the Victims of the Great Famine.

This was for me an emotional moment. My family was fortunate enough to escape Communism. Millions of Ukrainian children, women and men were not so lucky, and I know from talking to the Foreign Minister, members of his own family were tragically affected by this. These people died in the great forced famine -- not because of anything they had done, or even because there was no food, but simply because they were in the way.

No one who visits such a memorial can forget it. And no one who considers its meaning can fail to understand why the Ukrainian people have made it clear that they will never go back to a system in which the state has every freedom and the people have none.

Ukraine's difficult past ensures that the way ahead will not be easy. But the United States will help Ukraine's reformers in every way. And because America wants for Ukraine what Ukraine wants for itself: a stable, prosperous, independent and democratic future, firmly anchored in Euro-Atlantic institutions. We have had excellent meetings as the Foreign Minister described. I think our time has been very well spent and I am very glad to have been here again.

My good friend, Boris, thank you.

Q: I have a question to Minister Tarasyuk. Can we expect intensification of the American activities in Kharkiv Initiative as a result of today's discussion of this issue? And, if possible, your comment on ratification of the ABM and START treaties by the Russian Duma today.

FOREIGN MINISTER TARASYUK(unofficial translation): Thank you. Concerning the Kharkiv Initiative. This initiative was a subject of our discussion. In the course of this discussion, we agreed to devote more attention from both sides to the realization of this initiative -- from the Department of State and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this connection, the Secretary and I appointed the officers responsible for the realization of the Kharkiv Initiative.

As to the ratification by the Russian State Duma of the START II treaty, all of us here in Ukraine welcome this move of the Russian State Duma. This is a very important

step that will undoubtedly, as a result of implementation of this treaty's provisions, lead to a more secure world and to the reduction of the nuclear threat.

Q: Could Secretary Albright also comment on the ratification of START by the Russian Duma?

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: I will, I will, I will. Let me just say that since the inception of the Kharkiv Initiative in 1998, we have undertaken a number of activities to foster diversified economic development and promote trade and investment in the region and they include the appointment of a senior American advisor who is now in Kharkiv to trade in energy-related conferences and the delivery of approximately \$18 million in medicines and medical equipment to hospitals in the region. There are also ongoing programs for training and mentoring entrepreneurs in the region, as well as efforts to assist in small and medium enterprise development, and a variety of educational exchange programs also are contributing to fulfilling some of the Initiative. But I think that the Kharkiv Initiative was just one of the benefits Ukraine received from foregoing nuclear cooperation with Iran. The others were the 123 agreement on nuclear cooperation, the first we signed with a former Soviet republic, a \$40 million nuclear fuel qualification program which will allow Ukraine to diversify its sources for nuclear fuel, increased funding totaling to date \$7 million for Ukrainian scientists through the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine, and membership in the missile technology control regime, a US-Ukraine rocket technology safeguard agreement, and a memorandum of understanding on space cooperation. So there have been benefits, but as the Foreign Minister said, we are going to work more intensively on this, and Ambassador Pifer will be working with an individual named by the Foreign Ministry.

On the Duma ratification. I understand that we haven't seen some of the amendments that have come along with it but I do think that it is a very important step and it should allow for an intensification of our discussions with the Russians and Foreign Minister Ivanov will be coming to Washington next month and we will be able to confer and talk further on how to intensify those arms control discussions.

Q: Madam Secretary, you alluded to the amendment which has been included to the START II vote in Moscow, and one of them was that the Russian side can now withdraw from START if the United States withdraws from the ABM treaty and President-Elect Putin also said that the ball was now firmly in the U.S. court. How do you assess the prospect for dialogue given those facts.

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Well, first of all, I think we have made very clear the importance of the ABM treaty. That is something we believe and our discussions with the Russians have been not about withdrawing but about adjusting the treaty which has been done before in order to accommodate the possibility, because there has been no decision made on deployment on NMD, so I think that when I was in Russia I spoke about the importance of the ABM treaty with then acting President Putin myself and it is

always a part of our discussion. And as I said maybe the ball is going back and forth and Foreign Minister Ivanov and I will hit it back and forth when he comes.

Q: Mrs. Albright, when you said the commitment of President Kuchma to shut down Chernobyl by the end of the year, and will Washington give money for Rivne and Khmelnytsky to replace Chernobyl, and definitely will the United States support Ukraine in the talks with the IMF? Thank you.

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: We did talk about Chernobyl and President Kuchma reaffirmed that it would be closed which I consider very important and the United States and other countries will obviously be helpful. I think it would be very useful to have a date for when that would be done, but President Kuchma said that he had appointed a commission that is working with the Prime Minister on this subject and that that commission will help to fix the date. We obviously did talk about the IMF and we strongly support Ukraine's work with the IMF. The Central Bank audit is very important and it has been noted by them and by us that there is excellent cooperation and that transparency is the word of the day and a very important concept that is evident. We believe that robust economic reforms are really a key to moving this whole process forward and they need to take place in the areas of budget, tax, privatization, agriculture, and the energy sector. I was very impressed by President Kuchma's dedication to this process and his desire to move the reform process forward and by the work that the Prime Minister is undertaking. The Rada also must play a constructive role – has already and needs to do more – and I think the stronger the reform program, the stronger will our support be for the work that is going on here and the IMF.

Q: Madame Secretary, one more clarification question concerning Chernobyl and your [inaudible] plan. I know that in the past Ukrainian officials have made it clear that they would only be able to close the plant if significant Western financial assistance is provided to build two replacement nuclear reactors. Have you specifically discussed this prospect and mainly the U.S. plan if such plans exist to finance the construction?

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: We have made it quite clear that we will help substantially as will other members of the G-7 because we consider this important, but it is essential for a date to be fixed because we're hoping that there will be pledging conferences. I think everybody understands this is a very important responsibility that we all share and we are prepared to help and we did talk about it and I was heartened by the fact that President Kuchma reaffirmed the closing and that he has named a group commission to study exactly the date and to have it done. I think I made quite clear that it would be very useful to have a date set.

Q: Mrs. Albright, is there a connection of your visit and the future visit of President Putin in Kiev?

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: No.

Q: How do you assess the situation of freedom of expression in Ukraine after the recent incident with an American journalist not being admitted into the country?

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Let me say that we were obviously concerned about that case and glad that it has been resolved but I did mention both to the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister the importance of freedom of the press and the fact that it is central to the functioning of a democratic society.

Q: I have a question to Madame Albright and another one for Mr. Tarasyuk. Mrs. Albright, your first comment on the ratification of START by the Russian Duma was more emotional than what you have just said. What is the cause for this caution on your part? You had called it a historic step, you congratulated the Russian people, but now you have been more cautious. What is the reason? And a question to Mr. Tarasyuk. What was concretely discussed when you talked about American-Ukrainian cooperation in the United Nations Security Council? What will be the particular steps in such cooperation?

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: I in no way meant to be less emotional or moved or finding it historic. I think that we have waited a long time for the Duma to ratify START II. It is an important step. I think the only issue for all of us is to study the amendments that came along with it. But, I do think that we have waited a long time and the ratification is an important step in what is I think the central activity of our time, which is trying to deal with the remnants of the Cold War and dealing with the very important subject of lowering numbers in nuclear arms and the general discussion that we have to have on nuclear arms reduction across the board.

FOREIGN MINISTER TARASYUK [unofficial translation]: With Secretary Madeleine Albright we talked about cooperation in the United Nations Security Council. In particular, such issues were discussed as the Ukrainian initiative to hold a UNSC summit in the framework of the Millenium Summit that will take place in September this year in New York. We also discussed the issue of reform of the UNSC. We exchanged views on the important and sensitive matter of enforcing UN sanctions. In this context, we discussed our cooperation in Kosovo, as well as fulfillment in this context of the UNSC resolution 1243.

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**BUILDING BLOCKS: MV KEYNOTE ADDRESS
ANTI-TRAFFICKING LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKSHOP
KIEV, UKRAINE JUNE 21-23, 2000**

- In March 1998 President Clinton announced an executive order outlining a broad USG global attack on trafficking in women and children, specifically directing the USG to work with Ukraine to develop a strategy to combat this growing problem [scourge, human rights abuse]. This USG-Ukraine joint effort is a model for anti-trafficking programs around the world. The eyes of the international community are watching our progress over the next few days.
- Ukraine is the second largest country of origin for trafficked women and children from the NIS (Russia is other).
 - 35,000 women [and children] yearly
 - nearly all are trafficked for the commercial sex industry [vs. other source countries trafficking for forced labor, indentured servitude, etc.]
 - as young as 14.
- These women and young girls are enticed by false offers of jobs as waitresses, models, domestic workers. Instead, they are beaten, raped, and held in bondage. Traffickers use threats of violence against a woman's family if she tries to escape.
- The root cause of trafficking is economic deprivation. Poverty and a lack of viable economic alternatives make women vulnerable to trafficking schemes that promise employment. The economic situation here in Ukraine is even worse than that in Russia, with real unemployment at about 40%, even higher for women. Traffickers, who profit enormously from the flesh trade, prey upon the vulnerable economic situations of these women. [The combination of economic desperation on the part of the victims and the enormously lucrative profits for the traffickers creates an all-too fertile environment for the trade in human flesh.]
- Trafficking of women is fraught with preconceptions that hamper its eradication:
 - Prostitution is a "victimless" crime
 - In source country, myth that victims are willing participants.

INITIALS		
APPR:	MW	...
DRAFT:	TK	...
CLR 1:	EF	...
CLR 2:	MV	...
CLR 3:	ES	...

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WH/OFL:MVERVEER

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

PRIORITY KIEV

TAGS: KCRM, PHUM, PREL, UP

SUBJECT: DEPUTY PM ZHULYNSKYI MEETS WITH COS TO FIRST LADY
MELANNE VERVEER AND NSC DIRECTOR EUGENE FISHEL

SUMMARY

1. (U) UKRAINIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR HUMANITARIAN
ISSUES MYKOLA ZHULYNSKYI MET WITH THE CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE
FIRST LADY MELANNE VERVEER ON JUNE 29 AND WITH NSC DIRECTOR
FOR RUSSIA, UKRAINE AND EURASIA EUGENE FISHEL ON JUNE 30.
TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED FOLLOWUP TO THE JUNE 21-23 ANTI-
TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP IN KIEV, IPR, AND CRIMEAN TATARS.

ZHULYNSKYI-VERVEER

2. (SBU) DPM ZHULYNSKYI WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, HIS
ADVISOR ROMAN LOUN AND MICHAEL SAWKIW, DIRECTOR OF THE
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICE. COMING ONE WEEK
AFTER THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP AT WHICH BOTH VERVEER
AND ZHULYNSKYI PLAYED KEY ROLES, VERVEER STRESSED THE NEED
FOR A GOU INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE WITH SPECIFIC DESIGNATED
RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COORDINATING THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING
EFFORT. VERVEER STATED THAT THE FORMER GOU ANTI-

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TRAFFICKING COORDINATOR, THE RADA OMBUDSMAN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, WAS NOT EFFECTIVE AND DID NOT EVEN SHOW UP FOR THE WORKSHOP. ZHULYNSKYI AGREED WITH THE NEED FOR HIGH LEVEL GOU INVOLVEMENT AND COMMITTED TO SENDING THE GOU PROPOSAL *for following* FOR A GOU INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE TO THE UKRAINIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE GOU NEEDS USG HELP WITH WITNESS PROTECTION AND INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC CASES OF TRAFFICKING - WHERE THE TRAFFICKED WOMEN ARE AND WHAT THE GOU CAN DO TO FIND AND HELP THESE WOMEN. RECOGNIZING THAT THE ROOT CAUSE OF TRAFFICKING IS SOCIO/ECONOMIC, MRS. ZHULYNSKYI NOTED THE NEED FOR WORK IN *creating better* ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR WOMEN AND HIGHLIGHTED GOU CREDIT UNION REFORM WHICH COULD HELP PROVIDE CREDITS FOR WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES. VERVEER POINTED OUT THAT THE MICRO-CREDIT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT ON JUNE 5 REQUIRES RADA APPROVAL OF LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ALLOW DIRECT LENDING BY NON-BANKING INSTITUTIONS AND WOULD NOT TAX INCOME THAT IS PLOWED BACK INTO THE LENDING PROGRAM. SHE NOTED THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT PROGRAM IS DEPENDENT ON THE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES AND THAT ZHULYNSKYI SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THEIR ENACTMENT. SHE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT MICHAEL SAWKI WORK WITH THE UKRAINIAN-AMERICAN CREDIT UNION COMMUNITY TO SEE IF THEY CAN PROVIDE ANY ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINIAN CREDIT UNIONS *to enhance their capacity.*

ZHULYNSKYI-FISHEL

3. (SBU) DPM ZHULYNSKYI WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS ADVISOR ROMAN LOUN, UKRAINE EMBASSY DCM OLEKSIY BEREZHNYI AND UKRAINIAN NATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICE DIRECTOR MICHAEL SAWKI. NSC DIRECTOR FISHEL WAS ACCOMPANIED BY NSC INTERN STEVE MASSEY AND UKRAINE DESK OFFICER TED KONTEK. ZHULYNSKYI BEGAN BY OUTLINING HIS PORTFOLIO WHICH INCLUDES IPR, SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN ISSUES (HEADS GOU AIDS AND TB COMMISSIONS), EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM REFORM, HEALTH CARE REFORM AND PENSION REFORM. HE HELD THE SAME POST IN THE 92-94 GOU. AS AN ACADEMIC (HISTORY OF LITERATURE), HE HAD NO ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE FOR THIS POSITION. ZHULYNSKYI RELAYED HIS MAJOR CHALLENGES THOUGH HE OFFERED NO INSIGHT ON HOW THEY MAY BE RESOLVED. THESE INCLUDED PENSION REFORM, (14.5 MILLION RETIREES) AND THE EXPECTED SHUT DOWN OF MANY OF UKRAINE'S COAL MINES. FISHEL NOTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HAS BEGUN PROGRAMS TO HELP THE GOU ADDRESS SOME OF THE SOCIAL ISSUES INCLUDING WORKER DISLOCATION. ZHULYNSKYI STATED THAT THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH WORKERS TO SATISFY THE NEEDS OF AGRICULTURE. HAVING JUST

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PARTICIPATED IN THE TWO DAY ANTI-TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP IN KIEV, HE NOTED THAT TRAFFICKING IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR UKRAINE AND THAT WITHOUT CONTINUED USG SUPPORT, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR GOU TO ADDRESS IT. THE CURRENT OVERALL ECONOMIC SITUATION IS DIFFICULT BUT DIFFERENT SINCE THE NEW GENERATION IS "SHOWING NEW TENDENCIES" SO THAT HE, ALONG WITH THE PM REMAINS OPTIMISTIC. COOPERATION WITH THE IFI'S IS GOOD AND SHOWING RESULTS.

4. (SBU) GOU IS TRYING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT CD PIRACY AND LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS ON IPR HAVE BEEN MADE. THE GOU HAS SHUT DOWN THE 5 PIRATE PLANTS AND IS TRYING TO CONTROL THEIR ACTIVITY. SPECIAL GROUPS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AND ARE WORKING ON THIS ISSUE IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND WITH THE STATE TAX ADMINISTRATION. FISHEL RESPONDED THAT IPR IS ONE OF THE ISSUES WE WANTED TO DISCUSS. HE THANKED ZHULYNSKY FOR THE ACTIONS TO DATE AND INDICATED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS THAT SOME OF THE FACILITIES ARE STARTING TO OPERATE AGAIN. IF TRUE, THEY MUST BE STOPPED AND THE IPR LEGISLATIVE REFORM PROGRAM MUST GET BACK ON TRACK. ZHULYNSKY INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT THAT THIS PROBLEM WOULD BE SO COMPLICATED WITH SO MANY PEOPLE INTERESTED IN THIS ISSUE. HE CLARIFIED THAT THE GOU MADE THE DECISION TO SUSPEND AND NOT STOP THE CD PIRATE FACILITIES THOUGH HE RECOGNIZED HOW IMPORTANT THIS ISSUE IS AND THAT THE GOU WANTS TO WORK ON RESOLVING IT..

5. (SBU) FISHEL HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF IPR NOTING THAT THE PRESIDENT SPOKE ABOUT IT WITH PM YUSHCHENKO AND IT IS BEING DISCUSSED AGAIN DURING ZHULYNSKY'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. RESOLUTION OF THE CD PIRACY ISSUE WOULD DEMONSTRATE THE RULE OF LAW IN UKRAINE AND WOULD ENCOURAGE FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

6. (SBU) ON TRAFFICKING, FISHEL NOTED THE NEED FOR ZHULYNSKY TO SHOW STRONG LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION OF GOU EFFORTS TO COMBAT THIS CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. NOT EVERYONE IN THE GOU THINKS THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE. FISHEL EXPRESSED THE HOPE THE ZHULYNSKY WILL CONTINUE TO LEAD THIS PROJECT AND GIVE IT HIGH PRIORITY. USG IS ALSO TRYING TO HELP WITH THE MICRO-CREDIT PROGRAM THAT WILL PROVIDE WOMEN WITH IMPROVED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING. ZHULYNSKY HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF USG ECONOMIC SUPPORT ESPECIALLY THE 3 BUSINESS CENTERS AND THE NEED TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN SINCE THE LACK OF ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE IS A LEADING CAUSE OF TRAFFICKING.

