

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	Ellen Marshall to Time Wirth re: personal anecdotes in support of "Why Beijing?" [partial] (2 pages)	07/19/1995	b(6)
002. memo	Melanne Verveer to WAVES re: DOBs [partial] (1 page)	07/06/1995	b(6)
003. list	re: ICPD Chronology (3 pages)	05/03/1995	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 17871

FOLDER TITLE:

United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women - Issues [Binder] [1]

2013-0534-S

rc1750

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]
- 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]

**Files of Melanne Vermeer, Assistant to the President and Chief of
Staff to the First Lady
Box 5: Books and Files**

Archived from OEOB 100 by Bridget Hennessey on September 28, 2000

- ❖ United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women – United Nations, Document Analysis, Background on Prep Comm
- ❖ United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women – Issues
 - Women And Girls Education
 - Beijing
 - Civil Society / Democracy Building
 - Microenterprise
 - Vital Voices
- ❖ United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women – Delegation Assignments
- ❖ United Nations Fourth World Conference On Women – Current
- ❖ United Nations Fourth World Conference On Women – Outreach
- ❖ United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women - Press Clippings

ENCLOSURES FILED OVERSIZE ATTACHMENTS

17871

WMA 15118

ISSUES

VATICAN

HUMAN RIGHTS

GIRL'S EDUCATION

GENDER

UNREMUNERATED WORK

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

POPULATION

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS & ABORTION

MICROENTERPRISE

GENERAL CONCERNS

UNITED NATIONS FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

WOMEN AND GIRLS EDUCATION

BEIJING

**CIVIL SOCIETY/
DEMOCRACY BUILDING**

MICROENTERPRISE

VITAL VOICES

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

Issues



file Cairo

Focus on Population And Development

Followup on Cairo Conference, September 5-13, 1994

Putting Cairo Into Action

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was a major success, with 180 nations endorsing a comprehensive new strategy for addressing population and development issues. In Cairo, governmental and non-governmental participants worked together to craft a Program of Action that encompasses quality family planning and reproductive health services, the empowerment of women, the involvement of men, expanded access to education and health care services, and reduction of wasteful resource consumption.

Following is a synopsis of some of the efforts underway by the United States to implement the Program of Action.

USAID Programs

The United States is strongly committed to implementing the objectives set in Cairo across all dimensions of sustainable development programs. For the population and reproductive health programs that are at the core of the Program of Action, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has held a series of meetings to draw on the ideas and experiences of experts and non-governmental organization (NGO) leaders in the field, and is continuing efforts to ensure wide participation.

In anticipation of the Program of Action, and reflecting strong support at the ICPD for new efforts, USAID has been undertaking or expanding special initiatives in several areas.

Family Planning and Health

- Expanding access to reproductive health information and services;
- Operations research to test new approaches linking family planning and other reproductive health service delivery;

- Biomedical research on male methods of contraception as well as on new barrier methods and microbicides to provide dual protection from pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs);

- Prevention of HIV/AIDS and other STDs; and
- Collaborative programs with non-governmental organizations involved in reproductive health research and services, including promotion of gender equity and equality, male involvement, STD prevention, and elimination of harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation.

Education and Empowerment Of Women

The U.S. is reviewing its programs across the board for their impact on empowerment of women. Several new program initiatives are under development that reflect the goals of the Program of Action including:

- A new girls' and women's education initiative building on lessons learned from successful efforts in Guatemala, Nepal, Malawi, and elsewhere;
- A legal rights initiative which focuses on supporting women's political, economic, and social empowerment through the promotion of equality of women;
- An NGO partnership initiative to strengthen information dissemination regarding gender considerations in national legislation and international instruments;
- An economic growth policy development initiative designed to increase participation of women in U.S. assistance activities and incorporate analysis of the effects on women of macroeconomic and sectoral policy reform objectives; and

- A new microenterprise program designed to promote equal economic access for women as well as community development.

Ongoing Programs

USAID will continue to work in areas where it has a significant comparative advantage among donors, including maximizing access and quality of care in family planning, prevention and management of AIDS and other STDs, child survival, and other aspects of health. USAID programs address all of the functional areas discussed in the ICPD Program of Action, including services, training, information and communications, research, commodity procurement, policy development, and evaluations. Programs emphasize activities that have the greatest public health impact by being responsible to end-users, cost-effective, and preventive rather than curative in orientation.

The U.S. is also seeking to foster cooperation among developing countries—a South-South initiative to help them learn from one another's experiences. The recent reorganization in USAID will encourage synergies within the population and health sector as well as intersectoral linkages with work in other areas concerned with women's empowerment, the environment, economic growth, and democracy.

U.S.-Japan Common Agenda

The population and HIV/AIDS initiative of the Common Agenda for Cooperation in Global Perspectives has created an opportunity for the U.S. and Japan to work collaboratively in this area. This initiative, which began in July 1993, is being coordinated through USAID's Global Bureau, Center for Population, Health and Nutrition, with the Japanese Global Issues Initiative



(GII). The GII represents the Government of Japan's bilateral assistance of \$3 billion for population and AIDS over the next seven years.

The goals of this cooperative effort are to maximize the impact of each country's population and health assistance; increase technical capacity to provide assistance; increase opportunities to share lessons learned; and strengthen U.S.-Japan relations through increased consultation and cooperation at the global and mission levels.

Seven priority countries were selected for the Common Agenda population and HIV/AIDS initiatives. They are: Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, the Philippines, Egypt (family planning only), and Thailand (HIV/AIDS only). In addition, Japan is supporting grassroots grant assistance which provides small grants to NGOs for small-scale construction and durable goods. Priority is being given to complementing the work being done by USAID-supported NGOs.

Appropriations—FY 1995

Family Planning and Reproductive Health. Congress recommended that the U.S. commit \$527 million to family planning and reproductive health in FY 1995, with an additional contribution to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

UNFPA. The U.S. contribution to UNFPA will be \$50 million; although this is \$10 million less than the amount President Clinton requested, it represents a \$10 million increase from the previous year. These investments will support family planning and reproductive, maternal, and child health programs in about 60 countries—many of which do not receive direct assistance from the U.S.

Newly Independent States (NIS) Family Planning and Reproductive Health. Congress supported \$15 million for a comprehensive program of family planning services to help reduce the disturbingly high rate of unplanned pregnancies in the NIS. The program will stress the use of high quality, modern contraceptive methods, training for health care providers, and information, education, and communication to citizens as well as medical and technical information for health care workers.

Child Survival, Basic Education, and Micronutrient Programs. Congress supported increases for child survival, micronutrient (particularly vitamins), and basic education programs. As acknowledged in the ICPD Program of Action, these programs are all important in their own right, and they also affect decisions about family size.

Women in Development. To encourage and promote the participation and integration of women in the development process in developing countries, \$13 million will be dedicated to the Office of Women in Development to run its programs.

Microenterprise Loans. A standing international commitment to microenterprises has successfully generated self-employment among the poor, and particularly developing world women. Congress recommended \$1.5 billion for both small and microenterprise programs, and permits the U.S. to guarantee up to 70% of any microenterprise loan provided under this program.

Summit of the Americas

As one accomplishment on the road from Cairo, the United States reached agreement with North and South American countries on the importance of promoting equitable access to basic health services and strengthening the role of women throughout the hemisphere. Specifically, governments reaffirmed the commitments they made toward maternal and child health, basic health care, and other recommendations consistent with the Program of Action agreed to at the ICPD. Among other things, the nations of the Western Hemisphere agreed to develop plans and programs for addressing child, maternal, and reproductive health, including prenatal, delivery, and postnatal care; HIV/AIDS prevention; and immunizations and programs to combat other major causes of infant mortality.

President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD)

The PCSD, a public/private group tasked with making recommendations on integrating sustainable development in U.S. policies and programs, has established a Task Force on Population and Consumption. Sustainability in the

U.S. requires coming to grips with the growth of our own population and the rate of consumption of natural resources.

The task force is convening a series of roundtable discussions for members of the council, experts in the field, and the interested public to identify substantive opportunities for action that have a high degree of public support. The first roundtable was held October 27, 1994, in Washington, DC, and focused on fertility and migration. The second, to be held January 12, 1995, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, will concentrate on consumption and technology. The third roundtable (date to be determined) will address lessons learned and explore steps the country could most realistically take toward greater environmental sustainability. The public is encouraged to participate.

International Research and Training Program

The Fogarty International Center and the National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health are initiating an international research and training program in population and health. The program will enable U.S. universities and other research institutions to extend the geographic base of their research and training efforts to developing nations, in support of international population priorities.

The broad objectives are to assist scientists from developing nations to advance technological and social adaptations needed to meet the challenge of unsustainable population growth. Cooperative programs will emphasize research needs identified in the ICPD Program of Action. These include:

- Reproductive and neonatal health, including new methods of prevention of STDs;
- Contraceptive development and evaluation to create a broader range of safe, reversible, and affordable methods of fertility regulation, suitable for different age and cultural groups; and
- Social and behavioral factors that influence population dynamics, including operational research related to family planning, migration and spatial distribution of populations, and family and gender roles.

With a FY 1995 budget of \$1 million, between six and eight international research and training grants in population and health will be awarded competitively to U.S. institutions with ongoing programs in population research.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

NIH is involved in many aspects of population-related programs and research in the U.S. Recently, NIH funds have been directed to training for researchers in all aspects of human health, including reproductive health scientists and demographers; studies on family and child well-being as well as studies on a broad range of child health issues; enhancing social security for the elderly; a major study of adolescent health, which includes adolescent sexual behavior; and some smaller-scale studies on adult sexual behavior.

