

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. bio	re: Linda Tarr-Whelan [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	02/01/1996	b(6)
002. memo	Patsy L. Thomasson to Melanne Verveer re: non-selection (3 pages)	01/02/1996	b(6)
003. bio	re: Linda Tarr-Whelan [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] [duplicate of 001] (1 page)	02/01/1996	b(6)
004. memo	Patsy L. Thomasson to Melanne Verveer re: non-selection [duplicate of 002] (3 pages)	01/02/1996	b(6)
005. letter	To Hillary Rodham Clinton re: non-selection (2 pages)	11/09/1995	b(6)
006. bio	re: non-selection (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)
007. bio	re: non-selection (3 pages)	00/00/0000	b(6)
008. clipping	re: non-selection (3 pages)	09/03/1995	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20056

FOLDER TITLE:

UN- CSW [United Nations - Commission on the Status of Women]

2013-0534-S

rc1854

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

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

file
UN Commission
Status of Women

U.N. - CSS

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Department of State

Date

1/26/95

Number of pages including cover sheet

4

TO:

Kathy Hendrix

Phone

456-6266

Fax Phone

456-6244

FROM:

Sharon Kotoh

Office of Economic and
Social Affairs

Bureau of International
Organization Affairs

Phone

202-647-1155

Fax Phone

202-647-4628

CC:

REMARKS:

☒ Urgent

☐ For your review

☐ Reply ASAP

☐ Please Comment

Please deliver to Kathy Hendrix

Exempted from the Classification Act by E.O. 12958, 81st Congress, Sec. 300 (a), 81st Congress

Standard Form No. 75 February 1940 UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION POSITION DESCRIPTION		1. Check one: Dept ☒ Field ☐ 2. Reason for submission: (a) If this position replaces another (i.e., a change of duties in an existing position), identify such position by title, allocation (service, series, grade), and position number (b) Other (specify)		2. Official headquarters: New York 4. Agency position No.: E 64 5. C. S. C. certification No.: APR 20 1951 7. Date received from C. S. C.:	
3. CLASSIFICATION ACTION ALLOCATION BY: PERSONNEL OFFICE COPY CLASS TITLE OF POSITION:		CLASS Service Series Grade INITIALS DATE AP-107 Thompson U.S. Rep. Commission on the Status of Women (U) \$13,500 WAE U.S. Representative on the Commission on the Status of Women of the Economic and Social Council of the UN (7-1-1) \$17,500 WAE U.S. Rep. Commission on the Status of Women \$19,500 WAE U.S. Rep. Commission on the Status of Women \$21,500 WAE			
9. Organizational title of position (if any) Reynolds, Nancy		10. Name of employee (if vacancy, specify V-1, 2, 3, or 4) Oliver E. Galtman			
11. Department, agency, or establishment Department of State		12. This is a complete and accurate description of the duties and responsibilities of the position (Signature of immediate supervisor) (Date) Title:			
13. Certification by head of bureau, division, field office, or designated representative (Signature) (Date) Title: Personnel Officer, USUN		14. Certification by department, agency, or establishment (Signature) (Date) Title: Chief, Classification Branch			

Serves on a WAE basis as United States Representative on the Commission on the Status of Women of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The functions of the Commission are to prepare recommendations or reports to the Economic and Social Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social, and educational fields. The Commission also makes recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights with the object of implementing the principle that men and women shall have equal rights, and proposals to give effect to such recommendations.

The Commission on the Status of Women consists of one representative from each of 15 members of the United Nations selected by the Economic and Social Council.

Agency: Department of State

Position Title: U. S. Representative to the Commission on the Status of Women of the Economic and Social Council

Salary:

47500
\$33,505 (WAE) 1/

Present Incumbent:

~~Koryne Kanover Horne~~ Koryne Kanover Horne
Mrs. Elizabeth D. Koontz (Appointed 1/30/69)

Introduction:

The Commission on the Status of Women functions within the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The Commission prepares recommendations and reports to the Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social, and educational fields, and on the development of women's role in society and on family planning. The Commission's agenda has at times contained items which could be exploited for political ends.

Duties:

Under instructions of the Secretary and the Department, serves as U. S. Representative on the Commission with responsibility for acting as U. S. spokesman at its meetings and reporting to the Department on its activities. Maintains liaison with counterpart representatives of other member governments for the purpose of exchanging views and information and negotiating to encourage and gain their support of U. S. policies and positions. As assigned, serves on special study groups in preparing reports and recommendations for the Council.

1/ The Commission meets annually, either in New York or Geneva. Incumbent is paid on a "when actually employed" basis for a period of approximately three weeks a year.

3

-2-

(Position Title: U. S. Representative to the Commission on the Status of Women of the Economic and Social Council)

(The U. S. Representative must have technical knowledge in the fields of women's rights, together with political astuteness. The incumbent must be able to identify items which could be exploited for political gain, analyze them and report them to the Department.)

END

Date 4/8 3/5/62
To: Lc/Adm.
KATHY STEINBERG

From: USIA - H 11

I talked to John Mathiason this morning about preparations for the upcoming CSW meeting (March 11-22) in New York.

- There will be an EXTENDED BUREAU MEETING JANUARY 30. John will notify (or has notified) Lucy Tamlyn.
- This is an election year for the CSW, and the regional groups will be encouraged to decide their candidates before the CSW begins. The chair will come from Latin America and the Caribbean, the rapporteur from Asia, and the vice-chairs from WEOG, EE, and Africa.
- ANGELA KING will be named the new Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women. (It's a D-2 position.) Angela is from Jamaica and is currently in the Office of Resources Management. (We've worked with her over the past few years to try to improve the status of women in the Secretariat.)
- On December 20, the SYG named ROSARIO GREEN as his high level person responsible for implementing the Platform and for mainstreaming a gender perspective throughout the UN system. (I'll try to get the press release off the Internet.)
- The major agenda items for the 1996 CSW are:
 - the priority themes;
 - the optional protocol to CEDAW;
 - follow-up to the FWCW.
- The priority themes that will be discussed at the 1996 session are:
 - Equality: elimination of stereotyping of women in the mass media;
 - Development: child and dependent care, including sharing of work and family responsibilities;
 - Peace: education for peace.
- Delegations will make one formal statement in the plenary on follow-up to the FWCW. (The President's Interagency Council on Women has already offered to draft this speech!)
- The Secretariat is drafting three major reports:
 - on the SWMTP. This report will not be ready until right before the CSW.
 - on the CSW's LONG-TERM PROGRAM OF WORK. Mathiason hopes this draft will be ready in time to release at the extended bureau meeting January 30.
 - an interim report on INTEGRATED FOLLOW-UP to the FWCW, which would include recommendations on what the CSW, UNIFEM, and INSTRAW should do to implement the Platform. This report will try to recommend a win/win solution on the question of the merger of UNIFEM and INSTRAW.
- The Secretariat is putting together these and other reports and hopes to have some ready very soon. (I'll ask Lucy to get me copies as soon as they are available.)
- As a result of our meeting at Mohonk last October, the CSW is going to try to change its method of work and be more

interactive. This means that its reports on the priority themes will raise questions rather than provide answers and that Member States will be encouraged to put experts on their delegations who could speak about the priority themes, follow-up to the FWCW, and the optional protocol to CEDAW.

FYI, Evan Bloom called to say that one of the L interns is interested in the CSW. Two areas that we could use her help would be: the optional protocol to CEDAW and the priority theme on the elimination of stereotyping of women in the mass media.

Women Men and Media

Junior Bridge

February 1, 1996

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you because we believe that the leadership the United States provides at the United Nations on the Commission on the Status of Women is important to American women and to those who, globally, look to the United States for the leadership our government provided at the 4th World Conference on Women.

The CSW plays a critical role in promoting women's political, economic and social rights at the United Nations. Post-Beijing, the CSW also has the potential to play an influential role within the UN urging the systemwide gender reform called for in the Platform for Action. Certainly, the CSW will continue to stimulate attention to the patterns of discrimination against women and to promoting women's rights described in the Platform.

The person chosen to head the United States' delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women should represent the best of what America wants. We feel the following basic criteria are required:

- substantive knowledge of women's issues;
- demonstrated negotiating skills;
- experience with the United Nations;
- personal influence and confidence sufficient to command attention and form consensus; and
- access to and the trust of the NGO community.

These qualifications made a significant difference in the quality of our leadership in Beijing. We urge you to choose a woman to head the US delegation to the CSW to follow in the traditions of Madeleine Albright and Geraldine Ferraro.

In addition, the U.S. delegation should be backed by a strong strategic and advisory staff and assisted by the permanent participation of at least three NGO representatives. The Fourth World Conference on Women was shaped largely by NGO women. In this post-Beijing implementation period it will be essential to continue the vital link between government and NGOs in the work of the CSW.

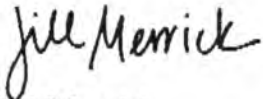
International Center for Research on Women

1717 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Suite 302 ■ Washington, DC 20036 USA ■ Telephone: 202-797-0007 ■ Fax: 202-797-0020 ■ e-mail: icrw@igc.apc.org

Mr. President, we applaud your serious search for the right candidate for the job. We stand ready to assist you in this process and look forward to working with the head of delegation, once chosen.

We stand by you and your commitment to the advancement of women and to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Cordially,



Jill Merrick
Director, Communications and Public Policy
International Center for Research on Women

Lea Browning

Rosa Briceño

Pat Rengel
Chief Legislative Council
Amnesty International/USA

Julianne Cartwright-Traylor
Human Rights Advocates, Inc.

Donna Shavlik
Director, Office of Women in Higher Education
The American Council on Education

Mahnaz Afkhami
Executive Director
Sisterhood is Global Institute

Barbara R. Arnwine

Nicole Etlhait
Association for Women in Development

Vicki Ferguson
Gender Analysis and Development Consultant

Lauren Gilbert
Director, Women and International Law Program
Washington College of Law

Mary P. Haney
Member of Board and Executive Committee of
U.S. Committee for UNIFEM

Jodi Jacobson
Co-Director
Health and Development Policy Project

Patricia Krommer
Board Member
International Education Development, Inc.

Marjorie Lightman
Acting Executive Director
International League for Human Rights

Surita Sondosham
Executive Director
Equality Now

E. Maxina Ankrah
Senior Advisor, Women's Initiative
Family Health International/AIDSCAP

Suzanne Kindervatter
Interaction/Committee for Advancement of Women

Robin Phillips
Director, Women's Human Rights
Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

JoAnn Lewis
Senior Vice President
Family Health International

Dorothy Thomas
Director, Women's Rights Project
Human Rights Watch

Joan Dunlop
President
International Women's Health Coalition

Janet Benshoof
President
Center for Reproductive Law and Policy



Center for Women's Global Leadership

Douglass College • 27 Clifton Avenue • New Brunswick • New Jersey 08903 • USA
Phone: 1-908-932-8782 • Fax: 1-908-932-1180 • E-mail: cwgl@igc.apc.org

February 21, 1996

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Honorary Chair, U.S. Delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women and Honorary
Chair of the President's Interagency Council on Women
The White House
Old Executive Office Building
Room 100
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

We are writing to invite you or your representative to a meeting we have requested with the President's appointee to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. We have proposed March 1, from 1:30 to 3:30, at the offices of Human Rights Watch in New York (485 Fifth Avenue, between 41st and 42nd Streets). We know of your support and interest in these matters, and hope you will be able to join this conversation.

Attached please find a letter to the President, describing our hopes for such a meeting. We deeply appreciate your critical role in bringing women's human rights issues to public attention, and insisting they remain solidly on the agenda of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Your continued support and willingness to engage in this conversation will help ensure a forceful commitment to women's human rights in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Please feel free to contact Charlotte Bunch at the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University (telephone: (908) 932-8782. Fax: (908) 932-1180) with any questions or comments.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Bella Abzug, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
Lea Browning
Charlotte Bunch, Center for Women's Global Leadership
Rhonda Copelon, International Women's Human Rights Law Clinic, City University of New York Law School
Kit Cosby, National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the U.S.
Joan Dunlop, International Women's Health Coalition
Cathy Powell, member of the International Network of Women of Color North/South
Pat Rengel, Amnesty International/USA
Donna Sullivan, International Human Rights Law Group/Women in the Law Project
Dorothy Q. Thomas, Women's Rights Project of Human Rights Watch

On behalf of the Working Groups on Women's Human Rights based in Washington, DC and New York/New Jersey



Center for Women's Global Leadership

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February 20, 1996

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of a number of non-governmental organizations concerned with women's human rights, we would like to invite the United States' representative to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and other relevant government officials to a meeting to discuss the upcoming Commission on the Status of Women session (March 11-22). Since time is so short, we have set aside March 1, from 1:30-3:30 at the offices of Human Rights Watch in New York (485 Fifth Avenue, between 41st and 42nd Streets) for a meeting. If this date is not convenient, we would be glad to arrange another appointment in the following week.

At the recent Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the United States played a significant role in securing a Declaration and Platform for Action that advances the rights of women. The upcoming session of the Commission on the Status of Women will lay the groundwork for ensuring the implementation of the Platform into the 21st century. It is, therefore, critical that the United States continue to demonstrate its support for women's human rights through strong representation on the Commission. Moreover, we hope that the positions of the US will continue to reflect consultation with non-governmental organizations attentive to, and knowledgeable about, these issues. We believe these conversations have been mutually productive, as we expect they will continue to be. To facilitate such efforts, we would like to meet with your representative to this session of the CSW to discuss the agenda and the activities of the Commission.

We respectfully urge you to make a speedy appointment and make it widely known to the public so that non-governmental organizations concerned with this session can initiate contact with this representative. Once you have made such an appointment, we request that you transmit this invitation to meet with us to your appointee, as well as to other government officials responsible for women's human rights, including the President's Interagency Council on Women and State Department personnel.

We greatly appreciate the openness your administration has shown to NGOs around recent United Nations world conferences by hosting regular briefings for non-governmental organizations. We cordially appeal to you to continue this tradition by hosting an open briefing for the wider NGO community with the US delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women, in addition to conducting NGO briefings throughout the sessions.

We appreciate your administration's efforts to consult with the NGO community, and look forward to continuing this working relationship at the CSW and beyond. If it is possible for the CSW representative and other officials to meet with us, we respectfully request that they respond to Charlotte Bunch at the Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University (telephone: 908-932-8782; fax: 908-932-1180). Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this invitation.

Sincerely,

Bella Abzug, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

Lea Browning

Charlotte Bunch, Center for Women's Global Leadership

Rhonda Copelon, International Women's Human Rights Law Clinic, City University of New York Law School

Kit Cosby, National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the U.S.

Joan Dunlop, International Women's Health Coalition

Cathy Powell, member of the International Network of Women of Color North/South

Pat Rengel, Amnesty International/USA

Donna Sullivan, International Human Rights Law Group/Women in the Law Project

Dorothy Q. Thomas, Women's Rights Project of Human Rights Watch

On behalf of the Working Groups on Women's Human Rights based in Washington, DC and New York/New Jersey.

cc: Hillary Rodham Clinton, Honorary Chair of the U.S. Delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women and Honorary Chair of the President's Interagency Council on Women
Robert J. Nash, Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Personnel

Helmley - 42nd
Madeline's office

Common ground
mobiles!
mission

CSW SPEECH DRAFT

Kathy - 212-866-8311 Sat/Sun.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS (FILL IN SHARON, LTW)

Linela:
9Am 941 922 1443
Sun DC 12:30pm - 7:30
- Faxline 527-7989
- 5287773

This could not be a more critical session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The events of the past year have brought us to a turning point. We arrive here empowered by the great success of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the content of its Platform for Action; inspired by breadth and depth of the NGO Forum and the force of the NGOs themselves; and in a spirit of renewal and rededication that the celebration of the United Nations 50th anniversary occasioned.

And we enter the new year with two new appointments at the United Nations that give us encouragement. The designation of Rosario Green as coordinator of all women's issues in the UN system and the appointment of Angela King as director of the Division for the Advancement of Women come as good news. These are women of great ability and reputation. We place our confidence in them without reservation. We wish them every success and we stand ready to offer them every assistance.

We must take advantage of this moment and seize the momentum. Now is the time for the members of the CSW to raise the questions and work together to find the answers that will prepare the CSW for its work into the next century.

What is our vision for the CSW? Specifically what is our vision for its role within the UN system; with governments in implementing the Platform?

The United States strongly supports the agreements we reached at the Fourth World Conference and later in the General Assembly, that the Commission must have:

- o a clear mandate;
- o a central role in monitoring implementation of the Platform, although primary responsibility for implementation rests with governments themselves;
- o a cooperative and coordinated working relationship with the related commissions of the Economic and Social Council that constitutes synergy;
- o a catalytic role in implementation of the Platform for Action within the UN system;
- o and a catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities; and in ensuring that women and women's issues are fully integrated into the mainstream of society and all its institutions?

This is hard work, but the four world conferences on women that have been held since 1975 have paved the way. At Beijing governments recognized women's issues as legitimate concerns of nations. And, as the Platform for Action makes clear, the world now recognizes that all its issues have an impact, and are of concern, to women.

Twenty years of organizing, advocating, gathering and analyzing data, discussing and working together came to fruition in Beijing. Victims of oppression have become activists for

change. Beneficiaries of programs are becoming constituents of political society. Women have become a political force and they are claiming the public arena.

As it is for the United Nations, so it is for the United States. My country is very serious about implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and about fulfilling its particular commitments announced at Beijing. For the first time, the United States has created a mechanism especially for implementation and follow-up.

On the eve of the Fourth World Conference, President Clinton announced the establishment of the "President's Interagency Council on Women" to, in the President's words, "make sure that all the effort and good ideas actually get implemented when we get back home."

We are proud to say that the Council is in operation, and that it operates out of the White House; that a member of the President's Cabinet, Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, who was a part of the leadership of our delegation to Beijing, chairs the Council. And we are especially happy to have the strong support of the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is honorary chair of the Council, just as she was of the U.S. delegation.