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7. (SBU) FISHEL PASSED ALONG TWO SPECIFIC TRAFFICKING CASES (ONE FROM SPAIN AND THE OTHER FROM ISRAEL) FOR ACTION NOTING THAT TRAFFICKERS MUST BE PUNISHED AND WITNESSES PROTECTED. GOU CAN SET A PRECEDENT. KONTEK REITERATED THE GOALS OF THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP: IMPROVED COOPERATION BETWEEN GOU AND ANTI-TRAFFICKING NGO'S; IMPROVED COOPERATION BETWEEN GOU AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS IN TRANSIT AND SOURCE COUNTRIES; AND INCREASED PROSECUTION OF ALL THOSE ENGAGED IN TRAFFICKING INCLUDING BOGUS EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES AND TRAVEL AGENCIES. THE REASON THE SPECIFIC TRAFFICKING CASES ARE BEING PROVIDED IS TO ALLOW THE GOU TO TAKE ACTION IN THESE SPECIFIC CASES.

8. (SBU) FINALLY FISHEL TOOK NOTE OF USG CONCERN ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF CRIMEAN TATARS AND THE PROSPECT THAT THEY MAY BE LOCKED OUT OF THE COLLECTIVE FARM LAND PRIVATIZATION THAT IS CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE LAND PRIVATIZATION IS BEING CONDUCTED ACCORDING THE UKRAINIAN LAW BUT GOU SHOULD ENSURE THAT SOME PROVISIONS ARE MADE FOR THE RETURNING TATARS WHO HAVE NO CLAIM TO CRIMEAN LAND UNDER THE CURRENT PRIVATIZATION. ZHULYNSKYI RESPONDED THAT THE GOU IS AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM AND THAT THERE IS ENOUGH LAND IN CRIMEA TO ACCOMMODATE THE RETURNING TATARS THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY IN THE LOCATION WHERE SOME OF THE TATARS HAVE SQUATTED.

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NOTES FROM SECTION 2 -
THURSDAY 6/22 - 11:15-13:30

(This will be integrated
into Action Plan!
Final)

Moderators:

Volodymyr Babenko (Ministry of Interior) and
Steven Cook (IOM)

-- Mr. Babenko reviewed proposals for changes to the
Action Plan that were submitted at yesterday's session.
These included:

- add point to Action Plan noting that trafficking and
illegal immigration are not national but international
issues;
- action plan should establish that trafficking is wider
than women and children;
- the Ukraine State Program against trafficking should be
established at all levels in Ukraine;
- * - there should be a special body for coordination of
GOU/NGO work on trafficking and illegal immigration;
- there should be organized a wide public awareness
campaign of the proceedings of the workshop and trafficking
in general;
- on border issues, we need awareness of the migration
campaign to introduce preventative measures;
- we should fight fraudulent job agencies - revoke
licenses of travel agencies that engage in trafficking;
- we should inform planning immigrants (travellers?) on
trafficking issues;
- shelters should be established in other countries for
women and children;
- medical, economic and legal assistance is needed for
victims;
- must ensure confidentiality for victims to aid in
prosecution of traffickers;
- dissemination of information on trafficking should be
facilitated among diplomatic missions;
- laws should note the transnational nature of this crime
in the criminal code.

-- There was discussion about whether the database being
established by the Ministry of Interior will consolidate
information from other data bases and will be available to
non-governmental entities. There was clarification that
the Ministry Database - while consolidating information on

NGOs and the services they offer, will be primarily for law-enforcement and official purposes.

*- There was a strong consensus for a coordinating body of Ukrainian anti-trafficking efforts.

-- There was discussion about adding educational institutions to the State Program adopted by the GOU. Gen. Babenko clarified that the State program runs until 2001 and cannot be amended until it is finished. He also noted that point 18 of the program assigns responsibility for education on anti-trafficking to the Ministry of Education.

-- A point was made that the police need computer support since traffickers work across national boundaries.

-- There was discussion on the need for formal agreements to allow for the exchange of information among countries. Ukraine currently has agreements with 10 countries.

-- The UNCICP rep proposed adding research on trafficking to the action plan list. The Ukraine Desk Officer countered that the action plan concerns law enforcement and should not be diluted with important but peripheral issues like research, domestic violence, economic opportunities, etc. The IOM moderator strongly supported the proposal to add research to the action plan. (NOTE: IT WAS A MISTAKE TO HAVE IOM MODERATE THIS SESSION - THE MODERATOR SPENT TOO MUCH TIME PLUGGING FOR SUPPORT FOR IOM RESEARCH PROGRAMS. MODERATORS SHOULD NOT HAVE A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDINGS. END NOTE)

-- The issue of shelters was discussed and Gen. Babenko got very defensive saying that Ukraine has shelters. Discussants clarified that the issue of shelters is primarily one for destination and transit countries to protect women and to take evidence.

-- An important point was made that the action plan stress that trafficked women and children should be formally given "victim" status in transit and destination countries.

-- Gen. Babenko stated that victims do not want to testify. They should be given social rehabilitation and only then should there be an investigation to determine if a crime has been committed. This led to a lively exchange with the Ukraine Desk Officer noting that the existence of

a crime in trafficking is obvious - even if only that of a fraudulent job offer - and that the investigation and prosecution of the traffickers cannot be delayed for lengthy determinations.

Melanne Verveer

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**POINTS ON ANTI-TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE FOR MEETING WITH
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ZHULINSKY**

BACKGROUND

Recognizing the serious and growing problem of trafficking of women and children in Ukraine, the Rada passed changes to the criminal code of Ukraine in April 1998 to provide for criminal penalties for trafficking. An informal coordinating council for the prevention of trafficking of persons, headed by the Ombudsman for Human Rights Issues was established in June 1999 by the Rada. The Cabinet of Ministers issued a decree (#1768) in September of 1999 to approve a comprehensive multi-agency program on the prevention of trafficking in women and children. The decree tasked the Human Rights Ombudsman to establish a Coordination Council and the State Committee for Family and Youth responsibility with monitoring the implementation of the program.

On April 21-23, we co-hosted with the GOU a law enforcement workshop in Kiev to combat trafficking. The Cabinet of Ministers tasked Deputy PM Zhulinsky with coordinating GOU involvement in the workshop organized primarily by the Ministry of Interior. The workshop, which Zhulinsky attended, was a great success. The Minister of Justice, Susanna Stanik and the Rada Human Rights Ombudsman, Nina Karpachova, both initially expected to play a prominent role in the workshop did not attend any of the sessions.

It is important that the GOU designate a senior official to coordinate the inter-ministerial efforts at combating trafficking else the momentum established leading up to the workshop may be lost.

TALKING POINTS

- We appreciate your active role in organizing and supporting our recent international anti-trafficking workshop in Kiev.
- The action plan adopted at the workshop and your Cabinet of Ministers Decree 1768 from September 25, 1999 recognize the need for central coordination of anti-trafficking initiatives taken by the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Labor, Foreign Affairs and others.

- We note that the Human Rights Ombudsman, designated as the coordinator for anti-trafficking efforts in the Council of Ministers Decree did not participate in the anti-trafficking workshop.
- We urge that your office continue coordinating the GOU anti-trafficking efforts to demonstrate the high level of interest in resolving this criminal problem and to ensure that the lessons learned from the workshop lead to increased prosecutions of traffickers.



PRESS STATEMENT

U.S. – Ukraine Regional Law Enforcement Workshop Against Trafficking in Women and Children

On June 21-23, 2000 a Regional Law Enforcement Workshop Against Trafficking in Women and Children was held in Kiev to discuss the ways of combating this problem that has gained special importance worldwide and particularly in the European region.

Participants and Observers from Albania, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine and the United States of America, the EU Commission, Interpol, the International Organization for Migration, the UN Center for International Crime Prevention, the International Labor Organization and several non-governmental organizations.

Participants expressed their particular concern with the magnitude and level of efforts in combating this problem, and recognized that the problem of trafficking is rooted in socio-economic factors. Trafficking in persons in countries of origin, transit and destination is a serious crime and human rights problem, which requires an integrated approach at national, regional and international levels to ensure significant progress in combating this modern-day slavery,

During the two-day workshop, participants heard the advice of international experts, exchanged information, reviewed various practices, and discussed and developed an Action Plan (attached) for the region. This plan offers suggestions for possible future steps and practices to fight trafficking in women and children,

They expressed the expectation that governments and non-governmental organizations of participating countries, and international organizations will carefully examine the Action Plan and develop appropriate ways for its implementation,

There was general agreement that law enforcement agencies and non-governmental organizations should further cooperation at the national, regional and international levels to prosecute the criminals involved in trafficking.

U.S. - Ukraine Regional Law Enforcement Workshop
Against Trafficking in Women and Children

Action Plan

I. Information and Data

- Improve information sharing between state agencies at the local and national levels.
- Promote exchange of information, best practices, and lessons learned among the countries of Europe and beyond.
- Develop anti-trafficking information materials for dissemination to diplomatic and consular missions in concerned countries, including information on where to seek assistance.
- Consider the importance of establishing national task forces or focal points.

II. Cooperation with International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society and Media

- Promote cooperation and partnership among governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society in the prevention, protection, prosecution, repatriation and reintegration aspects of trafficking in persons, especially women and children.
- Generate greater public awareness on the human costs of trafficking in women and children.
- Provide comprehensive and immediate assistance for trafficked persons.
- Sensitize major media outlets (print and electronic) to the issues and encourage them to write articles about trafficking, to publicize hotlines and services for victims, including NGO and governmental agencies.
- Promote regional cooperation among the countries of the region in building networks and anti-trafficking capacity.
- Ensure coordination with parallel regional initiatives to avoid duplication.

Strategic Areas for Action

Prevention

I. Education/Training

- Strengthen where appropriate national/regional centers for training of law enforcement agents, caregivers and related personnel.
- Encourage a gender and child sensitive perspective in the training of law enforcement agents, prosecutors, lawyers and community leaders.

- Promote education (formal and informal) vocational/training/scholarship programs for children and women to minimize their susceptibility to being trafficked.

II. Legislative Framework

- Examine the need for and adopt, as appropriate, additional legislative and other measures to prevent trafficking including the promotion of security and integrity of travel documents.
- Provide or strengthen, where necessary, training for law enforcement, immigration, consular and other relevant partners to combat trafficking, in cooperation with appropriate national, sub-regional, regional and international organizations and non-governmental bodies.

Protection

I. Human Rights/Enabling Legal Environment

- Provide witnesses with special support to report and file complaints designed to protect their safety and to reduce official procedures and their traumatizing effects.
- Promote efforts to ensure that national laws/regulations provide sufficient and substantial information and assistance and adequate protection of the human rights of trafficked persons including in the repatriation process.
- Endeavor to forge bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international agreements against trafficking including on mutual legal assistance and cross-border cooperation.

II. Safety and Assistance of Trafficked Persons

- Provide as appropriate, shelter and economic, psychological, medical and legal assistance for trafficked persons.
- Provide physical safety for trafficked persons and appropriate consideration to humanitarian and compassionate factors including in the process of determining their status should equally be provided.
- Establish hotlines/complaint lines and establish relationships with NGOs in order to increase reporting and identify trafficking situations.

Prosecution

I. Rule of Law

- Endeavor to adopt laws and measures, as may be necessary, to criminalize trafficking in persons, taking into account the grave nature of the offense.
- Examine the need for and adopt, as appropriate, laws and other legal measures to impose penalties on all aspects of trafficking, including the seizure and confiscation of gains obtained by criminal organizations.
- Endeavor to support the finalization of the elaboration of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, as mandated by the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 53/111 and 53/114, and call for the active participation of all countries.

II. Regional and International Cooperation

- Support regional organizations and institutions in their efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly women and children.
- Encourage cooperation at the national, sub-regional and regional levels among law enforcement and immigration authorities, as well as social and health workers of countries concerned through systematic exchange of investigative information leading to prosecution of traffickers.
- Promote national, sub-regional and regional training of relevant officials including police, judges, prosecutors, customs, immigration, border guards, as well as consular authorities.
- Endeavor to adopt suitable national, sub-regional and regional measures and forge agreements, as may be necessary, to prevent, detect and investigate trafficking across boundaries and to strengthen border controls.
- Promote cooperation and partnership of governments and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society.

Repatriation and Reintegration

I. Repatriation and Monitoring Programs

- Establish bilateral, multilateral, sub-regional or regional agreements related to repatriation process aimed at humanitarian assistance of the trafficked persons.
- Facilitate and accept without unreasonable delay, including the expeditious issuance of travel documents, the safe, orderly and dignified return of a national who is a trafficked person.
- Encourage countries of origin to ensure the safe and effective reintegration of trafficked persons.

- Endeavor to provide adequate programs for the reintegration of trafficked persons into their respective families and communities, including medical, legal and economic assistance.
- Ensure that legislative framework provide trafficked persons' access to adequate procedures of redress.

Follow Up and Progress Review

- Ensure the full and active participation of trafficked persons, especially women and children, in the process of follow-up.
- Encourage follow up action and periodically assess the progress of implementation of the various measures in the areas of prevention, protection, prosecution and repatriation and reintegration.
- Stress the significance of sub-regional, regional and international collective efforts in the implementation of the Plan particularly in making available, necessary resources and facilities towards a more comprehensive approach to combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children.
- Promote the participation of state and non-state actors and stakeholders in the implementation of this Plan.
- Emphasize the significant role of responsible media reporting in generating public awareness in support of this plan.

- Promote education (formal and informal) vocational/training/scholarship programs for children and women to minimize their susceptibility to being trafficked.

II. Legislative Framework

- Examine the need for and adopt, as appropriate, additional legislative and other measures to prevent trafficking including the promotion of security and integrity of travel documents.
- Provide or strengthen, where necessary, training for law enforcement, immigration, consular and other relevant partners to combat trafficking, in cooperation with appropriate national, sub-regional, regional and international organizations and non-governmental bodies.

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- Endeavor to support the finalization of the elaboration of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, as mandated by the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 53/111 and 53/114, and call for the active participation of all countries.

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- Promote national, sub-regional and regional training of relevant officials including police, judges, prosecutors, customs, immigration, border guards, as well as consular authorities.
- Endeavor to adopt suitable national, sub-regional and regional measures and forge agreements, as may be necessary, to prevent, detect and investigate trafficking across boundaries and to strengthen border controls.
- Promote cooperation and partnership of governments and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society.

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- Stress the significance of sub-regional, regional and international collective efforts in the implementation of the Plan particularly in making available, necessary resources and facilities towards a more comprehensive approach to combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children.
- Promote the participation of state and non-state actors and stakeholders in the implementation of this Plan.
- Emphasize the significant role of responsible media reporting in generating public awareness in support of this plan.

O'Reilly, Maureen T.

Heading:

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ROUTINE

SUBJECT: U.S.-UKRAINE REGIONAL WORKSHOP AGAINST
TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

REF: A) STATE 70234; B) KIEV 18445

SUMMARY AND EMBASSY COMMENTS

1. ON JUNE 21-23 THE UNITED STATES AND UKRAINE CO-HOSTED A REGIONAL WORKSHOP AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS. IN ADDITION TO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE U.S. AND UKRAINE, PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS FROM ISRAEL, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, MOLDOVA, ALBANIA, GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS, POLAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM, BELGIUM, THE EU COMMISSION, INTERPOL, THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM), THE UN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION, ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE), THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO), UN MISSION IN UKRAINE, AND SEVERAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING LA STRADA AND WINROCK INTERNATIONAL, ATTENDED THE WORKSHOP.

2. THE TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP WAS ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENTS CLINTON AND KUCHMA AT THEIR JUNE 5 MEETING IN KIEV, RECOGNIZING UKRAINE AS A MAJOR SOURCE COUNTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO FALL VICTIM TO TRAFFICKING AND AGREED TO CO-HOST THE WORKSHOP AS AN IMPORTANT STEP TO COMBAT THIS INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. KEY SPEAKERS AT THE WORKSHOP INCLUDED MELANNE VERVEER, THE CHIEF OF STAFF FOR FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, AMBASSADOR STEVEN PIFER, UKRAINIAN VICE PREMIER FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS MYKOLA ZHULYNSKY, AND MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS YURIY KRAVCHENKO.

3. DURING THE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS, WORKING IN PLENARY SESSIONS AND WORKING GROUPS, EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN WITH THE INCREASED INTERNATIONAL SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM; EMPHASIZED THAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IS AN ECONOMIC AND CRIME PROBLEM THAT REQUIRES AN INTEGRATED APPROACH AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS AND ADOPTED AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE REGION. THIS PLAN OFFERS SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE STEPS AND PRACTICES TO FIGHT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THE GOU IS DEVELOPING CONCRETE MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE ACTION PLAN.