The NIH has been in the forefront of studies on HIV treatment and in research on possible vaccines, as well as in the development of the HIV tests now in world-wide use. Also through NIH-funded research, a plastic condom has been developed that is about to be introduced in the U.S. market.

NIH contributes to the *Population Index*, a quarterly journal that contains annotated references to all demographic research. These findings are incorporated into POPLINE, the online data system.

Family Planning and Reproductive Health for Refugees

The ICPD Program of Action called for increased attention to meeting the family planning and reproductive health needs of refugees. The U.S. is working in the international arena with several UN organizations—UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, and WHO, as well as NGOs such as IRC, CARE, the Red Cross, and Medicins Sans Frontieres—to incorporate reproductive health information and services into the normal regime of health services provided in refugee and emergency situations.

Family Reunification and Migration

The U.S. is encouraging other countries to adopt actions agreed to in Cairo in regard to family reunification and immigration. The language—which was highly debated at the ICPD—states:

... all governments, particularly those of receiving countries, must recognize the vital importance of family reunification and promote its integration into their national legislation. ...

Family reunification brings about 500,000 new immigrants to the U.S. each year. The U.S. will continue diplomatic efforts to encourage other countries to make family reunification a priority in their immigration and migration policies.

International Investments: Update

- Germany has announced its intention to provide \$2 billion over seven years in assistance for family planning and health, including HIV/AIDS prevention, education, and women's empowerment. This increase comes after already doubling its assistance between 1990 and 1994.

- In July, the United Kingdom announced a nearly 65% increase in population funding over the next two years, for a total of about \$160 million.

- The European Union has publicized its goal to provide \$400 million annually for population assistance by the year 2000.

- Japan has committed \$3 billion over a seven-year period for population and HIV/AIDS programs.

- Since 1992, U.S. population assistance has increased more than 55% to nearly \$600 million in FY 1995. Additional amounts earmarked for the areas of child survival, HIV/AIDS, other aspects of health and nutrition, and basic education will bring the total to more than \$1 billion.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

CEDAW is the top human rights treaty priority for the Clinton Administration. The Administration sent its proposal for ratification of CEDAW to the U.S. Senate for consideration in September. Ratification of the Convention would

serve to underscore U.S. commitment to women's rights and to enhance our ability to protect and promote those rights internationally. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 13 to 6 to send the proposal for ratification to the full Senate, but time ran out before the Senate was able to consider it. The Administration is hopeful that the Senate will give its advice and consent early next year when Congress reconvenes.

New Appointments

Several new key players have joined the team responsible for ICPD implementation efforts in the U.S. Government. They are:

- Gracia Hillman, Senior Advisor for International Women's Issues, Department of State. Most recently with the League of Women Voters, Ms. Hillman will work with Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Timothy E. Wirth to promote international women's human rights and better integrate women's issues into foreign policy. (U.S. Department of State, Global Affairs, 2201 C Street NW, Room 7526, Washington, DC 20520, phone 202-647-2547; fax 202-647-0753.)

- Margaret Lycette, Director, Office of Women in Development, USAID. Formerly with the International Center for Research on Women, Ms. Lycette will be working with Assistant Administrator of the Global Bureau, Ambassador Sally Shelton, to promote the empowerment of women through USAID's projects, programs, and policy-oriented activities. (USAID, Office of Women in Development, SA-38, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20523-3802, phone 703-816-0291; fax 703-816-0266.)

- Felicia Stewart, MD, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Population Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services. Most recently Dr. Stewart was the Director of Medical Research for the Sutter Medical Foundation, Sacramento, California. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs, 4330 East-West Highway, Suite N1115, Bethesda, MD 20857, phone 301-594-4000; fax 301-594-5980.)

Additional inquiries may be directed to:

U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Global Affairs
2201 C Street NW, Room 7250
Washington, DC 20520
phone 202-647-6240; fax 202-647-0753

USAID Office of Population
Center for Population, Health and
Nutrition
Bureau for Global Programs, Field
Support and Research
SA-18, Room 811
Washington, DC 20523-1819
phone 703-875-4505; fax 703-875-4413

World Conference Information

Direct questions or comments about
U.S. involvement in the World
Summit for Social Development
(March 1995) or the Fourth World
Conference of Women (September
1995) to the U.S. Global Conference
Secretariat, U.S. Department of State,

2201 C Street NW, Room 1318, Wash-
ington, DC 20520, phone 202-647-3129;
fax 202-647-4787.

NGO Conference Participation

**World Summit for Social Develop-
ment (March 1995).** The deadline for
application for accreditation to the
summit and its preparatory process was
November 30, 1994 (December 15 for
those in consultative status with
ECOSOC). For general information on
NGO participation in the summit,
contact the NGO Liaison Officer,
Secretariat of the World Summit for
Social Development, Room DC2-1372,
United Nations, New York, NY 10017,
phone 212-963-1957; fax 212-963-3062.

For information about participation
in the parallel NGO forum, please
contact NGO Forum Host Committee,
Jan Birket-Smith, Secretary-General,
Njalsgade 13C, DK-2300 Copenhagen S,
Denmark, phone 45-32-96-19-95;
fax 45-32-96-89-19; e-mail:
ngo95@inet.unic.dk

**Fourth World Conference on
Women (September 1995).** The
deadline for application for accredita-
tion for the official conference is
January 13, 1995. For accreditation
guidelines and application forms, please
contact the UN Conference Secre-
tariat, NGO Accreditation, Fourth
World Conference on Women, Two UN
Plaza, Room 1204, New York, NY
10017, phone 212-963-8034, fax 212-963-
3463. For information about participa-
tion in the parallel NGO forum, please
contact the NGO Forum Planning
Committee, 211 E. 43rd Street, Suite
1500, New York, NY 10017, phone 212-
922-9267, fax 212-922-9269.

To obtain a final copy of the ICPD
Program of Action, you may contact:

ICPD Secretariat
220 East 42nd Street, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10017
phone 212-297-5244;
fax 212-297-5250. ■

Press coverage of the ICPD — with more than 5,600 stories and editorials written in the US in September — was extensive and often enlightened. For your information, enclosed are several clips which you may not have seen.

Needs of Adolescents Become Crucial Challenge at Cairo Meeting

By George Moffett

Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

CAIRO

ONE explanation for the contraceptive revolution that has swept the world since the 1960s is that scores of governments and millions of couples suddenly concluded that smaller families would mean greater prosperity.

It was a conclusion that

prompted most developing countries to offer family-planning services and a majority of couples to accept them. The result: a lower rate of population growth worldwide.

Figuring out how to bridge the gap between slower growth and no-growth - the goal of the United Nations population conference now in its third day in Cairo - is



likely to be harder. (The view from Mexico, Page 9.)

The main emphasis will be on empowering women. But the focus will also be on their younger sisters, the millions of teenage girls who give birth every year because they have largely been ignored by family-planning agencies.

"Meeting the needs of adolescents is one of the next frontiers in meeting the global population challenge," notes Herbert Friedman, head of the Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO) adolescent-health division.

Adolescent sex education is one controversial issue - others include abortion and reproductive rights - remaining after preliminary meetings to the Cairo conference. These issues were "bracketed" for further discussion because of objections from the Vatican. And on Sept. 6, the Vat-

ican issued a new condemnation of the proposals.

The job of working out compromise language has been assigned to a "main committee" comprising two delegates from each of the 177 countries represented at the conference. The Vatican is weighing a compromise on the most controversial issue that would move references to abortion out of the section on family planning in the 113-page draft "Program for Action" and specify that abortion is not a human right.

"The Holy See cannot give explicit or implicit support to those parts of the [draft] document regarding abortion," a "weakening" of the definition of the family, or provisions to provide adolescents with confidential sexual health care, papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro said Sept. 6. A senior conference official was more optimistic, predicting that a "balance between parental rights and the important needs of adolescents" would eventually be struck.

Experts here say providing information about sexuality and reproduction to the world's more than one-half-billion teenagers has crucial health implications, especially in an era of AIDS. But the extended abstinence or more-protected sexual activity that often results from such education has demographic implications as well, since adolescents account for a higher proportion of total births worldwide each year.

The raw statistics on adolescent sexual activity are striking. Between one-fifth and one-half of all unmarried teenagers in developing countries are sexually active, according to the Worldwatch Institute. Of all 14-year-old girls alive today, 40 percent will be pregnant by the time they are 20. In some Asian and African countries, teenagers below the age of 18 account for half of all pregnancies, according to the UN.

Though differences exist between married and unmarried teenagers, there is one common denominator: Nearly all remain largely untouched by the global reach of family planning, leaving them vulnerable to unwanted pregnancies and higher-risk pregnancies. Young women between 15 and 19 account for up to a fifth of all induced abortions worldwide.

"Adult women are having fewer pregnancies and adolescents are not," says a UN official, referring to one consequence of family-planning agencies having had far greater success reaching older married women.

Conservative Roman Catholics and Muslims say a provision calling for expanded sex education in the draft plan of action now being debated in Cairo will encourage adolescents to have premarital sex.

BUT a 1993 WHO review of 19 recent studies suggests that it would result in delayed sexual activity and lead to more contraceptive use - both of which will delay childbearing and lengthen the time span between generations. "One of the greatest myths in the world is that giving information to young people results in promiscuity," Dr. Friedman says.

Experts say sex education is most effective when taught at home or imparted by peers. Worldwide, governments and organizations have tried techniques from setting up clinics that exclusively serve adolescents to promoting counseling sessions that, says a Polish pediatrician at the conference, have taught teenagers "how to delay, how to say no, and how to have enough self-esteem to risk criticism for saying no."

The spread of AIDS also makes a compelling point to adolescents. "Kids see their parents and friends dying, and they get educated in a hurry," says Margaret Nagita. "When you put AIDS and education together, people really change their behavior."