Time is short and the task before us great. The United States is determined to waste no time and the President's Council has begun the work of implementation now. It is our goal to institutionalize as much change as possible now so that in the future good policies and programs will be in place and not depend solely on the good will of individuals.

As we proceed with this work of implementation, the Council's members, all of whom are high level representatives of all government agencies, are overseeing implementation for their individual agencies. All have set themselves the task of analyzing the Platform, asking "How does our agency measure up?" and "What initiatives can we develop in the spirit of the Platform to further women's progress through the mission, policies and programs of our agency?"

Fortunately we are not starting from ground zero. In many respects our laws and practices already meet the standards set forth in the Platform for Action. For all of our failings and shortcomings, we are the world's oldest continuing democracy, and ours is a society where government responds to the demands of the people, and where people have a long tradition of organizing themselves for advocacy and action. It is our tradition, and, to a large extent, our identity.

Women have been organizing in the United States since the early days of the republic -- for education, against slavery, for the right to vote, against child labor, for better working conditions.

All of these efforts have borne results -- in our legislation at the national, state, tribal and local levels, in our interpretation and extension of existing Constitutional rights, in our institutions and organizations, both public and private.

But failings, shortcomings and discrimination persist. Life

*The U S G has a firm policy
of non-discrimination*

can and should be better for women in our country, especially those groups, who because of additional factors such as age, race, ethnicity, indigenous status, religion, culture, disability, sexual orientation, poverty, or other status, face additional forms of discrimination to those that all women share. 

As we now work to implement the Platform, we continue to look to those women, whom we now call NGOs, to help us define the problems and find solutions, and hold their government accountable. We will work in partnership and take joint responsibility for the work of implementation.

As many of you will remember, the United States took the position at the Fourth World Conference, and at the preparatory conferences, that implementation must be done within existing resources, through refocusing, reordering priorities, thinking creatively. This is hard to do.

Nevertheless, we have no choice in the United States at this time but to take our own advice. This is not a time when the U.S. can or will allocate new and additional resources to implement the Platform in our country. We are proceeding with implementation at a time when many federal agencies are undergoing severe budget reductions and reductions of personnel. We do not celebrate this, but neither will we use it as an excuse to do nothing.

We cannot wait for an ideal set of circumstances. We are moving ahead and are determined that this difficult situation will bring out the best in us.

EXAMPLES: GSA and recycling/childcare; violence; etc. I WILL SUPPLY THESE LATER TODAY

These are sometimes small, but always significant steps. Not surprisingly, however, we are learning, or perhaps confirming what we knew in our hearts, that the hardest work of all is not that of taking new initiatives. Integrating women, and issues of concern to them, into the mainstream of society and its institutions can be maddeningly subtle work.

Likewise the application of a gender perspective to the identification, analysis and solution of problems. Adopting a gender perspective means changing much more than policies and programs as they appear on paper. It cannot be done by fiat, although it certainly helps to have the support and direction come from the highest level. It means changing the way we think, changing our world view, internalizing and assimilating this perspective by individual men and women and into the body politic so that never again will women be marginalized and their issues put on the agenda as an afterthought, something to be considered only if time and resources allow.

As one NGO said of her own organization's efforts to implement the Platform and integrate a gender perspective into the issues, "As we now get specific, we find we're meeting resistance." Abstract concepts are just so many lofty ideals. However, as they become concrete, reality sinks in.

A word about CEDAW. Ratification remains a priority for the Administration. However it cannot be done without the advice and consent of the Senate, and we are still waiting for the Senate to act. Although we are not yet a state party to CEDAW, we look

forward to making a positive contribution as participants in the drafting session of the optional protocol during this session.

In the meantime NGOs in the United States, many of whom have worked for the past 10 years for CEDAW's adoption, have begun a massive campaign with two strategies. They seek to create widespread grassroots support for CEDAW through public education, showing Americans, especially American women, in concrete terms why CEDAW is important for the U.S. not only diplomatically but to American women at home. They intend also to work for governmental and institutional support, urging universities, other institutions, and state and municipal legislatures to "adopt" or endorse CEDAW.

Whether it is ratification of CEDAW, action on a particular issue or the entire Platform, one phenomenon continues to astound us. There have been hundreds, and probably thousands of post-Beijing events across the United States. This is not a government effort but a community and grassroots effort. "Bringing Beijing Home," and "Beijing and Beyond" have become commonplace phrases in cities and towns from Tacoma, Washington to Atlanta, Georgia, from San Antonio, Texas to Poughkeepsie, New York. With the Platform as its model, a coalition of women's groups in Pittsburgh, Pa. is at work on the "Pittsburgh Plan of Action." And in Louisville, Kentucky a group of middle school students put on a post-Beijing event for 300 young people, and the boys in the group led the workshop on the image of women in the media.

In short, we realize that something profound happened in Beijing and it inspired not only the women who attended but those at home also. There is an energy, and a desire to get involved and get to work on these issues that renews our hope and confidence in the future. We think the United States is not alone in this. And that is why we are so hopeful about this meeting of CSW and the future of the Commission. We look forward to joining in the dialogue on the three agenda items of poverty, women and the media and child and dependent care.

How can the Commission on the Status of Women help the United Nations and individual states to implement the Platform for Action? How can it ensure that its most difficult task is accomplished -- the integration of women into the mainstream of society? We must approach this effort in a spirit of goodwill and cooperation. This is not time to focus on what is wrong, where blame should be placed. The right direction is towards the future. That is where we fix our gaze as we work together to decide how we can do things better to move humanity towards our goal of equality, development and peace.

drafted:President's Interagency Council on Women(PICW):KHendrix
456-7352/FAX456-7357

clearances:TLoar:PICW

LTWhelan:IO/FO

SKotok:IO/ESA

DLeis:IO/SB

SBremner:H

JMeer:G (for GHillman)

THushek:DRL

EBloom:L/UNA

DStewart:L/HRR

KMcGuire:IO/ESA

MLKimble:IO/FOR

Chapter IV

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

45. In each critical area of concern, the problem is diagnosed and strategic objectives are proposed with concrete actions to be taken by various actors in order to achieve those objectives. The strategic objectives are derived from the critical areas of concern and specific actions to be taken to achieve them cut across the boundaries of equality, development and peace - the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women - and reflect their interdependence. The objectives and actions are interlinked, of high priority and mutually reinforcing. The Platform for Action is intended to improve the situation of all women, without exception, who often face similar barriers, while special attention should be given to groups that are the most disadvantaged.

46. The Platform for Action recognizes that women face barriers to full equality and advancement because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion or disability, because they are indigenous women or because of other status. Many women encounter specific obstacles related to their family status, particularly as single parents; and to their socio-economic status, including their living conditions in rural, isolated or impoverished areas. Additional barriers also exist for refugee women, other displaced women, including internally displaced women as well as for immigrant women and migrant women, including women migrant workers. Many women are also particularly affected by environmental disasters, serious and infectious diseases and various forms of violence against women.

A. Women and poverty

47. More than 1 billion people in the world today, the great majority of whom are women, live in unacceptable conditions of poverty, mostly in the developing countries. Poverty has various causes, including structural ones. Poverty is a complex, multidimensional problem, with origins in both the national and international domains. The globalization of the world's economy and the deepening interdependence among nations present challenges and opportunities for sustained economic growth and development, as well as risks and uncertainties for the future of the world economy. The uncertain global economic climate has been accompanied by economic restructuring as well as, in a certain number of countries, persistent, unmanageable levels of external debt and structural adjustment programmes. In addition, all types of conflict, displacement of people and environmental degradation have undermined the capacity of Governments to meet the basic needs of their populations. Transformations in the world economy are profoundly changing the parameters of social development in all countries. One significant trend has been the increased poverty of women, the extent of which varies from region to region. The gender disparities in economic power-sharing are also an important contributing factor to the poverty of women. Migration and consequent changes in family structures have placed additional burdens on women, especially those who provide for several dependants. Macroeconomic policies need rethinking and reformulation to address such trends. These policies focus almost exclusively on the formal sector. They also tend to impede the initiatives of women and fail to consider the differential impact on women and men. The application of gender analysis to a wide range of policies and programmes is therefore critical to poverty reduction strategies. In order to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development,

Sexual Orientation not related

women and men must participate fully and equally in the formulation of macroeconomic and social policies and strategies for the eradication of poverty. The eradication of poverty cannot be accomplished through anti-poverty programmes alone but will require democratic participation and changes in economic structures in order to ensure access for all women to resources, opportunities and public services. Poverty has various manifestations, including lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure a sustainable livelihood; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increasing morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments; and social discrimination and exclusion. It is also characterized by lack of participation in decision-making and in civil, social and cultural life. It occurs in all countries - as mass poverty in many developing countries and as pockets of poverty amidst wealth in developed countries. Poverty may be caused by an economic recession that results in loss of livelihood or by disaster or conflict. There is also the poverty of low-wage workers and the utter destitution of people who fall outside family support systems, social institutions and safety nets.

48. In the past decade the number of women living in poverty has increased disproportionately to the number of men, particularly in the developing countries. The feminization of poverty has also recently become a significant problem in the countries with economies in transition as a short-term consequence of the process of political, economic and social transformation. In addition to economic factors, the rigidity of socially ascribed gender roles and women's limited access to power, education, training and productive resources as well as other emerging factors that may lead to insecurity for families are also responsible. The failure to adequately mainstream a gender perspective in all economic analysis and planning and to address the structural causes of poverty is also a contributing factor.

49. Women contribute to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace. The empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty.

50. While poverty affects households as a whole, because of the gender division of labour and responsibilities for household welfare, women bear a disproportionate burden, attempting to manage household consumption and production under conditions of increasing scarcity. Poverty is particularly acute for women living in rural households.

51. Women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources, including credit, land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to education and support services and their minimal participation in the decision-making process. Poverty can also force women into situations in which they are vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

52. In too many countries, social welfare systems do not take sufficient account of the specific conditions of women living in poverty, and there is a tendency to scale back the services provided by such systems. The risk of falling into poverty is greater for women than for men, particularly in old age, where social security systems are based on the principle of continuous remunerated employment. In some cases, women do not fulfil this requirement because of interruptions in their work, due to the unbalanced distribution of

Chapter IV

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

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context, the United States notes as well that many of the most critical actions to be taken in accordance with the Platform do not require additional funds from the international community, and can be accomplished through actions at the national and local level.

USG Interpretive Statement

Paragraph 48, Chapter IV (Strategic Objectives)

* The United States Government has a firm policy of non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and considers that the omission of this reference in Paragraph 48 and elsewhere in the Platform for Action in no way justifies such discrimination in any country.

USG Interpretive Statement

Paragraph 207(b), (e) and (f), Chapter IV, Section H, (Institutional Mechanisms)

With respect to paragraphs 207(b), (e), and (f) in Chapter H, the United States will seek to develop more comprehensive knowledge as well as seek to improve data collection on the issue of unwaged work, to the extent that funds are available. We plan to consult, in a cooperative manner, with appropriate research and documentation organizations.

USG Interpretive Statement

Paragraph 247, Chapter VI, Section K (Environment)

The United States would like to underscore that it interprets the sentence beginning "Hurricanes . . ." in Paragraph 247 to mean that these listed occurrences can cause environmental degradation in certain circumstances but not in others. The United States also remains concerned about the reference to "nuclear testing" in this paragraph, which appears not to have been reviewed fully in the working group.

II. Statements Previously Made for the Record by the USG in
Main Committee on September 12, 13 and 14

USG Interpretive Statement

Paragraph 19, Chapter II (Global Framework)

The United States understands that the phrase "radical transformation of the relationship between men and women" in paragraph 19 is a reference to the realization of full equality between women and men. It is in that context that the United States accepts this paragraph.

USG Interpretive Statement

Paragraph 27, Chapter II (Global Framework)

Paragraph 27 of the Platform recognizes the importance that non-governmental organizations play and the importance of working with them for progress. The United States recognizes the

Welcoming Remarks for International Women's Day
AS DELIVERED by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, March 8, 1996

Distinguished Members of Congress, ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen guests: I am glad to welcome you this morning. On this International Women's Day, we commemorate the remarkable achievements of women in our government and we celebrate the progress over the past year for women's rights and political participation. We must seize the opportunity before us to put women's issues at the top of the agenda in America -- and the world. And it is particularly good to have Gerry Ferraro, who has taken such a leading role in promoting human rights, with us today.

Where women's rights are not protected, human rights are not secure. Where women are not educated about their health, their families suffer along with them. Where women play no role in protecting the environment, it does not get protected. But where women enjoy equal rights and equal protection, all society progresses. That is why this Administration is committed to bringing women's issues into the mainstream of American diplomacy.

Nowhere is our commitment reflected more clearly than in the Department's twentieth annual human rights reports released this week. You will find not just a section on women, but documentation throughout the reports on abuses from workplace discrimination to physical mutilation. The reports show that the harm done to society is very great when women's rights are neglected in peace or trampled in war.

Our first priority in the Department and around the world must be our work for peace. As much as the soldier with a gun, the face of war

is the child born in a refugee camp, the rape victim and the women whose sons and husbands have disappeared -- and there are all too many of those.

In 1996, President Clinton and I have rededicated ourselves to the task of seeking peace with justice. In Bosnia, we not only achieved the end of war but an unprecedented role for the International War Crimes Tribunal that is seeking justice for victims of deliberate policies of murder and rape. In Haiti, our victory in the fight for democracy is allowing Haiti's women and men to turn to the fight against poverty, and thus to improve the rights of women and children.

As we promote peace, we work with women like Sonja Licht. Her courageous advocacy of human rights and defense of NGOs in Belgrade has come to symbolize hope for a more open society in Serbia. We also stand with the Catholics and Protestants who overcame their losses in the bloody conflict in Northern Ireland to found Women Together, a great organization which is doing so much to renew the peace process there.

The world saw these faces and heard these voices at the Beijing Conference on Women. The Beijing Conference threw out a challenge to the forces of poverty, ignorance and intolerance. The First Lady summed up that challenge simply: "women's rights are human rights, and human rights are women's rights." Her forceful presence, and the hard work of many of you here today, as well as the outstanding work of our UN ambassador Madeleine Albright, helped set a forward-looking agenda for us to take from Beijing. All Americans should be proud of what our

delegation accomplished -- committing the nations of the world to take concrete steps to improve women's health and education and increase women's participation in the lives of their societies.

The United States must lead the way in fulfilling the Beijing Platform for Action. This year we will promote the political and legal rights of women -- and we should ratify the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). We will also emphasize programs like USAID's Girls' and Women's Education Initiative, aimed at increasing the number of girls who complete primary school in countries from India to Indonesia, from Guinea to Guatemala.

Our Women in Africa initiative is a good example of how we can integrate these priorities into our foreign policy. Each of our embassies in Africa is monitoring the follow-up to the Beijing Conference. African women made a great contribution at Beijing, and so it is appropriate that our embassies are working with African women to make the biggest difference with our limited resources -- with projects as traditional as improving access to family planning or as cutting-edge as improving NGO access to computers and communications. These projects have a real possibility to lift the lives of Africans and advance key objectives of American diplomacy.

The Beijing priorities reaffirm the conclusions of the Cairo Conference on Population and Development. We are focusing on women's education and empowerment as we move forward to implement the Cairo commitments. But our leadership to ensure access to safe, voluntary

family planning services for millions of women and men is under attack by many in Congress. I am deeply indebted to those on the platform who have so strongly defended our programs and requests for resources to carry them out. I thank them for their efforts.

On my trip to Latin America last week, I had the pleasure of meeting some outstanding women and men who are providing free legal services to over 700,000 people in Chile. I was struck by the leadership and support of Chile's Minister of Justice, Mrs. Soledad Alvear. Across South America, the women who marched to restore democracy are founding community centers and development banks. Their vision of justice for all is a reminder that women's participation and determination are indispensable.

I am proud to say that this Administration has made good strides in putting women in positions of power and prominence in American diplomacy -- not enough, but many in high positions doing great work. And let me acknowledge the efforts and excellence of the many here who give American diplomacy the face of a woman every day. Thank you.

We are very fortunate to be joined today by several members of Congress, women whose work has furthered the cause of women's equality and women's rights and kept these issues before Congress and before the American people.

AMBASSADOR GERALDINE FERRARO
HEAD OF U.S. DELEGATION
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, MARCH 8, 1996

THANK YOU SO MUCH, TIM, FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION. IT IS A GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO BE HERE TODAY ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH SO MANY FRIENDS AND FORMER COLLEAGUES, AND TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO SPEAK WITH YOU ABOUT WOMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ESSENTIAL ROLE THEY BOTH PLAY IN OUR EFFORTS TO FASHION A NEW AND BETTER WORLD FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW US.

BEFORE I BEGIN, HOWEVER, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN SOME OF MY FAVORITE PEOPLE TO HONOR TODAY, MR. SECRETARY. I AM PLEASED, BUT NOT SURPRISED, BECAUSE EACH OF THEM HAS BEEN AT THE THE FOREFRONT OF THE STRUGGLE TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN, EACH OF THEM FOUGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN, THE POOR, THE DISABLED AND THE DISENFRANCHISED AT HOME BEFORE COMING TO WASHINGTON. SO MOVING INTO THE ARENA OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN A NATURAL PROGRESSION FOR THEM.

THESE ARE WOMEN WHO ARE NOT AFRAID TO STAND UP FOR THE CAUSES THEY BELIEVE IN. INDEED, THE DESIRE TO FIGHT FOR SUCH BELIEFS WAS WHY THEY RAN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

BUT MANY RUN AND ONLY A FEW WIN. WHAT WE SEE HERE ARE WOMEN WHO HAVE HELPED MAKE HISTORY, EACH IN HER OWN WAY, WOMEN WHO OVERCAME THE OBSTACLES OTHERS SO OFTEN PUT IN THEIR PATH. TOGETHER, THEY PROVE THAT IT NOT JUST POSSIBLE FOR WOMEN OF PRINCIPLE TO LEAD, BUT THAT THE PUBLIC WILL SUPPORT THEM WHEN THEY DO.