4. FOLLOWING ARE THE MAJOR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH CAME OUT OF THE WORKSHOP:

—A LEGAL FRAMEWORK IS NEEDED TO ADDRESS TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS, NOT JUST WOMEN AND CHILDREN;

—A SINGLE GOVERNMENT COORDINATING BODY ON ANTI-TRAFFICKING ISSUES IS REQUIRED, PREFERABLY AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL, AS WELL AS ANTI-TRAFFICKING UNITS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL;

--THERE IS A SERIOUS LACK OF COORDINATION AND INTERACTION BETWEEN NGOS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES;

--COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS ON ANTI-TRAFFICKING ISSUES SHOULD BE DEVELOPED;

--TOLL-FREE HOTLINES ARE NEEDED;

--EFFORTS AGAINST EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES THAT ENGAGE IN DECEPTIVE PRACTICES SHOULD BE INCREASED, TO INCLUDE REVOCATION OF LICENCES;

--INCREASED TRAINING FOR POLICE AND PROSECUTORS IS REQUIRED;

--PROCEDURES FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CASES MUST BE INSTITUTIONALIZED;

--PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS ARE NEEDED TO INFORM THE GENERAL POPULATION OF THE PROBLEM.

5. THE WORKSHOP ACCOMPLISHED A NUMBER OF KEY OBJECTIVES. THE PRESENCE OF SENIOR UKRAINIAN AND U.S. OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY MELANNE VERVEER, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY, GAVE THE ISSUE UNPRECEDENTED NATIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION IN UKRAINE. THE PARTICIPATION OF MINISTER OF INTERIOR KRACHENKO AT THE WORKSHOP DURING THE MORNING SESSION ON JUNE 21 ELEVATED THE PRIORITY OF THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING ISSUE FOR UKRAINIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT. THE WORKSHOP ALSO PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NGOS TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS AND A DIALOGUE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AT A LEVEL WHICH DID NOT EXIST PREVIOUSLY. AS A RESULT OF THE WORKSHOP, UKRAINIAN AND ISRAELI LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE WORKING TOGETHER ON AN INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING CASE. END SUMMARY AND EMBASSY COMMENTS.

REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKSHOP ON TRAFFICKING

6. ON JUNE 21-23, APPROXIMATELY 150 PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS FROM THE U.S., UKRAINE, ISRAEL, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, MOLDOVA, ALBANIA, GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS,

POLAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM, BELGIUM, THE EU COMMISSION, INTERPOL, THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM), THE UN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION, ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE), THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO), UN MISSION, AND SEVERAL NGOS, INCLUDING LA STRADA AND WINROCK INTERNATIONAL, TOOK PART IN THE WORKSHOP. ATTENDEES INCLUDED POLICE OFFICIALS, PROSECUTORS, JUDGES, OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT (VERHOVNA RADA), MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, BORDER GUARDS, STATE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, FAMILY AND SPORT, NGOS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

7. VICE PRIME MINISTER OF UKRAINE FOR HUMANITARIAN

AFFAIRS MYKOLA ZHULYNSKY OPENED THE CONFERENCE BY HIGHLIGHTING THE PROBLEM OF TRANSPARENT BORDERS, INADEQUATE LAWS, LACK OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND THE STATUS OF WOMEN AS CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS PROBLEM IS OF INCREASING CONCERN FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE AND DESCRIBED THE VARIOUS GOU EFFORTS TO TRY TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING INCLUDING: 1998 AMENDMENTS TO THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY CODE AND CRIMINAL CODE; ADOPTION IN 1999 BY THE CABINET OF MINISTERS OF AN ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAM, ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT CENTERS FOR WOMEN, THE REVOCATION BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR IN 1999 OF 125 LICENSES FOR EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES, IMPLEMENTATION OF A SMALL-ENTERPRISE PROGRAM FOR WOMEN BY THE UNDP, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 24-HOUR HOTLINE FOR WOMEN. HE ALSO NOTED THE EXISTENCE OF THREE "WOMEN TO WOMEN" CENTERS IN DNIPROPETROVSK, DONETSK, AND LVIV ESTABLISHED BY NGOS. ZHULYNSKY EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR THESE CENTERS AND STATED THAT THEY SHOULD SERVE AS MODELS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH CENTERS IN EACH OF THE OBLASTS IN UKRAINE. ZHULYNSKY UNDERScoreD THAT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IN ADDRESSING THE TRAFFICKING PROBLEM, THAT THIS IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM, AND THAT UKRAINE IS OBLIGATED TO DO ITS PART IN COMBATING TRAFFICKING. HE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE USG FOR ITS CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO THE UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS PROBLEM.

8. MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS KRAVCHENKO WAS THE NEXT SPEAKER. HE REFERRED TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AS A PROBLEM THAT TRANSCENDS PURELY LEGAL ISSUES AND

POINTED OUT THAT UKRAINE IS ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES THAT HAS ENACTED ANTI-TRAFFICKING LAWS. KRAVCHENKO STATED THAT THE MI
NISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS HAS
ESTABLISHED SPECIAL UNITS TO INVESTIGATE TRAFFICKING AND HAS UNCOVERED 24 CRIME GROUPS INVOLVED IN TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES.

9. AMBASSADOR PIFER NOTED THAT THE PRESENCE OF VICE PRIME MINISTER ZHULYNSKY, MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS KRAVCHENKO, AND MELANNE VERVEER, CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY, UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE BOTH THE U.S. AND GOU ATTACHED TO THE TRAFFICKING PROBLEM. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT PRESIDENT CLINTON AND SECRETARY OF STATE ALBRIGHT ARE COMMITTED TO THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING AND STRESSED THAT THE USG STRATEGY IS BASED ON PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND PROSECUTION. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE WORKSHOP WAS A RESULT OF A COMMITMENT MADE BY PRESIDENTS CLINTON AND KUCHMA ON JUNE 5 TO HELP UKRAINE WITH THE TRAFFICKING PROBLEM.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

10. MELANNE VERVEER, CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY, WAS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE WORKSHOP. SHE REFERRED TO MRS. CLINTON'S ANNOUNCEMENT TWO YEARS AGO IN THE CITY OF LVIV IN WESTERN UKRAINE THAT INITIATED THE U.S.-EU ANTI-TRAFFICKING CAMPAIGN AND STRESSED THAT NO COUNTRY CAN ERADICATE THE PROBLEM

BY ITSELF. VERVEER EXPLAINED THAT TRAFFICKING IS NOT JUST A WOMEN'S ISSUE BUT MORE BROADLY A SOCIETAL ISSUE. VERVEER STATED THAT SHE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS WITH NGOS TO EDUCATE SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THAT THIS ACTION WAS A MODEL FOR NGO-GOVERNEMENT COOPERATION. SHE ALSO ANNOUNCED A FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLAR PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION FOR UKRAINE TO FIGHT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE.

UN PROTOCOL ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

11. KRISTINA KANGASPUNTA, UN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION, PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW ON THE STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DRAFT UN PROTOCOL TO PREVENT, SUPPRESS, PUNISH, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN. SHE EXPLAINED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE INITIATED IN JANUARY 1999 AND THAT IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE FINAL VERSION WILL BE SIGNED IN

DECEMBER 2000 IN PALERMO, ITALY.

ACCORDING TO KANGASPUNTA, CURRENT ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE RESOLVED INCLUDE THE DEFINITION OF "TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS" AND THE ISSUE OF "CONSENT." SHE INDICATED THAT THE PROTOCOL WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TOOLS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, STRENGTHENS THE JUDICIARY BY CRIMINALIZING TRAFFICKING IN ALL COUNTRIES AND PROVIDES FOR PROTECTION FOR TRAFFICKED PERSONS.

12. KANGASPUNTA ALSO PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAM ON TRAFFICKING STATING THAT COUNTRY PROGRAMS WERE ONGOING IN THE PHILIPPINES, AUSTRIA, FINLAND, GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS, POLAND, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, AND A NEW PROGRAM IS TO BE INITIATED IN BRAZIL. PART OF THE PLAN IS TO ESTABLISH A DATABASE TO BE SHARED BY ALL COUNTRIES AND TO ASSIST COUNTRIES IN IMPROVING THE RESPONSE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT, HEIGHTEN AWARENESS, AND IMPROVE VICTIM/WITNESS PROTECTION.

PRESENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

13. ANITA BOTTI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN, NOTED THE TIMELINESS OF THE WORKSHOP FOLLOWING ON THE RECENT ANTI-TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE OSCE CONFERENCE IN INSTANBUL ON TRAFFICKING, DISCUSSIONS IN VIENNA ON THE UN PROTOCOL ON TRAFFICKING AND THE ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE. BOTTI SUGGESTED THAT THE CONFEREES TAKE A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM AND WORK OUT MECHANISMS TO IMPLEMENT THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN, INCLUDING IMPROVING THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, ESTABLISHING BEST PRACTICES, AND BRINGING GOVERNMENT AND NGOS TO WORK TOGETHER ON THE PROBLEM. SHE PRAISED UKRAINE FOR TAKING THE LEAD ON THE ISSUE AND POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS A NEED TO FOCUS ON PREVENTION, WITH EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS, PROTECTION AND PROSECUTION. BOTTI URGED THE PARTICIPANTS TO REVIEW THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN AND TO LOOK AT PRACTICAL WAYS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN.

TRAFFICKING AS AN ASPECT OF TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

14. AMY O'NEILL-RICHARDS AND KATHLEEN TRAINOR FROM THE

STATE DEPARTMENT GAVE A PRESENTATION WHICH DEFINED TRAFFICKING, PROVIDED GLOBAL STATISTICS (E.G. UP TO 1,000,000 PERSONS PER YEAR; 40-50% UNDER 18; TRAFFICKING MOST PREVALENT IN ASIA). O'NEILL-RICHARDS REVIEWED THE STATUS OF TRAFFICKING AND THE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES IN ASIA, AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA AND THE

UNITED STATES. TRAINOR FOCUSED ON THE SITUATION IN THE NEW INDEPENDENT STATES, AND CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE. SHE STATED THAT IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 100,000 PERSONS, INCLUDING 35,000 FROM UKRAINE, ARE TRAFFICKED ANNUALLY. ACCORDING TO TRAINOR, WOMEN TYPICALLY BETWEEN 15-25 YEARS OF AGE AND MORE EDUCATED THAN IN OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD, ARE MOST SUBJECT TO FALSE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE TREND IS FOR YOUNGER VICTIMS TO BE INVOLVED, PARTICULARLY HOMELESS CHILDREN OR THOSE IN ORPHANAGES. TRAINOR STATED THAT TRAFFICKERS USED MODELING AGENCIES, MARRIAGE AGENCIES AND EVEN CAREER FAIRS AT SCHOOLS TO RECRUIT WOMEN AND GIRLS AND THAT ALL LEVELS OF CRIME ARE INVOLVED - ENTREPRENEURS, SMALL TRAFFICKING GROUPS, AND LARGE SYNDICATES.

ACTION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND NGOS IN UKRAINE

15. IRYNA TARGULOVA, OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN OF THE SUPREME RADA OF UKRAINE, EXPLAINED THAT THE OMBUDSMAN SUPERVISES THE ISSUE OF TRAFFICKING AND HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE LEGISLATIVE LEVEL. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE GOV HAS SET UP A SPECIAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAM BUT THAT THERE IS A NEED TO COLLECT DATA SINCE THERE ARE NO RELIABLE STATISTICS ON TRAFFICKING. AS WELL, THE POLICE HAVE NO SPECIAL TOOLS TO INVESTIGATE TRAFFICKING AND THIS NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED. SHE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT A NUMBER OF CASES ARE BEING PROSECUTED. TARGULOVA INDICATED THAT THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH PROTECTING AND REINTEGRATING VICTIMS AND THAT NGOS MUST PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THIS PROCESS. SHE POINTED OUT THAT VICTIMS ARE UNWILLING TO WORK WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THEY MUST BE PERSUADED TO COOPERATE WHEN THEY RETURN TO UKRAINE. TARGULOVA ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF FOREIGN ADOPTIONS AND THAT DESPITE LEGAL IMPROVEMENTS, FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS ARE STILL FOUND IN THE ADOPTION PROCESS.

16. HRYHORIY TYTARCHUK, OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL OF UKRAINE, STATED THAT THE PROBLEM OF TRAFFICKING BEGAN IN THE EARLY 90'S WHEN THE BORDERS WERE OPENED AND THE SITUATION WAS EXACERBATED BY DECLINING LIVING CONDITIONS. HE EXPLAINED THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES WERE NOT PREPARED FOR THIS TRANSITION PERIOD. IN 1995, IN A CASE IN WHICH A WOMAN WAS FREED IN THE NETHERLANDS, YUGOSLAV CITIZENS WERE SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED IN DNIETROPETROVSK. THIS CASE IMPLICATED PASSPORT OFFICIALS AND TWO CRIMINAL GROUPS WERE UNCOVERED. ONE GROUP TRAFFICKED AT LEAST 35 WOMEN THROUGH POLAND AND THE OTHER TRAFFICKED ABOUT

100 VICTIMS VIA HUNGARY TO YUGOSLAVIA. FIVE PERSONS WERE CONVICTED FOR FORGERY AND ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSING SINCE THERE WAS NO LAW AGAINST TRAFFICKING AT THAT TIME. DURING THIS PERIOD, OTHER PERSONS WERE DEPORTED AND NOT CHARGED WITH ANY CRIMES. THE CRIMINAL CODE WAS AMENDED IN 1998 TO ADD A NEW SECTION

124.1, WHICH PENALIZES THE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS. CASES ARE NOW PROSECUTED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THERE IS SOME INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, WITH THE CZECH REPUBLIC, FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE 20 WOMEN WERE RECENTLY LOCATED. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE NOT ALWAYS INTERESTED IN PROSECUTING THESE CASES AND COOPERATION AMONG PROSECUTORS IS VERY COMPLEX. IN 1995 AND 1996 THERE WERE SEVERAL ADOPTION CASES IN KIEV AND DONETSK WHICH LED TO PEOPLE BEING CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL OFFENSES.

17. VOLODYMYR BABENKO, CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, STATED THAT ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION IS THE MAIN CAUSE OF THE TRAFFICKING PROBLEM. AS WELL, HE EXPLAINED THAT ANTI-TRAFFICKING WAS NOT A PRIORITY IN THE PAST. ACCORDING TO BABENKO, WOMEN ARE LURED BY OFFERS OF EMPLOYMENT AND ARE NOT ONLY BEING USED FOR PROSTITUTION, BUT ARE INVOLVED IN THE NARCOTICS TRADE AND OTHER CRIMES. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOU IS INTENSIFYING ITS LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN THIS AREA: UKRAINE HAS ADOPTED ANTI-TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION, 24 CRIMINAL CASES ARE BEING INVESTIGATED, THE GOU HAS SIGNED SEVERAL BILATERAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS ON COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME, INCLUDING TRAFFICKING. (NOTE: THE US/GOU LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKING GROUP ACTION PLAN SIGNED ON JUNE 5 INCLUDES TRAFFICKING AS ONE OF THE AREAS OF COOPERATION. END NOTE.)

18. BABENKO EXPLAINED THAT ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE CHANGES ARE PENDING, A GOVERNMENT ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAM HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, AND THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS HAS ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL UNIT TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. THIS WILL HELP TO IDENTIFY AND PROSECUTE CRIMINALS AND ORGANIZED CRIME GROUPS, BUT HE EXPLAINED THAT THE LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN PROSECUTING SUCH CASES IS A PROBLEM. BABENKO CALLED UPON TURKEY, GREECE AND GERMANY, IN PARTICULAR, TO IMPROVE COOPERATION WITH THE GOU ON TRAFFICKING CASES.

19. DR. ANATOLIY ZAKALYUK OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF LAW SCIENCES, EXPLAINED THAT TRAFFICKING IS A PROBLEM OF TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME THAT NEEDS TO BE STUDIED. HE STATED THAT SOME WORK HAS BEEN INITIATED ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF TRAFFICKING TO ORGANIZED CRIME. ZAKALYUK POINTED OUT THAT PREVENTION IS IMPORTANT, BUT THAT CURRENT MEASURES ARE INSUFFICIENT.

20. KATERYNA LEVCHENKO, LA STRADA-UKRAINE, EXPLAINED THAT LA STRADA AND OTHER NGOS HAVE BEEN WORKING ON TRAFFICKING ISSUES SINCE THE EARLY 1990S, AT A TIME WHEN THE UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE WAS A PROBLEM. SHE STATED THAT IN 1997, FOLLOWING A CONFERENCE IN VIENNA, THE GOU BEGAN TO RECOGNIZE THE ISSUE. LEVCHENKO POINTED OUT THAT LA STRADA IS WORKING AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL WITH VICTIMS, GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, AND IS DEVELOPING AN ANTI-TRAFFICKING CURRICULUM FOR THE SCHOOLS IN UKRAINE AND OTHER PREVENTION PROGRAMS. LEVCHENKO CRITICIZED THE UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO VICTIMS AND EMPHASIZED

THAT NO ONE IN THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE IN CHARGE OF THE TRAFFICKING PROGRAM. SHE WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR NOT INCLUDING NGOS IN GOVERNMENT PLANNING ON TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS. SHE STRESSED THAT TRAFFICKING IS DIFFERENT FROM PROSTITUTION AND THAT MEN ARE ALSO VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING.