The Cairo conference and the plight of women

By JONATHAN POWER

The secret key that unlocks the door on the impasse in Cairo at the world conference on population can be mouthed in one word: women. To be absolutely precise: poor women. Compared with this, everything else is probably a time-consuming sideshow.

The figures tell the magnitude of the issue. The number of rural women living in poverty in the developing countries has increased by almost 50 percent over the last 20 years, to an awesome 565 million — 374 million of them in Asia, 130 million in Africa, 43 million in Latin America and the Caribbean and 10 million in the Near East and North Africa.

This is not just the consequence of over-rapid population growth. There has clearly been a sharp jump in the number of female-headed households. A combination of factors — changes in traditional values, the emigration of men, increased family break-up, the economic recession of the 1980s, high population growth, low productivity and a deteriorating environment — all are working to reinforce each other.

The degree of the problem depends partly on the influence of culture and partly on the state of social instability as a consequence of war, civil disturbance or over-rapid urbanization. In most of the Middle East, North Africa, much of Asia, and the western Sahel of Africa, the proportion of households headed by women is well under 20 percent. In sharp contrast, in Central America, the Caribbean, Southern Africa and Vietnam it is over 30 percent.

But whether a woman is alone or with a man, despite the fact that she is a critical element of production in the rural economy — in Africa women produce three-quarters of their family's food supply — she is, to all intents and purposes, given second or third rank by social custom.

First and foremost, women's access to land is severely constrained. Yet in the rural economy without land of one's own, one has no assured access

to the means of production.

In Islamic law, women's land rights are clear-cut. But in day-to-day life custom, the threat of divorce or other social sanctions all contribute to pressuring women to cede practical control of their land to the men.

In Africa, under customary land systems married women often have the right to a certain number of fields, but they must give priority to their husband's fields and livestock.

Development has not been a friend to women. Most modern-day crop and livestock projects are aimed at men. Project designers, banking and aid officials all too readily assume that women cannot afford to buy improved seeds, fertilizer and irrigation equipment. Nor can they repay loans.

These attitudes are more based on prejudice than fact. The repayment records of poor women are often much superior to that of better-off borrowers.

Lack of education makes the day of reform even more distant. There are a billion illiterates in the world and two-thirds of them are women. The rapid growth of educational opportunity in the 1960s and 70s slowed toward the end of the 1980s as deepening recession pushed many countries to cut their educational budgets. This is extraordinarily shortsighted. Investment in education is probably the single most rewarding activity for any government at any level of development. To underinvest in women is to compound the mistake even further.

With education and good economic opportunities, women can progress from a situation where they are triply disadvantaged — as poor, as women and perhaps, too, as single parents — to where their work has a triple multiplier effect — in the home, in society at large and, not least, in the development of the next generation.

We can in fact add a further benefit. If women are truly participating in economic life this is going to have a profound effect in bringing population growth under control.

There is a growing amount of hard evidence that a woman's income and her degree of control over household spending is positively correlated with her children's nutrition and health. Thus, improving female opportunity and income will lower child mortality and morbidity. Over the long run, this will inevitably encourage women to have less children.

This tendency is amplified once women have assured access to land. If a woman does not have to bear several sons to be certain she will always be able to cultivate a piece of a son's land whatever happens to her husband, then clearly she is going to be more amenable to discussing the possibilities of family planning.

Tragically, in many parts of the Third World, we are still seeing an opportunity lost. Instead of a countryside firing on all cylinders, what we are now observing is its increasing feminization, a society in which the men are either absent or not pulling their weight, a society where the burdens of life and well-being are thrown on the women, who are not equipped either by education, tools or advice to realize their abundant, unfulfilled potential.

I sense the Cairo conference is so badly polarized because too many delegates are holding the wrong end of the stick. Message to Cairo: Take care of women's poverty and population will probably look after itself.

Jonathan Power writes on international affairs from London.

INTERNATIONAL COALITION ON WOMEN AND CREDIT

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN (UNIFEM)

Women comprise half of humanity. There are about 1.3 billion people living in absolute poverty, 70 percent of them are women. The majority of poor women are economically active playing major roles as entrepreneurs and producers, particularly in the informal sector. Their paid and unpaid work is crucial to the economies of their households, communities and countries. The release of their productive potential is essential to the eradication of poverty. However, the resources and opportunities available for them are not commensurate to their economic contribution. The economic empowerment of women has been the cornerstone of UNIFEM's work.

The International Coalition on Women and Credit, a network composed of 32 of the world's leading micro-credit and business NGOs, is the outcome of UNIFEM's effective catalytic work. UNIFEM's financial support, philosophical commitment and practical experience were critical to our formation. Our Coalition has been organizing since 1993 to prepare for the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW, Beijing, 1995) with the aim of ensuring that low income women's economic participation and access to financial services is placed front and centre in changing policies, systems and resources flows at local, regional and global levels. We have joined together in an international alliance to pursue common objectives and have initiated the process of presenting a concrete strategy for equitable and sustainable development with low income women entrepreneurs and producers at the centre. UNIFEM support has made it possible for us to meet, to strategize collectively and to develop advocacy tools and methods for demonstrating the importance of increasing and improving financial resources for low-income women's efforts to become economically self-sufficient.

The advent of the Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1995 in Beijing and its anticipated outcome provides a historic opportunity for the international community to strengthen UNIFEM to play a pivotal role in implementing the Platform for Action in line with its mandate and to be a vehicle of change, carrying the hopes and visions of women, for the 21st century. As the only autonomous fund for women in the United Nations, UNIFEM has the ability to identify, support and document innovative approaches to women's empowerment, and the potential to inform and stimulate effective strategies for improving women's status in UN and government programmes worldwide. Its present level of resources is minuscule and unacceptable given its mandate. Building on its 20 years of experience, UNIFEM should be strengthened and be given adequate resources to continue its work of supporting and leveraging support for programmes and strategies that make it possible for women to participate as equal and visible partners in development.

We the members of the Coalition:

- call upon all governments, non-governmental organizations and multilateral institutions to reaffirm their support for a strengthened UNIFEM;
- urge non-governmental organizations to lobby for a stronger UNIFEM; and
- appeal to each member of the donor community to confirm its commitment to UNIFEM as the vehicle for effective support to non-government organizations and other partners serving women.

Women's World Banking – Coalition Secretariat, 8 West 40th Street, New York, N.Y. 10018
Tel. (212) 768-8513, Fax (212) 768-8519

Funding Members: ACCION International, ATI, Association for Enterprise Opportunity, Banco Solidario, Calmeadow, CASHPOR, Centro Accion Microempresarial, Centro de Apoyo a la Microempresa, COPEME, COPE, Femme Developpement et Entreprises en Afrique, FINCA International, Friends of WWB/India, Grameen Bank, Ms. Foundation, MUDE, RAFAD, Save the Children/USA, SEEP Network, SEWA Cooperative Bank, Societe D'Investissement et de Developpement International, Tototo Home Industries, Uganda Women's Finance and Credit Trust, Women's World Banking, and World Council of Credit Unions. UNIFEM – honorary, non-voting member.

MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COALITION ON WOMEN AND CREDIT

Coalition Secretariat: Women's World Banking (WWB)

ACCION International, USA
Appropriate Technology International (ATI), USA
Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO), USA
Banco Solidario (BancoSol), Bolivia
Bina Swadaya, Indonesia
Calmeadow, Canada
CASHPOR, Malaysia
Centro Acción Microempresarial, Colombia
Centro de Apoyo a la Microempresa (CAM), El Salvador
COPEME, Peru
Corporación Fondo de Apoyo de Empresas Asociativas (CORFAS) Colombia
Credit Organization for Pre-Micro Enterprises (COPE), Jamaica
Femme Developpement Entreprise en Afrique, Senegal
FINCA International, USA
FINCA/Nicaragua
Fundación Tazumal, El Salvador
Friends of Women's World Banking (FWWB), India
Grameen Bank, Bangladesh
Kenya Women Finance Trust (KWFT), Kenya
Ms. Foundation for Women, USA
Pusat Pengembangan Sumberdaya Wanita (PPSW), Indonesia
Research and Application Alternative Financing for Development (RAFAD), Switzerland
Save the Children, USA
Seed Capital Development Fund (SIDI), USA
Small Enterprise Education Promotion Network (SEEP), USA
SEWA Cooperative Bank, India
SHAKTI Foundation, Bangladesh
Tototo Home Industries, Kenya
Uganda Women's Finance and Credit Trust Ltd. (UWFCT), Uganda
UNIFEM
World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU), USA

Chapter IV

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

47. In each area of critical 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 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 programme is intended to improve the condition of all women, irrespective of age, and while recognizing the differences among women, it seeks to pay special attention to the groups of women that are at highest risk, as well as to rural, indigenous, disabled, refugee and displaced women.]

48. [The actions are directed to improving the status and situation of all women and therefore recognize that many women face particular barriers because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion [sexual orientation,] or disability, or because they are indigenous people. Many women face barriers related to their family status, particularly as single parents, to their socio-economic status, including their living conditions in rural or isolated areas and in impoverished areas in rural and urban environments, or to their status as immigrants. Particular barriers also exist for refugee, migrant and displaced women, as well as for those who are affected by environmental disasters, serious and infectious diseases, addiction and various forms of violence against women.]

A. The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women

49. More than 1 billion people in the world today live under unacceptable conditions of poverty, mostly in the developing countries, the great majority of whom are women. Poverty has various causes, including structural ones. Poverty is a complex multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domain. [The uncertain global economic climate has been accompanied by economic restructuring, persistent external debt problems and structural adjustment programmes.] [All types of conflict, displacement of people and environmental degradation have also further undermined the capacity of Governments to meet the basic needs of their populations.] The global transformations of 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. [Full text on unemployment and underemployment to come.] 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 these 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, 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 is a complex multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains. 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 a 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.