THIS, THEN, IS CHANGE. AND CHANGE IS WHAT THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS ACHIEVED, BOTH WITH REGARD TO WOMEN AND TO HUMAN RIGHTS. YOU KNOW AND I KNOW THAT THIS HAS NOT BEEN EASY. BUT CHANGE IS TAKING PLACE. THERE ARE MORE WOMEN AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF OUR GOVERNMENT NOW THAN EVER BEFORE, DEMONSTRATING THEIR COMPETENCE, DAY IN, DAY OUT, PROVING THEIR VALUE TO THE COUNTRY AND TO THE WORLD -- NO NONSENSE WOMEN LIKE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU SAW HER ON TELEVISION THE OTHER DAY, WHEN THE CUBANS WERE TRYING TO EXPLAIN HOW SHOOTING DOWN UNARMED PLANES IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS WAS SOMEHOW AN ACT OF COURAGE. MADELEINE LET THE WORLD KNOW EXACTLY WHAT SHE THOUGHT OF THEIR SO-CALLED MACHISMO, AND SHE CALLED IT WHAT IT WAS IN PLAIN ENGLISH, AS WELL AS IN SPANISH. YES, MADELEINE HAS BEEN A MOST ARTICULATE SPOKESPERSON FOR THIS COUNTRY NO MATTER WHAT THE ISSUE.

AND, OF COURSE, THERE'S DONNA SHALALA, JANET RENO AND HAZEL O'LEARY, HANDLING COMPLEX CABINET PORTFOLIOS WITH SKILL AND DETERMINATION. AND HERE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT: ROBIN RAPHEL IS DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB WITH INDIA AND PAKISTAN; TONY VERSTANDIG IS MAKING REAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS; MELINDA

KIMBLE PROVED HERSELF A LEADER AT THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE; AND NANCY ELY-RAPHEL MADE A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE VIENNA CONFERENCE AND MORE RECENTLY THE DAYTON ACCORDS. BOTH LYNN DAVIS AND JOAN SPERO ARE AMONG THE SECRETARY'S MOST TRUSTED ADVISORS, WHILE PHYLLIS OAKLEY HAS BEEN A PILLAR OF STRENGTH ON REFUGEE ISSUES, AND PRU BUSHNELL HAS SHOWN ENORMOUS LEADERSHIP ON AFRICAN ISSUES.

THERE ARE MANY MORE OF YOU WHO ALSO DESERVE TO BE RECOGNIZED AS WELL, WOMEN WHO STAND IN THE TRENCHES OF GOVERNMENT AND DO BATTLE EVERY DAY FOR THE THINGS WE BELIEVE IN. BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE JUST A HANDFUL OF EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN HERE IN GOVERNMENT ANY MORE; WE'VE GOT THOUSANDS OF THEM. IN EVERY OFFICE IN EVERY DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY IN THIS GOVERNMENT, THERE ARE WOMEN MAKING BELIEVERS OF THOSE WHO DOUBTED THEM BEFORE. THIS IS CHANGE.

IT'S A MEASURE OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENT THAT THIS CHANGE IS, I BELIEVE, IRREVERSIBLE.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT I THINK THE BATTLE TO ENSURE WOMEN'S RIGHTS IS OVER IN THIS COUNTRY, THAT WOMEN HAVE ACHIEVED EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE AND IN THEIR PAYCHECKS. THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE HAVE PUT AN END TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT, THAT WE ARE FREE TO WALK OUR STREETS AT NIGHT, OR THAT THE FEAR OF VIOLENCE NO LONGER HAUNTS THE DAILY LIVES OF MILLIONS. NOR DOES IT MEAN THAT THOSE WHO WOULD TURN US AGAINST EACH OTHER, PITTING THOSE WHO STAY AT HOME TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN AGAINST THOSE WHO GO TO WORK, HAVE SUDDENLY SEEN THE LIGHT. IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE GLASS CEILING IS SHATTERED OR THAT EVERY DEADBEAT DAD IS PAYING FOR HIS CHILDREN NOW. IT DOESN'T EVEN MEAN THAT WE, AS A SOCIETY, UNDERSTAND WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A WOMAN TODAY, WHAT IT MEANS TO WALK A TIGHTROPE BETWEEN FAMILY AND THE WORK PLACE, AT A TIME WHEN SO MUCH IS CHANGING AND YET SO LITTLE.

NO, BUT I'M OPTIMISTIC BECAUSE THERE IS A COURSE TO HISTORY. HOW MANY WOMEN WORKED HERE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT A GENERATION AGO -- NOT JUST IN SECRETARIAL POSITIONS -- WOMEN HAVE ALWAYS FILLED THOSE SPOTS -- BUT AS ANALYSTS, OFFICE DIRECTORS, DESK OFFICERS? THERE WAS ELEANOR DULLES, A SPECIALIST IN GERMAN AFFAIRS -- WHOSE BROTHER JUST HAPPENED TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE -- AND WHO ELSE? NOT MANY. LOOK AT YOUR NUMBERS NOW. WHO AMONG YOU THINKS WE'RE EVER GOING BACK?

I'M OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE BECAUSE I AM CONVINCED THAT THE DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY WHICH WE HAVE OPENED WILL NEVER AGAIN BE CLOSED. THE GAINS WE HAVE ACHIEVED WILL BE BUILT ON -- NOT ONLY IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BUT IN CONGRESS AND IN THE STATE LEGISLATURES, ON WALL STREET AND IN SILICONE VALLEY, IN THE BOARDROOMS, THE NEWSROOMS AND THE CLASSROOMS OF OUR GREAT UNIVERSITIES, IN THE SCIENCE LABS AND IN SPACE AND WHEREVER THE NEXT CHAPTERS OF OUR HISTORY ARE BEING WRITTEN.

IT WILL BE TOUGH. EVERY STEP OF THE WAY WILL BE CONTESTED. POWER

IS ALWAYS CONTESTED.

BUT I'M OPTIMISTIC FOR ANOTHER REASON. IN 1984, WHEN I WAS RUNNING FOR VICE PRESIDENT, THE CAMPAIGN HAD ME SHY AWAY FROM EMPHASIZING WOMEN'S ISSUES. I DIDN'T HAVE TO PROVE TO ANYONE WHERE I STOOD ON EQUITY FOR WOMEN. I HAD TO CONVINCE "THE GUYS" THAT I HAD THE COURAGE AND THE INTELLIGENCE TO RUN THE COUNTRY. BUT IT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE. HOW CAN A WOMAN NOT ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF WOMEN? AND SO IN LATE OCTOBER, RIGHT BEFORE THE ELECTION, I GAVE MY ONE AND ONLY WOMEN'S SPEECH. IT ADDRESSED EVERY ISSUE WE CARE ABOUT AND HAVE FOUGHT FOR OVER THE LAST DOZEN YEARS. I WAS CONCERNED THAT SOMEHOW THE MESSAGE WOULD BE LOST IF WE DIDN'T BRING IN THE OTHER HALF OF THE POPULATION, AND SO I SAID: "I AM NOT ONLY SPEAKING TO WOMEN HERE TONIGHT. EVERY MAN IS DIMINISHED WHEN HIS DAUGHTER IS DENIED A FAIR CHANCE; EVERY SON IS A VICTIM WHEN HIS MOTHER IS DENIED FAIR PAY."

THOSE ARE THE SAME POINTS WE MAKE WHEN WE DISCUSS WOMEN'S RIGHTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS AS THE FIRST LADY DID SO ELOQUENTLY IN BEIJING. ALLOWING WOMEN FULL PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY BENEFITS NOT JUST THEM, BUT SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.

MANY OF YOU PARTICIPATED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER TO THE EFFORT WHICH MADE THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE SUCH A SUCCESS. I WAS PRIVILEGED TO BE PART OF THE DELEGATION. IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING AND EXHILARATING EVENTS I'VE EVER ATTENDED. THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION WE ADOPTED COMMITS THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO HALTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, PROTECTING THEIR RIGHTS TO FREE SPEECH, HEALTH AND EDUCATION, AND ESTABLISHING A HIGHER STANDARD OF RESPECT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS THAN EVER BEFORE IN HISTORY.

THIS, IN ITSELF, IS QUITE AN ACHIEVEMENT. BUT I DON'T THINK THAT WE WILL HAVE DONE OUR JOB UNTIL THE STANDARD WE SET IS MET -- AND NOT JUST IN AMERICA, BUT EVERYWHERE. AND THAT WILL TAKE A LOT OF WORK ON THE PART OF ALL OF US WHO CARE ABOUT WOMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS. FOR WE ALL KNOW HOW EASY IT IS FOR SOME NATIONS TO AGREE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ONE MOMENT THEN FORGET THEM ENTIRELY THE NEXT. SO WILL IT BE WITH THE BEIJING PLATFORM IF YOU AND I RELAX OR FOCUS TOO NARROWLY ON OURSELVES.

IT IS THE SPECIAL FATE OF AMERICA TO BE THE PARTICULAR CHAMPION OF HUMAN LIBERTY. IT IS NOT ALWAYS AN EASY BURDEN TO LIVE WITH. WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, THE HOPES OF MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE WORLD REST ON OUR SHOULDERS. AND WE KNOW WHY: WHEN THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS PROVEN ITSELF INCAPABLE OR UNWILLING TO LEAD, THE UNITED STATES HAS ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE.

IT TOOK TWO GENERATIONS OF SACRIFICE TO WIN THE COLD WAR AND BRING THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY AND FREEDOM TO A HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE. AND NOW, IN BOSNIA, IN HAITI AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE EYES OF THE VICTIMS ARE TURNED TO WASHINGTON AGAIN. THERE ARE JOBS WHICH ONLY WE CAN DO. NOT THAT WE CAN DO THEM ALL, OR THAT WE CAN ALWAYS

DO THEM BY OURSELVES. BUT THE FACT IS, WE ARE DIFFERENT; WE ARE A CATALYST. WHEN WE ACT, OTHERS FOLLOW.

SO IT IS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS. THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN LEADING FOR OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS. THAT'S AS IT SHOULD BE. LEADERSHIP IN HUMAN RIGHTS IS A BURDEN WE EMBRACE IN THIS BUILDING, IN THIS ADMINISTRATION, AND IN HUNDREDS OF PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

THAT'S WHY I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO HEADING BACK TO GENEVA NEXT WEEK FOR THE MEETING OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. THERE WILL BE A LOT ON OUR PLATE THERE -- CHINA, BOSNIA, CUBA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT DESPITE ALL THAT, YOU CAN BE SURE THAT NO DELEGATION IS GOING TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN THE DEFENSE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS THAN WE WILL.

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNIVERSAL, BUT THEY'RE ALSO AMERICAN THROUGH AND THROUGH. THEY'RE AS OLD AS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, AS NEW AS THIS WEEK'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS. DESPITE OUR LAPSES, OUR INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES ARE GROUNDED IN A GENUINE BELIEF THAT THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS WE CHERISH BELONG TO EVERYONE. AND THAT GIVES US A STRENGTH MOST OTHER NATIONS LACK.

THAT IS WHY I THINK THAT ULTIMATELY OUR VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WILL PREVAIL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ONE DAY THE STANDARD WE FIRST SET IN OUR OWN INSTITUTIONS AND THEN HELPED ESTABLISH IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA WILL BECOME THE ONE BY WHICH ALL COUNTRIES JUDGE THEMSELVES.

OUR JOB, THEN, IS TO TAKE THAT VOICE AND AMPLIFY IT, TO USE THE POWER OF OUR INSTITUTIONS AND THE STRENGTH OF OUR PEOPLE, PEOPLE LIKE YOU TO HOLD THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD -- OUR OWN INCLUDED -- ACCOUNTABLE TO THE STANDARDS WE HAVE SET FOR OURSELVES SO MANY TIMES -- WHETHER IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS, THE U.N. CHARTER OR THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS -- OR MORE RECENTLY IN THE VIENNA DECLARATION, THE BEIJING PLATFORM AND OUR 1996 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS.

OF COURSE, SOME GOVERNMENTS WON'T BE DISSEMINATING OUR REPORTS THIS WEEK. THEY'LL BE DOING THEIR BEST TO SILENCE THEM. THEY MAY SUCCEED IN THE SHORT TERM. THEY MAY JAM THE VOICE OF AMERICA. THEY MAY CENSOR THEIR NEWSPAPERS, LOCK THEIR DISSIDENTS IN DISTANT JAILS. THEY MAY OPPOSE US AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. THEY MAY BLUSTER AND RAGE AND OBFUSCATE. BUT TIME IS NO LONGER ON THEIR SIDE. EVENTUALLY, WITH MODERN TELECOMMUNICATIONS THE TRUTH WILL FIND ITS WAY TO EVEN THE MOST REMOTE OUTPOST OF INJUSTICE. THEY ARE GOING TO FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO KILL IDEAS WHICH JUST WON'T DIE, IDEAS LIKE FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND EQUALITY.

WE ONLY HAVE TO LOOK AT BOSNIA OR BAGHDAD, TO CUBA OR CHECHNYA OR THE DESPERATE REFUGEE CAMPS IN SUDAN, TANZANIA AND ZAIRE TO SEE HOW FAR WE HAVE TO GO. FOR IF WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS AND

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNIVERSAL -- AND ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD HAVE AGREED THEY ARE -- THERE MUST COME A TIME WHEN THE RESPECT FOR THESE RIGHTS BECOMES UNIVERSAL, TOO. THERE MUST COME A TIME WHEN WORDS BECOME DEEDS, NOT JUST IN AMERICA, BUT IN EVERY HUT AND EVERY HOME IN EVERY LAND.

YES, I THINK THAT TIME WILL COME. IT MAY NOT BE IN MY LIFETIME, BUT IT WILL COME. THERE WILL BE A TIME WHEN THE WOMEN OF THE WORLD WON'T NEED TO PETITION THE POWERFUL FOR PROTECTION, WHEN "POOR" AND "DEFENSELESS" WON'T BE NAMES WE GIVE TO HALF A BILLION WOMEN. THERE'LL BE A TIME WHEN GIRLS ARE NOT LEFT TO STARVE UPON A HILLSIDE BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT BORN BOYS; WHEN THEIR GENITALS ARE NOT MUTILATED TO PLEASE SOME CRUEL, OUTDATED CUSTOM; WHEN THEY ARE NOT VIOLATED IN THE NAME OF ETHNIC CLEANSING; WHEN GIRLS ARE NOT SOLD INTO PROSTITUTION OUT OF FINANCIAL DESPERATION; WHEN THEY ARE NOT BURNED BECAUSE THEIR DOWRIES ARE TOO SMALL OR THEIR HUSBANDS DIED BEFORE THEM.

THERE WILL BE A TIME WHEN WOMEN WILL NOT BE EITHER THE VICTIMS OR THE CAUSE OF OVERPOPULATION; WHEN THEY WILL NOT BEAR EIGHT CHILDREN IN THE HOPE THAT THREE MAY LIVE; WHEN THEY ARE NOT FORCED INTO EARLY MARRIAGE; WHEN THEY WILL NOT LACK THE EDUCATION THEY NEED TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS.

THERE WILL BE A TIME WHEN REFUGEE WOMEN WILL NOT SELL THEMSELVES FOR FOOD; WHEN THEY WILL NOT BE RAPED BY MARAUDING SOLDIERS; WHEN THEY WILL NOT BE TERRORIZED BECAUSE THEY COME FROM THE WRONG GROUP OR THE WRONG CITY OR BECAUSE THEY CHOSE THE WRONG TIME TO GATHER FIREWOOD TO COOK THE FAMILY MEAL.

YES, THERE WILL BE A TIME FOR ALL OF THAT. THERE'LL BE A TIME WHEN THE WOMEN OF AMERICA CAN WALK THE STREETS OF OUR CITIES AND NOT KNOW FEAR. THERE'LL BE A TIME WHEN THE LIFE OF A GHETTO GIRL WILL MEAN AS MUCH AS ONE IN THE WEALTHY SUBURBS; WHEN COMPARABLE WORK WILL MEAN COMPARABLE PAY; AND WHEN WE CAN LOOK OUT ACROSS ANY MEETING ROOM IN ANY COUNTY OF THIS COUNTRY AND SEE AS MANY WOMEN THERE AS MEN.

BUT THAT IS SOME TIME OFF. UNTIL THEN, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WILL REMAIN A THREAD THAT KNITS THE WORLD'S RICH AND POOR TOGETHER. NO NATION IS IMMUNE. THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM OF THE DEVELOPED OR DEVELOPING WORLD. IT IS NOT AFRICAN OR ASIAN OR AMERICAN ALONE. IT IS UNIVERSAL. IT IS OUR PROBLEM; IT IS EVERY NATION'S PROBLEM, AND SO IT WILL REMAIN UNTIL WOMEN TAKE THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE ALONGSIDE MEN, IN ALL STRATA AND AT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY. FOR VIOLENCE IS A REFLECTION OF SECOND-CLASS STATUS.

AND SO AS I LOOK AROUND ME HERE AND SEE SO MANY EXAMPLES OF WHAT THIS COUNTRY CAN PRODUCE WHEN IT NURTURES ITS GIRLS AS WELL AS BOYS, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL PRIDE THAT WE WOMEN HAVE BEGUN TO FORCE HISTORY TO MARCH FORWARD. BUT TIME HAS CAUGHT US IN MID-STEP. OUR WORK, THE WORK OF EVERYBODY HERE TODAY -- MEN AND WOMEN -- IS BUT

HALF-DONE.

AND YET I CANNOT THINK OF A MORE EXCITING TIME TO BE ALIVE. THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO AND SO MANY TALENTED PEOPLE LIKE YOU TO DO IT. WOMEN, NOT JUST HERE IN AMERICA, BUT EVERYWHERE, ARE ON THE MOVE, BRUSHING ASIDE THE OBSTACLES, DEFENDING OUR INTERESTS, OUR FAMILIES AND OUR VALUES. WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME IN COMING, BUT I CAN FEEL THE SWEEP OF HISTORY NOW. IT'S IN THIS ROOM AND IN THIS COUNTRY. AND IT WON'T STOP HERE. ONE DAY THE PULSE OF FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY WILL BEAT IN EVERY WOMAN'S HEART, NOT JUST IN AMERICA, AND NOT JUST ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, BUT IN EVERY VILLAGE AND IN EVERY NATION OF THE WORLD EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR. IT MAY NOT HAPPEN SOON, BUT I KNOW THAT WITH ALL OF US WORKING TOGETHER, ITS TIME IS SURE TO COME.