CHALLENGES FACING SOURCE, TRANSIT AND DESTINATION COUNTRIES

21. DURING THE DISCUSSION IN THE PLENARY SESSION ON CHALLENGES FACING THE SOURCE, TRANSIT AND DESTINATION COUNTRIES, UKRAINE, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, ISRAEL, GERMANY AND POLAND PROVIDED COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS AS FOLLOWS:

--UKRAINE: CONDITIONS IN UKRAINE HAVE WORSENERD SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND TRAFFICKING HAS BECOME A VERY LUCRATIVE BUSINESS. IN 1998, THE LAWS WERE AMENDED TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL ADOPTION AND TRAFFICKING. THE MEDIA HAS EXAGGERATED THE SITUATION BY CITING UNSUBSTANTIATED NUMBERS OF TRAFFICKED WOMEN (I.E. 400,000). TRAFFICKING SCHEMES, HOWEVER, HAVE LURED WOMEN TO PARIS AND OTHER LOCATIONS.

--CZECH REPUBLIC: THE CZECH GOVERNMENT HAS ADOPTED A SERIOUS ATTITUDE TO TRAFFICKING AND IN 1995 ENACTED LAWS CONCERNING ILLEGAL MIGRATION AND TRAFFICKING IN PROSTITUTES. THE TRAFFICKING CATEGORIES INCLUDE WOMEN TRAFFICKED ABROAD, FOREIGN WOMEN TRAFFICKED INTO THE

CZECH REPUBLIC AND CZECH WOMEN EXPLOITED IN THE SEX INDUSTRY. NIGHTCLUBS POSE A PARTICULAR DANGER BECAUSE THEY OFTEN ARE A COVER FOR EXPLOITING WOMEN AND ILLEGAL OPERATIONS FREQUENTLY ARE RUN OUT OF THESE CLUBS. PROSTITUTION IS NOT A CRIME, BUT FACILITATING SUCH ACTIVITY IS PUNISHABLE CRIMINALLY. A TREND IS DEVELOPING WHERE TRAFFICKERS AND PROSTITUTES COLLABORATE AGAINST THE POLICE.

--ISRAEL: ISRAEL IS A DESTINATION COUNTRY BUT NOT A MAJOR ONE. A COMBINED STRATEGY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO CONFRONT TRAFFICKERS. THE REASONS FOR TRAFFICKING INCLUDE LARGE MIGRATION INTO THE COUNTRY, LOWERED MORAL STANDARDS, AND LARGE NUMBERS OF FOREIGN WORKERS IN THE COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH MOST WOMEN KNOW WHAT THEY ARE GETTING INTO, THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF THE CONDITIONS. THERE ARE ALSO CLEAR EXAMPLES OF WOMEN TRAFFICKED INTO ISRAEL. THERE ARE NO LAWS CURRENTLY IN FORCE CONCERNING TRAFFICKING, BUT SUCH LEGISLATION IS ABOUT TO BE ENACTED AND WILL AUTHORIZE SPECIALIZED POLICE ANTI-TRAFFICKING UNITS.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS ON ANTI-TRAFFICKING ISSUES

22. ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 21 AND JUNE 22, THE PARTICIPANTS WORKED IN THREE SEPARATE BREAKOUT SESSIONS ON VICTIM PROTECTION/ASSISTANCE, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, AND PROSECUTION AND INVESTIGATION OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING CASES. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS.

VICTIM PROTECTION

23. THE GROUP BEGAN ITS WORK BY ATTEMPTING TO DEFINE WHO IS THE "VICTIM" AND WHAT "PROTECTION" AND "ASSISTANCE" MEAN. THE GROUP, CHAIRED BY OLEKSANDR MISCHENKO, DEPUTY HEAD, CONSULAR DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND MARTA BAZIUK, WINROCK INTERNATIONAL, AGREED THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO FORM A WORKING GROUP CONSISTING OF NGO AND GOU REPRESENTATIVES TO DETERMINE WHO ARE THE "VICTIMS" AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IN TERMS OF PROTECTION. THE FOLLOWING KEY POINTS WERE NOTED BY THE WORKING GROUP:

– THE NEED TO WORK WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT TO INCREASE THE AWARENESS OF THE ISSUE; THE FEAR VICTIMS HAVE OF PROVIDING INFORMATION; THE MISTRUST AND LACK OF UNDERSTANDING WHEN FAMILIES COME TO THE POLICE FOR HELP; AND THE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING INFORMATION FROM VICTIMS AND FAMILIES.

– NEED FOR RESEARCH ON COMPANIES ADVERTISING FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OVERSEAS; IS THERE A WAY TO CHECK THE BONA FIDES THROUGH REGISTRATION? (NOTE: THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE LVIV CENTER EXPLAINED THAT IT IS WORKING ON A DATABASE OF EMPLOYMENT AND MARRIAGE AGENCIES.)

– NOTED THAT SOME OF THE VICTIMS ARE RETURNING AS RECRUITERS; HOW CAN THIS BE PREVENTED?

– MFA REPRESENTATIVES NOTED THAT UKRAINIAN CONSULAR OFFICIALS ARE TASKED WITH PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF ALL UKRAINIAN CITIZENS WHO ASK FOR HELP IN RETURNING TO UKRAINE AND REQUESTED NGOS TO REFER INQUIRIES FROM FAMILIES AND OTHER SOURCES TO THE MFA. THE MFA REPRESENTATIVE EXPLAINED THAT THE MFA HAS A 24-HOUR HOTLINE, TEL: (380) (44) 293-4942 OR-(380) (44) 493-0056, AND STATED THAT THE INFORMATION WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE APPROPRIATE EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES.

– REPATRIATION WAS IDENTIFIED AS A MAJOR ISSUE. UKRAINIAN CONSULAR OFFICIALS NOTED SOME SUCCESSFUL CASES IN RETURNED WOMEN AND ASKED FOR HELP FROM THE NGOS IN URGING VICTIMS TO COME TO THEM FOR ASSISTANCE. IT WAS NOTED THAT SOME CONSULATES DO NOT HAVE FUNDS TO RETURN VICTIMS AND THAT IN GENERAL VERY LIMITED FUNDING WAS AVAILABLE FOR SERVICES TO RETURN VICTIMS, FOR SHELTERS, JOB TRAINING, ETC. LA STRADA OFFERED TO HOLD SEMINARS FOR CONSULAR OFFICIALS AND MFA REPRESENTATIVES SUPPORTED THIS PROPOSAL. AN ISRAELI OFFICIAL CLAIMED THAT UKRAINIAN WOMEN ARE STRANDED IN ISRAEL BECAUSE THEY CANNOT AFFORD THE USD 600 AIRFARE TO RETURN HOME.

– NGO AND CONSULAR OFFICIALS NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORKSHOP IN PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DEVELOPING CONTACTS TO ASSIST VICTIMS AND TO LEARN OF THE SERVICES THAT THE NGOS CAN PROVIDE.

– IT HAS NOTED THAT BORDER GUARDS DO NOT EFFECTIVELY CHECK FOR TRAFFICKING IN HUMANS AND SUGGESTED THE NEED FOR TRAINING FOR THE BORDER GUARDS TO CHECK VEHICLES TRANSPORTING GROUPS OF WOMEN.

– NOTED THE PROBLEM OF CORRUPTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND THAT THIS BECOMES A BARRIER TO FAMILIES

SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND TO VICTIMS REPORTING CRIME.

— NOTED THE NEED FOR A COMPUTERIZED SYSTEM TO SHARE INFORMATION QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY.

24. LA STRADA DESCRIBED A RECENT CASE THAT OCCURRED IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR WHERE THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS WERE NOT MET. THE CASE INVOLVED SEVEN UKRAINIAN MOTHERS WHO CONTACTED LA STRADA FOR ASSISTANCE AFTER THEIR DAUGHTERS WERE TRAFFICKED AND FORCED INTO PROSTITUTION IN MONTENEGRO. LA STRADA FIRST TRIED TO CONTACT INTERPOL BUT DID NOT GET A RESPONSE FOR OVER TWO DAYS. LA STRADA THEN REACHED OUT TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS. LA STRADA WAS FRUSTRATED IN ITS EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE VICTIMS, AS THERE WAS NO CENTRAL POINT OF CONTACT IN THE GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST THEM. ULTIMATELY, THE LOCAL MONTENEGRO POLICE RESCUED THE GIRLS AND TOOK THEM TO A GOVERNMENT CENTER. EVEN IN THIS CASE, THE LOCAL POLICE WHO AFFECTED THE RESCUE HAD BEEN FREQUENTING THE BROTHELS. IN ANOTHER CASE, A WOMAN WHO WAS TRAFFICKED TO TURKEY WAS HELD IN A DETENTION CENTER OR JAIL FOR SIX MONTHS.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

25. THIS GROUP, CHAIRED BY A VOLODYMYR BABENKO, CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, AND STEVEN COOK, CHIEF OF THE IOM MISSION IN UKRAINE, DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING TRAFFICKING-RELATED ISSUES:

--IOM PROVIDED INFORMATION ON ITS PROJECT IN TIRANA INITIATED ON JANUARY 1 ON THE VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION OF WOMEN. TO DATE, 70 WOMEN FROM MOLDOVA, UKRAINE, BULGARIA AND RUSSIA HAVE BEEN RETURNED. UNDER THIS PROGRAM INFORMATION IS RECEIVED FROM ALBANIAN POLICE STATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. WOMEN ARE THEN INTERVIEWED IN THE POLICE STATIONS, AND THE PROCESS OF DOCUMENTATION IS INITIATED (SINCE MOST DO NOT HAVE DOCUMENTS) THROUGH EMBASSIES IN ALBANIA. SINCE UKRAINE DOES NOT HAVE AN EMBASSY IN ALBANIA, THE DOCUMENTATION IS OBTAINED THROUGH THE UKRAINIAN EMBASSY IN ATHENS. AN IOM SHELTER PROVIDES SERVICES UNTIL REPATRIATION. IOM MISSIONS IN RELEVANT COUNTRIES ARE NOTIFIED SO THAT THEY KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT, AND THEN THE IOM MISSIONS ORGANIZE REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS. WHEN THE DOCUMENTATION IS READY, IOM ASSISTS AT THE AIRPORT, ORGANIZES ONWARD TRANSPORTATION AND COORDINATES INTEGRATION ASSISTANCE WITH NGOS. IOM POINTED OUT THAT IT HAS DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. IN UKRAINE, IOM WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE MFA HAS NOTIFIED ITS CONSULATES OF IOM ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES. IOM HAS ALSO BEEN SHARING INFORMATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

--LA STRADA EXPLAINED THAT IT HAS RECEIVED OVER 4,000 CALLS ON ITS HOTLINE SINCE 1997 AND THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR MORE SHELTERS. THE MINISTRY OF AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SHELTERS WHERE WOMEN CAN STAY UP TO 30 DAYS WHILE THEIR IDENTIFICATION IS SORTED OUT AND MINORS GO TO SPECIAL SHELTERS. THE POLICE WORK IN THESE SHELTERS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS ARE AVAILABLE.

—THE NEED FOR BETTER COORDINATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CRISIS CENTERS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN VARIOUS OBLASTS WAS STRESSED. LA STRADA EXPLAINED THAT IN SPEAKING OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION, THE NGOS CAN PROVIDE ASSISTANCE. IN THE NETHERLANDS, FOR EXAMPLE, LAW ENFORCEMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORTING CASES TO THE NGOS, WHICH CAN THEN PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE. WHEN WOMEN RETURN TO UKRAINE, THEY STILL NEED HELP AND THE NGOS CAN ASSIST.

—IT WAS NOTED THAT 95% OF THE WOMEN ARE SENT ABROAD BY EMPLOYMENT FIRMS AND THE ISSUE OF CHANGING LICENSING REQUIREMENTS WAS RAISED. THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS STATED THAT THERE IS A SPECIAL AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS AND POINTED OUT THAT THE NATIONAL POLICE HAS THE AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT INVESTIGATIONS OF FIRMS, BUT FREQUENTLY THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT LEGALLY. OTHER PARTICIPANTS NOTED THAT THESE FIRMS HAVE THE RIGHT TO ADVERTISE THEIR SERVICES, AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AS A DETERRENT TO MISLEADING ADVERTISING FOR JOBS. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE BORDER GUARDS ARE LIMITED IN STOPPING WOMEN AT THE BORDER BECAUSE MOST WOMEN HAVE VISAS TO THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH THEY ARE TRAVELING.

—IT WAS NOTED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR BETTER COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES OF NGOS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ON THESE ISSUES.

INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKING CASES

26. THIS GROUP, CHAIRED BY GENERAL YAROSLAV KONDRATIEV, RECTOR, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL STUART ISHIMARU, CIVIL DIVISION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, ADDRESSED QUESTIONS CONCERNING LAWS AGAINST TRAFFICKING, TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, CONSULAR AND VISA ISSUES RELATING TO

TRAFFICKING, LAWS PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFICKING VICTIMS AND INSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES FOR PROSECUTING TRAFFICKING VICTIMS. THE FOLLOWING WAS DISCUSSED:

A. GERMANY: THREE LAWS HAVE BEEN ENACTED CRIMINALIZING THE TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS, AGGRAVATED TRAFFICKING AND PIMPING. EVERY YEAR TRAINING IS PROVIDED FOR THE FEDERAL POLICE.

—THERE WERE 801 REGISTERED VICTIMS IN 1999: 21.7% UKRAINIAN; 14.4% POLISH; 11.4% RUSSIAN; 11% LITHUANIAN; 6.9% CZECH REPUBLIC; 5.9% BELARUS.

—THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS HAS DROPPED FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR. NOT CLEAR IF THIS IS AS A RESULT OF THE SUCCESS OF PREVENTION CAMPAIGNS OR UNDERREPORTING.

—BECAUSE OF THE STRENGTH OF THE PROGRAMS TO PROTECT VICTIMS AND WITNESSES, WOMEN ARE READY AND WILLING TO TESTIFY AND MANY OF THEM ARE UKRAINIAN WOMEN.

B. UKRAINE: TRAINING PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR YOUNG AND SENIOR OFFICERS AND YOUNG ADULT EDUCATION. THERE IS HEAVY RELIANCE ON WORKING WITH COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, PARTICULARLY GERMANY, HUNGARY AND POLAND. NEW CRIMINAL PROVISIONS ARE PENDING IN THE DRAFT CRIMINAL CODE. THERE IS A NEED TO DEVELOP A BETTER DATABASE OF STATISTICS ON TRAFFICKING. THERE IS A LOT OF DISCUSSION AND TENSION BETWEEN NGOS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IN TERMS OF DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION, TRAINING, INTERVIEWING VICTIMS, FUNDING OF NGOS, ETC.

C. POLAND: NEW PENAL LEGISLATION IN 1998 INCLUDES PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE ILLEGAL TRADE OF HUMAN BEINGS, PUNISHABLE BY 3-15 YEARS CONFINEMENT, CRIMINAL SANCTIONS FOR ABDUCTION FOR PROSTITUTION, PIMPING AND INCEST.

D. ALBANIA: THE EXISTING LEGISLATION IS TOO WEAK, CRIME IS HIGH, AND THE LEGISLATION DOES NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PROSTITUTION AND TRAFFICKING. NEW LEGISLATION MUST DEFINE TRAFFICKING AND PROVIDE FOR CRIMINAL OFFENSES AND PENALTIES.

E. THE NETHERLANDS: ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2000, THE BAN ON BROTHELS WILL BE LIFTED AS PART OF AN EFFORT TO MINIMIZE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND ADDRESS DEMANDS FOR

GOVERNMENT CONTROL. EFFORTS WILL BE FOCUSED ON TIGHTENING BORDER CONTROLS, IMPROVING EDUCATION, INCREASED COORDINATION IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ESTABLISHING A NEW RESEARCH TEAM. A NEW OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN OF TRAFFICKING HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO ADDRESS CULTURAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. BY LIFTING THE BAN ON BROTHELS, THE PURPOSE IS TO REGULATE THE COLLECTION OF TAXES, IMPROVE HEALTH CARE AND CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN.

F. ISRAEL: THE PROBLEM HAS BECOME A HIGHER PRIORITY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT. THERE IS A NEED FOR ENHANCED COOPERATION. THERE IS NO SPECIFIC LAW ON TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN, BUT HUMAN BEINGS. TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN ENCOMPASSES MANY OTHER CRIMES, INCLUDING RAPE, DRUGS, ASSAULTS, ETC. THE POLICE DEAL WITH THE TRAFFICKING PHENOMENA BY PROSECUTING THESE OTHER CRIMES. THE QUESTION IS HOW WILL POLICE INCREASE LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS? THERE IS A NEED TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES AND A NEED FOR PROTECTION FOR THE WOMEN WHO WILL TESTIFY. THERE IS A NEED TO ESTABLISH SAFE HOUSES FOR THESE PERSONS. TRAFFICKING IS ALSO PART OF OTHER CRIMES, INCLUDING ORGANIZED CRIME, TRAFFICKING IN ARMS, AND NARCOTIC WHICH ARE PRIORITY CRIMES.