50. In the past decade the number of women living in poverty has increased disproportionately to the number of men, particularly in the developing countries. 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 emerging cultural and social factors that lead to instability and the deterioration of 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.

51. 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.

52. 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.

53. 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, and education and support services, and minimal participation in the decision-making process. Poverty can also force women into situations in which they are vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

54. In too many countries, social welfare systems do not take account of the specific conditions of women living in poverty, and there is 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 remunerated and unremunerated work. Moreover, older women also face greater obstacles to labour-market re-entry.

55. In many developed countries, where the level of general education and professional training of women and men are similar and where systems of protection against discrimination are available, in some sectors the economic transformations of the past decade have strongly increased either the unemployment of women or the precarious nature of their employment. The proportion of women among the poor has consequently increased. In countries with a high level of school enrolment of girls, those who leave the educational system the earliest, without any qualification, are among the most vulnerable in the labour market.

56. In countries with economies in transition and in other countries undergoing fundamental political, economic and social transformations, these transformations have often led to a reduction in women's income or to women being deprived of income.

- (f) Develop agricultural and fishing sectors, where and as necessary, in order to ensure, as appropriate, household and national food security and food self-sufficiency, by allocating the necessary financial, technical and human resources;
- (g) Develop policies and programmes to promote equitable distribution of food within the household;
- (h) Provide adequate safety nets and strengthen State-based and [community-based] support systems, as an integral part of social policy, to enable women living in poverty to withstand adverse economic environments and preserve their livelihood, assets and revenues in times of crisis;
- (i) Generate economic policies that have a positive impact on the employment and income of women workers both in the formal and informal sectors and adopt specific measures to address women's unemployment, in particular their long-term unemployment;
- (j) Formulate and implement, when necessary, specific economic, social, agricultural and related policies in support of female-headed households;
- (k) Develop and implement anti-poverty programmes, including employment schemes, that improve the access to food for women living in poverty, including through the use of appropriate pricing and distribution mechanisms;
- (l) [Introduce measures for the empowerment of women migrants and internally displaced women through the easing of stringent and restrictive migration policies, recognition of qualifications and skills of documented immigrants and their full integration into the labour force, and undertaking other measures necessary for the full realization of the human rights of internally displaced persons];
- (m) [Introduce measures to integrate or reintegrate women living in poverty and socially marginalized women into productive employment and the economic mainstream and ensure full access for internally displaced women to economic opportunities, including the recognition of the qualifications and skills of immigrant and refugee women];
- (n) Enable women to obtain affordable housing and access to land, including by removing all obstacles to access, with special emphasis on meeting the needs of women, especially those living in poverty and female heads of household;
- (o) [In the event a modification to paragraph 38 or an earlier section indicating groups of special concern is approved, the whole paragraph will be deleted: Develop special programmes that reflect the specific needs of children, particularly girls, young women, older women and women with disabilities who are least able to gain access to social services and productive resources, as applicable];
- (p) Formulate and implement policies and programmes that enhance the access of women agricultural and fisheries producers (including subsistence farmers and producers, especially in rural areas) to financial, technical, extension and marketing services; provide access and control of land, appropriate infrastructure and technology in order to increase women's incomes and promote household food security, especially in rural areas and, where appropriate, encourage the development of producer-owned, market-based cooperatives;
- (q) Create social security systems wherever they do not exist, or review them with a view to placing individual women and men on an equal footing, at every stage of their lives;

strategic objective A.4. Conduct research in order to enable women to overcome poverty

Actions to be taken

69. By Governments, intergovernmental organizations, academic and research institutions and the private sector:

- (a) Develop conceptual and practical methodologies for incorporating gender perspectives into all aspects of economic policy-making, including structural adjustment planning and programmes;
- (b) Apply these methodologies in conducting gender-impact analyses of all policies and programmes, including structural adjustment programmes, and disseminate the research findings.

70. By national and international statistical organizations:

- (a) Collect gender and age-disaggregated data on poverty and all aspects of economic activity, and develop qualitative and quantitative statistical indicators to facilitate the assessment of economic performance from a gender perspective;
- (b) Devise suitable statistical means to recognize and make visible the full extent of the work of women and all their contributions to the national economy, including their contribution in the unremunerated and domestic sectors, and examine the relationship of women's unremunerated work to the incidence of and their vulnerability to poverty.

B. Unequal access to and inadequate educational opportunities

71. Education is a basic [human] right and an essential tool for achieving the goals of equality, development and peace. Non-discriminatory education benefits both girls and boys, and thus ultimately contributes to more equal relationships between women and men. Equality of access and attainment of educational qualifications is necessary if more women are to become agents of change. Literacy of women is an important key to improve health, nutrition and education in the family, and to empower women to participate in decision-making in society. Investing in formal and non-formal education and training for girls and women, with its exceptionally high social and economic return, has proved to be one of the best means of achieving sustainable development and economic growth that is both sustained and sustainable.

72. On a regional level, girls and boys have achieved equal access to primary education, except in some parts of Africa, in particular sub-Saharan Africa, and Central Asia, where access to education facilities is still inadequate. Progress has been made in secondary education, where equal access of girls and boys has been achieved in some countries. Enrolment of girls and women in tertiary education has increased considerably. In many countries, private schools have also played an important complementary role in improving access to education at all levels. Yet, more than five years after the World Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand, 1990) adopted the World Declaration on Education for All and the Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs, approximately 100 million children, including at least 60 million girls, are without access to primary schooling, and more than two thirds of the world's 960 million illiterate adults are women. The high rate of illiteracy prevailing in most developing countries, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa and some Arab States, remains a severe impediment to the advancement of women, and to development.

73. Discrimination in girls' access to education persists in many areas, owing to customary attitudes, [early marriages] and pregnancies, inadequate and gender-biased teaching and educational materials [, sexual harassment], and lack

for reasons including inflexible working conditions and inadequate sharing by men and by society of family responsibilities.

161. [In countries that are undergoing fundamental political, economic and social transformation, the skills of women have constituted a major contribution to the economic life of their countries, but these skills are not well utilized in the emerging new economies.]

162. Lack of employment in the private sector and reductions in public services and public service jobs have affected women disproportionately. In some countries, women take on more unpaid work [by replacing public services], such as the care of children and those who are ill or elderly and in compensating for lost household income [particularly when public services are not available]. In many cases, [employment creation strategies, however, have tended to focus on traditional male occupations and sectors].

163. [For those women in paid work, many experience obstacles that prevent them from achieving their potential. While some are increasingly found in lower levels of management, attitudinal discrimination often prevents them being promoted further. The experience of sexual harassment is both an affront to a worker's dignity and prevents women from making a contribution commensurate with their abilities. The lack of a family-friendly work environment, including lack of appropriate and affordable child care, and inflexible working hours further prevent women from achieving their full potential.]

164. In the private sector [including in transnational and national enterprises], women are largely absent from management and policy levels, denoting discriminatory hiring and promotion policies and practices. The unfavourable work environment as well as the limited number of employment opportunities available have led many women to seek alternatives. Women have increasingly become self-employed and owners and managers of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises. The expansion of the informal sector, in many countries, and of self-organized and independent enterprise is in large part due to women, whose [collaborative, self-help and traditional practices and] initiatives in production and trade represent a vital economic resource. When they gain access to and control over capital, credit and other resources, technology and training, women can increase production, marketing and income for sustainable development.

165. Taking into account the fact that continuing inequalities and noticeable progress coexist, rethinking employment policies is necessary in order to integrate the gender perspective and to draw attention to a wider range of opportunities as well as to address any negative gender implications of current patterns of work and employment. To realize fully equality between women and men in their contribution to the economies, active efforts are required for recognizing equal appreciation and influence in society of the work, experience, knowledge and values of both women and men.

166. In addressing the economic potential and independence of women, Governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes so that, before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects for women and men respectively.

[Promote women's economic self-reliance, including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources - land, capital and technology]

Strategic objective F.1. [Promote women's self-reliance including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources, land, capital, credit, technology and guarantee economic opportunities for women]. [Secure economic rights for women].