THANK YOU.

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a sub-agency of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). ECOSOC and CSW has 45 members which are elected by the full ECOSOC on the following basis: 13 from African states; 11 from Asian states; 9 from Latin American and Caribbean states; 8 from Western European and other states (WEOG); and 4 from Eastern European states. The term of office is three years. The U.S. was off the CSW for 1994, but was re-elected at the summer 1995 ECOSOC. Therefore, on January 1, 1996, the U.S. resumes its seat on the CSW.

The responsibilities of the U.S. representatives to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women are to:

- o Attend the two week meeting of the Commission at the UN in New York (March 11-22)
- o Represent the US at this meeting (with appropriate staff support from the State Department and the US Mission to the UN)
- o Attend special meetings and ad hoc sessions throughout the year (none are scheduled at this point)
- o Attend the General Assembly in the fall during the two or three days when women's issues are ~~discussed~~ *discussed*
- o Meet with American non-government organization representatives as feasible who follow the international and development and other UN issues.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. bio	re: Linda Tarr-Whelan [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	02/01/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20056

FOLDER TITLE:

UN- CSW [United Nations - Commission on the Status of Women]

2013-0534-S

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RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

Linda Tarr-Whelan

Linda Tarr-Whelan has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Policy Alternatives since 1986. CPA is a 20-year-old non-partisan progressive public policy center which connects innovative people and ideas across the fifty states to build a new economy that is inclusive, sustainable and just.

Ms. Tarr-Whelan has had 25 years of public policy experience as an advocate and government official in the areas of health care, employment, economic development, education and women's issues. She has served as deputy assistant to the President for Women's Concerns in the Carter White House, director of government relations for the National Education Association, administrative director of the New York State Department of Labor, and director of program development for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

She has edited: A Women's Economic Justice Agenda: Ideas for the States (and an earlier version, The Women's Rights Agenda for the States); and America's States: Building a Progressive Future; has published over 25 articles in a variety of publications; has testified frequently before Congress and state legislatures; and speaks on public policy issues -- and has special expertise on women and the economy.

Ms. Tarr-Whelan is a founder of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the Center for Women in Government. She serves as president of the State Issues Forum, treasurer of Voters for Choice and currently serves on the board of directors of the Advocacy Institute, Independent Sector, National Commission on Working Women, the Benton Foundation, the National Conference of State Legislatures Foundation for State Legislatures and other non-governmental organizations. As a public member of the US Delegation to the United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, she has participated in the UN Preparatory Committees in 1994 and 1995 and in the Vienna Regional Meeting in 1994. Ms. Tarr-Whelan has just been awarded with the Women Executives in State Government "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" Award, which she will receive in February, 1996.

Ms. Tarr-Whelan was born in (b)(6) She is a nurse with a B.S.N. from the Johns Hopkins University and M.S. from the University of Maryland. She is married to Keith Tarr-Whelan, and has two children, Scott, 28 and Melinda, 26, and one newborn grandson, Gerhig Wade. 0001]

February 1, 1996

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you because we believe that the leadership the United States provides at the United Nations on the Commission on the Status of Women is important to American women and to those who, globally, look to the United States for the leadership our government provided at the 4th World Conference on Women.

The CSW plays a critical role in promoting women's political, economic and social rights at the United Nations. Post-Beijing, the CSW also has the potential to play an influential role within the UN urging the systemwide gender reform called for in the Platform for Action. Certainly, the CSW will continue to stimulate attention to the patterns of discrimination against women and to promoting women's rights described in the Platform.

The person chosen to head the United States' delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women should represent the best of what America wants. We feel the following basic criteria are required:

- substantive knowledge of women's issues;
- demonstrated negotiating skills;
- experience with the United Nations;
- personal influence and confidence sufficient to command attention and form consensus; and
- access to and the trust of the NGO community.

These qualifications made a significant difference in the quality of our leadership in Beijing. We urge you to choose a woman to head the US delegation to the CSW to follow in the traditions of Madeleine Albright and Geraldine Ferraro.

In addition, the U.S. delegation should be backed by a strong strategic and advisory staff and assisted by the permanent participation of at least three NGO representatives. The Fourth World Conference on Women was shaped largely by NGO women. In this post-Beijing implementation period it will be essential to continue the vital link between government and NGOs in the work of the CSW.

International Center for Research on Women

1717 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Suite 302 ■ Washington, DC 20036 USA ■ Telephone: 202-797-0007 ■ Fax: 202-797-0020 ■ e-mail: icrw@igc.opc.org

Mr. President, we applaud your serious search for the right candidate for the job. We stand ready to assist you in this process and look forward to working with the head of delegation, once chosen.

We stand by you and your commitment to the advancement of women and to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Cordially,



**Jill Merrick
Director, Communications and Public Policy
International Center for Research on Women**

Lea Browning

Rosa Briceño

**Pat Rengel
Chief Legislative Council
Amnesty International/USA**

**Julianne Cartwright-Traylor
Human Rights Advocates, Inc.**

**Donna Shavlik
Director, Office of Women in Higher Education
The American Council on Education**

**Mahnaz Afkhami
Executive Director
Sisterhood is Global Institute**

Barbara R. Arnwine

**Nicole Ethait
Association for Women in Development**

**Vicki Ferguson
Gender Analysis and Development Consultant**

**Lauren Gilbert
Director, Women and International Law Program
Washington College of Law**

Mary P. Haney
Member of Board and Executive Committee of
U.S. Committee for UNIFEM

Jodi Jacobson
Co-Director
Health and Development Policy Project

Patricia Krommer
Board Member
International Education Development, Inc.

Marjorie Lightman
Acting Executive Director
International League for Human Rights

Surita Sondosham
Executive Director
Equality Now

E. Maxina Ankrah
Senior Advisor, Women's Initiative
Family Health International/AIDSCAP

Suzanne Kindervatter
Interaction/Committee for Advancement of Women

Robin Phillips
Director, Women's Human Rights
Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

JoAnn Lewis
Senior Vice President
Family Health International

Dorothy Thomas
Director, Women's Rights Project
Human Rights Watch

Joan Dunlop
President
International Women's Health Coalition

Janet Benshoof
President
Center for Reproductive Law and Policy

• MELANNE VERVEER •

You're talking
points for
tomorrow.

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2 pages
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Theresa

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Melanne

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(OFFICE/TEL #)

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2)

(NAME)

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(FAX # ONLY)

3)

(NAME)

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MV Talking Points for MKA Reception

- Reps to Comm
- Dips
- Press
- GM
6 300-8

Audience: dozens of delegation heads and Perm Reps (snore)
American NGOs (no idea how many since most are not here for the entire two week period.)
maybe some magazine folks
maybe some New York feminist glitterati

o The First Lady asked that I send along her best wishes to the representatives to the Commission on the Status of Women and to the representatives of non-governmental organizations attending this Commission meeting.. She continues to be committed to bringing Beijing to American women through her work as Honorary Chair of the President's Interagency Council on Women.

o The work you are all doing here this week and next is crucial to the follow-up work to Beijing that is going on all around the world.

o We are very fortunate that Linda Tarr-Whelan agreed to serve as our new Representative to the Commission. Americans are well-served by the experience she brings as an NGO and a member of our delegation to Beijing.

o US participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing was a great success - in large part due to the contribution of the thousands of American women and men who were determined that this Conference would identify solutions for each every challenge women and girls face and devise strategies to promote stronger families, communities and societies.

o As the President's Council implements the Platform for Action at the federal government level, its efforts have been enhanced by the continuing partnership with the nongovernment community. This partnership brought us to Beijing and will continue to move us along as we work to institutional changes to better the lives of American women and girls.

o The President's Council is hard at work, operating out of the White House. With the leadership of Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala and the expertise and energy of senior officials from all across the federal government, the Council is meeting the commitments Ambassador Albright announced at the Conference and developing new commitments to ensure that women get a fair shake when the US government develops its policies.

o We realize that something profound happened in Beijing and that it inspired not only the women and men who attended but those at home also. There is an energy and a desire to get involved, particularly among young women. We are hopeful that the work of the Commission will benefit from this renewed commitment and that we will soon be able to offer young girls around the world a future where equality, opportunity, and security enable them to do their best.



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FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages 6

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Dept./Agency	Phone # 212-415-4226
Fax # 456-6244	Fax # 212-415-4119

United Nations Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10017Tel. 212-415-4050
FAX 212-415-4053

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USUN PRESS RELEASE #30-(96)
MARCH 12, 1996

Opening Statement by Linda Tarr-Whelan, United States Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, at the United Nations, March 12, 1996

Thank you Madame Chair. The United States delegation congratulates you in your new role as chairperson of the Bureau and also congratulate the other members of the Bureau. We wish you all success and pledge our support.

This could not be a more critical session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The events of the past year have brought us to a turning point. We arrive here empowered by the great success of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the content of its Platform for Action; inspired by the breadth and depth of the NGO Forum and the force of the NGOs themselves; and in a spirit of renewal and dedication that the celebration of the United Nations 50th anniversary occasioned.

And we enter the new year with two new appointments at the United Nations that give us strong encouragement. The designation by the Secretary General of Rosario Green as coordinator of all women's issues in the UN system and the appointment of Angela King as director of the Division for the Advancement of Women come as good news. They are women of great ability and reputation. We place our confidence in them without reservation. We wish them every success and we stand ready to offer them our assistance.

We must take advantage of this moment and seize the momentum. We have reached consensus. Now is not the time to re-discuss those topics where our discussions and negotiations led us to this point. Now we have a different and difficult task. It is time for the members of the CSW to raise the questions and work together to find the answers that will enable the CSW to meet the goals of the Beijing Platform for the equality of women and girls in the next century.

What is our vision for the CSW? Specifically what is our vision for its role within the UN system; with governments in implementing the Platform?

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-2-

The United States strongly supports the agreements we reached at the Fourth World Conference and later in the General Assembly, that the Commission must have:

- o a clear mandate;
- o a central role in monitoring implementation of the Platform, although primary responsibility for implementation rests with governments themselves; and,
- o a catalytic role in implementation of the Platform for Action within the UN system;
- o a cooperative and coordinated working relationship with the related commissions of the Economic and Social Council that constitutes synergy;
- o and a catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities; and in ensuring that women and women's issues are fully integrated into the mainstream of society and all its institutions.

This is hard work, but the four world conferences on women that have been held since 1975 have paved the way. At Beijing governments recognized women's issues as legitimate concerns of nations. And, as the Platform for Action makes clear, the world now recognizes that all its issues have an impact, and are of concern, to women.

Twenty years of organizing, advocating, gathering and analyzing data, discussing and working together came to fruition in Beijing: women as equal partners and decision makers in the political and economic spheres; men as equal partners in family life transcended individual issues. No longer are women simply victims of oppression but activists for change. Beneficiaries of programs are instead becoming constituents of civil society. Women have become a political force and they are claiming their place in creating equality, development and peace.

As it is for the United Nations, so it is for the United States. My country is very serious about the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and about fulfilling our particular commitments announced at Beijing. For the first time, the United States has created a formal mechanism especially for implementation and follow-up.

On the eve of the Fourth World Conference, President Clinton announced the establishment of the "President's Interagency Council on Women" to, in the President's words, "make sure that all the effort and good ideas actually get implemented when we get back home."

-3-

We are proud to say that the Council is in operation, and that it operates out of the White House; that a member of the President's Cabinet, Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, who was a part of the leadership of our delegation to Beijing, chairs the Council. And we are especially happy to have the strong support of the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is honorary chair of the Council, just as she was of the U.S. delegation.

Time is short and the task before us great. The United States is determined to waste no time and the President's Council has begun the work of implementation now. It is our goal to institutionalize as much change as possible.

As we proceed with this work of implementation, the Council's members, all of whom are high level representatives of all government agencies and many of whom were delegates to Beijing, are overseeing implementation for their individual agencies.

Fortunately we are not starting from ground zero. In many respects our laws and practices already meet the standards set forth in the Platform for Action.

But failings, shortcomings and discrimination persist. Poverty is a reality for too many. Violence against women continues at high levels. Life can and should be better for women in our country, especially those women facing additional forms of discrimination beyond those that all women share. The U.S. government has a firm policy of non-discrimination. And we must be able to offer our girls a future where equality, opportunity and security enable them to be their best.

As we now work to implement the Platform, we continue to look to women in non-governmental organizations to help us define the problems and find solutions and to hold their government accountable. We will work in partnership and, as recommended in the Platform, take joint responsibility for the work of implementation.

As many of you will remember, the United States took the position at the Fourth World Conference, and at the preparatory conferences, that implementation must be done within existing resources, through refocusing, reordering priorities, thinking creatively. This is hard to do.

-4-

Nevertheless, we have no choice in the United States at this time but to take our own advice. This is not a time when the U.S. can or will allocate new and additional resources to implement the Platform in our country. We are proceeding with implementation at a time when many federal agencies are undergoing severe budget reductions and reductions of personnel. We do not celebrate this, but neither will we use it as an excuse to do nothing.

We cannot wait for an ideal set of circumstances. We are moving ahead and are determined that this difficult situation will bring out the best in us.

Our efforts are both national and international. We shall be releasing a report following up on our commitments made at Beijing and on additional efforts at implementation during the course of this CSW meeting.

These are sometimes small, but always significant steps. Not surprisingly, however, we are learning, or perhaps confirming what we knew in our hearts, that the hardest work of all is not that of taking new initiatives. Our work at home may very well parallel the work we do together in the Commission on the Status of Women. Integrating women, and issues of concern to them, into the mainstream of society and its institutions can be very difficult work.

So too the application of a gender perspective to the identification, analysis and solution of problems. Adopting a gender perspective means changing much more than policies and programs on paper. It cannot be done by fiat, although it certainly helps to have the support and direction come from the highest level. It means changing the way we think, changing our world view, internalizing and assimilating this perspective into the body politic so that never again will women be marginalized and their issues put on the agenda as an afterthought, something to be considered only if time and resources allow.

As one NGO said of her own organization's efforts to implement the Platform and integrate a gender perspective into the issues, "As we now get specific, we find we're meeting resistance." Abstract concepts are just so many lofty ideals. However, as they become concrete, reality sinks in.

A word about CEDAW. Ratification remains a priority for the Clinton Administration. However under our Constitution treaties must be ratified with the advice and consent of the Senate. Despite the Administration's support, and we are still waiting for the Senate to act. Although we are not yet a state party to CEDAW, we look forward to making a positive contribution as

-5-

participants in the drafting session of the optional protocol during this session.

In the meantime NGOs in the United States, many of whom have worked for the past 10 years for CEDAW's adoption, have begun a massive campaign with two strategies. They seek to create widespread grassroots support for CEDAW through public education, showing Americans, especially American women, in concrete terms why CEDAW is important for the U.S. not only diplomatically but to American women at home. They intend also to work for governmental and institutional support, urging universities, other institutions, and state and municipal legislatures to "adopt" or endorse CEDAW.

Whether it is ratification of CEDAW, action on a particular issue or the entire Platform, one phenomenon continues to astound us. There have been hundreds, and probably thousands of post-Beijing events across the United States. This is not a government effort but a community and grassroots effort. "Bringing Beijing Home," and "Beijing and Beyond" have become commonplace phrases in cities and towns from Tacoma, Washington to Atlanta, Georgia, from San Antonio, Texas to Poughkeepsie, New York. With the Platform as its model, a coalition of women's groups in Pittsburgh, Pa. is at work on the "Pittsburgh Plan of Action." This week leaders in Colorado and Massachusetts unveiled state plans. And in Louisville, Kentucky a group of middle school students put on a post-Beijing event for 300 young people, and the boys in the group led the workshop on the image of women in the media.

In short, we realize that something profound happened in Beijing and it inspired not only the women who attended but those at home also. There is an energy, and a desire to get involved and get to work on these issues that renews our hope and confidence in the future. We think the United States is not alone in this. And that is why we are so hopeful about this meeting of CSW and the future of the Commission and we look forward to joining in the dialogue on the three agenda items of poverty, women and the media and child and dependent care.

How can the Commission on the Status of Women help the United Nations and individual states to implement the Platform for Action? How can it ensure that its most difficult task is accomplished -- the equality of women and their integration into the mainstream of society? In a spirit of goodwill and cooperation we must fix our gaze on the future and plan together how we can do things better to move humanity towards our goal of equality, development and peace.

* * * *

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 1, 1996

PRESIDENT CLINTON NAMES LINDA TARR-WHELAN TO BE
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

President Clinton today appointed Linda Jane Zack Tarr-Whelan of Virginia as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Ms. Tarr-Whelan has had 25 years of public policy experience as an advocate and government official in the areas of health care, employment, economic development, education and women's issues. She has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Policy Alternatives since 1986. In addition, she has served as deputy assistant to the President for Women's Concerns in the Carter White House, director of government relations for the National Education Association, administrative director of the New York State Department of Labor, and director of program development for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Ms. Tarr-Whelan is a founder of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the Center for Women in Government. As a public member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, she has participated in the UN Preparatory Committees in 1994 and 1995 and in the Vienna Regional Meeting in 1994. Ms. Tarr-Whelan has published numerous articles and is the recent recipient of the Women Executives in State Government "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" Award.