G. UNITED STATES: THERE ARE LAWS WHICH ADDRESS INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE(E.G., SWEATSHOPS, DOMESTIC SERVANTS), THE MANN ACT WHICH CRIMINALIZES THE TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONS ACROSS STATE BORDERS FOR PURPOSES OF PROSTITUTION OR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, AND IMMIGRATION LAWS. AS WELL, THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS WERE PROVIDED FOR A VIABLE ACTION PLAN:

—COUNTRIES MUST HAVE LAWS THAT PROHIBIT TRAFFICKING IN ALL FORMS;

--INSTITUTIONALIZE PROCEDURES FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKING CASES, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE VICTIM SERVICES;

--COUNTRIES SHOULD HAVE TRAINING PROGRAMS;

--INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, BOTH IN SUBSTANTIVE AREAS AND BY REGIONS, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TASKFORCES;

--NEED FOR PUBLICITY, BOTH TO HIGHLIGHT THE PROBLEM AND TO PROVIDE DETERRENCE BY PUBLICIZING SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

27. DURING THIS PLENARY SESSION, REPRESENTATIVES OF OSCE, IOM, AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION MADE PRESENTATIONS ON ACTIVITIES OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONS.

A. OSCE: AMBASSADOR BURKHARD, OSCE OFFICE IN UKRAINE, EXPLAINED THAT OSCE EXPANDED ITS MANDATE IN 1999 TO ADDRESS THE PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS. NINE RULE OF LAW PROGRAMS ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY THAT INCLUDE LEGISLATIVE REVIEW AND STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES. IN UKRAINE, OSCE IS UNDERTAKING NEW ACTIVITIES IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH IOM THAT INCLUDE PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATION COUNCIL CHAIRED BY THE OMBUDSMAN. ON MARCH 29, OSCE HOSTED A REGIONAL AWARENESS SEMINAR IN KHARKIV, THAT INCLUDED OSCE, COE AND IOM REPRESENTATIVES. OSCE HAS ALSO ORGANIZED THREE VISITS FOR UKRAINIAN OFFICIALS TO TURKEY, BELGIUM, AND MOST RECENTLY TO ITALY. THE LAST VISIT INCLUDED PRIMARILY SENIOR UKRAINIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS.

B. IOM: STEVE COOK, IOM REPRESENTATIVE IN UKRAINE, EXPLAINED THAT IOM IS PLANNING TO WORK CLOSELY WITH OSCE AND IS BUILDING ON ITS PILOT PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN WHICH WAS COMPLETED TWO YEARS AGO. THE PILOT CAMPAIGN WAS ONLY FOUR MONTHS IN DURATION AND IOM HOPES TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THIS CAMPAIGN WITHIN THE GOV. IN THE PREVENTION AREA, IOM PLANS TO REFINE ITS PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN BY DEVELOPING BROCHURES THAT CONTAIN PRACTICAL ADVICE AND CONTACT INFORMATION, WORK WITH "INTERNEWS" WHICH IS DEVELOPING A FIVE-PART DOCUMENTARY (FUNDED BY USAID), RUNNING ADS IN NEWSPAPERS TO COUNTER THOSE ADVERTISEMENTS THAT OFFER JOBS OVERSEAS, AND CONDUCT TRAINING FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS. CONCERNING PROTECTION AND REINTEGRATION, IOM WILL FOCUS ON SETTING UP A STRUCTURED MECHANISM FOR REPATRIATING VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING. IOM CURRENTLY PROVIDES VICTIMS WITH EMERGENCY TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, A STIPEND, AND TRANSPORTATION. LA STRADA WILL THEN PROVIDE RECEPTION SERVICES TO INCLUDE: OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING. LA STRADA IS ALSO PLANNING TO DEVELOP AN ENHANCED NGO NETWORK AND TO DESIGN AN EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM IN COOPERATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. AS TO PROSECUTION, IOM WILL UNDERTAKE RESEARCH ON HOW TRAFFICKING RINGS

OPERATE, CONDUCT A LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OF CURRENT UKRAINIAN LAWS AND IDENTIFY GAPS, AND PROVIDE

TRAINING.

C. EUROPEAN COMMISSION: BERNHARD BOGENSPERGER, EXTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICE, EUROPEAN COMMISSION, GAVE A BRIEF PRESENTATION ON EU ACTIVITIES REGARDING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS. HE POINTED OUT THAT ONE AREA WHICH HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED DURING THIS WORKSHOP IS THE ROLE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES (I.E. INTERNET) IN THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN SUCH AS THE DISPLAY OF MAIL-ORDER BRIDE CATALOGUES. IN 1996, THE EU CREATED A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS. THE EU PROVIDED ECU 6.5 MILLION FOR THE "STOP" PROGRAM FOR ANTI-TRAFFICKING FOR 1996-2000. FOR THIS YEAR, THE "STOP" PROGRAM WILL FOCUS ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND IMPROVING NGO-LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION. THE EU PLANS TO RENEW THE "STOP" PROGRAM AT THE END OF THE YEAR. THE "DAPHNE" PROGRAM HAS BEEN RENEWED FOR 2000-2003 AND WILL FOCUS ON DEVELOPING ACTIVITIES CONCERNING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN. LAST MONTH, THE EC RECEIVED NUMEROUS PROPOSALS FOR "DAPHNE" FUNDING. BOTH THE "DAPHNE" AND "STOP" PROGRAM ARE AVAILABLE TO EU CANDIDATE COUNTRIES. THE "TACIS" PROGRAM HAS BEEN RENEWED FOR 2000-2006 WITH A MANDATE TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS (CRIMINAL JUSTICE) AREA IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE. THE EC REPRESENTATIVE CONCLUDED HIS PRESENTATION BY NOTING THAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS WAS HIGHLIGHTED AS A TOP PRIORITY IN THE OCTOBER 1999 TAMPERE SUMMIT AND THE ISSUE CONTINUES TO BE PART OF THE US-EU TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE.

WORKER EXPLOITATION TASKFORCE EXPERIENCE

28. STUART ISHIMARU, DEPUTY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND JANET ALBERT, TRIAL ATTORNEY, CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THE CREATION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE WORKER EXPLOITATION TASKFORCE IN RESPONSE TO A DISTURBING RISE IN INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE CASES. ACCORDING TO ISHIMARU, THE TASKFORCE IS AN INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP FOCUSED ON ENHANCING COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION OF A MULTITUDE OF U.S. AGENCIES ON THE WORKER EXPLOITATION/TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ISSUE. ISHIMARU EXPLAINED THAT THE TASKFORCE GENERALLY LEARNS ABOUT SUCH CASES FROM THE CHILD EXPLOITATION AND OSCENITY SECTION IN THE CRIMINAL DIVISION, THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION, AND THROUGH THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICES AROUND THE COUNTRY. THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE MADE:

—THERE ARE FOUR GENERAL PROBLEM AREAS: DOMESTIC SERVITUDE, AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY, SWEATSHOPS (PARTICULARLY IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY) AND THE SEX INDUSTRY.

—THE WORKER EXPLOITATION TASKFORCE ALSO CREATED REGIONAL TASKFORCES IN 15 DIFFERENT REGIONS. TRAINING ON WORKER EXPLOITATION ISSUES ALSO TAKES PLACE IN THESE REGIONS AND THE TASKFORCE IS WORKING WITH NGOS AS THEY ARE ABLE TO REACH OUT TO TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.

--THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS IN TRAFFICKING CASES IN THE U.S. IN ONE CASE INVOLVING CHINESE WOMEN WHO WERE TRAFFICKED FOR THE SEX INDUSTRY, THE PRIMARY DEFENDANT RECEIVED A SENTENCE OF NINE YEARS AND WAS ORDERED TO PAY USD 40,000 IN RESTITUTION TO THE VICTIMS. IN ANOTHER CASE, WHICH INVOLVED MEXICAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN (INCLUDING SOME AS YOUNG AS 14 YEARS OLD) WHO WERE TRAFFICKED TO FLORIDA AND SOUTH CAROLINA FOR FORCED PROSTITUTION, SEVEN DEFENDANTS WERE SENTENCED TO CONFINEMENT AND THE LEAD DEFENDANT WAS ALSO ORDERED TO PAY A MILLION USD IN RESTITUTION.

--THE WORKER EXPLOITATION TASKFORCE HAS ALSO BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN GARNERING MEDIA ATTENTION, SUCH AS PARADE MAGAZINE IN THE WASHINGTON POST SUNDAY EDITION, WHICH FEATURED THE TASKFORCE HOTLINE THAT IS CAPABLE OF HANDLING OVER 100 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES. AS A RESULT, THE TASKFORCE HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS CALLS ABOUT POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS.

--THE PRESENTATION ALSO INCLUDED A LIST OF "BEST PRACTICES" IN U.S. TRAFFICKING CASES, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATIES, EXISTING CRIMINAL STATUTES, CONFISCATION OF ASSETS, VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE, PROPOSED LEGISLATION, COORDINATION BETWEEN FEDERAL AND LOCAL POLICE, AND REGIONAL TASK FORCES.

ILLEGAL MIGRATION AND TRAFFICKING IN PEOPLE

29. PROFESSOR YURIY RYMARENKO, INSTITUTE OF STATE AND LAW, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF UKRAINE, EXPLAINED THAT TRAFFICKING IN PEOPLE IS PART OF THE FLOW OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION AND NOTED THAT THE ROUTES USED BY TRAFFICKERS ARE THE SAME AS THOSE USED BY SMUGGLERS OF ILLEGAL MIGRANTS. RYMARENKO USED THE TERM "SEMI-LEGAL" MIGRATION IN REFERRING TO TRAFFICKING SINCE IT IS NOT UNCOMMON FOR TRAFFICKED

WOMEN TO ARRIVE IN A COUNTRY WITH LEGAL DOCUMENTS, I.E. VISAS, PASSPORTS, ETC., AND LATER GET INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITY, SUCH AS PROSTITUTION. HE ALSO POINTED OUT SOME COMMON FEATURES BETWEEN TRAFFICKING AND ILLEGAL MIGRATION INCLUDING BRUTALITY, LACK OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ETC.

CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

30. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE WORKSHOP THE PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN THAT TRAFFICKING IS A SERIOUS CRIME AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM THAT REQUIRES AN INTEGRATED APPROACH AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS TO ENSURE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD FURTHER COOPERATE TO ASSIST VICTIMS AND TO PROSECUTE CRIMINALS INVOLVED IN TRAFFICKING. THE PARTICIPANTS APPROVED THE PROPOSED ACTION PLAN DISTRIBUTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WORKSHOP AND GOU REPRESENTATIVES UNDERTOOK TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE ACTION PLAN.

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TAGS: PHUM, KRCM, KWMN, SMIG, KSEP, EAID, PREL, UP

**POINTS ON ANTI-TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE FOR MEETING WITH
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ZHULINSKY**

BACKGROUND

Recognizing the serious and growing problem of trafficking of women and children in Ukraine, the Rada passed changes to the criminal code of Ukraine in April 1998 to provide for criminal penalties for trafficking. An informal coordinating council for the prevention of trafficking of persons, headed by the Ombudsman for Human Rights Issues was established in June 1999 by the Rada. The Cabinet of Ministers issued a decree (#1768) in September of 1999 to approve a comprehensive multi-agency program on the prevention of trafficking in women and children. The decree tasked the Human Rights Ombudsman to establish a Coordination Council and the State Committee for Family and Youth responsibility with monitoring the implementation of the program.

On April 21-23, we co-hosted with the GOU a law enforcement workshop in Kiev to combat trafficking. The Cabinet of Ministers tasked Deputy PM Zhulinsky with coordinating GOU involvement in the workshop organized primarily by the Ministry of Interior. The workshop, which Zhulinsky attended, ~~was a great success.~~ The Minister of Justice, Susanna Stanik and the Rada Human Rights Ombudsman, Nina Karpachova, both initially expected to play a prominent role in the workshop did not attend any of the sessions.

It is important that the GOU designate a senior official to coordinate the inter-ministerial efforts at combating trafficking else the momentum established leading up to the workshop may be lost.

TALKING POINTS

- We appreciate your active role in organizing and supporting our recent international anti-trafficking workshop in Kiev.
- The action plan adopted at the workshop and your Cabinet of Ministers Decree 1768 from September 25, 1999 recognize the need for central coordination of anti-trafficking initiatives taken by the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Labor, Foreign Affairs and others.

- We note that the Human Rights Ombudsman, designated as the coordinator for anti-trafficking efforts in the Council of Ministers Decree did not participate in the anti-trafficking workshop.
- We urge that your office continue coordinating the GOU anti-trafficking efforts to demonstrate the high level of interest in resolving this criminal problem and to ensure that the lessons learned from the workshop lead to increased prosecutions of traffickers.



PRESS STATEMENT

U.S. – Ukraine Regional Law Enforcement Workshop Against Trafficking in Women and Children

On June 21-23, 2000 a Regional Law Enforcement Workshop Against Trafficking in Women and Children was held in Kiev to discuss the ways of combating this problem that has gained special importance worldwide and particularly in the European region.

Participants and Observers from Albania, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine and the United States of America, the EU Commission, Interpol, the International Organization for Migration, the UN Center for International Crime Prevention, the International Labor Organization and several non-governmental organizations.

Participants expressed their particular concern with the magnitude and level of efforts in combating this problem, and recognized that the problem of trafficking is rooted in socio-economic factors. Trafficking in persons in countries of origin, transit and destination is a serious crime and human rights problem, which requires an integrated approach at national, regional and international levels to ensure significant progress in combating this modern-day slavery,

During the two-day workshop, participants heard the advice of international experts, exchanged information, reviewed various practices, and discussed and developed an Action Plan (attached) for the region. This plan offers suggestions for possible future steps and practices to fight trafficking in women and children,

They expressed the expectation that governments and non-governmental organizations of participating countries, and international organizations will carefully examine the Action Plan and develop appropriate ways for its implementation,

There was general agreement that law enforcement agencies and non-governmental organizations should further cooperation at the national, regional and international levels to prosecute the criminals involved in trafficking.

U.S. - Ukraine Regional Law Enforcement Workshop
Against Trafficking in Women and Children

Action Plan

I. Information and Data

- Improve information sharing between state agencies at the local and national levels.
- Promote exchange of information, best practices, and lessons learned among the countries of Europe and beyond.
- Develop anti-trafficking information materials for dissemination to diplomatic and consular missions in concerned countries, including information on where to seek assistance.
- Consider the importance of establishing national task forces or focal points.

II. Cooperation with International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society and Media

- Promote cooperation and partnership among governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society in the prevention, protection, prosecution, repatriation and reintegration aspects of trafficking in persons, especially women and children.
- Generate greater public awareness on the human costs of trafficking in women and children.
- Provide comprehensive and immediate assistance for trafficked persons.
- Sensitize major media outlets (print and electronic) to the issues and encourage them to write articles about trafficking, to publicize hotlines and services for victims, including NGO and governmental agencies.
- Promote regional cooperation among the countries of the region in building networks and anti-trafficking capacity.
- Ensure coordination with parallel regional initiatives to avoid duplication.

Strategic Areas for Action

Prevention

I. Education/Training

- Strengthen where appropriate national/regional centers for training of law enforcement agents, caregivers and related personnel.
- Encourage a gender and child sensitive perspective in the training of law enforcement agents, prosecutors, lawyers and community leaders.

- Promote education (formal and informal) vocational/training/scholarship programs for children and women to minimize their susceptibility to being trafficked.

II. Legislative Framework

- Examine the need for and adopt, as appropriate, additional legislative and other measures to prevent trafficking including the promotion of security and integrity of travel documents.
- Provide or strengthen, where necessary, training for law enforcement, immigration, consular and other relevant partners to combat trafficking, in cooperation with appropriate national, sub-regional, regional and international organizations and non-governmental bodies.

Protection

I. Human Rights/Enabling Legal Environment

- Provide witnesses with special support to report and file complaints designed to protect their safety and to reduce official procedures and their traumatizing effects.
- Promote efforts to ensure that national laws/regulations provide sufficient and substantial information and assistance and adequate protection of the human rights of trafficked persons including in the repatriation process.
- Endeavor to forge bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international agreements against trafficking including on mutual legal assistance and cross-border cooperation.

II. Safety and Assistance of Trafficked Persons

- Provide as appropriate, shelter and economic, psychological, medical and legal assistance for trafficked persons.
- Provide physical safety for trafficked persons and appropriate consideration to humanitarian and compassionate factors including in the process of determining their status should equally be provided.
- Establish hotlines/complaint lines and establish relationships with NGOs in order to increase reporting and identify trafficking situations.

Prosecution

I. Rule of Law

- Endeavor to adopt laws and measures, as may be necessary, to criminalize trafficking in persons, taking into account the grave nature of the offense.
- Examine the need for and adopt, as appropriate, laws and other legal measures to impose penalties on all aspects of trafficking, including the seizure and confiscation of gains obtained by criminal organizations.
- Endeavor to support the finalization of the elaboration of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, as mandated by the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 53/111 and 53/114, and call for the active participation of all countries.

II. Regional and International Cooperation

- Support regional organizations and institutions in their efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly women and children.
- Encourage cooperation at the national, sub-regional and regional levels among law enforcement and immigration authorities, as well as social and health workers of countries concerned through systematic exchange of investigative information leading to prosecution of traffickers.
- Promote national, sub-regional and regional training of relevant officials including police, judges, prosecutors, customs, immigration, border guards, as well as consular authorities.
- Endeavor to adopt suitable national, sub-regional and regional measures and forge agreements, as may be necessary, to prevent, detect and investigate trafficking across boundaries and to strengthen border controls.
- Promote cooperation and partnership of governments and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society.