Actions to be taken

167. By Governments:

- (a) Enact and enforce legislation to guarantee the rights of women and men to equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;
- (b) Adopt and implement laws against discrimination based on sex [, age, race and religion] in the labour market, in hiring and promotion, the extension of employment benefits and social security, and working conditions;
- (c) Eliminate discriminatory practices by employers and take appropriate measures in consideration of women's reproductive role and functions, such as the denial of employment and dismissal due to pregnancy or breast-feeding, or requiring proof of contraceptive use, and take effective measures to ensure that pregnant women, women on maternity leave or re-entering the labour market after childbearing are not discriminated against;
- (d) Devise mechanisms and apply positive action that enable women to gain access to full and equal participation in the formulation of policies and definition of structures through such bodies as ministries of finance and trade, national economic commissions, economic research institutes and other key agencies, as well as through their participation in appropriate international bodies;
- (e) [Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women equal rights [equitable rights] with men to economic resources, including access to ownership and control over land, and other properties, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate technology;]
- (f) Conduct reviews of national income and inheritance tax and social security systems to eliminate any existing bias against women;
- (g) [Seek to] Develop a more comprehensive knowledge of work and employment through, inter alia, efforts to measure and better understand the type, extent, and distribution of unremunerated work, particularly work in caring for dependents and unremunerated work done for family farms or businesses, and encourage the sharing and disseminating of information on studies and experience in this field, including on the development of methods for assessing its value in quantitative terms, for possible reflection in accounts that may be produced separately from, but consistent with, core national accounts;
- (h) [Provide developing countries with technical assistance and funding to collect the data on unwaged work and to incorporate them into their national accounts and other economic statistics;]
- (i) Review and amend laws governing the operation of financial institutions to ensure that they provide services to women and men on an equal basis;
- (j) [Take efforts to facilitate more open and transparent budget processes];
- (k) Revise and implement national policies that support the traditional savings, credit and lending mechanisms for women;
- (l) Seek to ensure that national policies related to international and regional trade agreements do not adversely impact women's new and traditional economic activities;

extension services, marketing and credit facilities at the local and community levels;

- (f) Establish appropriate mechanisms and encourage intersectoral institutions that enable women's cooperatives to optimize access to necessary services;
- (g) Increase the proportion of women extension workers and other government personnel who provide technical assistance or administer economic programmes;
- (h) Review, reformulate if necessary and implement policies, including business, commercial and contract law and government regulations, to ensure that they do not discriminate against micro, small and medium-scale enterprises owned by women in rural and urban areas;
- (i) Analyse, advise on, coordinate and implement policies that integrate the needs and interests of employed, self-employed and entrepreneurial women into sectoral and inter-ministerial policies, programmes and budgets;
- (j) Ensure equal access for women to effective job training, retraining, counselling and placement services that are not limited to traditional employment areas;
- (k) Remove policy and regulatory obstacles faced by women in social and development programmes that discourage private and individual initiative;
- (l) Safeguard and promote respect for basic workers' rights including the prohibition of forced labour and child labour, freedom of association and the right to organize and bargain collectively, equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value, and non-discrimination in employment and fully implement the conventions of the International Labour Organization in the case of States party to those conventions and taking into account the principles embodied in those conventions in the case of those countries that are not States party to thus achieve truly sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

169. By Governments, central banks and national development banks, and private banking institutions, as appropriate:

- (a) Increase participation of women, including women entrepreneurs, in advisory boards and other forums to enable women entrepreneurs from all sectors and their organizations to contribute to the formulation and review of policies and programmes being developed by economic ministries and banking institutions;
- (b) Mobilize the banking sector to increase lending and refinancing through incentives and the development of intermediaries that serve the needs of women entrepreneurs and producers in both rural and urban areas, and include women in their leadership, planning and decision-making;
- (c) Structure services to reach rural and urban women involved in small, micro and medium-scale enterprises, with special attention to young, low-income, ethnic and racial minority, and indigenous women who lack access to capital and assets; expand women's access to financial markets by identifying and encouraging financial supervisory and regulatory reforms that support financial institutions' direct and indirect efforts to better meet the credit and other financial needs of the micro, small and medium-scale enterprises of women;

Strategic objective F.3. Provide business services and access to markets, information and technology to low-income women

Actions to be taken

175. By Governments [in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the private sector]:

- (a) Provide public infrastructure to [ensure] facilitate equal market access for women and men entrepreneurs;
- (b) Develop programmes that provide training and retraining, particularly in new technologies and affordable services to women in business management, product development, financing, production and quality control, marketing and the legal aspects of business;
- (c) Provide outreach programmes to inform low-income and poor women, particularly in rural and remote areas, of opportunities for market and technology access, and provide assistance in taking advantage of such opportunities;
- (d) Create non-discriminatory [investment funds] [support services] for women's businesses and target women, particularly low-income women, in trade promotion programmes;
- (e) Disseminate information about successful women entrepreneurs in both traditional and non-traditional economic activities and the skills necessary for such success; facilitate networking and the exchange of information;
- (f) Take measures to ensure equal access of women to ongoing training in the workplace, including unemployed women, single parents, women re-entering the labour market after an extended temporary exit from employment owing to family responsibilities and other causes, women displaced by new forms of production or by retrenchment, and increase incentives to enterprises to expand the number of vocational and training centres that provide training for women in non-traditional areas;
- (g) Provide affordable support services, such as quality, flexible and affordable child-care services, that take into account the needs of working men and women.

176. By local, national, regional and international business organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned with women's issues:

Advocate, at all levels, for the promotion and support of women's businesses and enterprises, including those in the informal sector, and the equal access of women to productive resources.

Strategic objective F.4. Strengthen women's economic capacity and commercial networks

Actions to be taken

177. By Governments:

- (a) Adopt policies that support business organizations, non-governmental organizations, cooperatives, revolving loan funds, credit unions, grass-roots organizations, women's self-help groups and other groups in order to provide services to women entrepreneurs in rural and urban areas;

- (h) Support credit networks and innovative ventures, including traditional savings schemes;
- (i) Provide networking arrangements for entrepreneurial women, including opportunities for the mentoring of inexperienced women by the more experienced;
- (j) Encourage community organizations and public authorities to establish loan pools for women entrepreneurs, drawing on successful small-scale cooperative models.

179. By [encouraging] [transnational and national corporations] [by the private sector]:

- (a) Adopt policies and establish mechanisms to grant contracts on a non-discriminatory basis;
- (b) Recruit women for leadership, decision-making and management, and provide training programmes, all on an equal basis with men;
- (c) Observe national labour environment, consumer, health and safety laws, particularly those that affect women.

Strategic objective F.5. Eliminate occupational segregation and all forms of employment discrimination

Actions to be taken

180. By Governments, employers, employees, trade unions and women's organizations:

- (a) [Implement and enforce laws, regulations and codes of conduct that extend international labour standards and workers' rights to female workers in export processing zones];
- (b) [Enact and enforce laws and introduce implementing measures, including means of redress and access to justice in case of non-compliance, to prohibit direct and indirect discrimination on grounds of sex, sexual orientation and parental status in relation to access to employment, conditions of employment, including training, promotion, health and safety, as well as termination of employment and social security of workers, including legal protection against sexual and racial harassment];
- (c) Enact and enforce laws and develop workplace policies against [age and] gender discrimination in the labour market, in hiring and promotion, and in the extension of employment benefits and social security, as well as regarding discriminatory working conditions and sexual harassment; mechanisms should be developed for the regular review and monitoring of such laws;
- (d) Eliminate discriminatory practices by employers on the basis of women reproductive roles and functions, including refusal of employment and dismissal of women due to pregnancy and breast-feeding responsibilities;
- (e) [Develop and promote employment programmes and services for women entering and/or re-entering the labour market, especially poor urban, rural and young women and those affected by structural adjustment programmes, including self-employment];
- (f) Implement and monitor positive public and private-sector employment equity and positive action programmes to address systemic discrimination against women in the labour force, in particular women

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Divider Title: _____

MV -
7/25 Fgt.
P

TO: Tim Wirth
Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky
Theresa Loar
Phyllis Oakley
FROM: Ellen Marshall
RE: Anecdotes in support of "Why Beijing?"
DATE: July 19, 1995

I know that for speaking with the press, some people are interested in having some real life examples of why we should be involved with the 4WCW. Marjorie has certainly been hearing many from across the country, but I thought I'd share some from the rest of the world which may be useful.

Women's Economic Empowerment

A lively argument is in progress in a small wood and tile building in this village in the heart of the tribal belt of the western Indian western of Gujarat. The "women's awakening group" is busy discussing how to get the state government to agree to guarantee that they are paid the declared minimum wages for their efforts in collecting and selling leaves used to roll local cigarettes, called "beedis." "About eight years back, when we called our first meeting of women forest produce gatherers, most of the women did not understand the meaning of the word 'meeting.' But we have come a long way since then," says one of the women present. Today, not only are visitors witness to lively meetings like the one in progress among the indigenous women of the area, they also see protest marches and demonstrations by the women to demand their rights. Most people in the area are poor and the women are forced to gather forest produce, mainly the leaves of the "tendu" tree for cigarettes, to supplement their husbands' agricultural incomes. Eight years ago, the women got around a quarter of a cent for plucking 5,000 leaves, a job that could take up to eight hours. The earnings were less than half of the officially declared minimum wage at that time. Then, a voluntary organization called "Disha" helped the women come together and organize themselves in "mahila jagriti mandals," or "women's awakening groups," throughout the district. There has been no looking back since then. (Inter Press Service, India: Women Forest Gatherers Demand Their Rights, ATARSUBA, India, June 23, 1995)

"Do you want to be the owner or just the workers?" is the question Poonsap poses to women who become interested in learning natural dying techniques. It is this sense of ownership and accompanying responsibility that informs the project and creates opportunity for women's leadership training. As women practice and learn the many technical skills involved in producing, testing, and using natural dyes, they learn to rely on themselves and on their own observation and judgments. By taking responsibility for the marketing of the products, they transcend the traditional limits of village women in the northeast." (Poonsap Suanmuang, Thailand)

"If asked what they do, women often reply "nothing" because work is valued only on the basis of cash." (Prativa Subedi, WACN, Nepal)

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	Ellen Marshall to Time Wirth re: personal anecdotes in support of "Why Beijing?" [partial] (2 pages)	07/19/1995	b(6)

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United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women - Issues [Binder] [1]

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RESTRICTION CODES

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- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
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- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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

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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]

Education

In the rural societies of northern Ghana, girls are expected to marry early and take care of their husbands. When household budgets are tight, the choice is even clearer: parents prefer to send to boys to school. The problem, however, is far from restricted to the north. In the capital, Accra, Opanyin Kofi Bronya, a well-known trader, maintains educating girls sows the seeds of marital disaster. "Why should I spend hard-earned money on a daughter who will end up in somebody's else kitchen," he adds. (Inter Press Service, Ghana-Education: Out of the Kitchen and Into School June 22, 1995)