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2013-0534-S

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Department of State

Date

1/26/95

Number of pages including cover sheet

#4

TO: Kathy Hendrix

FROM:

Sharon Ketch

Office of Economic and
Social Affairs

Bureau of International
Organization Affairs

Phone 456-6266
Fax Phone 456-6244

Phone 202-647-1155

Fax Phone 202-647-4628

CC:

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☒ Urgent

☐ For your review

☐ Reply ASAP

☐ Please Comment

Please deliver to Kathy Hendrix

Exempted from the Classification Act by 21.120, 81st Congress, Dec. 200 (A). 87

Standard Form No. 75 February 1948		JSC DS-110-USUN		1. Check one: Dept ☒ Field ☐		2. Official headquarters: New York		4. Agency position No. E 64	
UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION POSITION DESCRIPTION				3. Reason for submission: (a) If this position replaces another (i.e., a change of duties in an existing position), identify such position by title, allocation (service, series, grade), and position number				5. C. S. C. certification No.	
6. CLASSIFICATION ACTION				(b) Other (specify)				7. Date received from C. S. C.	
ALLOCATION BY		CLASS TITLE OF POSITION		CLASS		INITIALS		DATE	
a. Civil Service Commission				Service ☒ Series ☐ Grade ☐		AP-107		1/10/51	
b. Department, agency, or establishment		U.S. Rep. Commission on the Status of Women		(U) \$13,500 WAE					
c. Bureau		U.S. Representative on the Commission on the Status of Women of the Economic and Social Council of the UN		USUN-5-17,500 WAE					
d. Field office		1		USUN-6-19,500 WAE					
e. Recommended by initiating office				USUN-6-25,000 WAE					
9. Organizational title of position (if any)				Reynolds, Nancy				10. Name of employee (if vacancy, specify V-1, 2, 3, or 4) Oliver E. Giddens	
11. Department, agency, or establishment Department of State				a. Third subdivision					
b. First subdivision U. S. Mission to the United Nations				d. Fourth subdivision					
c. Second subdivision Economic and Social Affairs Office of the U.S. Rep. on ECOSOC				e. Fifth subdivision					
12. This is a complete and accurate description of the duties and responsibilities of the position				13. This is a complete and accurate description of the duties and responsibilities of the position					
(Signature of employee)				(Signature of immediate supervisor)				(Date)	
14. Certification by head of bureau, division, field office, or designated representative				15. Certification by department, agency, or establishment					
(Signature)				(Signature)				(Date)	
Title: Personnel Officer, USUN				Title: Chief, Classification Branch					

Serves on a WAE basis as United States Representative on the Commission on the Status of Women of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The functions of the Commission are to prepare recommendations or reports to the Economic and Social Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social, and educational fields. The Commission also makes recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights with the object of implementing the principle that men and women shall have equal rights, and proposals to give effect to such recommendations.

The Commission on the Status of Women consists of one representative from each of 15 members of the United Nations selected by the Economic and Social Council.

Agency: Department of State

Position Title: U. S. Representative to the Commission on the Status of Women of the Economic and Social Council.

Salary: ⁴⁷⁵⁰⁰
\$35,305 (WAE) 1/

Present Incumbent: ~~Koryne KANEVSKI HORRAC~~ Nancy Clay Reynolds
Mrs. Elizabeth D. KOONTZ (Appointed 1/30/69)

Introduction:

The Commission on the Status of Women functions within the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The Commission prepares recommendations and reports to the Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social, and educational fields, and on the development of women's role in society and on family planning. The Commission's agenda has at times contained items which could be exploited for political ends.

Duties:

Under instructions of the Secretary and the Department, serves as U. S. Representative on the Commission with responsibility for acting as U. S. spokesman at its meetings and reporting to the Department on its activities. Maintains liaison with counterpart representatives of other member governments for the purpose of exchanging views and information and negotiating to encourage and gain their support of U. S. policies and positions. As assigned, serves on special study groups in preparing reports and recommendations for the Council.

1/ The Commission meets annually, either in New York or Geneva. Incumbent is paid on a "when actually employed" basis for a period of approximately three weeks a year.

3

-2-

(Position Title: U. S. Representative to the Commission on the Status of Women of the Economic and Social Council)

(The U. S. Representative must have technical knowledge in the fields of women's rights, together with political astuteness. The incumbent must be able to identify items which could be exploited for political gain, analyze them and report them to the Department.)

END

Date 4/8 3/16/85
To: Lc/Adm.
KATHY STEINBERG

From: USIA
H 11

I talked to John Mathiason this morning about preparations for the upcoming CSW meeting (March 11-22) in New York.

- There will be an EXTENDED BUREAU MEETING JANUARY 30. John will notify (or has notified) Lucy Tamlyn.
- This is an election year for the CSW, and the regional groups will be encouraged to decide their candidates before the CSW begins. The chair will come from Latin America and the Caribbean, the rapporteur from Asia, and the vice-chairs from WEOG, EE, and Africa.
- ANGELA KING will be named the new Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women. (It's a D-2 position.) Angela is from Jamaica and is currently in the Office of Resources Management. (We've worked with her over the past few years to try to improve the status of women in the Secretariat.)
- On December 20, the SYG named ROSARIO GREEN as his high level person responsible for implementing the Platform and for mainstreaming a gender perspective throughout the UN system. (I'll try to get the press release off the Internet.)
- The major agenda items for the 1996 CSW are:
 - the priority themes;
 - the optional protocol to CEDAW;
 - follow-up to the FWCW.
- The priority themes that will be discussed at the 1996 session are:
 - Equality: elimination of stereotyping of women in the mass media;
 - Development: child and dependent care, including sharing of work and family responsibilities;
 - Peace: education for peace.
- Delegations will make one formal statement in the plenary on follow-up to the FWCW. (The President's Interagency Council on Women has already offered to draft this speech!)
- The Secretariat is drafting three major reports:
 - on the SWMTP. This report will not be ready until right before the CSW.
 - on the CSW's LONG-TERM PROGRAM OF WORK. Mathiason hopes this draft will be ready in time to release at the extended bureau meeting January 30.
 - an interim report on INTEGRATED FOLLOW-UP to the FWCW, which would include recommendations on what the CSW, UNIFEM, and INSTRAW should do to implement the Platform. This report will try to recommend a win/win solution on the question of the merger of UNIFEM and INSTRAW.
- The Secretariat is putting together these and other reports and hopes to have some ready very soon. (I'll ask Lucy to get me copies as soon as they are available.)
- As a result of our meeting at Mohonk last October, the CSW is going to try to change its method of work and be more

interactive. This means that its reports on the priority themes will raise questions rather than provide answers and that Member States will be encouraged to put experts on their delegations who could speak about the priority themes, follow-up to the FWCW, and the optional protocol to CEDAW.

FYI, Evan Bloom called to say that one of the L interns is interested in the CSW. Two areas that we could use her help would be: the optional protocol to CEDAW and the priority theme on the elimination of stereotyping of women in the mass media.

Women Men and Media
Junior Budge

February 1, 1996

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you because we believe that the leadership the United States provides at the United Nations on the Commission on the Status of Women is important to American women and to those who, globally, look to the United States for the leadership our government provided at the 4th World Conference on Women.

The CSW plays a critical role in promoting women's political, economic and social rights at the United Nations. Post-Beijing, the CSW also has the potential to play an influential role within the UN urging the systemwide gender reform called for in the Platform for Action. Certainly, the CSW will continue to stimulate attention to the patterns of discrimination against women and to promoting women's rights described in the Platform.

The person chosen to head the United States' delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women should represent the best of what America wants. We feel the following basic criteria are required:

- substantive knowledge of women's issues;
- demonstrated negotiating skills;
- experience with the United Nations;
- personal influence and confidence sufficient to command attention and form consensus; and
- access to and the trust of the NGO community.

These qualifications made a significant difference in the quality of our leadership in Beijing. We urge you to choose a woman to head the US delegation to the CSW to follow in the traditions of Madeleine Albright and Geraldine Ferraro.

In addition, the U.S. delegation should be backed by a strong strategic and advisory staff and assisted by the permanent participation of at least three NGO representatives. The Fourth World Conference on Women was shaped largely by NGO women. In this post-Beijing implementation period it will be essential to continue the vital link between government and NGOs in the work of the CSW.

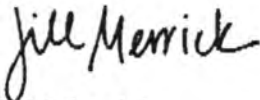
International Center for Research on Women

1717 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Suite 302 ■ Washington, DC 20036 USA ■ Telephone: 202-797-0007 ■ Fax: 202-797-0020 ■ e-mail: icrw@igc.apc.org

Mr. President, we applaud your serious search for the right candidate for the job. We stand ready to assist you in this process and look forward to working with the head of delegation, once chosen.

We stand by you and your commitment to the advancement of women and to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Cordially,



Jill Merrick
Director, Communications and Public Policy
International Center for Research on Women

Lea Browning

Rosa Briceño

Pat Rengel
Chief Legislative Council
Amnesty International/USA

Julianne Cartwright-Traylor
Human Rights Advocates, Inc.

Donna Shavlik
Director, Office of Women in Higher Education
The American Council on Education

Mahnaz Afkhami
Executive Director
Sisterhood is Global Institute

Barbara R. Arnwine

Nicole Etthait
Association for Women in Development

Vicki Ferguson
Gender Analysis and Development Consultant

Lauren Gilbert
Director, Women and International Law Program
Washington College of Law

Mary P. Haney
Member of Board and Executive Committee of
U.S. Committee for UNIFEM

Jodi Jacobson
Co-Director
Health and Development Policy Project

Patricia Krommer
Board Member
International Education Development, Inc.

Marjorie Lightman
Acting Executive Director
International League for Human Rights

Surita Sondosham
Executive Director
Equality Now

E. Maxina Ankrah
Senior Advisor, Women's Initiative
Family Health International/AIDSCAP

Suzanne Kindervatter
Interaction/Committee for Advancement of Women

Robin Phillips
Director, Women's Human Rights
Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

JoAnn Lewis
Senior Vice President
Family Health International

Dorothy Thomas
Director, Women's Rights Project
Human Rights Watch

Joan Dunlop
President
International Women's Health Coalition

Janet Benshoof
President
Center for Reproductive Law and Policy



Center for Women's Global Leadership

Douglass College • 27 Clifton Avenue • New Brunswick • New Jersey 08903 • USA
Phone: 1-908-932-8782 • Fax: 1-908-932-1180 • E-mail: cwgl@igc.apc.org

February 21, 1996

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Honorary Chair, U.S. Delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women and Honorary
Chair of the President's Interagency Council on Women
The White House
Old Executive Office Building
Room 100
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

We are writing to invite you or your representative to a meeting we have requested with the President's appointee to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. We have proposed March 1, from 1:30 to 3:30, at the offices of Human Rights Watch in New York (485 Fifth Avenue, between 41st and 42nd Streets). We know of your support and interest in these matters, and hope you will be able to join this conversation.

Attached please find a letter to the President, describing our hopes for such a meeting. We deeply appreciate your critical role in bringing women's human rights issues to public attention, and insisting they remain solidly on the agenda of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Your continued support and willingness to engage in this conversation will help ensure a forceful commitment to women's human rights in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Please feel free to contact Charlotte Bunch at the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University (telephone: (908) 932-8782. Fax: (908) 932-1180) with any questions or comments.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Bella Abzug, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
Lea Browning
Charlotte Bunch, Center for Women's Global Leadership
Rhonda Copelon, International Women's Human Rights Law Clinic, City University of New York Law School
Kit Cosby, National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the U.S.
Joan Dunlop, International Women's Health Coalition
Cathy Powell, member of the International Network of Women of Color North/South
Pat Rengel, Amnesty International/USA
Donna Sullivan, International Human Rights Law Group/Women in the Law Project
Dorothy Q. Thomas, Women's Rights Project of Human Rights Watch

On behalf of the Working Groups on Women's Human Rights based in Washington, DC and New York/New Jersey



Center for Women's Global Leadership

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February 20, 1996

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of a number of non-governmental organizations concerned with women's human rights, we would like to invite the United States' representative to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and other relevant government officials to a meeting to discuss the upcoming Commission on the Status of Women session (March 11-22). Since time is so short, we have set aside March 1, from 1:30-3:30 at the offices of Human Rights Watch in New York (485 Fifth Avenue, between 41st and 42nd Streets) for a meeting. If this date is not convenient, we would be glad to arrange another appointment in the following week.

At the recent Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the United States played a significant role in securing a Declaration and Platform for Action that advances the rights of women. The upcoming session of the Commission on the Status of Women will lay the groundwork for ensuring the implementation of the Platform into the 21st century. It is, therefore, critical that the United States continue to demonstrate its support for women's human rights through strong representation on the Commission. Moreover, we hope that the positions of the US will continue to reflect consultation with non-governmental organizations attentive to, and knowledgeable about, these issues. We believe these conversations have been mutually productive, as we expect they will continue to be. To facilitate such efforts, we would like to meet with your representative to this session of the CSW to discuss the agenda and the activities of the Commission.

We respectfully urge you to make a speedy appointment and make it widely known to the public so that non-governmental organizations concerned with this session can initiate contact with this representative. Once you have made such an appointment, we request that you transmit this invitation to meet with us to your appointee, as well as to other government officials responsible for women's human rights, including the President's Interagency Council on Women and State Department personnel.

We greatly appreciate the openness your administration has shown to NGOs around recent United Nations world conferences by hosting regular briefings for non-governmental organizations. We cordially appeal to you to continue this tradition by hosting an open briefing for the wider NGO community with the US delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women, in addition to conducting NGO briefings throughout the sessions.

We appreciate your administration's efforts to consult with the NGO community, and look forward to continuing this working relationship at the CSW and beyond. If it is possible for the CSW representative and other officials to meet with us, we respectfully request that they respond to Charlotte Bunch at the Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University (telephone: 908-932-8782; fax: 908-932-1180). Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this invitation.

Sincerely,

Bella Abzug, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

Lea Browning

Charlotte Bunch, Center for Women's Global Leadership

Rhonda Copelon, International Women's Human Rights Law Clinic, City University of New York Law School

Kit Cosby, National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the U.S.

Joan Dunlop, International Women's Health Coalition

Cathy Powell, member of the International Network of Women of Color North/South

Pat Rengel, Amnesty International/USA

Donna Sullivan, International Human Rights Law Group/Women in the Law Project

Dorothy Q. Thomas, Women's Rights Project of Human Rights Watch

On behalf of the Working Groups on Women's Human Rights based in Washington, DC and New York/New Jersey.

cc: Hillary Rodham Clinton, Honorary Chair of the U.S. Delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women and Honorary Chair of the President's Interagency Council on Women
Robert J. Nash, Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Personnel

Helmusley - 42nd
Madeline's office

Common
ground
mobiles!
mission

CSW SPEECH DRAFT

Kathy - 212-866-8311 Sat/Sun.

Linka:
9Am 941 922 1443
Sun DC 12:30pm - 7:30
- Faxline 527-7989
- 5287773

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS (FILL IN SHARON, LTW)

This could not be a more critical session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The events of the past year have brought us to a turning point. We arrive here empowered by the great success of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the content of its Platform for Action; inspired by breadth and depth of the NGO Forum and the force of the NGOs themselves; and in a spirit of renewal and rededication that the celebration of the United Nations 50th anniversary occasioned.

And we enter the new year with two new appointments at the United Nations that give us encouragement. The designation of Rosario Green as coordinator of all women's issues in the UN system and the appointment of Angela King as director of the Division for the Advancement of Women come as good news. These are women of great ability and reputation. We place our confidence in them without reservation. We wish them every success and we stand ready to offer them every assistance.

We must take advantage of this moment and seize the momentum. Now is the time for the members of the CSW to raise the questions and work together to find the answers that will prepare the CSW for its work into the next century.

What is our vision for the CSW? Specifically what is our vision for its role within the UN system; with governments in implementing the Platform?

The United States strongly supports the agreements we reached at the Fourth World Conference and later in the General Assembly, that the Commission must have:

- o a clear mandate;
- o a central role in monitoring implementation of the Platform, although primary responsibility for implementation rests with governments themselves;
- o a cooperative and coordinated working relationship with the related commissions of the Economic and Social Council that constitutes synergy;
- o a catalytic role in implementation of the Platform for Action within the UN system;
- o and a catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities; and in ensuring that women and women's issues are fully integrated into the mainstream of society and all its institutions?

This is hard work, but the four world conferences on women that have been held since 1975 have paved the way. At Beijing governments recognized women's issues as legitimate concerns of nations. And, as the Platform for Action makes clear, the world now recognizes that all its issues have an impact, and are of concern, to women.

Twenty years of organizing, advocating, gathering and analyzing data, discussing and working together came to fruition in Beijing. Victims of oppression have become activists for

change. Beneficiaries of programs are becoming constituents of political society. Women have become a political force and they are claiming the public arena.

As it is for the United Nations, so it is for the United States. My country is very serious about implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and about fulfilling its particular commitments announced at Beijing. For the first time, the United States has created a mechanism especially for implementation and follow-up.

On the eve of the Fourth World Conference, President Clinton announced the establishment of the "President's Interagency Council on Women" to, in the President's words, "make sure that all the effort and good ideas actually get implemented when we get back home."

We are proud to say that the Council is in operation, and that it operates out of the White House; that a member of the President's Cabinet, Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, who was a part of the leadership of our delegation to Beijing, chairs the Council. And we are especially happy to have the strong support of the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is honorary chair of the Council, just as she was of the U.S. delegation.

Time is short and the task before us great. The United States is determined to waste no time and the President's Council has begun the work of implementation now. It is our goal to institutionalize as much change as possible now so that in the future good policies and programs will be in place and not depend solely on the good will of individuals.

As we proceed with this work of implementation, the Council's members, all of whom are high level representatives of all government agencies, are overseeing implementation for their individual agencies. All have set themselves the task of analyzing the Platform, asking "How does our agency measure up?" and "What initiatives can we develop in the spirit of the Platform to further women's progress through the mission, policies and programs of our agency?"

Fortunately we are not starting from ground zero. In many respects our laws and practices already meet the standards set forth in the Platform for Action. For all of our failings and shortcomings, we are the world's oldest continuing democracy, and ours is a society where government responds to the demands of the people, and where people have a long tradition of organizing themselves for advocacy and action. It is our tradition, and, to a large extent, our identity.

Women have been organizing in the United States since the early days of the republic -- for education, against slavery, for the right to vote, against child labor, for better working conditions.

All of these efforts have borne results -- in our legislation at the national, state, tribal and local levels, in our interpretation and extension of existing Constitutional rights, in our institutions and organizations, both public and private.