Repatriation and Reintegration

I. Repatriation and Monitoring Programs

- Establish bilateral, multilateral, sub-regional or regional agreements related to repatriation process aimed at humanitarian assistance of the trafficked persons.
- Facilitate and accept without unreasonable delay, including the expeditious issuance of travel documents, the safe, orderly and dignified return of a national who is a trafficked person.
- Encourage countries of origin to ensure the safe and effective reintegration of trafficked persons.

- Endeavor to provide adequate programs for the reintegration of trafficked persons into their respective families and communities, including medical, legal and economic assistance.
- Ensure that legislative framework provide trafficked persons access to adequate procedures of redress.

Follow Up and Progress Review

- Ensure the full and active participation of trafficked persons, especially women and children, in the process of follow-up.
- Encourage follow up action and periodically assess the progress of implementation of the various measures in the areas of prevention, protection, prosecution and repatriation and reintegration.
- Stress the significance of sub-regional, regional and international collective efforts in the implementation of the Plan particularly in making available, necessary resources and facilities towards a more comprehensive approach to combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children.
- Promote the participation of state and non-state actors and stakeholders in the implementation of this Plan.
- Emphasize the significant role of responsible media reporting in generating public awareness in support of this plan.

- Promote education (formal and informal) vocational/training/scholarship programs for children and women to minimize their susceptibility to being trafficked.

II. Legislative Framework

- Examine the need for and adopt, as appropriate, additional legislative and other measures to prevent trafficking including the promotion of security and integrity of travel documents.
- Provide or strengthen, where necessary, training for law enforcement, immigration, consular and other relevant partners to combat trafficking, in cooperation with appropriate national, sub-regional, regional and international organizations and non-governmental bodies.

Protection

I. Human Rights/Enabling Legal Environment

- Provide witnesses with special support to report and file complaints designed to protect their safety and to reduce official procedures and their traumatizing effects.
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- Provide physical safety for trafficked persons and appropriate consideration to humanitarian and compassionate factors including in the process of determining their status should equally be provided.
- Establish hotlines/complaint lines and establish relationships with NGOs in order to increase reporting and identify trafficking situations.

Prosecution

I. Rule of Law

- Endeavor to adopt laws and measures, as may be necessary, to criminalize trafficking in persons, taking into account the grave nature of the offense.
- Examine the need for and adopt, as appropriate, laws and other legal measures to impose penalties on all aspects of trafficking, including the seizure and confiscation of gains obtained by criminal organizations.
- Endeavor to support the finalization of the elaboration of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, as mandated by the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 53/111 and 53/114, and call for the active participation of all countries.

II. Regional and International Cooperation

- Support regional organizations and institutions in their efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly women and children.
- Encourage cooperation at the national, sub-regional and regional levels among law enforcement and immigration authorities, as well as social and health workers of countries concerned through systematic exchange of investigative information leading to prosecution of traffickers.
- Promote national, sub-regional and regional training of relevant officials including police, judges, prosecutors, customs, immigration, border guards, as well as consular authorities.
- Endeavor to adopt suitable national, sub-regional and regional measures and forge agreements, as may be necessary, to prevent, detect and investigate trafficking across boundaries and to strengthen border controls.
- Promote cooperation and partnership of governments and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society.

Repatriation and Reintegration

I. Repatriation and Monitoring Programs

- Establish bilateral, multilateral, sub-regional or regional agreements related to repatriation process aimed at humanitarian assistance of the trafficked persons.
- Facilitate and accept without unreasonable delay, including the expeditious issuance of travel documents, the safe, orderly and dignified return of a national who is a trafficked person.
- Encourage countries of origin to ensure the safe and effective reintegration of trafficked persons.

- Endeavor to provide adequate programs for the reintegration of trafficked persons into their respective families and communities, including medical, legal and economic assistance.
- Ensure that legislative framework provide trafficked persons' access to adequate procedures of redress.

Follow Up and Progress Review

- Ensure the full and active participation of trafficked persons, especially women and children, in the process of follow-up.
- Encourage follow up action and periodically assess the progress of implementation of the various measures in the areas of prevention, protection, prosecution and repatriation and reintegration.
- Stress the significance of sub-regional, regional and international collective efforts in the implementation of the Plan particularly in making available, necessary resources and facilities towards a more comprehensive approach to combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children.
- Promote the participation of state and non-state actors and stakeholders in the implementation of this Plan.
- Emphasize the significant role of responsible media reporting in generating public awareness in support of this plan.

NOTES FROM SECTION 2 -
THURSDAY 6/22 - 11:15-13:30

(This will be integrated,
into Action Plan!
Final)

Moderators:

Volodymyr Babenko (Ministry of Interior) and
Steven Cook (IOM)

-- Mr. Babenko reviewed proposals for changes to the
Action Plan that were submitted at yesterday's session.
These included:

- add point to Action Plan noting that trafficking and
illegal immigration are not national but international
issues;
- action plan should establish that trafficking is wider
than women and children;
- the Ukraine State Program against trafficking should be
established at all levels in Ukraine;
- * - there should be a special body for coordination of
GOU/NGO work on trafficking and illegal immigration;
- there should be organized a wide public awareness
campaign of the proceedings of the workshop and trafficking
in general;
- on border issues, we need awareness of the migration
campaign to introduce preventative measures;
- we should fight fraudulent job agencies - revoke
licenses of travel agencies that engage in trafficking;
- we should inform planning immigrants (travellers?) on
trafficking issues;
- shelters should be established in other countries for
women and children;
- medical, economic and legal assistance is needed for
victims;
- must ensure confidentiality for victims to aid in
prosecution of traffickers;
- dissemination of information on trafficking should be
facilitated among diplomatic missions;
- laws should note the transnational nature of this crime
in the criminal code.

-- There was discussion about whether the database being
established by the Ministry of Interior will consolidate
information from other data bases and will be available to
non-governmental entities. There was clarification that
the Ministry Database - while consolidating information on

NGOs and the services they office, will be primarily for law-enforcement and official purposes.

*-- There was a strong consensus for a coordinating body of Ukrainian anti-trafficking efforts.

-- There was discussion about adding educational institutions to the State Program adopted by the GOU. Gen. Babenko clarified that the State program runs until 2001 and cannot be amended until it is finished. He also noted that point 18 of the program assigns responsibility for education on anti-trafficking to the Ministry of Education.

-- A point was made that the police need computer support since traffickers work across national boundaries.

-- There was discussion on the need for formal agreements to allow for the exchange of information among countries. Ukraine currently has agreements with 10 countries.

-- The UNCICP rep proposed adding research on trafficking to the action plan list. The Ukraine Desk Officer countered that the action plan concerns law enforcement and should not be diluted with important but peripheral issues like research, domestic violence, economic opportunities, etc. The IOM moderator strongly supported the proposal to add research to the action plan. (NOTE: IT WAS A MISTAKE TO HAVE IOM MODERATE THIS SESSION - THE MODERATOR SPENT TOO MUCH TIME PLUGGING FOR SUPPORT FOR IOM RESEARCH PROGRAMS. MODERATORS SHOULD NOT HAVE A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDINGS. END NOTE)

-- The issue of shelters was discussed and Gen. Babenko got very defensive saying that Ukraine has shelters. Discussants clarified that the issue of shelters is primarily one for destination and transit countries to protect women and to take evidence.

-- An important point was made that the action plan stress that trafficked women and children should be formally given "victim" status in transit and destination countries.

-- Gen. Babenko stated that victims do not want to testify. They should be given social rehabilitation and only then should there be an investigation to determine if a crime has been committed. This led to a lively exchange with the Ukraine Desk Officer noting that the existence of

a crime in trafficking is obvious - even if only that of a fraudulent job offer - and that the investigation and prosecution of the traffickers cannot be delayed for lengthy determinations.



The President's Interagency Council on Women

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Honorary Chair

• Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright
Chair

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

July 18, 2000

UNCLASSIFIED MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary Frank Loy
Ambassador Wendy Sherman
Assistant Secretary James Dobbins
Ambassador Stephen Sestanovich
Ambassador Bill Taylor
Ambassador Dan Fried
Mark Medish, NSC
Don Pressley, USAID

FROM: Melanne Verveer, Asst. to the President, COS to the First Lady
Theresa Loar and Anita Botti, President's Interagency Council on Women (PICW)

RE: Trip Report on visit to Ukraine, Russia and the Czech Republic

The purpose of the June 12- 22 trip was to support the development of programs and policies to advance women's leadership in the emerging democracies and to encourage further steps to combat trafficking in women and girls.

Ukraine

The key purpose of the visit to Ukraine by Verveer and Botti was to participate in the U.S. – Ukraine sponsored "Law Enforcement Conference to Combat Trafficking vs. Women and Children." Botti leads USG anti-trafficking efforts.

The conference was organized by an interagency team that included the State Department Ukraine Desk, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, S/NIS, the President's Interagency Council on Women (PICW), U.S. Embassy Ukraine and the First Lady's Office. It was another outcome of the Executive Directive that the President announced in March 1998 establishing Ukraine as a model to implement a comprehensive strategy to combat

trafficking. The trafficking workshop was announced by Presidents Clinton and Kuchma at their June 5 meeting in Kyiv. The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine and the Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs had the lead.

This conference, funded by INL, brought together – for the first time – U.S. government representatives from the Departments of State, Labor, Justice and the White House, Ukrainian government officials, including the Vice Prime Minister Mykola Zhulinsky and the Minister of Internal Affairs, Yuriy Kravchenko, international organizations, NGOs and representatives of countries who are either source, transition, or destination countries.

The conference resulted in the creation of a concrete plan of action for Ukraine with specific responsibilities outlined for the various government ministries. The meeting was the first time that Ukrainian NGOs, which have significant information and know-how, worked side by side with their government. A by-product of this gathering was that law enforcement representatives from the government of Israel who were in attendance held separate discussions with the Ukraine government over the pending case of a woman trafficked from Ukraine. Issues of witness protection and testimony were being worked out. It was immediate, tangible evidence of the importance of the convening.

The Ministers from Ukraine gave remarks, as did U.S. Ambassador Pifer. Verveer gave the keynote address. Botti outlined the key elements needed for an action plan, which would build on the OSCE action plan announced by the First Lady, on behalf of the U.S., in Istanbul in November 1999 at the OSCE Summit. The representative from LaStrada, one of the most important NGOs involved in anti-trafficking in Ukraine, noted in her conference remarks that this issue would never have gotten serious consideration had the First Lady not been responsive when they told her at the Vital Voices Conference in Vienna in 1997 about the growing problem. This led to the announcement of a U.S. – E.U. public education campaign, funded by PRM, to warn Ukrainian women about the tactics of traffickers who prey on their economic desperation and lure them with false promises.

USG representatives complimented the government of Ukraine for having the courage to tackle this tough issue and pointed out that it is a global problem that can only be addressed through country specific, regional and international actions. We also discussed the fact that, at its root, trafficking was driven by severe economic conditions affecting women. To effect this, President Clinton announced a multi-million dollar microcredit program during his visit to Ukraine in June. At the conference, we also announced a \$1/2 million Department of Labor grant to Ukraine for technical analysis of regulatory and legal barriers to women's employment. Verveer had a series of meetings with Ukrainian officials and groups working on these issues.

In a meeting with the Ministry of Education, Verveer stressed the importance of their efforts to educate students about the traffickers' tactics. LaStrada and Winrock (a USAID grantee) have been working with the government in the schools. They have a working group to develop materials for teachers. Thus far they have a financial commitment to print about 2000 copies and distribute them, but the need is much greater.

Verveer did several media interviews scheduled by the Embassy press office to highlight the problem, U.S. – Ukraine cooperation in addressing it, and the importance of the conference. Verveer did the equivalent of the “Today Show”, which devoted its entire morning programming to trafficking, took an on-air poll, and responded to viewer call-in questions. It was the first-time the issue received serious exposure in the media. She, Botti, and Ambassador Pifer also participated in a press availability with Ukrainian officials. Most of the questions were hard-hitting queries directed at the Ukrainian government officials for not being more responsive to the problem. They also criticized government corruption, which facilitates the traffickers’ work.

In a meeting with LaStrada, Verveer learned of several hurdles confronting NGOs working on these and related issues. The Ukrainian Ministry for Family and Youth Affairs had responsibility for trafficking and related issues, but has been eliminated in response to a mandate to reduce government. The NGOs believe it is vital to have an office that represents these issues to the President. They also explained why the Ukrainian anti-trafficking law needs to be strengthened. While it is significant that a law has been adopted, it was forged with no input from the NGOs who have experience in the field, and, thus far, it has not been effective in prosecuting traffickers. Another obstacle that was raised is the government policy overseeing NGOs, particularly the imposition of taxes, which inhibit their work.

Verveer also had discussions with Winrock leaders from Kiev, Lviv, Dnieperpetrovsk and Donesk. USAID funds their projects to help women develop personal and job skills. They are expanding to two more regions. These programs have assisted hundreds of women who are most vulnerable to trafficking.

In a very innovative move in the NIS region, the NGOs from all over Ukraine who are working on women’s issues, particularly trafficking, have formed a consortium and meet regularly to collaborate and address pressing issues. Verveer spoke to their regularly scheduled meeting and heard about their work and concerns. Botti and Ted Kontek (Ukraine desk) also joined. The group raised the problem of the dissolution of the Ministry on Women and Families that had the lead on trafficking. They hoped the trafficking conference would address specifically responsibilities for government coordination on trafficking.

Verveer also had a series of meetings relating to microcredit and economic development. She met with the USAID director and his economic assistant to get a status report on the new microcredit program the President announced in June. In order to initiate this program successfully, a change in Ukrainian law is necessary so that interest on loans is not taxed, but plowed back into the lending fund pool. (Before the President made his announcement, there were discussions to make certain the legislative changes would be supported by the Ukrainian government.) The USAID staff is making all the right arguments and hopes Rada changes will be forthcoming.

Kontek and Verveer also met with a group from Lviv who traveled to Kyiv to talk about the future of their USAID-supported and Counterpart-directed microcredit and business incubator program. It will become self sufficient later this year and they invited the First Lady to participate in their announcement event. This is a success story that could be even more

effective if the microlending program can get additional resources for its loan fund. They have a backlog of qualified borrowers.

We also met with Grace Kennan Warnecke, project director of USAID's Winrock small business development program. She told us microcredit is desperately needed and should be made a top priority. She receives some funds from USAID that are available to qualified businesses through local credit unions, but the small amount doesn't come close to meeting the need. In addition to credit unions, she said there is a critical need for training credit union workers. We offered to explore the possibility of whether Ukrainian credit union workers could receive training from the Poles through the existing Polish-American-Ukrainian Cooperation Initiative (PAUCI).

Finally we met with the Peace Corps leadership and some of the volunteers. Because the Peace Corps has several hundred volunteers working directly with the people across Ukraine in the areas of education, health, and business, they are in a unique position to provide significant support to existing Ukrainian programs focused on trafficking. They agreed to meet with LaStrada to see how they can be of assistance. They are currently working with Winrock and are looking to expand focus in the area of small business. We also agreed to explore a possible increase in the Peace Corps small government funds that are available to fund local projects. This could be expanded to meet additional critical needs.

Recommendations:

- S/NIS and Embassy Kiev should identify personnel needed to fully achieve outcomes of the U.S.-Ukraine Conference. This would be in keeping with the President's directive of March 1998 to establish Ukraine as a model in implementing a comprehensive strategy to combat the trafficking of women and children from and to Ukraine, and to ensure appropriate oversight and follow up of this historic meeting, particularly the implementation of the recently agreed upon action plan.
- Given the numbers and scope of trafficking in both S/NIS and Europe (estimated that 70% of all trafficked cases from the S/NIS region are destined for Western Europe), S/NIS may wish to receive a full briefing and update on this issue from the intelligence community. Such a briefing would supplement the excellent "unclassified" presentation made at the conference.
- The public diplomacy officers in the regional bureau and Embassy Kiev can capitalize on the recent media attention given to the issue of trafficking because of this meeting, particularly in light of the participation of other source and destination countries present. Particular focus and follow-up should be given to the Ukraine-Israel cooperation concerning an on-going investigation and prosecution of traffickers from Ukraine resulting from this meeting. This could be an important first if Ukraine does move forward with the assistance of the government of Israel (We understand Israel has offered protection to the trafficked victim to facilitate the prosecution.) Public information about cooperation in law enforcement efforts on trafficking would show that USG efforts – and in this case, interventions to both countries by Secretary Albright – are having an effect.
- To provide the necessary coordination and strong leadership needed to combat this criminal activity, Embassy Kiev should work closely with GOU to assist them in the establishment of a high level interagency task force with direct accountability to the President's office. Given

the cross cutting nature of trafficking and the need for all ministries to work together, such a group is critical to implementing a comprehensive GOU strategy which includes prevention, protection and assistance to the victim, and prosecution of the traffickers.