"One has to know the attitude of men in this part of Nigeria. Women are like chattel: when they are new they are cherished, but the moment they start to wear out, they are discarded to be replaced by newer ones." "I want all women to know that they can do anything they want and that they do not need to depend on men to run their lives. Education does this for a woman. It makes her able to be independent," she says. "My brothers used to try to run my life, but they know that no one can marry me off now. I work hard to support myself and care for myself." (Hajia Rabi Wali, Nigeria)

Women on Women

"The biggest barriers to organizing women are their feeling of isolation from each other and mutual suspicion. The dominant ethos is self-preservation and fear of disclosure. Women experience great shame about their problems; the fact that their husband has a girlfriend in Johannesburg, their teenage daughter is pregnant, or that they cannot afford to pay school fees." (Lyndia Kompe, The Rural Women's Movement, South Africa)

"Recently several women health workers were brutally killed on the outskirts of Calcutta. No one did anything. Maitreyee, however, fought to keep a spotlight on it. She investigated. She testified. She worked to organize press coverage. She persisted and ultimately brought home the realization that women's lives are important." (Maitreyee Chatterjee, India)

"...nonliterate, poor Indian village women can succeed eloquently in explaining the finer aspects of fertility to middle-class town women." (Mira Sadgopal, FAE, India)

(b)(6)

cool]

“We have changed from women managers of family planning programs to advocates for women in our countries.” (Litha Musyimi Ogana, Kenya - CEDPA)

Adolescent Pregnancy

“Before, my friend told me that the best way to prevent pregnancy was to take 24 aspirin tablet, yet I saw them get pregnant and drop out of school. I now know a lot about my reproductive system. I know how to interact with boys and still assertively say No to sex. But there is a high rate of teen pregnancy, abortion, sexual infections, and even HIV/AIDS. Girls drop out of school and lose their chance for an education. We can change this by educating adolescents about sexuality.” (Olubunmi Adeleye, age 16, Nigeria)

“Sexual activity among teenagers in Nigeria is high. As a result, many teenagers who become pregnant while still attending school resort to terminating their pregnancies, often at great risk, since abortion is illegal. In the southern part of the country, where doctors routinely describe illegally induced abortion as the “schoolgirls problem.” (Nike Esiet, AHI, Nigeria)

Reproductive Health and Rights

“Sexual health-reproductive health: both are beyond women here whether they be commercial sex hookers or ordinary housewives. With the double sexual standard and the skewed power relations between abandon women are highly vulnerable to infection whether it be as a CSW sold by her family into the sex industry or the partner of a promiscuous man.” (Tyler Crone, Chiang Mai, Thailand – 1994 PRM/Pop Intern)

“Women’s health, childbirth, and pregnancy are subjects that concern us all. Those most affected are women, who must become aware of the importance of being in good health. They need to know how to stay in good health and to prevent illnesses that could be avoided with some care and attention. Men, who are our life partners, our husbands, our children, and our fathers, have the responsibility to watch over the health of their mothers, wives, daughters, and sisters. Our teenagers have the right to know about the dangers of early sexual relations, which are not only forbidden by Islam when they are outside of marriage, but which are also harmful to the health of young girls. Wives must become aware of the need for family planning. Gone are the days when each child was born with an equal chance at good fortune. We need to inform people, and then inform them some more.....” (Fawzia Talout, Farah, Morocco)

“In Lebanon women could be killed by their immediate male relatives if they are suspected of having extramarital sexual relations. The victim of one such “honour killing” was suspected of having lost their virginity out of wedlock. “The law does not hold such a man to be a criminal,” said Nadda Khalifa of Lebanon. “And if the forensic examiner proved that the woman was a virgin, then the man gets a reduced sentence under the pretext that this was not a crime but an act of defense of the family honour,” she added. (Nadda Khalifa of Lebanon, Taking the Bias Out; June 8, 1995)

HIV/AIDS

"The wailing had stopped. The grave had been covered. The last fresh grave was that of her young two-year-old son who had died two months before, and the one before that was her husband. There were three others in the compound. She too had joined the other members of her family in death, leaving behind five orphans. Who will be next? Her 80-year-old mother-in-law is left alone to answer this question as well as take care of her five grandchildren. Just like her deceased children and husband, Jane had succumbed to AIDS. Another victim who contracted the disease from her husband who worked in the city while Jane lived in their rural home with the children. An innocent death." (Eunice Mathy, "Parents", Kenya)

Female Genital Mutilation

"The operation was very painful. The midwife cut me up without a shred of mercy. I lay down 'tied' for two weeks, which was very hurting. At the age of 12, my grandmother examined me and heartlessly declared that I was not 'closed' enough, and the procedure was done again. I contracted an infection from the wound inflicted by the traditional midwife circumcision. Doctors have told me I will never conceive because of the damage done. This cruel and inhuman operation has ruined my chances of marriage and motherhood."

(b)(6)

Quotable Quotes

"Women have been uplifted. One more battle has been won. We leave this country with great satisfaction that we were party to this transformation. We feel more empowered now that when we came and this is something good to take home, it is worth sustaining." (Dr. Florence Manguyu, Closing Statement to ICPD)

"If we had paid more attention to empowering women 30 years ago, we might not have to battle so hard for sustainable development today." (Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary General of ICPD)

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VATICAN

Divider Title: _____

July 21, 1995

Honorable Christopher Smith
Chairman
House Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights
2401A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Congressman Smith,

I am writing on behalf of the Center of Concern, a Catholic social justice center located in Washington, DC. We have been working to promote global justice according to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching for nearly 25 years. We have worked closely with the US Catholic Conference of Bishops and with the Vatican during that time, as well as with a broad spectrum of ecumenical and interreligious groups worldwide.

I am writing to express for the Congressional Record our strongest possible urging that your Subcommittee NOT try to keep the US from participating in the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing next month. We are convinced that it would send the wrong message to the world's women, to US women and to the Chinese government.

First of all, this conference is about women and the needs and human rights of women around the world. If the Republican-led Congress tries to stop the US from participating at the same time as it chose not to revoke Most-Favored-Nation trading status for China, it will say clearly to the world's women that their rights and well-being mean far less to Congress than economic rewards.

Secondly, that is surely not the message that Congress should give US women as we approach the 1996 election season. The Fourth UN World Conference on Women is an opportunity for the US government to promote issues US voters care about in an important international forum: issues such as economic freedom and opportunity, freedom of religious expression, equal opportunity for women, freedom from discrimination, sexual harassment and domestic violence. The US should be present in Beijing working hard to achieve these powerful values for the women of the world.

Thirdly, an effort to stop US participation will tell the Chinese government that you are more concerned about economic self-interest than about human rights and that you

care less about women's issues, concerns and human rights than you do about trying to embarrass China -- and the Clinton Administration.

f ht

You will certainly be saying to the US electorate: this is politics as usual -- being on the backs of the women of the world.

I appeal to you, your subcommittee and the US Congress on moral and political grounds: Support full and energetic US participation at the Conference on Women in Beijing.

Sincerely,

James E. Hug, S.J.
Executive Director

cc. Representative Lantos

*file Vatican / China
b/c*

United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women

There has been close cooperation and understanding between the U.S. and the Holy See on issues relating to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women. Both delegations support the goal of improving the lives of women throughout the world. We have worked together to resolve such contentious issues as:

- The portrayal of motherhood in the media
- The centrality of the family (the U.S. has advanced the language of the family being "basic unit of society")
- The critical role played by religion in the lives of women and men
- The use of the term "gender" in the Conference documents
- The importance of upholding language previously agreed to at the Vienna Human Rights Conference, the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, and the Copenhagen World Summit on Social Development.

Prior to the Conference, constructive meetings were held between the White House and the Bishop's Conference, between Ambassador Albright and Cardinal O'Connor, and between various Administration officials and representatives of the Holy See. Both sides worked hard to minimize differences. In Beijing, Mrs. Clinton and key members of the U.S. delegation met with members of the Vatican delegation. It was an excellent meeting, underscoring the issues we hold in common. They were very laudatory of the First Lady's address.

We have also learned that the Pope was "delighted" by the First Lady's speech and that Vatican officials were particularly grateful for her words in support of the family.

In the statements he issued prior to the Conference, the Pope prayed for the success of the Conference and, as part of the Vatican's concrete commitments, announced that he was "calling on all Catholic caring and educational institutions throughout the world to adopt a concerted and priority strategy directed to girls and young women, especially to the poorest." The Vatican stressed its social teachings and social justice goals in advancing the Conference.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Fax</u>
Theresa Loar	Dept. of State	647-3125	647-4787
Kathleen Hendrix	"	647-3130	647-4787
Marie Chin	Sisters of Mercy	587-0423	587-0533
Suzanne Gelas	Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace	529-7415	529-7415
Annette Kane	Natl. Council of Catholic Bishops	682-0334	682-0338
Kathy Thornton	NETWORK + National Catholic Social Justice Lobby	547-5556	547-5510
Catherine Pinkerton	N.C. NETWORK	547-5556	547-5510
Dolores Leckey	Nat. Conference of Cath Bish.	541-3040	541-3088
Barbara Kohner	US Catholic Conference	541-3153	541-3339
Melanne Vermeer	White House	456-6266	456-6244
Jim Hug	Center of Concern	635-2757	832-9494
MARIA RILEY	CENTER OF CONCERN	635-2757	832-9494

file later

Cathy Rowen
OSC
 Center

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC VICE PRESIDENT

P. O. Box 154, Manila

July 6, 1995

SR. HELEN GRAHAM, MM
 Institute of Formation and
 Religious Studies
 28 Acacia Street
 Cubao, Quezon City

Dear Sister Helen,

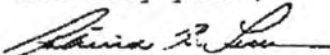
I am writing to ask for your assistance in responding to some of the concerns of the Vatican with regard to the Fourth World Conference on Women which will be held in Beijing this September. As the current Chair for the UN Commission on the Status of Women which is the Preparatory Body for said conference, I would certainly appreciate the inputs you might share in addressing the concerns of women vis-a-vis the stand of the Catholic Church.