But failings, shortcomings and discrimination persist. Life

*The U S G has a firm policy
of non-discrimination*

can and should be better for women in our country, especially those groups, who because of additional factors such as age, race, ethnicity, indigenous status, religion, culture, disability, sexual orientation, poverty, or other status, face additional forms of discrimination to those that all women share. 

As we now work to implement the Platform, we continue to look to those women, whom we now call NGOs, to help us define the problems and find solutions, and hold their government accountable. We will work in partnership and take joint responsibility for the work of implementation.

As many of you will remember, the United States took the position at the Fourth World Conference, and at the preparatory conferences, that implementation must be done within existing resources, through refocusing, reordering priorities, thinking creatively. This is hard to do.

Nevertheless, we have no choice in the United States at this time but to take our own advice. This is not a time when the U.S. can or will allocate new and additional resources to implement the Platform in our country. We are proceeding with implementation at a time when many federal agencies are undergoing severe budget reductions and reductions of personnel. We do not celebrate this, but neither will we use it as an excuse to do nothing.

We cannot wait for an ideal set of circumstances. We are moving ahead and are determined that this difficult situation will bring out the best in us.

EXAMPLES: GSA and recycling/childcare; violence; etc. I WILL SUPPLY THESE LATER TODAY

These are sometimes small, but always significant steps. Not surprisingly, however, we are learning, or perhaps confirming what we knew in our hearts, that the hardest work of all is not that of taking new initiatives. Integrating women, and issues of concern to them, into the mainstream of society and its institutions can be maddeningly subtle work.

Likewise the application of a gender perspective to the identification, analysis and solution of problems. Adopting a gender perspective means changing much more than policies and programs as they appear on paper. It cannot be done by fiat, although it certainly helps to have the support and direction come from the highest level. It means changing the way we think, changing our world view, internalizing and assimilating this perspective by individual men and women and into the body politic so that never again will women be marginalized and their issues put on the agenda as an afterthought, something to be considered only if time and resources allow.

As one NGO said of her own organization's efforts to implement the Platform and integrate a gender perspective into the issues, "As we now get specific, we find we're meeting resistance." Abstract concepts are just so many lofty ideals. However, as they become concrete, reality sinks in.

A word about CEDAW. Ratification remains a priority for the Administration. However it cannot be done without the advice and consent of the Senate, and we are still waiting for the Senate to act. Although we are not yet a state party to CEDAW, we look

forward to making a positive contribution as participants in the drafting session of the optional protocol during this session.

In the meantime NGOs in the United States, many of whom have worked for the past 10 years for CEDAW's adoption, have begun a massive campaign with two strategies. They seek to create widespread grassroots support for CEDAW through public education, showing Americans, especially American women, in concrete terms why CEDAW is important for the U.S. not only diplomatically but to American women at home. They intend also to work for governmental and institutional support, urging universities, other institutions, and state and municipal legislatures to "adopt" or endorse CEDAW.

Whether it is ratification of CEDAW, action on a particular issue or the entire Platform, one phenomenon continues to astound us. There have been hundreds, and probably thousands of post-Beijing events across the United States. This is not a government effort but a community and grassroots effort. "Bringing Beijing Home," and "Beijing and Beyond" have become commonplace phrases in cities and towns from Tacoma, Washington to Atlanta, Georgia, from San Antonio, Texas to Poughkeepsie, New York. With the Platform as its model, a coalition of women's groups in Pittsburgh, Pa. is at work on the "Pittsburgh Plan of Action." And in Louisville, Kentucky a group of middle school students put on a post-Beijing event for 300 young people, and the boys in the group led the workshop on the image of women in the media.

In short, we realize that something profound happened in Beijing and it inspired not only the women who attended but those at home also. There is an energy, and a desire to get involved and get to work on these issues that renews our hope and confidence in the future. We think the United States is not alone in this. And that is why we are so hopeful about this meeting of CSW and the future of the Commission. We look forward to joining in the dialogue on the three agenda items of poverty, women and the media and child and dependent care.

How can the Commission on the Status of Women help the United Nations and individual states to implement the Platform for Action? How can it ensure that its most difficult task is accomplished -- the integration of women into the mainstream of society? We must approach this effort in a spirit of goodwill and cooperation. This is not time to focus on what is wrong, where blame should be placed. The right direction is towards the future. That is where we fix our gaze as we work together to decide how we can do things better to move humanity towards our goal of equality, development and peace.

drafted:President's Interagency Council on Women(PICW):KHendrix
456-7352/FAX456-7357

clearances:TLoar:PICW

LTWhelan:IO/FO

SKotok:IO/ESA

DLeis:IO/SB

SBremner:H

JMeer:G (for GHillman)

THushek:DRL

EBloom:L/UNA

DStewart:L/HRR

KMcGuire:IO/ESA

MLKimble:IO/FOR

Chapter IV

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

45. In each critical area of concern, the problem is diagnosed and strategic objectives are proposed with concrete actions to be taken by various actors in order to achieve those objectives. The strategic objectives are derived from the critical areas of concern and specific actions to be taken to achieve them cut across the boundaries of equality, development and peace - the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women - and reflect their interdependence. The objectives and actions are interlinked, of high priority and mutually reinforcing. The Platform for Action is intended to improve the situation of all women, without exception, who often face similar barriers, while special attention should be given to groups that are the most disadvantaged.

46. The Platform for Action recognizes that women face barriers to full equality and advancement because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion or disability, because they are indigenous women or because of other status. Many women encounter specific obstacles related to their family status, particularly as single parents; and to their socio-economic status, including their living conditions in rural, isolated or impoverished areas. Additional barriers also exist for refugee women, other displaced women, including internally displaced women as well as for immigrant women and migrant women, including women migrant workers. Many women are also particularly affected by environmental disasters, serious and infectious diseases and various forms of violence against women.

A. Women and poverty

47. More than 1 billion people in the world today, the great majority of whom are women, live in unacceptable conditions of poverty, mostly in the developing countries. Poverty has various causes, including structural ones. Poverty is a complex, multidimensional problem, with origins in both the national and international domains. The globalization of the world's economy and the deepening interdependence among nations present challenges and opportunities for sustained economic growth and development, as well as risks and uncertainties for the future of the world economy. The uncertain global economic climate has been accompanied by economic restructuring as well as, in a certain number of countries, persistent, unmanageable levels of external debt and structural adjustment programmes. In addition, all types of conflict, displacement of people and environmental degradation have undermined the capacity of Governments to meet the basic needs of their populations. Transformations in the world economy are profoundly changing the parameters of social development in all countries. One significant trend has been the increased poverty of women, the extent of which varies from region to region. The gender disparities in economic power-sharing are also an important contributing factor to the poverty of women. Migration and consequent changes in family structures have placed additional burdens on women, especially those who provide for several dependants. Macroeconomic policies need rethinking and reformulation to address such trends. These policies focus almost exclusively on the formal sector. They also tend to impede the initiatives of women and fail to consider the differential impact on women and men. The application of gender analysis to a wide range of policies and programmes is therefore critical to poverty reduction strategies. In order to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development,

Sexual orientation not deleted

women and men must participate fully and equally in the formulation of macroeconomic and social policies and strategies for the eradication of poverty. The eradication of poverty cannot be accomplished through anti-poverty programmes alone but will require democratic participation and changes in economic structures in order to ensure access for all women to resources, opportunities and public services. Poverty has various manifestations, including lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure a sustainable livelihood; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increasing morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments; and social discrimination and exclusion. It is also characterized by lack of participation in decision-making and in civil, social and cultural life. It occurs in all countries - as mass poverty in many developing countries and as pockets of poverty amidst wealth in developed countries. Poverty may be caused by an economic recession that results in loss of livelihood or by disaster or conflict. There is also the poverty of low-wage workers and the utter destitution of people who fall outside family support systems, social institutions and safety nets.

48. In the past decade the number of women living in poverty has increased disproportionately to the number of men, particularly in the developing countries. The feminization of poverty has also recently become a significant problem in the countries with economies in transition as a short-term consequence of the process of political, economic and social transformation. In addition to economic factors, the rigidity of socially ascribed gender roles and women's limited access to power, education, training and productive resources as well as other emerging factors that may lead to insecurity for families are also responsible. The failure to adequately mainstream a gender perspective in all economic analysis and planning and to address the structural causes of poverty is also a contributing factor.

49. Women contribute to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace. The empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty.

50. While poverty affects households as a whole, because of the gender division of labour and responsibilities for household welfare, women bear a disproportionate burden, attempting to manage household consumption and production under conditions of increasing scarcity. Poverty is particularly acute for women living in rural households.

51. Women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources, including credit, land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to education and support services and their minimal participation in the decision-making process. Poverty can also force women into situations in which they are vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

52. In too many countries, social welfare systems do not take sufficient account of the specific conditions of women living in poverty, and there is a tendency to scale back the services provided by such systems. The risk of falling into poverty is greater for women than for men, particularly in old age, where social security systems are based on the principle of continuous remunerated employment. In some cases, women do not fulfil this requirement because of interruptions in their work, due to the unbalanced distribution of

context, the United States notes as well that many of the most critical actions to be taken in accordance with the Platform do not require additional funds from the international community, and can be accomplished through actions at the national and local level.

USG Interpretive Statement

Paragraph 48, Chapter IV (Strategic Objectives)

 The United States Government has a firm policy of non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and considers that the omission of this reference in Paragraph 48 and elsewhere in the Platform for Action in no way justifies such discrimination in any country.

USG Interpretive Statement

Paragraph 207(b), (e) and (f), Chapter IV, Section H, (Institutional Mechanisms)

With respect to paragraphs 207(b), (e), and (f) in Chapter H, the United States will seek to develop more comprehensive knowledge as well as seek to improve data collection on the issue of unwaged work, to the extent that funds are available. We plan to consult, in a cooperative manner, with appropriate research and documentation organizations.

USG Interpretive Statement

Paragraph 247, Chapter VI, Section K (Environment)

The United States would like to underscore that it interprets the sentence beginning "Hurricanes . . ." in Paragraph 247 to mean that these listed occurrences can cause environmental degradation in certain circumstances but not in others. The United States also remains concerned about the reference to "nuclear testing" in this paragraph, which appears not to have been reviewed fully in the working group.

II. Statements Previously Made for the Record by the USG in
Main Committee on September 12, 13 and 14

USG Interpretive Statement

Paragraph 19, Chapter II (Global Framework)

The United States understands that the phrase "radical transformation of the relationship between men and women" in paragraph 19 is a reference to the realization of full equality between women and men. It is in that context that the United States accepts this paragraph.

USG Interpretive Statement

Paragraph 27, Chapter II (Global Framework)

Paragraph 27 of the Platform recognizes the importance that non-governmental organizations play and the importance of working with them for progress. The United States recognizes the

Welcoming Remarks for International Women's Day
AS DELIVERED by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, March 8, 1996

Distinguished Members of Congress, ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen guests: I am glad to welcome you this morning. On this International Women's Day, we commemorate the remarkable achievements of women in our government and we celebrate the progress over the past year for women's rights and political participation. We must seize the opportunity before us to put women's issues at the top of the agenda in America -- and the world. And it is particularly good to have Gerry Ferraro, who has taken such a leading role in promoting human rights, with us today.

Where women's rights are not protected, human rights are not secure. Where women are not educated about their health, their families suffer along with them. Where women play no role in protecting the environment, it does not get protected. But where women enjoy equal rights and equal protection, all society progresses. That is why this Administration is committed to bringing women's issues into the mainstream of American diplomacy.

Nowhere is our commitment reflected more clearly than in the Department's twentieth annual human rights reports released this week. You will find not just a section on women, but documentation throughout the reports on abuses from workplace discrimination to physical mutilation. The reports show that the harm done to society is very great when women's rights are neglected in peace or trampled in war.

Our first priority in the Department and around the world must be our work for peace. As much as the soldier with a gun, the face of war

is the child born in a refugee camp, the rape victim and the women whose sons and husbands have disappeared -- and there are all too many of those.

In 1996, President Clinton and I have rededicated ourselves to the task of seeking peace with justice. In Bosnia, we not only achieved the end of war but an unprecedented role for the International War Crimes Tribunal that is seeking justice for victims of deliberate policies of murder and rape. In Haiti, our victory in the fight for democracy is allowing Haiti's women and men to turn to the fight against poverty, and thus to improve the rights of women and children.

As we promote peace, we work with women like Sonja Licht. Her courageous advocacy of human rights and defense of NGOs in Belgrade has come to symbolize hope for a more open society in Serbia. We also stand with the Catholics and Protestants who overcame their losses in the bloody conflict in Northern Ireland to found Women Together, a great organization which is doing so much to renew the peace process there.

The world saw these faces and heard these voices at the Beijing Conference on Women. The Beijing Conference threw out a challenge to the forces of poverty, ignorance and intolerance. The First Lady summed up that challenge simply: "women's rights are human rights, and human rights are women's rights." Her forceful presence, and the hard work of many of you here today, as well as the outstanding work of our UN ambassador Madeleine Albright, helped set a forward-looking agenda for us to take from Beijing. All Americans should be proud of what our

delegation accomplished.-- committing the nations of the world to take concrete steps to improve women's health and education and increase women's participation in the lives of their societies.

The United States must lead the way in fulfilling the Beijing Platform for Action. This year we will promote the political and legal rights of women -- and we should ratify the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). We will also emphasize programs like USAID's Girls' and Women's Education Initiative, aimed at increasing the number of girls who complete primary school in countries from India to Indonesia, from Guinea to Guatemala.

Our Women in Africa initiative is a good example of how we can integrate these priorities into our foreign policy. Each of our embassies in Africa is monitoring the follow-up to the Beijing Conference. African women made a great contribution at Beijing, and so it is appropriate that our embassies are working with African women to make the biggest difference with our limited resources -- with projects as traditional as improving access to family planning or as cutting-edge as improving NGO access to computers and communications. These projects have a real possibility to lift the lives of Africans and advance key objectives of American diplomacy.

The Beijing priorities reaffirm the conclusions of the Cairo Conference on Population and Development. We are focusing on women's education and empowerment as we move forward to implement the Cairo commitments. But our leadership to ensure access to safe, voluntary

family planning services for millions of women and men is under attack by many in Congress. I am deeply indebted to those on the platform who have so strongly defended our programs and requests for resources to carry them out. I thank them for their efforts.

On my trip to Latin America last week, I had the pleasure of meeting some outstanding women and men who are providing free legal services to over 700,000 people in Chile. I was struck by the leadership and support of Chile's Minister of Justice, Mrs. Soledad Alvear. Across South America, the women who marched to restore democracy are founding community centers and development banks. Their vision of justice for all is a reminder that women's participation and determination are indispensable.

I am proud to say that this Administration has made good strides in putting women in positions of power and prominence in American diplomacy -- not enough, but many in high positions doing great work. And let me acknowledge the efforts and excellence of the many here who give American diplomacy the face of a woman every day. Thank you.

We are very fortunate to be joined today by several members of Congress, women whose work has furthered the cause of women's equality and women's rights and kept these issues before Congress and before the American people.

AMBASSADOR GERALDINE FERRARO
HEAD OF U.S. DELEGATION
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, MARCH 8, 1996

THANK YOU SO MUCH, TIM, FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION. IT IS A GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO BE HERE TODAY ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH SO MANY FRIENDS AND FORMER COLLEAGUES, AND TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO SPEAK WITH YOU ABOUT WOMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ESSENTIAL ROLE THEY BOTH PLAY IN OUR EFFORTS TO FASHION A NEW AND BETTER WORLD FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW US.

BEFORE I BEGIN, HOWEVER, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN SOME OF MY FAVORITE PEOPLE TO HONOR TODAY, MR. SECRETARY. I AM PLEASED, BUT NOT SURPRISED, BECAUSE EACH OF THEM HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE STRUGGLE TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN, EACH OF THEM FOUGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN, THE POOR, THE DISABLED AND THE DISENFRANCHISED AT HOME BEFORE COMING TO WASHINGTON. SO MOVING INTO THE ARENA OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN A NATURAL PROGRESSION FOR THEM.

THESE ARE WOMEN WHO ARE NOT AFRAID TO STAND UP FOR THE CAUSES THEY BELIEVE IN. INDEED, THE DESIRE TO FIGHT FOR SUCH BELIEFS WAS WHY THEY RAN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

BUT MANY RUN AND ONLY A FEW WIN. WHAT WE SEE HERE ARE WOMEN WHO HAVE HELPED MAKE HISTORY, EACH IN HER OWN WAY, WOMEN WHO OVERCAME THE OBSTACLES OTHERS SO OFTEN PUT IN THEIR PATH. TOGETHER, THEY PROVE THAT IT NOT JUST POSSIBLE FOR WOMEN OF PRINCIPLE TO LEAD, BUT THAT THE PUBLIC WILL SUPPORT THEM WHEN THEY DO.

THIS, THEN, IS CHANGE. AND CHANGE IS WHAT THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS ACHIEVED, BOTH WITH REGARD TO WOMEN AND TO HUMAN RIGHTS. YOU KNOW AND I KNOW THAT THIS HAS NOT BEEN EASY. BUT CHANGE IS TAKING PLACE. THERE ARE MORE WOMEN AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF OUR GOVERNMENT NOW THAN EVER BEFORE, DEMONSTRATING THEIR COMPETENCE, DAY IN, DAY OUT, PROVING THEIR VALUE TO THE COUNTRY AND TO THE WORLD -- NO NONSENSE WOMEN LIKE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU SAW HER ON TELEVISION THE OTHER DAY, WHEN THE CUBANS WERE TRYING TO EXPLAIN HOW SHOOTING DOWN UNARMED PLANES IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS WAS SOMEHOW AN ACT OF COURAGE. MADELEINE LET THE WORLD KNOW EXACTLY WHAT SHE THOUGHT OF THEIR SO-CALLED MACHISMO, AND SHE CALLED IT WHAT IT WAS IN PLAIN ENGLISH, AS WELL AS IN SPANISH. YES, MADELEINE HAS BEEN A MOST ARTICULATE SPOKESPERSON FOR THIS COUNTRY NO MATTER WHAT THE ISSUE.