- To build on the recent announcement by the President for new microcredit programs, Embassy Kiev/AID can actively work with GOU to ensure that the necessary statutory changes needed for the program to go forward are taken (Rada approval of legislation that would allow direct lending by non-banking institutions and would not tax income that is put back into the lending program.). Also, the embassy can raise with the GOU the restrictions placed on NGOs, particularly the tax amounts and hurdles required for these critical groups to operate.
- To ensure that the DOL grant to Ukraine is fully developed, Embassy Kiev can follow-up with ILO to ensure that the proposed labor market survey data are useful for anti-trafficking efforts and that labor standards are designed to help promote economic opportunities for women.

Russia

1. Moscow

The key purpose of the trip by Verveer and Loar to Russia was to consolidate efforts on combating domestic violence and trafficking, to assist women's small business development and to support the growing Vital Voices network.

Ambassador Collins opened Spaso House to a meeting of the leading NGOs working on domestic violence, legal reform and trafficking. Marina Pisklakova, who heads up the recently created Russian Association of Crisis Centers for Women, said the "spirit of Vital Voices that permeated the conference in Reykjavik is what gives them inspiration to us to keep going against tough odds." The group noted that centers in St. Petersburg, Irtusk, Ekaterinberg and Moscow were strong, but efforts needed to be made to help newer centers. There are now over 40 NGOs working on domestic violence and many are being linked together in a new association for crisis centers. There are about ten government sponsored centers.

The value of USAID-funded Russian language materials on domestic violence was emphasized with a request that Russian language materials on trafficking also be made available. More broadly, the development of Internet programs in Russian on women's issues was also viewed as critical. The NGOs stressed the need for a continued interdisciplinary approach involving lawyers, doctors, social workers and others. The U.S.-Russia co-sponsored domestic violence conference held in Moscow in November 1998 was very effective in stimulating progress on this issue.

The group talked about the need to get legislation passed by the Duma on domestic violence and trafficking. Verveer and Loar discussed strategies for introduction and passage, including raising the issue with the Minister of Labor and Social Development, Galina Karelova, and with the new Deputy Chairman of the Duma, Liubov Sliska. With regards to trafficking, the group discussed the importance of foreign governments making labor contracts available for foreign workers in work sectors that traditionally attract female workers, such as for waitresses,

chambermaids, etc. The availability of foreign government-issued labor contracts in these areas has the potential to prevent some trafficking abuses.

Currently, the majority of the available labor permits for foreign workers are for traditional male jobs, such as construction. We had heard this point made at the OSCE trafficking event in November 1999 related to the dangers and disadvantages of Polish women workers face when they go overseas for work, compared to the contractual protection male workers enjoy when they procure work out of the country. Prior to the large group meeting on domestic violence and trafficking, Ambassador Collins joined us for a meeting with the leaders of the New Association of Crisis Centers.

We also had a wide-ranging meeting with leading women business owners and representatives of NGOs and small business associations. This group was assembled by the Foreign Commercial Service Officer in Embassy Moscow who made a point in her travels throughout Russia to encourage Russian women in business to work together for government action. This officer has also included women in Department of Commerce training programs, such as SABIT. Graduates of these training programs were among the participants in the discussion hosted by DCM Ordway.

Minister Karilova joined us for the discussion at the DCM's Residence. The women discussed the difficult hurdles for small business development imposed by government regulations and we explored ways that they could join together as a coalition with their supporters inside the government to get their key priorities addressed by the government. Some of the business hurdles they mentioned included the \$300 registration fee, tax policies, the need for simplified accounting methods and corruption. They agreed to develop a white paper to show how business growth is affected by these problems. They hoped to provide the white paper to Duma committees, along the lines of what the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia does to make its case. Participants agreed about the need to maintain a network of women business owners, building on these meetings held at the US embassy, in order to affect government policy.

The melding of civil society advocacy with their small business needs was a concept they found compelling. They said the SBA web site was not useful to them in its current form because it was not applicable enough to the Russian business environment. They want to create a web site that better addresses their specific requirements, as well as to create an important link for transmitting information regionally. They said it was costly, both in terms of the equipment and personnel to keep it going. They also discussed an idea they learned at Vital Voices Reykjavik, about exploring ways Russian businesswomen and foreign partners could come together. There are existing linkages for businessmen, both for this purpose and more generally to meet with their foreign counterparts. There is no such forum for businesswomen in Russia.

The St. Petersburg business representatives at the meeting stressed a need for an information infrastructure, technical assistance and access to microcredit. They hope that Vital Voices can help with the organization building for an effective small business coalition.

In a separate meeting with Minister Karilova, we expressed a need for legislation on violence against women. She said that law enforcement in Russia needs training and she reaffirmed the importance of expressing this need to the new leadership of the Interior Ministry. She also recommended more public education on the issue through the mass media.

She suggested a Russian-U.S. workshop on trafficking. She noted that the leadership we brought to organizing the domestic violence conference in 1998 (that the First Lady had announced during her trip to Ekaterinburg in 1997) has resulted in significantly more attention to the problem. She also recommended that the establishment of a Russian-American women in business association. She said she had had some exploratory conversations with the U.S.-Russian Business Council when she was in New York, but hoped we could advance this idea of a partnership between businesswomen in Russia and their U.S. counterparts. She gave us a copy of the proposal.

In a meeting with the head of the Soros Open Society Institute in Russia, Yekaterina Geniyeva reiterated the \$3 million commitment she made at the Vital Voices Global Exchange held in October 1999 in Washington to have the Open Society lead the Vital Voices network in Russia. Geniyeva proposed a Russian Vital Voices democracy conference in the fall of 2001, a new women-targeted business development program that, if successful, could serve as a model, and a Vital Voices web site and internet connection in Russian, among other initiatives.

We also met with the new Deputy Chairman of the Duma, Liubov Sliska – who had requested the meeting at the UN Beijing + 5 conference in New York where we had met briefly. Ambassador Collins also joined us for the discussions in her office at the Duma. Sliska is expected to be influential in her new role as coordinator of the Duma's legislative work. We had a spirited, wide-ranging conversation on women's policies with her and four other officials, including Duma member, Yekaterina Lakhova, who had attended the Vital Voices Conference in Reykjavik. Sliska was delighted that we were able to get together so quickly after the New York events. She talked about the hearings on women's rights she had just conducted at the Duma. This was the first time such hearings were ever held and a number of our Vital Voices NGO leaders testified. Sliska said she finally got the hearings approved on her third attempt. We told her that the NGOs had responded favorably to her efforts.

Sliska wanted most to underscore the need for women's political participation in Russia. Sliska wants to use the Saratov Oblast as a model for women's political participation and progress on a range of women's concerns. She told us she and Lakhova recently met with Governor Ayatskov of Saratov and that they had discussed regional initiatives to improve the status of women. (Sliska, whose district is in Saratov, formerly worked for Ayatskov) Ayatskov had agreed to create a committee under the Governor to support female candidates in upcoming municipal elections in Saratov and to use Saratov's existing interparliamentary ties throughout the CIS to promote consultation among female elected officials. According to Sliska, the Governor agreed to give the health clinic for reproductive rights a new center, acknowledging the progress that's been made and the need that exists. The regional parliament is considering a draft law on equal opportunities for women. Sliska said they especially want to work on business development and asked about the \$1 million microcredit fund announced at the Vital

Voices conference. She also asked us to convey her personal invitation to the First Lady to visit Saratov, and said that Mrs. Clinton continues to provide inspirational leadership.

The DCM hosted a briefing with the Embassy Country Team who work on these issues: POL, USAID, PD, CONS and EXEC. On trafficking, we discussed the Ambassador's point that visa issuance can be a first line of defense against trafficking, the value to Washington policymakers of embassy reporting on Russian government actions against trafficking, the need for Russian language materials on trafficking, and high degree of congressional interest in the issue. It was a useful exploration on how we can work more effectively in Washington and Russia on a range of issues.

St. Petersburg

The U.S. consulate organized a roundtable with some of the women who had attended the Vital Voices conference and other NGO leaders at the Consul General's Residence. The women leaders represented NGOs promoting political participation, such as the League of Women Voters, Human Rights in Pskov and, Mothers for Soldiers' Rights (vs. Chechnya involvement) Soros' point person on women's issues, and a Vital Voices Global Exchange participant.

The group appeared more dispirited than their Moscow counterparts. Paul Smith, as Consul General, noted that many were working under extremely adverse circumstances and that the regional political environment was particularly difficult. One of the participants said, "no one here cares about civil society." Another was organizing former female Duma members and candidates to work together to form a political coalition. She had met Maryland Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and Representative Connie Morella on a recent visit to the U.S. as part of the Billington Russian leadership program and wanted to know more about how to connect to American women in politics to share their organizing and lobbying strategies. One of the most upbeat participants was from Mothers for Soldiers' Rights, who said that the word "I" was struck from the totalitarian framework and it has, therefore, been hard for people to learn the power and responsibility of the ordinary citizen. However, her organization has found that the parents who are working to save their children from Chechnya are learning the meaning of their rights and beginning to take responsibility and it's leading others to set up similar organizational efforts.

We also visited the St. Petersburg Women's Crisis Center, which recently received Public Diplomacy funds from St. Petersburg ConGen and is part of the national Angel coalition. It was useful to see and hear firsthand the circumstances under which they operate and their productive relationship with the ConGen consular staff.

Recommendations:

- With the imminent departure of Beryl Bleher as chief commercial officer and Lycia Sybilla, who oversaw the women's programs and reported to the Ambassador and DCM, it is crucial to assign new staff on these issues at the Embassy. Both Ambassador Collins and the DCM agreed that this needed to be a priority.

- Explore next steps for actions to address the trafficking problem: a U.S.-Russia trafficking conference to give impetus to efforts to combat a growing problem, a public awareness campaign and other initiatives. A good first step would be a video conference with Washington, Embassy Moscow and interested Russian government representatives and NGOs to pursue these goals.
- Include women activists in the Billington "Russian Leadership Program" exchange groups. Develop a Vital Voices program for the elected officials who will be taking part in the summer and fall exchanges in Washington.
- The newly created Domestic Violence Association of Crisis Centers will be important in providing technical support to crisis centers established all over the country. USG should do what we can to be of assistance.
- Explore ways to expand Vital Voices to more of Russia. The Reykjavik conference in 1999 was restricted to the northern region and Vienna in 1997 was Moscow-focused. There is a real desire to expand it and the Soros involvement should help with this. Also, there is a need for a point person in the U.S. to coordinate the Russia and Eastern European Vital Voices programs. This will require outside support, perhaps through the Vital Voices Global Partnership, a new nonprofit in formation.
- Explore with the E.U. or Western European governments the feasibility of work permits in traditional female work sectors for workers from Russia, Ukraine and other Eastern European countries.

Czech Republic

Verveer and Loar participated in a follow-up conference to the 1997 Vital Voices conference in Vienna organized by Forum Women – "Forum Zhen." The Vital Voices conference and the First Lady's participation had stimulated the expansion of a Czech women's network comprised of elected officials, NGO leaders and professionals who are playing important roles in their country's developing market economy and civil society. The Czech Republic has been slow to incorporate women in these two key sectors and its overall progress in adopting market reforms and developing a vibrant civil society has been disappointing. "Forum Zhen" constitutes an important network of Vital Voices activists to help women take a more active role in the Czech Republic's democratic and free market development.

At the Vienna Vital Voices Conference in 1997, several Czech women were among the speakers and they – and the others who participated in Vienna – had prominent roles in organizing the conference. They were supported by Ambassador Shattuck and Ellen Hume. In addition to Ellen's very significant assistance in organizing the conference, she and the Ambassador hosted a reception at the U.S. Residence. The conference had received financial support mostly from Czech businesses. The theme of the meeting was "Empowering Women to Take Their Place in the New World." Verveer gave the keynote address on building civil society and the importance of political participation, and Esther Dyson gave a talk on the new information market. Loar provided an overview of USG foreign policy and programs, such as Vital Voices, to advance the status of women and Ambassador Swanee Hunt gave closing remarks. Verveer did Czech morning TV with a Czech conference organizer, and she also participated in a press conference at the forum.

Verveer and Loar also had a series of meetings with U.S. and Czech government officials and representatives of the International Organization for Migration to review efforts to combat trafficking in the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic is a source, destination and transit country. The Czech government has established a special police unit in the Organized Crime Division to combat trafficking, which works closely with IOM and the NGOs, like LaStrada. It has a strong Federal law against trafficking. The Czech Republic is instituting a visa requirement from former Soviet Union countries. Its border with Germany is the most porous for trafficking. Recently, traffickers were apprehended through several raids. Both IOM and the Czech Government representatives mentioned the helpful role U.S. Embassy Prague played in bringing them together and supporting their work. IOM mentioned State PRM's financial support as key to their ongoing effectiveness and unprecedented partnership with the Czech police. Efforts were made to include Czech representatives in the upcoming anti-trafficking meeting in Ukraine to share their best practices.

Recommendations:

- Include the Czech conference participants in future Vital Voices exchange programs.
- Explore ways to use Public Diplomacy programs such as exchanges, media events, and video conferences, to promote successful Czech anti-trafficking models in other countries.
- Through Vital Voices, encourage "Forum Zhen" businesswomen and Russian and Ukrainian businesswomen groups to exchange strategies on lobbying their governments to support business development.



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July 18, 2000

UNCLASSIFIED
MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary Frank Loy
Ambassador Wendy Sherman
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Mark Medish, NSC
Don Pressley, USAID

FROM: Melanne Verveer, Asst. to the President, COS to the First Lady
Theresa Loar and Anita Botti, President's Interagency Council on Women (PICW)

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This conference, funded by INL, brought together – for the first time – U.S. government representatives from the Departments of State, Labor, Justice and the White House, Ukrainian government officials, including the Vice Prime Minister Mykola Zhulinsky and the Minister of Internal Affairs, Yuriy Kravchenko, international organizations, NGOs and representatives of countries who are either source, transition, or destination countries.

The conference resulted in the creation of a concrete plan of action for Ukraine with specific responsibilities outlined for the various government ministries. The meeting was the first time that Ukrainian NGOs, which have significant information and know-how, worked side by side with their government. A by-product of this gathering was that law enforcement representatives from the government of Israel who were in attendance held separate discussions with the Ukraine government over the pending case of a woman trafficked from Ukraine. Issues of witness protection and testimony were being worked out. It was immediate, tangible evidence of the importance of the convening.

The Ministers from Ukraine gave remarks, as did U.S. Ambassador Pifer. Verveer gave the keynote address. Botti outlined the key elements needed for an action plan, which would build on the OSCE action plan announced by the First Lady, on behalf of the U.S., in Istanbul in November 1999 at the OSCE Summit. The representative from LaStrada, one of the most important NGOs involved in anti-trafficking in Ukraine, noted in her conference remarks that this issue would never have gotten serious consideration had the First Lady not been responsive when they told her at the Vital Voices Conference in Vienna in 1997 about the growing problem. This led to the announcement of a U.S. – E.U. public education campaign, funded by PRM, to warn Ukrainian women about the tactics of traffickers who prey on their economic desperation and lure them with false promises.

USG representatives complimented the government of Ukraine for having the courage to tackle this tough issue and pointed out that it is a global problem that can only be addressed through country specific, regional and international actions. We also discussed the fact that, at its root, trafficking was driven by severe economic conditions affecting women. To effect this, President Clinton announced a multi-million dollar microcredit program during his visit to Ukraine in June. At the conference, we also announced a \$1/2 million Department of Labor grant to Ukraine for technical analysis of regulatory and legal barriers to women's employment. Verveer had a series of meetings with Ukrainian officials and groups working on these issues.

In a meeting with the Ministry of Education, Verveer stressed the importance of their efforts to educate students about the traffickers' tactics. LaStrada and Winrock (a USAID grantee) have been working with the government in the schools. They have a working group to develop materials for teachers. Thus far they have a financial commitment to print about 2000 copies and distribute them, but the need is much greater.

Verveer did several media interviews scheduled by the Embassy press office to highlight the problem, U.S. – Ukraine cooperation in addressing it, and the importance of the conference. Verveer did the equivalent of the “Today Show”, which devoted its entire morning programing to trafficking, took an on-air poll, and responded to viewer call-in questions. It was the first-time the issue received serious exposure in the media. She, Botti, and Ambassador Pifer also participated in a press availability with Ukrainian officials. Most of the questions were hard-hitting queries directed at the Ukrainian government officials for not being more responsive to the problem. They also criticized government corruption, which facilitates the traffickers’ work.

In a meeting with LaStrada, Verveer learned of several hurdles confronting NGOs working on these and related issues. The Ukrainian Ministry for Family and Youth Affairs had responsibility for trafficking and related issues, but has been eliminated in response to a mandate to reduce government. The NGOs believe it is vital to have an office that represents these issues to the President. They also explained why the Ukrainian anti-trafficking law needs to be strengthened. While it is significant that a law has been adopted, it was forged with no input from the NGOs who have experience in the field, and, thus far, it has not been effective in prosecuting traffickers. Another obstacle that was raised is the government policy overseeing NGOs, particularly the imposition of taxes, which inhibit their work.

Verveer also had discussions with Winrock leaders from Kiev, Lviv, Dnieperpetrovsk and Donesk. USAID funds their projects to help women develop personal and job skills. They are expanding to two more regions. These programs have assisted hundreds of women who are most vulnerable to trafficking.