In this regard, may I invite you along with other resource persons to a meeting at the Ateneo de Manila University Board Room on Tuesday, July 11, 1995, from 2:00 - 4:00 PM to discuss the matter? Attached are a press release and other clippings along with the Beijing Draft Platform for Action for your reference. We hope you can accept our invitation.

Cathy — SOS — Got any
 materials you could FAX
 to me that could be of help
 on July 11th ????

Shalom + Thanks
 Helen

Sincerely yours,



PATRICIA B. LICUANAN, Ph.D
 Academic Vice President



LETTER
OF POPE JOHN PAUL II
TO WOMEN

LIBRERIA EDITRICE VATICANA
VATICAN CITY

*I greet you all most cordially,
women throughout the world!*

1. I AM WRITING THIS LETTER to each one of you as a sign of solidarity and gratitude on the eve of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing this coming September.

Before all else, I wish to express my deep appreciation to the United Nations Organization for having sponsored this very significant event. The Church desires for her part to contribute to upholding the dignity, role and rights of women, not only by the specific work of the Holy See's official Delegation to the Conference in Beijing, but also by speaking directly to the heart and mind of every woman. Recently, when Mrs Gertrude Mongella, the Secretary General of the Conference, visited me in connection with the Peking meeting, I gave her a written Message which stated some basic points of the Church's teaching with regard to women's issues. That message, apart from the specific circumstances of its origin, was concerned with a broader vision of the situation and problems of women in general, in an attempt to promote the cause of women in the Church and in today's world. For this reason, I arranged to have

it forwarded to every Conference of Bishops, so that it could be circulated as widely as possible.

Taking up the themes I addressed in that document, I would now like to *speak directly to every woman*, to reflect with her on the problems and the prospects of what it means to be a woman in our time. In particular I wish to consider the essential issue of the *dignity and rights* of women, as seen in the light of the word of God.

This "dialogue" really needs to begin with a word of thanks. As I wrote in my Apostolic Letter *Mulieris Dignitatem*, the Church "desires to give thanks to the Most Holy Trinity for the 'mystery of woman' and for every woman—for all that constitutes the eternal measure of her feminine dignity, for the 'great works of God', which throughout human history have been accomplished in and through her" (No. 31).

2. This word of thanks to the Lord for his mysterious plan regarding the vocation and mission of women in the world is at the same time a concrete and direct word of thanks to women, to every woman, for all that they represent in the life of humanity.

Thank you, *women who are mothers*! You have sheltered human beings within yourselves in a unique experience of joy and travail. This experience makes you become God's own smile upon the newborn child, the one who guides your child's first steps, who helps it to grow, and who is the anchor as the child makes its way along the journey of life.

Thank you, *women who are wives*! You irrevocably join your future to that of your husbands, in a relationship of mutual giving, at the service of love and life.

Thank you, *women who are daughters and women who are sisters*! Into the heart of the family, and then of all society, you bring the richness of your sensitivity, your intuitiveness, your generosity and fidelity.

Thank you, *women who work*! You are present and active in every area of life—social, economic, cultural, artistic and political. In this way you make an indispensable contribution to the growth of a culture which unites reason and feeling, to a model of life ever open to the sense of "mystery", to the establishment of economic and political structures ever more worthy of humanity.

Thank you, *consecrated women*! Following the example of the greatest of women, the Mother of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word, you open yourselves with obedience and fidelity to the gift of God's love. You help the Church and all mankind to experience a "spousal" relationship to God, one which magnificently expresses the fellowship which God wishes to establish with his creatures.

Thank you, *every woman*, for the simple fact of being a woman! Through the insight which is so much a part of your womanhood you enrich the world's understanding and help to make human relations more honest and authentic.

3. I know of course that simply saying thank you is not enough. Unfortunately, we are heirs to

a history which has conditioned us to a remarkable extent. In every time and place, this conditioning has been an obstacle to the progress of women. Women's dignity has often been unacknowledged and their prerogatives misrepresented; they have often been relegated to the margins of society and even reduced to servitude. This has prevented women from truly being themselves and it has resulted in a spiritual impoverishment of humanity. Certainly it is no easy task to assign the blame for this, considering the many kinds of cultural conditioning which down the centuries have shaped ways of thinking and acting. And if objective blame, especially in particular historical contexts, has belonged to not just a few members of the Church, for this I am truly sorry. May this regret be transformed, on the part of the whole Church, into a renewed commitment of fidelity to the Gospel vision. When it comes to setting women free from every kind of exploitation and domination, the Gospel contains an ever relevant message which goes back to the attitude of Jesus Christ himself. Transcending the established norms of his own culture, Jesus treated women with openness, respect, acceptance and tenderness. In this way he honoured the dignity which women have always possessed according to God's plan and in his love. As we look to Christ at the end of this Second Millennium, it is natural to ask ourselves: how much of his message has been heard and acted upon?

Yes, it is time to *examine the past with courage*, to assign responsibility where it is due in a review

of the long history of humanity. Women have contributed to that history as much as men and, more often than not, they did so in much more difficult conditions. I think particularly of those women who loved culture and art, and devoted their lives to them in spite of the fact that they were frequently at a disadvantage from the start, excluded from equal educational opportunities, underestimated, ignored and not given credit for their intellectual contributions. Sadly, very little of women's achievements in history can be registered by the science of history. But even though time may have buried the documentary evidence of those achievements, their beneficent influence can be felt as a force which has shaped the lives of successive generations, right up to our own. To this great, immense feminine "tradition" humanity owes a debt which can never be repaid. Yet how many women have been and continue to be valued more for their physical appearance than for their skill, their professionalism, their intellectual abilities, their deep sensitivity; in a word, the very dignity of their being.

4. And what shall we say of the obstacles which in so many parts of the world still keep women from being fully integrated into social, political and economic life? We need only think of how the gift of motherhood is often penalized rather than rewarded, even though humanity owes its very survival to this gift. Certainly, much remains to be done to prevent discrimination against those who have chosen to be wives and

mothers. As far as personal rights are concerned, there is an urgent need to achieve *real equality* in every area: equal pay for equal work, protection for working mothers, fairness in career advancements, equality of spouses with regard to family rights and the recognition of everything that is part of the rights and duties of citizens in a democratic State.

This is a matter of justice but also of necessity. Women will increasingly play a part in the solution of the serious problems of the future: leisure time, the quality of life, migration, social services, euthanasia, drugs, health care, the ecology, etc. In all these areas a greater presence of women in society will prove most valuable, for it will help to manifest the contradictions present when society is organized solely according to the criteria of efficiency and productivity, and it will force systems to be redesigned in a way which favours the processes of humanization which mark the "civilization of love".

5. Then too, when we look at one of the most sensitive aspects of the situation of women in the world, how can we not mention the long and degrading history, albeit often an "underground" history, of violence against women in the area of sexuality? At the threshold of the Third Millennium we cannot remain indifferent and resigned before this phenomenon. The time has come to condemn vigorously the types of *sexual violence* which frequently have women for their object and to pass laws which effectively defend them from

such violence. Nor can we fail, in the name of the respect due to the human person, to condemn the widespread hedonistic and commercial culture which encourages the systematic exploitation of sexuality and corrupts even very young girls into letting their bodies be used for profit.

In contrast to these sorts of perversion, what great appreciation must be shown to those women who, with a heroic love for the child they have conceived, proceed with a pregnancy resulting from the injustice of rape. Here we are thinking of atrocities perpetrated not only in situations of war, still so common in the world, but also in societies which are blessed by prosperity and peace and yet are often corrupted by a culture of hedonistic permissiveness which aggravates tendencies to aggressive male behaviour. In these cases the choice to have an abortion always remains a grave sin. But before being something to blame on the woman, it is a crime for which guilt needs to be attributed to men and to the complicity of the general social environment.

6. My word of thanks to women thus becomes a *heartfelt appeal* that everyone, and in a special way States and international institutions, should make every effort to ensure that women regain full respect for their dignity and role. Here I cannot fail to express my admiration for those women of good will who have devoted their lives to defending the dignity of womanhood by fighting for their basic social, economic and political rights, demonstrating courageous initiative at a time

when this was considered extremely inappropriate, the sign of a lack of femininity, a manifestation of exhibitionism, and even a sin!

In this year's *World Day of Peace Message*, I noted that when one looks at the great process of women's liberation, "the journey has been a difficult and complicated one and, at times, not without its share of mistakes. But it has been substantially a positive one, even if it is still unfinished, due to the many obstacles which in various parts of the world, still prevent women from being acknowledged, respected, and appreciated in their own special dignity" (No. 4).

This journey must go on! But I am convinced that the secret of making speedy progress in achieving full respect for women and their identity involves more than simply the condemnation of discrimination and injustices, necessary though this may be. Such respect must first and foremost be won through an effective and intelligent *campaign for the promotion of women*, concentrating on all areas of women's life and beginning with a *universal recognition of the dignity of women*. Our ability to recognize this dignity, in spite of historical conditioning, comes from the use of reason itself, which is able to understand the law of God written in the heart of every human being. More than anything else, the word of God enables us to grasp clearly the ultimate *anthropological basis* of the dignity of women, making it evident as a part of God's plan for humanity.

7. Dear sisters, together let us reflect anew on the magnificent passage in Scripture which describes the creation of the human race and which has so much to say about your dignity and mission in the world.