AND, OF COURSE, THERE'S DONNA SHALALA, JANET RENO AND HAZEL O'LEARY, HANDLING COMPLEX CABINET PORTFOLIOS WITH SKILL AND DETERMINATION. AND HERE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT: ROBIN RAPHEL IS DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB WITH INDIA AND PAKISTAN; TONY VERSTANDIG IS MAKING REAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS; MELINDA

KIMBLE PROVED HERSELF A LEADER AT THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE; AND NANCY ELY-RAPHEL MADE A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE VIENNA CONFERENCE AND MORE RECENTLY THE DAYTON ACCORDS. BOTH LYNN DAVIS AND JOAN SPERO ARE AMONG THE SECRETARY'S MOST TRUSTED ADVISORS, WHILE PHYLLIS OAKLEY HAS BEEN A PILLAR OF STRENGTH ON REFUGEE ISSUES, AND PRU BUSHNELL HAS SHOWN ENORMOUS LEADERSHIP ON AFRICAN ISSUES.

THERE ARE MANY MORE OF YOU WHO ALSO DESERVE TO BE RECOGNIZED AS WELL, WOMEN WHO STAND IN THE TRENCHES OF GOVERNMENT AND DO BATTLE EVERY DAY FOR THE THINGS WE BELIEVE IN. BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE JUST A HANDFUL OF EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN HERE IN GOVERNMENT ANY MORE; WE'VE GOT THOUSANDS OF THEM. IN EVERY OFFICE IN EVERY DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY IN THIS GOVERNMENT, THERE ARE WOMEN MAKING BELIEVERS OF THOSE WHO DOUBTED THEM BEFORE. THIS IS CHANGE.

IT'S A MEASURE OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENT THAT THIS CHANGE IS, I BELIEVE, IRREVERSIBLE.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT I THINK THE BATTLE TO ENSURE WOMEN'S RIGHTS IS OVER IN THIS COUNTRY, THAT WOMEN HAVE ACHIEVED EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE AND IN THEIR PAYCHECKS. THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE HAVE PUT AN END TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT, THAT WE ARE FREE TO WALK OUR STREETS AT NIGHT, OR THAT THE FEAR OF VIOLENCE NO LONGER HAUNTS THE DAILY LIVES OF MILLIONS. NOR DOES IT MEAN THAT THOSE WHO WOULD TURN US AGAINST EACH OTHER, PITTING THOSE WHO STAY AT HOME TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN AGAINST THOSE WHO GO TO WORK, HAVE SUDDENLY SEEN THE LIGHT. IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE GLASS CEILING IS SHATTERED OR THAT EVERY DEADBEAT DAD IS PAYING FOR HIS CHILDREN NOW. IT DOESN'T EVEN MEAN THAT WE, AS A SOCIETY, UNDERSTAND WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A WOMAN TODAY, WHAT IT MEANS TO WALK A TIGHTROPE BETWEEN FAMILY AND THE WORK PLACE, AT A TIME WHEN SO MUCH IS CHANGING AND YET SO LITTLE.

NO, BUT I'M OPTIMISTIC BECAUSE THERE IS A COURSE TO HISTORY. HOW MANY WOMEN WORKED HERE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT A GENERATION AGO -- NOT JUST IN SECRETARIAL POSITIONS -- WOMEN HAVE ALWAYS FILLED THOSE SPOTS -- BUT AS ANALYSTS, OFFICE DIRECTORS, DESK OFFICERS? THERE WAS ELEANOR DULLES, A SPECIALIST IN GERMAN AFFAIRS -- WHOSE BROTHER JUST HAPPENED TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE -- AND WHO ELSE? NOT MANY. LOOK AT YOUR NUMBERS NOW. WHO AMONG YOU THINKS WE'RE EVER GOING BACK?

I'M OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE BECAUSE I AM CONVINCED THAT THE DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY WHICH WE HAVE OPENED WILL NEVER AGAIN BE CLOSED. THE GAINS WE HAVE ACHIEVED WILL BE BUILT ON -- NOT ONLY IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BUT IN CONGRESS AND IN THE STATE LEGISLATURES, ON WALL STREET AND IN SILICONE VALLEY, IN THE BOARDROOMS, THE NEWSROOMS AND THE CLASSROOMS OF OUR GREAT UNIVERSITIES, IN THE SCIENCE LABS AND IN SPACE AND WHEREVER THE NEXT CHAPTERS OF OUR HISTORY ARE BEING WRITTEN.

IT WILL BE TOUGH. EVERY STEP OF THE WAY WILL BE CONTESTED. POWER

IS ALWAYS CONTESTED.

BUT I'M OPTIMISTIC FOR ANOTHER REASON. IN 1984, WHEN I WAS RUNNING FOR VICE PRESIDENT, THE CAMPAIGN HAD ME SHY AWAY FROM EMPHASIZING WOMEN'S ISSUES. I DIDN'T HAVE TO PROVE TO ANYONE WHERE I STOOD ON EQUITY FOR WOMEN. I HAD TO CONVINCE "THE GUYS" THAT I HAD THE COURAGE AND THE INTELLIGENCE TO RUN THE COUNTRY. BUT IT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE. HOW CAN A WOMAN NOT ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF WOMEN? AND SO IN LATE OCTOBER, RIGHT BEFORE THE ELECTION, I GAVE MY ONE AND ONLY WOMEN'S SPEECH. IT ADDRESSED EVERY ISSUE WE CARE ABOUT AND HAVE FOUGHT FOR OVER THE LAST DOZEN YEARS. I WAS CONCERNED THAT SOMEHOW THE MESSAGE WOULD BE LOST IF WE DIDN'T BRING IN THE OTHER HALF OF THE POPULATION, AND SO I SAID: "I AM NOT ONLY SPEAKING TO WOMEN HERE TONIGHT. EVERY MAN IS DIMINISHED WHEN HIS DAUGHTER IS DENIED A FAIR CHANCE; EVERY SON IS A VICTIM WHEN HIS MOTHER IS DENIED FAIR PAY."

THOSE ARE THE SAME POINTS WE MAKE WHEN WE DISCUSS WOMEN'S RIGHTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS AS THE FIRST LADY DID SO ELOQUENTLY IN BEIJING. ALLOWING WOMEN FULL PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY BENEFITS NOT JUST THEM, BUT SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.

MANY OF YOU PARTICIPATED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER TO THE EFFORT WHICH MADE THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE SUCH A SUCCESS. I WAS PRIVILEGED TO BE PART OF THE DELEGATION. IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING AND EXHILARATING EVENTS I'VE EVER ATTENDED. THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION WE ADOPTED COMMITS THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO HALTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, PROTECTING THEIR RIGHTS TO FREE SPEECH, HEALTH AND EDUCATION, AND ESTABLISHING A HIGHER STANDARD OF RESPECT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS THAN EVER BEFORE IN HISTORY.

THIS, IN ITSELF, IS QUITE AN ACHIEVEMENT. BUT I DON'T THINK THAT WE WILL HAVE DONE OUR JOB UNTIL THE STANDARD WE SET IS MET -- AND NOT JUST IN AMERICA, BUT EVERYWHERE. AND THAT WILL TAKE A LOT OF WORK ON THE PART OF ALL OF US WHO CARE ABOUT WOMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS. FOR WE ALL KNOW HOW EASY IT IS FOR SOME NATIONS TO AGREE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ONE MOMENT THEN FORGET THEM ENTIRELY THE NEXT. SO WILL IT BE WITH THE BEIJING PLATFORM IF YOU AND I RELAX OR FOCUS TOO NARROWLY ON OURSELVES.

IT IS THE SPECIAL FATE OF AMERICA TO BE THE PARTICULAR CHAMPION OF HUMAN LIBERTY. IT IS NOT ALWAYS AN EASY BURDEN TO LIVE WITH. WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, THE HOPES OF MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE WORLD REST ON OUR SHOULDERS. AND WE KNOW WHY: WHEN THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS PROVEN ITSELF INCAPABLE OR UNWILLING TO LEAD, THE UNITED STATES HAS ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE.

IT TOOK TWO GENERATIONS OF SACRIFICE TO WIN THE COLD WAR AND BRING THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY AND FREEDOM TO A HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE. AND NOW, IN BOSNIA, IN HAITI AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE EYES OF THE VICTIMS ARE TURNED TO WASHINGTON AGAIN. THERE ARE JOBS WHICH ONLY WE CAN DO. NOT THAT WE CAN DO THEM ALL, OR THAT WE CAN ALWAYS

DO THEM BY OURSELVES. BUT THE FACT IS, WE ARE DIFFERENT; WE ARE A CATALYST. WHEN WE ACT, OTHERS FOLLOW.

SO IT IS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS. THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN LEADING FOR OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS. THAT'S AS IT SHOULD BE. LEADERSHIP IN HUMAN RIGHTS IS A BURDEN WE EMBRACE IN THIS BUILDING, IN THIS ADMINISTRATION, AND IN HUNDREDS OF PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

THAT'S WHY I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO HEADING BACK TO GENEVA NEXT WEEK FOR THE MEETING OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. THERE WILL BE A LOT ON OUR PLATE THERE -- CHINA, BOSNIA, CUBA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT DESPITE ALL THAT, YOU CAN BE SURE THAT NO DELEGATION IS GOING TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN THE DEFENSE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS THAN WE WILL.

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNIVERSAL, BUT THEY'RE ALSO AMERICAN THROUGH AND THROUGH. THEY'RE AS OLD AS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, AS NEW AS THIS WEEK'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS. DESPITE OUR LAPSES, OUR INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES ARE GROUNDED IN A GENUINE BELIEF THAT THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS WE CHERISH BELONG TO EVERYONE. AND THAT GIVES US A STRENGTH MOST OTHER NATIONS LACK.

THAT IS WHY I THINK THAT ULTIMATELY OUR VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WILL PREVAIL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ONE DAY THE STANDARD WE FIRST SET IN OUR OWN INSTITUTIONS AND THEN HELPED ESTABLISH IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA WILL BECOME THE ONE BY WHICH ALL COUNTRIES JUDGE THEMSELVES.

OUR JOB, THEN, IS TO TAKE THAT VOICE AND AMPLIFY IT, TO USE THE POWER OF OUR INSTITUTIONS AND THE STRENGTH OF OUR PEOPLE, PEOPLE LIKE YOU TO HOLD THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD -- OUR OWN INCLUDED -- ACCOUNTABLE TO THE STANDARDS WE HAVE SET FOR OURSELVES SO MANY TIMES -- WHETHER IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS, THE U.N. CHARTER OR THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS -- OR MORE RECENTLY IN THE VIENNA DECLARATION, THE BEIJING PLATFORM AND OUR 1996 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS.

OF COURSE, SOME GOVERNMENTS WON'T BE DISSEMINATING OUR REPORTS THIS WEEK. THEY'LL BE DOING THEIR BEST TO SILENCE THEM. THEY MAY SUCCEED IN THE SHORT TERM. THEY MAY JAM THE VOICE OF AMERICA. THEY MAY CENSOR THEIR NEWSPAPERS, LOCK THEIR DISSIDENTS IN DISTANT JAILS. THEY MAY OPPOSE US AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. THEY MAY BLUSTER AND RAGE AND OBFUSCATE. BUT TIME IS NO LONGER ON THEIR SIDE. EVENTUALLY, WITH MODERN TELECOMMUNICATIONS THE TRUTH WILL FIND ITS WAY TO EVEN THE MOST REMOTE OUTPOST OF INJUSTICE. THEY ARE GOING TO FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO KILL IDEAS WHICH JUST WON'T DIE, IDEAS LIKE FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND EQUALITY.

WE ONLY HAVE TO LOOK AT BOSNIA OR BAGHDAD, TO CUBA OR CHECHNYA OR THE DESPERATE REFUGEE CAMPS IN SUDAN, TANZANIA AND ZAIRE TO SEE HOW FAR WE HAVE TO GO. FOR IF WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS AND

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNIVERSAL -- AND ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD HAVE AGREED THEY ARE -- THERE MUST COME A TIME WHEN THE RESPECT FOR THESE RIGHTS BECOMES UNIVERSAL, TOO. THERE MUST COME A TIME WHEN WORDS BECOME DEEDS, NOT JUST IN AMERICA, BUT IN EVERY HUT AND EVERY HOME IN EVERY LAND.

YES, I THINK THAT TIME WILL COME. IT MAY NOT BE IN MY LIFETIME, BUT IT WILL COME. THERE WILL BE A TIME WHEN THE WOMEN OF THE WORLD WON'T NEED TO PETITION THE POWERFUL FOR PROTECTION, WHEN "POOR" AND "DEFENSELESS" WON'T BE NAMES WE GIVE TO HALF A BILLION WOMEN. THERE'LL BE A TIME WHEN GIRLS ARE NOT LEFT TO STARVE UPON A HILLSIDE BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT BORN BOYS, WHEN THEIR GENITALS ARE NOT MUTILATED TO PLEASE SOME CRUEL, OUTDATED CUSTOM; WHEN THEY ARE NOT VIOLATED IN THE NAME OF ETHNIC CLEANSING; WHEN GIRLS ARE NOT SOLD INTO PROSTITUTION OUT OF FINANCIAL DESPERATION; WHEN THEY ARE NOT BURNED BECAUSE THEIR DOWRIES ARE TOO SMALL OR THEIR HUSBANDS DIED BEFORE THEM.

THERE WILL BE A TIME WHEN WOMEN WILL NOT BE EITHER THE VICTIMS OR THE CAUSE OF OVERPOPULATION; WHEN THEY WILL NOT BEAR EIGHT CHILDREN IN THE HOPE THAT THREE MAY LIVE; WHEN THEY ARE NOT FORCED INTO EARLY MARRIAGE; WHEN THEY WILL NOT LACK THE EDUCATION THEY NEED TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS.

THERE WILL BE A TIME WHEN REFUGEE WOMEN WILL NOT SELL THEMSELVES FOR FOOD; WHEN THEY WILL NOT BE RAPED BY MARAUDING SOLDIERS; WHEN THEY WILL NOT BE TERRORIZED BECAUSE THEY COME FROM THE WRONG GROUP OR THE WRONG CITY OR BECAUSE THEY CHOSE THE WRONG TIME TO GATHER FIREWOOD TO COOK THE FAMILY MEAL.

YES, THERE WILL BE A TIME FOR ALL OF THAT. THERE'LL BE A TIME WHEN THE WOMEN OF AMERICA CAN WALK THE STREETS OF OUR CITIES AND NOT KNOW FEAR. THERE'LL BE A TIME WHEN THE LIFE OF A GHETTO GIRL WILL MEAN AS MUCH AS ONE IN THE WEALTHY SUBURBS; WHEN COMPARABLE WORK WILL MEAN COMPARABLE PAY; AND WHEN WE CAN LOOK OUT ACROSS ANY MEETING ROOM IN ANY COUNTY OF THIS COUNTRY AND SEE AS MANY WOMEN THERE AS MEN.

BUT THAT IS SOME TIME OFF. UNTIL THEN, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WILL REMAIN A THREAD THAT KNOTS THE WORLD'S RICH AND POOR TOGETHER. NO NATION IS IMMUNE. THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM OF THE DEVELOPED OR DEVELOPING WORLD. IT IS NOT AFRICAN OR ASIAN OR AMERICAN ALONE. IT IS UNIVERSAL. IT IS OUR PROBLEM; IT IS EVERY NATION'S PROBLEM, AND SO IT WILL REMAIN UNTIL WOMEN TAKE THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE ALONGSIDE MEN, IN ALL STRATA AND AT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY. FOR VIOLENCE IS A REFLECTION OF SECOND-CLASS STATUS.

AND SO AS I LOOK AROUND ME HERE AND SEE SO MANY EXAMPLES OF WHAT THIS COUNTRY CAN PRODUCE WHEN IT NURTURES ITS GIRLS AS WELL AS BOYS, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL PRIDE THAT WE WOMEN HAVE BEGUN TO FORCE HISTORY TO MARCH FORWARD. BUT TIME HAS CAUGHT US IN MID-STEP. OUR WORK, THE WORK OF EVERYBODY HERE TODAY -- MEN AND WOMEN -- IS BUT

HALF-DONE.

AND YET I CANNOT THINK OF A MORE EXCITING TIME TO BE ALIVE. THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO AND SO MANY TALENTED PEOPLE LIKE YOU TO DO IT. WOMEN, NOT JUST HERE IN AMERICA, BUT EVERYWHERE, ARE ON THE MOVE, BRUSHING ASIDE THE OBSTACLES, DEFENDING OUR INTERESTS, OUR FAMILIES AND OUR VALUES. WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME IN COMING, BUT I CAN FEEL THE SWEEP OF HISTORY NOW. IT'S IN THIS ROOM AND IN THIS COUNTRY. AND IT WON'T STOP HERE. ONE DAY THE PULSE OF FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY WILL BEAT IN EVERY WOMAN'S HEART, NOT JUST IN AMERICA, AND NOT JUST ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, BUT IN EVERY VILLAGE AND IN EVERY NATION OF THE WORLD EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR. IT MAY NOT HAPPEN SOON, BUT I KNOW THAT WITH ALL OF US WORKING TOGETHER, ITS TIME IS SURE TO COME.

THANK YOU.

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a sub-agency of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). ECOSOC and CSW has 45 members which are elected by the full ECOSOC on the following basis: 13 from African states; 11 from Asian states; 9 from Latin American and Caribbean states; 8 from Western European and other states (WEOG); and 4 from Eastern European states. The term of office is three years. The U.S. was off the CSW for 1994, but was re-elected at the summer 1995 ECOSOC. Therefore, on January 1, 1996, the U.S. resumes its seat on the CSW.

The responsibilities of the U.S. representatives to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women are to:

- o Attend the two week meeting of the Commission at the UN in New York (March 11-22)
- o Represent the US at this meeting (with appropriate staff support from the State Department and the US Mission to the UN)
- o Attend special meetings and ad hoc sessions throughout the year (none are scheduled at this point)
- o Attend the General Assembly in the fall during the two or three days when women's issues are ~~discussed~~ *discussed*
- o Meet with American non-government organization representatives as feasible who follow the international and development and other UN issues.