In a very innovative move in the NIS region, the NGOs from all over Ukraine who are working on women’s issues, particularly trafficking, have formed a consortium and meet regularly to collaborate and address pressing issues. Verveer spoke to their regularly scheduled meeting and heard about their work and concerns. Botti and Ted Kontek (Ukraine desk) also joined. The group raised the problem of the dissolution of the Ministry on Women and Families that had the lead on trafficking. They hoped the trafficking conference would address specifically responsibilities for government coordination on trafficking.

Verveer also had a series of meetings relating to microcredit and economic development. She met with the USAID director and his economic assistant to get a status report on the new microcredit program the President announced in June. In order to initiate this program successfully, a change in Ukrainian law is necessary so that interest on loans is not taxed, but plowed back into the lending fund pool. (Before the President made his announcement, there were discussions to make certain the legislative changes would be supported by the Ukrainian government.) The USAID staff is making all the right arguments and hopes Rada changes will be forthcoming.

Kontek and Verveer also met with a group from Lviv who traveled to Kyiv to talk about the future of their USAID-supported and Counterpart-directed microcredit and business incubator program. It will become self sufficient later this year and they invited the First Lady to participate in their announcement event. This is a success story that could be even more

effective if the microlending program can get additional resources for its loan fund. They have a backlog of qualified borrowers.

We also met with Grace Kennan Warnecke, project director of USAID's Winrock small business development program. She told us microcredit is desperately needed and should be made a top priority. She receives some funds from USAID that are available to qualified businesses through local credit unions, but the small amount doesn't come close to meeting the need. In addition to credit unions, she said there is a critical need for training credit union workers. We offered to explore the possibility of whether Ukrainian credit union workers could receive training from the Poles through the existing Polish-American-Ukrainian Cooperation Initiative (PAUCI).

Finally we met with the Peace Corps leadership and some of the volunteers. Because the Peace Corps has several hundred volunteers working directly with the people across Ukraine in the areas of education, health, and business, they are in a unique position to provide significant support to existing Ukrainian programs focused on trafficking. They agreed to meet with LaStrada to see how they can be of assistance. They are currently working with Winrock and are looking to expand focus in the area of small business. We also agreed to explore a possible increase in the Peace Corps small government funds that are available to fund local projects. This could be expanded to meet additional critical needs.

Recommendations:

- S/NIS and Embassy Kiev should identify personnel needed to fully achieve outcomes of the U.S.-Ukraine Conference. This would be in keeping with the President's directive of March 1998 to establish Ukraine as a model in implementing a comprehensive strategy to combat the trafficking of women and children from and to Ukraine, and to ensure appropriate oversight and follow up of this historic meeting, particularly the implementation of the recently agreed upon action plan.
- Given the numbers and scope of trafficking in both S/NIS and Europe (estimated that 70% of all trafficked cases from the S/NIS region are destined for Western Europe), S/NIS may wish to receive a full briefing and update on this issue from the intelligence community. Such a briefing would supplement the excellent "unclassified" presentation made at the conference.
- The public diplomacy officers in the regional bureau and Embassy Kiev can capitalize on the recent media attention given to the issue of trafficking because of this meeting, particularly in light of the participation of other source and destination countries present. Particular focus and follow-up should be given to the Ukraine-Israel cooperation concerning an on-going investigation and prosecution of traffickers from Ukraine resulting from this meeting. This could be an important first if Ukraine does move forward with the assistance of the government of Israel (We understand Israel has offered protection to the trafficked victim to facilitate the prosecution.) Public information about cooperation in law enforcement efforts on trafficking would show that USG efforts – and in this case, interventions to both countries by Secretary Albright – are having an effect.
- To provide the necessary coordination and strong leadership needed to combat this criminal activity, Embassy Kiev should work closely with GOU to assist them in the establishment of a high level interagency task force with direct accountability to the President's office. Given

the cross cutting nature of trafficking and the need for all ministries to work together, such a group is critical to implementing a comprehensive GOU strategy which includes prevention, protection and assistance to the victim, and prosecution of the traffickers.

- To build on the recent announcement by the President for new microcredit programs, Embassy Kiev/AID can actively work with GOU to ensure that the necessary statutory changes needed for the program to go forward are taken (Rada approval of legislation that would allow direct lending by non-banking institutions and would not tax income that is put back into the lending program.). Also, the embassy can raise with the GOU the restrictions placed on NGOs, particularly the tax amounts and hurdles required for these critical groups to operate.
- To ensure that the DOL grant to Ukraine is fully developed, Embassy Kiev can follow-up with ILO to ensure that the proposed labor market survey data are useful for anti-trafficking efforts and that labor standards are designed to help promote economic opportunities for women.

Russia

1. Moscow

The key purpose of the trip by Verveer and Loar to Russia was to consolidate efforts on combating domestic violence and trafficking, to assist women's small business development and to support the growing Vital Voices network.

Ambassador Collins opened Spaso House to a meeting of the leading NGOs working on domestic violence, legal reform and trafficking. Marina Pisklakova, who heads up the recently created Russian Association of Crisis Centers for Women, said the "spirit of Vital Voices that permeated the conference in Reykjavik is what gives them inspiration to us to keep going against tough odds." The group noted that centers in St. Petersburg, Irtusk, Ekaterinberg and Moscow were strong, but efforts needed to be made to help newer centers. There are now over 40 NGOs working on domestic violence and many are being linked together in a new association for crisis centers. There are about ten government sponsored centers.

The value of USAID-funded Russian language materials on domestic violence was emphasized with a request that Russian language materials on trafficking also be made available. More broadly, the development of Internet programs in Russian on women's issues was also viewed as critical. The NGOs stressed the need for a continued interdisciplinary approach involving lawyers, doctors, social workers and others. The U.S.-Russia co-sponsored domestic violence conference held in Moscow in November 1998 was very effective in stimulating progress on this issue.

The group talked about the need to get legislation passed by the Duma on domestic violence and trafficking. Verveer and Loar discussed strategies for introduction and passage, including raising the issue with the Minister of Labor and Social Development, Galina Karelova, and with the new Deputy Chairman of the Duma, Liubov Sliska. With regards to trafficking, the group discussed the importance of foreign governments making labor contracts available for foreign workers in work sectors that traditionally attract female workers, such as for waitresses,

chambermaids, etc. The availability of foreign government-issued labor contracts in these areas has the potential to prevent some trafficking abuses.

Currently, the majority of the available labor permits for foreign workers are for traditional male jobs, such as construction. We had heard this point made at the OSCE trafficking event in November 1999 related to the dangers and disadvantages of Polish women workers face when they go overseas for work, compared to the contractual protection male workers enjoy when they procure work out of the country. Prior to the large group meeting on domestic violence and trafficking, Ambassador Collins joined us for a meeting with the leaders of the New Association of Crisis Centers.

We also had a wide-ranging meeting with leading women business owners and representatives of NGOs and small business associations. This group was assembled by the Foreign Commercial Service Officer in Embassy Moscow who made a point in her travels throughout Russia to encourage Russian women in business to work together for government action. This officer has also included women in Department of Commerce training programs, such as SABIT. Graduates of these training programs were among the participants in the discussion hosted by DCM Ordway.

Minister Karilova joined us for the discussion at the DCM's Residence. The women discussed the difficult hurdles for small business development imposed by government regulations and we explored ways that they could join together as a coalition with their supporters inside the government to get their key priorities addressed by the government. Some of the business hurdles they mentioned included the \$300 registration fee, tax policies, the need for simplified accounting methods and corruption. They agreed to develop a white paper to show how business growth is affected by these problems. They hoped to provide the white paper to Duma committees, along the lines of what the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia does to make its case. Participants agreed about the need to maintain a network of women business owners, building on these meetings held at the US embassy, in order to affect government policy.

The melding of civil society advocacy with their small business needs was a concept they found compelling. They said the SBA web site was not useful to them in its current form because it was not applicable enough to the Russian business environment. They want to create a web site that better addresses their specific requirements, as well as to create an important link for transmitting information regionally. They said it was costly, both in terms of the equipment and personnel to keep it going. They also discussed an idea they learned at Vital Voices Reykjavik, about exploring ways Russian businesswomen and foreign partners could come together. There are existing linkages for businessmen, both for this purpose and more generally to meet with their foreign counterparts. There is no such forum for businesswomen in Russia.

The St. Petersburg business representatives at the meeting stressed a need for an information infrastructure, technical assistance and access to microcredit. They hope that Vital Voices can help with the organization building for an effective small business coalition.

In a separate meeting with Minister Karilova, we expressed a need for legislation on violence against women. She said that law enforcement in Russia needs training and she reaffirmed the importance of expressing this need to the new leadership of the Interior Ministry. She also recommended more public education on the issue through the mass media.

She suggested a Russian-U.S. workshop on trafficking. She noted that the leadership we brought to organizing the domestic violence conference in 1998 (that the First Lady had announced during her trip to Ekaterinburg in 1997) has resulted in significantly more attention to the problem. She also recommended that the establishment of a Russian-American women in business association. She said she had had some exploratory conversations with the U.S.-Russian Business Council when she was in New York, but hoped we could advance this idea of a partnership between businesswomen in Russia and their U.S. counterparts. She gave us a copy of the proposal.

In a meeting with the head of the Soros Open Society Institute in Russia, Yekaterina Geniyeva reiterated the \$3 million commitment she made at the Vital Voices Global Exchange held in October 1999 in Washington to have the Open Society lead the Vital Voices network in Russia. Geniyeva proposed a Russian Vital Voices democracy conference in the fall of 2001, a new women-targeted business development program that, if successful, could serve as a model, and a Vital Voices web site and internet connection in Russian, among other initiatives.

We also met with the new Deputy Chairman of the Duma, Liubov Sliska – who had requested the meeting at the UN Beijing + 5 conference in New York where we had met briefly. Ambassador Collins also joined us for the discussions in her office at the Duma. Sliska is expected to be influential in her new role as coordinator of the Duma's legislative work. We had a spirited, wide-ranging conversation on women's policies with her and four other officials, including Duma member, Yekaterina Lakhova, who had attended the Vital Voices Conference in Reykjavik. Sliska was delighted that we were able to get together so quickly after the New York events. She talked about the hearings on women's rights she had just conducted at the Duma. This was the first time such hearings were ever held and a number of our Vital Voices NGO leaders testified. Sliska said she finally got the hearings approved on her third attempt. We told her that the NGOs had responded favorably to her efforts.

Sliska wanted most to underscore the need for women's political participation in Russia. Sliska wants to use the Saratov Oblast as a model for women's political participation and progress on a range of women's concerns. She told us she and Lakhova recently met with Governor Ayatskov of Saratov and that they had discussed regional initiatives to improve the status of women. (Sliska, whose district is in Saratov, formerly worked for Ayatskov) Ayatskov had agreed to create a committee under the Governor to support female candidates in upcoming municipal elections in Saratov and to use Saratov's existing interparliamentary ties throughout the CIS to promote consultation among female elected officials. According to Sliska, the Governor agreed to give the health clinic for reproductive rights a new center, acknowledging the progress that's been made and the need that exists. The regional parliament is considering a draft law on equal opportunities for women. Sliska said they especially want to work on business development and asked about the \$1 million microcredit fund announced at the Vital

Voices conference. She also asked us to convey her personal invitation to the First Lady to visit Saratov, and said that Mrs. Clinton continues to provide inspirational leadership.

The DCM hosted a briefing with the Embassy Country Team who work on these issues: POL, USAID, PD, CONS and EXEC. On trafficking, we discussed the Ambassador's point that visa issuance can be a first line of defense against trafficking, the value to Washington policymakers of embassy reporting on Russian government actions against trafficking, the need for Russian language materials on trafficking, and high degree of congressional interest in the issue. It was a useful exploration on how we can work more effectively in Washington and Russia on a range of issues.

St. Petersburg

The U.S. consulate organized a roundtable with some of the women who had attended the Vital Voices conference and other NGO leaders at the Consul General's Residence. The women leaders represented NGOs promoting political participation, such as the League of Women Voters, Human Rights in Pskov and, Mothers for Soldiers' Rights (vs. Chechnya involvement) Soros' point person on women's issues, and a Vital Voices Global Exchange participant.

The group appeared more dispirited than their Moscow counterparts. Paul Smith, as Consul General, noted that many were working under extremely adverse circumstances and that the regional political environment was particularly difficult. One of the participants said, "no one here cares about civil society." Another was organizing former female Duma members and candidates to work together to form a political coalition. She had met Maryland Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and Representative Connie Morella on a recent visit to the U.S. as part of the Billington Russian leadership program and wanted to know more about how to connect to American women in politics to share their organizing and lobbying strategies. One of the most upbeat participants was from Mothers for Soldiers' Rights, who said that the word "I" was struck from the totalitarian framework and it has, therefore, been hard for people to learn the power and responsibility of the ordinary citizen. However, her organization has found that the parents who are working to save their children from Chechnya are learning the meaning of their rights and beginning to take responsibility and it's leading others to set up similar organizational efforts.

We also visited the St. Petersburg Women's Crisis Center, which recently received Public Diplomacy funds from St. Petersburg ConGen and is part of the national Angel coalition. It was useful to see and hear firsthand the circumstances under which they operate and their productive relationship with the ConGen consular staff.

Recommendations:

- With the imminent departure of Beryl Bleher as chief commercial officer and Lycia Sybilla, who oversaw the women's programs and reported to the Ambassador and DCM, it is crucial to assign new staff on these issues at the Embassy. Both Ambassador Collins and the DCM agreed that this needed to be a priority.

- Explore next steps for actions to address the trafficking problem: a U.S.-Russia trafficking conference to give impetus to efforts to combat a growing problem, a public awareness campaign and other initiatives. A good first step would be a video conference with Washington, Embassy Moscow and interested Russian government representatives and NGOs to pursue these goals.
- Include women activists in the Billington “Russian Leadership Program” exchange groups. Develop a Vital Voices program for the elected officials who will be taking part in the summer and fall exchanges in Washington.
- The newly created Domestic Violence Association of Crisis Centers will be important in providing technical support to crisis centers established all over the country. USG should do what we can to be of assistance.
- Explore ways to expand Vital Voices to more of Russia. The Reykjavik conference in 1999 was restricted to the northern region and Vienna in 1997 was Moscow-focused. There is a real desire to expand it and the Soros involvement should help with this. Also, there is a need for a point person in the U.S. to coordinate the Russia and Eastern European Vital Voices programs. This will require outside support, perhaps through the Vital Voices Global Partnership, a new nonprofit in formation.
- Explore with the E.U. or Western European governments the feasibility of work permits in traditional female work sectors for workers from Russia, Ukraine and other Eastern European countries.

Czech Republic

Verveer and Loar participated in a follow-up conference to the 1997 Vital Voices conference in Vienna organized by Forum Women – “Forum Zhen.” The Vital Voices conference and the First Lady’s participation had stimulated the expansion of a Czech women’s network comprised of elected officials, NGO leaders and professionals who are playing important roles in their country’s developing market economy and civil society. The Czech Republic has been slow to incorporate women in these two key sectors and its overall progress in adopting market reforms and developing a vibrant civil society has been disappointing. “Forum Zhen” constitutes an important network of Vital Voices activists to help women take a more active role in the Czech Republic’s democratic and free market development.

At the Vienna Vital Voices Conference in 1997, several Czech women were among the speakers and they – and the others who participated in Vienna – had prominent roles in organizing the conference. They were supported by Ambassador Shattuck and Ellen Hume. In addition to Ellen’s very significant assistance in organizing the conference, she and the Ambassador hosted a reception at the U.S. Residence. The conference had received financial support mostly from Czech businesses. The theme of the meeting was “Empowering Women to Take Their Place in the New World.” Verveer gave the keynote address on building civil society and the importance of political participation, and Esther Dyson gave a talk on the new information market. Loar provided an overview of USG foreign policy and programs, such as Vital Voices, to advance the status of women and Ambassador Swanee Hunt gave closing remarks. Verveer did Czech morning TV with a Czech conference organizer, and she also participated in a press conference at the forum.

Verveer and Loar also had a series of meetings with U.S. and Czech government officials and representatives of the International Organization for Migration to review efforts to combat trafficking in the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic is a source, destination and transit country. The Czech government has established a special police unit in the Organized Crime Division to combat trafficking, which works closely with IOM and the NGOs, like LaStrada. It has a strong Federal law against trafficking. The Czech Republic is instituting a visa requirement from former Soviet Union countries. Its border with Germany is the most porous for trafficking. Recently, traffickers were apprehended through several raids. Both IOM and the Czech Government representatives mentioned the helpful role U.S. Embassy Prague played in bringing them together and supporting their work. IOM mentioned State PRM's financial support as key to their ongoing effectiveness and unprecedented partnership with the Czech police. Efforts were made to include Czech representatives in the upcoming anti-trafficking meeting in Ukraine to share their best practices.

Recommendations:

- Include the Czech conference participants in future Vital Voices exchange programs.
- Explore ways to use Public Diplomacy programs such as exchanges, media events, and video conferences, to promote successful Czech anti-trafficking models in other countries.
- Through Vital Voices, encourage "Forum Zhen" businesswomen and Russian and Ukrainian businesswomen groups to exchange strategies on lobbying their governments to support business development.