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

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]



BIOGRAPHY

Linda Tarr-Whelan

Linda Tarr-Whelan has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Policy Alternatives since 1986. CPA is a 20-year-old non-partisan progressive public policy center which connects innovative people and ideas across the fifty states to build a new economy that is inclusive, sustainable and just.

Ms. Tarr-Whelan has had 25 years of public policy experience as an advocate and government official in the areas of health care, employment, economic development, education and women's issues. She has served as deputy assistant to the President for Women's Concerns in the Carter White House, director of government relations for the National Education Association, administrative director of the New York State Department of Labor, and director of program development for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

She has edited: A Women's Economic Justice Agenda: Ideas for the States (and an earlier version, The Women's Rights Agenda for the States); and America's States: Building a Progressive Future; has published over 25 articles in a variety of publications; has testified frequently before Congress and state legislatures; and speaks on public policy issues -- and has special expertise on women and the economy.

Ms. Tarr-Whelan is a founder of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the Center for Women in Government. She serves as president of the State Issues Forum, treasurer of Voters for Choice and currently serves on the board of directors of the Advocacy Institute, Independent Sector, National Commission on Working Women, the Benton Foundation, the National Conference of State Legislatures Foundation for State Legislatures and other non-governmental organizations. As a public member of the US Delegation to the United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, she has participated in the UN Preparatory Committees in 1994 and 1995 and in the Vienna Regional Meeting in 1994. Ms. Tarr-Whelan has just been awarded with the Women Executives in State Government "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" Award, which she will receive in February, 1996.

Ms. Tarr-Whelan was born in (b)(6) She is a nurse with a B.S.N. from the Johns Hopkins University and M.S. from the University of Maryland. She is married to Keith Tarr-Whelan, and has two children, Scott, 28 and Melinda, 26, and one newborn grandson, Gerhig Wade. 00037

February 1, 1996

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you because we believe that the leadership the United States provides at the United Nations on the Commission on the Status of Women is important to American women and to those who, globally, look to the United States for the leadership our government provided at the 4th World Conference on Women.

The CSW plays a critical role in promoting women's political, economic and social rights at the United Nations. Post-Beijing, the CSW also has the potential to play an influential role within the UN urging the systemwide gender reform called for in the Platform for Action. Certainly, the CSW will continue to stimulate attention to the patterns of discrimination against women and to promoting women's rights described in the Platform.

The person chosen to head the United States' delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women should represent the best of what America wants. We feel the following basic criteria are required:

- substantive knowledge of women's issues;
- demonstrated negotiating skills;
- experience with the United Nations;
- personal influence and confidence sufficient to command attention and form consensus; and
- access to and the trust of the NGO community.

These qualifications made a significant difference in the quality of our leadership in Beijing. We urge you to choose a woman to head the US delegation to the CSW to follow in the traditions of Madeleine Albright and Geraldine Ferraro.

In addition, the U.S. delegation should be backed by a strong strategic and advisory staff and assisted by the permanent participation of at least three NGO representatives. The Fourth World Conference on Women was shaped largely by NGO women. In this post-Beijing implementation period it will be essential to continue the vital link between government and NGOs in the work of the CSW.

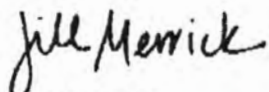
International Center for Research on Women

1717 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Suite 302 ■ Washington, DC 20036 USA ■ Telephone: 202-797-0007 ■ Fax: 202-797-0020 ■ e-mail: icrw@igc.apc.org

Mr. President, we applaud your serious search for the right candidate for the job. We stand ready to assist you in this process and look forward to working with the head of delegation, once chosen.

We stand by you and your commitment to the advancement of women and to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Cordially,



Jill Merrick
Director, Communications and Public Policy
International Center for Research on Women

Lca Browning

Rosa Briceño

Pat Rengel
Chief Legislative Council
Amnesty International/USA

Julianne Cartwright-Traylor
Human Rights Advocates, Inc.

Donna Shavlik
Director, Office of Women in Higher Education
The American Council on Education

Mahnaz Afkhami
Executive Director
Sisterhood is Global Institute

Barbara R. Arnwine

Nicole Etthait
Association for Women in Development

Vicki Ferguson
Gender Analysis and Development Consultant

Lauren Gilbert
Director, Women and International Law Program
Washington College of Law

Mary P. Haney
Member of Board and Executive Committee of
U.S. Committee for UNIFEM

Jodi Jacobson
Co-Director
Health and Development Policy Project

Patricia Krommer
Board Member
International Education Development, Inc.

Marjorie Lightman
Acting Executive Director
International League for Human Rights

Surita Sondosham
Executive Director
Equality Now

E. Maxina Ankrah
Senior Advisor, Women's Initiative
Family Health International/AIDSCAP

Suzanne Kindervatter
Interaction/Committee for Advancement of Women

Robin Phillips
Director, Women's Human Rights
Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

JoAnn Lewis
Senior Vice President
Family Health International

Dorothy Thomas
Director, Women's Rights Project
Human Rights Watch

Joan Dunlop
President
International Women's Health Coalition

Janet Benshoof
President
Center for Reproductive Law and Policy

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UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

UNCLASSIFIED
CLASSIFICATION2 pages
(including cover)DATE: 3/12 7:15
PM

FROM:

Theresa

TO: 1)

Melanne

(NAME)

(OFFICE/TEL #)

(FAX # ONLY)

2)

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MV Talking Points for MKA Reception

- Reps to Comm
- Dips
- Press
- GH
6:30-8

Audience: dozens of delegation heads and Perm Reps (snore)

American NGOs (no idea how many since most are not here for the entire two week period.)

maybe some magazine folks

maybe some New York feminist glitterati

o The First Lady asked that I send along her best wishes to the representatives to the Commission on the Status of Women and to the representatives of non-governmental organizations attending this Commission meeting.. She continues to be committed to bringing Beijing to American women through her work as Honorary Chair of the President's Interagency Council on Women.

o The work you are all doing here this week and next is crucial to the follow-up work to Beijing that is going on all around the world.

o We are very fortunate that Linda Tarr-Whelan agreed to serve as our new Representative to the Commission. Americans are well-served by the experience she brings as an NGO and a member of our delegation to Beijing.

o US participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing was a great success - in large part due to the contribution of the thousands of American women and men who were determined that this Conference would identify solutions for each every challenge women and girls face and devise strategies to promote stronger families, communities and societies.

o As the President's Council implements the Platform for Action at the federal government level, its efforts have been enhanced by the continuing partnership with the nongovernment community. This partnership brought us to Beijing and will continue to move us along as we work to institutional changes to better the lives of American women and girls.

o The President's Council is hard at work, operating out of the White House. With the leadership of Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala and the expertise and energy of senior officials from all across the federal government, the Council is meeting the commitments Ambassador Albright announced at the Conference and developing new commitments to ensure that women get a fair shake when the US government develops its policies.

o We realize that something profound happened in Beijing and that it inspired not only the women and men who attended but those at home also. There is an energy and a desire to get involved, particularly among young women. We are hopeful that the work of the Commission will benefit from this renewed commitment and that we will soon be able to offer young girls around the world a future where equality, opportunity, and security enable them to do their best.



UNITED STATES MISSION TO

UNITED NATIONS

OPTIONAL FORM 28 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

OF PAGES 6

To

From J. L. AL

Dept./Agency

Phone #

Fax #

Fax #

NSN 7540-01-317-7388

5099-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

United Nations Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10017Tel. 212-415-4050
FAX 212-415-4053

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USUN PRESS RELEASE #30-(96)
MARCH 12, 1996

Opening Statement by Linda Tarr-Whelan, United States Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, at the United Nations, March 12, 1996

Thank you Madame Chair. The United States delegation congratulates you in your new role as chairperson of the Bureau and also congratulate the other members of the Bureau. We wish you all success and pledge our support.

This could not be a more critical session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The events of the past year have brought us to a turning point. We arrive here empowered by the great success of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the content of its Platform for Action; inspired by the breadth and depth of the NGO Forum and the force of the NGOs themselves; and in a spirit of renewal and dedication that the celebration of the United Nations 50th anniversary occasioned.

And we enter the new year with two new appointments at the United Nations that give us strong encouragement. The designation by the Secretary General of Rosario Green as coordinator of all women's issues in the UN system and the appointment of Angela King as director of the Division for the Advancement of Women come as good news. They are women of great ability and reputation. We place our confidence in them without reservation. We wish them every success and we stand ready to offer them our assistance.

We must take advantage of this moment and seize the momentum. We have reached consensus. Now is not the time to re-discuss those topics where our discussions and negotiations led us to this point. Now we have a different and difficult task. It is time for the members of the CSW to raise the questions and work together to find the answers that will enable the CSW to meet the goals of the Beijing Platform for the equality of women and girls in the next century.

What is our vision for the CSW? Specifically what is our vision for its role within the UN system; with governments in implementing the Platform?

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-2-

The United States strongly supports the agreements we reached at the Fourth World Conference and later in the General Assembly, that the Commission must have:

- o a clear mandate;
- o a central role in monitoring implementation of the Platform, although primary responsibility for implementation rests with governments themselves; and,
- o a catalytic role in implementation of the Platform for Action within the UN system;
- o a cooperative and coordinated working relationship with the related commissions of the Economic and Social Council that constitutes synergy;
- o and a catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities; and in ensuring that women and women's issues are fully integrated into the mainstream of society and all its institutions.

This is hard work, but the four world conferences on women that have been held since 1975 have paved the way. At Beijing governments recognized women's issues as legitimate concerns of nations. And, as the Platform for Action makes clear, the world now recognizes that all its issues have an impact, and are of concern, to women.

Twenty years of organizing, advocating, gathering and analyzing data, discussing and working together came to fruition in Beijing: women as equal partners and decision makers in the political and economic spheres; men as equal partners in family life transcended individual issues. No longer are women simply victims of oppression but activists for change. Beneficiaries of programs are instead becoming constituents of civil society. Women have become a political force and they are claiming their place in creating equality, development and peace.

As it is for the United Nations, so it is for the United States. My country is very serious about the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and about fulfilling our particular commitments announced at Beijing. For the first time, the United States has created a formal mechanism especially for implementation and follow-up.

On the eve of the Fourth World Conference, President Clinton announced the establishment of the "President's Interagency Council on Women" to, in the President's words, "make sure that all the effort and good ideas actually get implemented when we get back home."

-3-

We are proud to say that the Council is in operation, and that it operates out of the White House; that a member of the President's Cabinet, Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, who was a part of the leadership of our delegation to Beijing, chairs the Council. And we are especially happy to have the strong support of the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is honorary chair of the Council, just as she was of the U.S. delegation.

Time is short and the task before us great. The United States is determined to waste no time and the President's Council has begun the work of implementation now. It is our goal to institutionalize as much change as possible.

As we proceed with this work of implementation, the Council's members, all of whom are high level representatives of all government agencies and many of whom were delegates to Beijing, are overseeing implementation for their individual agencies.

Fortunately we are not starting from ground zero. In many respects our laws and practices already meet the standards set forth in the Platform for Action.

But failings, shortcomings and discrimination persist. Poverty is a reality for too many. Violence against women continues at high levels. Life can and should be better for women in our country, especially those women facing additional forms of discrimination beyond those that all women share. The U.S. government has a firm policy of non-discrimination. And we must be able to offer our girls a future where equality, opportunity and security enable them to be their best.

As we now work to implement the Platform, we continue to look to women in non-governmental organizations to help us define the problems and find solutions and to hold their government accountable. We will work in partnership and, as recommended in the Platform, take joint responsibility for the work of implementation.

As many of you will remember, the United States took the position at the Fourth World Conference, and at the preparatory conferences, that implementation must be done within existing resources, through refocusing, reordering priorities, thinking creatively. This is hard to do.

-5-

participants in the drafting session of the optional protocol during this session.

In the meantime NGOs in the United States, many of whom have worked for the past 10 years for CEDAW's adoption, have begun a massive campaign with two strategies. They seek to create widespread grassroots support for CEDAW through public education, showing Americans, especially American women, in concrete terms why CEDAW is important for the U.S. not only diplomatically but to American women at home. They intend also to work for governmental and institutional support, urging universities, other institutions, and state and municipal legislatures to "adopt" or endorse CEDAW.

Whether it is ratification of CEDAW, action on a particular issue or the entire Platform, one phenomenon continues to astound us. There have been hundreds, and probably thousands of post-Beijing events across the United States. This is not a government effort but a community and grassroots effort. "Bringing Beijing Home," and "Beijing and Beyond" have become commonplace phrases in cities and towns from Tacoma, Washington to Atlanta, Georgia, from San Antonio, Texas to Poughkeepsie, New York. With the Platform as its model, a coalition of women's groups in Pittsburgh, Pa. is at work on the "Pittsburgh Plan of Action." This week leaders in Colorado and Massachusetts unveiled state plans. And in Louisville, Kentucky a group of middle school students put on a post-Beijing event for 300 young people, and the boys in the group led the workshop on the image of women in the media.

In short, we realize that something profound happened in Beijing and it inspired not only the women who attended but those at home also. There is an energy, and a desire to get involved and get to work on these issues that renews our hope and confidence in the future. We think the United States is not alone in this. And that is why we are so hopeful about this meeting of CSW and the future of the Commission and we look forward to joining in the dialogue on the three agenda items of poverty, women and the media and child and dependant care.

How can the Commission on the Status of Women help the United Nations and individual states to implement the Platform for Action? How can it ensure that its most difficult task is accomplished -- the equality of women and their integration into the mainstream of society? In a spirit of goodwill and cooperation we must fix our gaze on the future and plan together how we can do things better to move humanity towards our goal of equality, development and peace.

* * * *

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 1, 1996

PRESIDENT CLINTON NAMES LINDA TARR-WHELAN TO BE
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

President Clinton today appointed Linda Jane Zack Tarr-Whelan of Virginia as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Ms. Tarr-Whelan has had 25 years of public policy experience as an advocate and government official in the areas of health care, employment, economic development, education and women's issues. She has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Policy Alternatives since 1986. In addition, she has served as deputy assistant to the President for Women's Concerns in the Carter White House, director of government relations for the National Education Association, administrative director of the New York State Department of Labor, and director of program development for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Ms. Tarr-Whelan is a founder of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the Center for Women in Government. As a public member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, she has participated in the UN Preparatory Committees in 1994 and 1995 and in the Vienna Regional Meeting in 1994. Ms. Tarr-Whelan has published numerous articles and is the recent recipient of the Women Executives in State Government "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" Award.

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mandated by State
lawyers)

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. memo	Patsy L. Thomasson to Melanne Verveer re: non-selection [duplicate of 002] (3 pages)	01/02/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20056

FOLDER TITLE:

UN- CSW [United Nations - Commission on the Status of Women]

2013-0534-S

rc1854

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005. letter	To Hillary Rodham Clinton re: non-selection (2 pages)	11/09/1995	b(6)

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007. bio	re: non-selection (3 pages)	00/00/0000	b(6)

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b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
009. list	re: [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20056

FOLDER TITLE:

UN- CSW [United Nations - Commission on the Status of Women]

2013-0534-S
rc1854

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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United States Department of State

Office of the Under Secretary
for Management

White House Liaison

MEMORANDUM

TO: Patsy Thomasson, Deputy Assistant to the President
Presidential Personnel

✓ Melanne Verveer, Deputy Assistant to the President
Office of the First Lady

From: Ertharin Cousin, White House Liaison *EC*
Department of State

Re: UN Commission on the Status of Women

Date: November 8, 1995

BACKGROUND ON THE CSW

The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a sub-agency of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). ECOSOC and CSW were founded in 1946. CSW has 45 members which are elected by the full ECOSOC on the following basis: 13 from African states; 11 from Asian states; 9 from Latin American and Caribbean States; 8 from Western European and Other States (WEOG); and four from Eastern European states. The term of office is three years. The U.S. was off the CSW for 1994, but was re-elected at the summer 1995 ECOSOC. Therefore on January 1, 1996, the U.S. resumes its seat on the CSW.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CSW

Attached is a list of the previous U.S. Representatives to the CSW. All were Presidential appointees except Maureen Reagan, who was appointed by the Secretary of State (to avoid the nepotism laws).

RANK OF AMBASSADOR

President Bush was the first to request the Rank of Ambassador for the U.S. Representative to the CSW. The request was justified on the basis of the enhanced status and visibility the Rank of Ambassador would give to the U.S. Representative. The Clinton Administration successfully sought the source Ambassadorial status for Arvonne Fraser. When Marjorie Margolies Mezvinsky assumed the job as head of the U.S. delegation, we did not seek that rank as we were not actual members of the CSW.

As we resume our place in the CSW our commitment to "Bring Beijing Home" would be further underscored by naming a strong candidate to this position. Because the Senate has failed to confirm a significant number of Ambassadorial candidates, we should consider the feasibility of providing the Rank of Ambassador. We note that this is a part time position, comparable to that of the Ambassador to the UN Human Rights Commission, where the incumbent is actually employed a cumulative total of 60-90 days per year. There is no funding or personnel authority for a full time position.

Please consider scheduling a meeting to discuss potential candidates for this position and to confirm an Administration candidate selection process.

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Dorothy Kenyon	11/7/46	Truman
Olive Remington Goldman	2/2/50	Truman
Lorena B. Hahn	3/11/53	Eisenhower
Gladys A. Tillett	3/8/61	Kennedy and Johnson
Elizabeth Duncan Koontz	1/30/69	Nixon
Patricia Hutar	12/29/73	Nixon and Ford
Koryne Daneski Horbal	7/27/77	Carter
Nancy Clark Reynolds	10/2/81	Reagan
Maureen Reagan	10/13/85	Reagan
Juliette McLennan	9/6/89	Bush
Arvonne Frasier		Clinton ¹

¹ Arvonne Frasier was never stated by the UN as an U.S. Representative to the CSW.