The Book of Genesis speaks of creation in summary fashion, in language which is poetic and symbolic, yet profoundly true: "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; *male and female he created them*" (Gen 1:27). The creative act of God takes place according to a precise plan. First of all, we are told that the human being is created "in the image and likeness of God" (cf. Gen 1:26). This expression immediately makes clear *what is distinct about the human being with regard to the rest of creation.*

We are then told that, from the very beginning, man has been created "male and female" (Gen 1:27). Scripture itself provides the interpretation of this fact: even though man is surrounded by the innumerable creatures of the created world, he realizes that *he is alone* (cf. Gen 2:20). God intervenes in order to help him escape from this situation of solitude: "*It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him*" (Gen 2:18). The creation of woman is thus marked from the outset by the *principle of help*: a help which is not one-sided but *mutual*. Woman complements man, just as man complements woman: men and women are *complementary*. Womanhood expresses the "human" as much as manhood does, but in a different and complementary way.

When the Book of Genesis speaks of "help", it is not referring merely to *acting*, but also to *being*. Womanhood and manhood are complementary *not only from the physical and psychological points of view*, but also from the *ontological*. It is only through the duality of the "masculine" and the "feminine" that the "human" finds full realization.

8. After creating man male and female, God says to both: "*Fill the earth and subdue it*" (Gen 1:28). Not only does he give them the power to procreate as a means of perpetuating the human species throughout time, *he also gives them the earth, charging them with the responsible use of its resources*. As a rational and free being, man is called to transform the face of the earth. In this task, which is essentially that of culture, *man and woman alike* share equal responsibility from the start. In their fruitful relationship as husband and wife, in their common task of exercising dominion over the earth, woman and man are marked neither by a static and undifferentiated equality nor by an irreconcilable and inexorably conflictual difference. Their most natural relationship, which corresponds to the plan of God, is the "unity of the two", a relational "uni-duality", which enables each to experience their interpersonal and reciprocal relationship as a gift which enriches and which confers responsibility.

To this "unity of the two" God has entrusted not only the work of procreation and family life, but the creation of history itself. *While the 1994*

International Year of the Family focused attention on *women as mothers*, the Beijing Conference, which has as its theme "Action for Equality, Development and Peace", provides an auspicious occasion for heightening awareness of *the many contributions made by women to the life of whole societies and nations*. This contribution is primarily spiritual and cultural in nature, but socio-political and economic as well. The various sectors of society, nations and states, and the progress of all humanity, are certainly deeply indebted to the contribution of women!

9. Progress usually tends to be measured according to the criteria of science and technology. Nor from this point of view has the contribution of women been negligible. Even so, this is not the only measure of progress, nor in fact is it the principal one. Much more important is *the social and ethical dimension*, which deals with human relations and spiritual values. In this area, which often develops in an inconspicuous way beginning with the daily relationships between people, especially within the family, society certainly owes much to the "*genius of women*".

Here I would like to express particular appreciation to those women who are involved in the various *areas of education* extending well beyond the family: nurseries, schools, universities, social service agencies, parishes, associations and movements. Wherever the work of education is called for, we can note that women are ever ready and willing to give themselves generously to others,

especially in serving the weakest and most defenceless. In this work they exhibit a kind of *affective, cultural and spiritual motherhood* which has inestimable value for the development of individuals and the future of society. At this point how can I fail to mention the witness of so many Catholic women and Religious Congregations of women from every continent who have made education, particularly the education of boys and girls, their principal apostolate? How can I not think with gratitude of all the women who have worked and continue to work in the area of health care, not only in highly organized institutions, but also in very precarious circumstances, in the poorest countries of the world; thus demonstrating a spirit of service which not infrequently borders on martyrdom?

10. It is thus my hope, dear sisters, that you will reflect carefully on what it means to speak of the "*genius of women*", not only in order to be able to see in this phrase a specific part of God's plan which needs to be accepted and appreciated, but also in order to let this genius be more fully expressed in the life of society as a whole, as well as in the life of the Church. This subject came up frequently during the *Marian Year* and I myself dwelt on it at length in my Apostolic Letter *Mulieris Dignitatem* (1988). In addition, this year in the Letter which I customarily send to priests for Holy Thursday, I invited them to reread *Mulieris Dignitatem* and reflect on the important roles which women have played in their

lives as mothers, sisters and co-workers in the apostolate. This is another aspect—different from the conjugal aspect; but also important—of that "help" which women, according to the Book of Genesis, are called to give to men.

The Church sees in Mary the highest expression of the "feminine genius" and she finds in her a source of constant inspiration. Mary called herself the "handmaid of the Lord" (Lk 1:38). Through obedience to the Word of God she accepted her lofty yet not easy vocation as wife and mother in the family of Nazareth. Putting herself at God's service, she also put herself at the service of others: a *service of love*. Precisely through this service Mary was able to experience in her life a mysterious, but authentic "reign". It is not by chance that she is invoked as "Queen of heaven and earth". The entire community of believers thus invokes her; many nations and peoples call upon her as their "Queen". For her, "to reign" is to serve! Her service is "to reign"!

This is the way in which authority needs to be understood, both in the family and in society and the Church. Each person's fundamental vocation is revealed in this "reigning", for each person has been created in the "image" of the One who is Lord of heaven and earth and called to be his adopted son or daughter in Christ. Man is the only creature on earth "which God willed for its own sake", as the Second Vatican Council teaches; it significantly adds that man "cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of self" (*Gaudium et Spes*, 24).

The maternal "reign" of Mary consists in this. She who was, in all her being, a gift for her Son, *has also become a gift for the sons and daughters of the whole human race*; awakening profound trust in those who seek her guidance along the difficult paths of life on the way to their definitive and transcendent destiny. Each one reaches this *final goal* by fidelity to his or her own vocation; this goal provides meaning and direction for the earthly labours of men and women alike.

11. In this perspective of "service"—which, when it is carried out with freedom, reciprocity and love, expresses the truly "royal" nature of mankind—one can also appreciate that the presence of *a certain diversity of roles* is in no way prejudicial to women, provided that this diversity is not the result of an arbitrary imposition, but is rather an expression of what is specific to being male and female. This issue also has a particular application within the Church. If Christ—by his free and sovereign choice, clearly attested to by the Gospel and by the Church's constant Tradition—entrusted only to men the task of being an "icon" of his countenance as "shepherd" and "bridegroom" of the Church through the exercise of the ministerial priesthood, this in no way detracts from the role of women, or for that matter from the role of the other members of the Church who are not ordained to the sacred ministry, since *all* share equally in the dignity proper to the "common priesthood" based on Baptism. These role distinctions should not be viewed in accordance with the

criteria of functionality typical in human societies. Rather they must be understood according to the particular criteria of the sacramental economy, i.e. the economy of "signs" which God freely chooses in order to become present in the midst of humanity.

Furthermore, precisely in line with this economy of signs, even if apart from the sacramental sphere, there is great significance to that "womanhood" which was lived in such a sublime way by Mary. In fact, there is present in the "womanhood" of a woman who believes, and especially in a woman who is "consecrated", a kind of inherent "prophecy" (cf. *Mulieris Dignitatem*, 29), a powerfully evocative symbolism, a highly significant "iconic character", which finds its full realization in Mary and which also aptly expresses the very essence of the Church as a community consecrated with the integrity of a "virgin" heart to become the "bride" of Christ and "mother" of believers. When we consider the "iconic" complementarity of male and female roles, two of the Church's essential dimensions are seen in a clearer light: the "Marian" principle and the Apostolic-Petrine principle (cf. *ibid.*, 27).

On the other hand—as I wrote to priests in this year's Holy Thursday Letter—the ministerial priesthood, according to Christ's plan, "is an expression not of domination but of service" (No. 7). The Church urgently needs, in her daily self-renewal in the light of the Word of God, to emphasize this fact ever more clearly, both by developing the spirit of communion and by carefully

fostering all those means of participation which are properly hers, and also by showing respect for and promoting the diverse personal and communal charisms which the Spirit of God bestows for the building up of the Christian community and the service of humanity.

In this vast domain of service, the Church's two-thousand-year history, for all its historical conditioning, has truly experienced the "genius of woman"; from the heart of the Church there have emerged women of the highest calibre who have left an impressive and beneficial mark in history. I think of the great line of woman martyrs, saints and famous mystics. In a particular way I think of Saint Catherine of Siena and of Saint Teresa of Avila, whom Pope Paul VI of happy memory granted the title of Doctors of the Church. And how can we overlook the many women, inspired by faith, who were responsible for initiatives of extraordinary social importance, especially in serving the poorest of the poor? The life of the Church in the Third Millennium will certainly not be lacking in new and surprising manifestations of "the feminine genius".

12. You can see then, dear sisters, that the Church has many reasons for hoping that the forthcoming United Nations Conference in Beijing will bring out the full truth about women. Necessary emphasis should be placed on the "genius of women", not only by considering great and famous women of the past or present, but also those ordinary women who reveal the gift of

their womanhood by placing themselves at the service of others in their everyday lives. For in giving themselves to others each day women fulfil their deepest vocation. Perhaps more than men, women acknowledge the person, because they see persons with their hearts. They see them independently of various ideological or political systems. They see others in their greatness and limitations; they try to go out to them and help them. In this way the basic plan of the Creator takes flesh in the history of humanity and there is constantly revealed, in the variety of vocations, that beauty—not merely physical, but above all spiritual—which God bestowed from the very beginning on all, and in a particular way on women.

While I commend to the Lord in prayer the success of the important meeting in Beijing, I invite *Ecclesial Communities* to make this year an occasion of heartfelt thanksgiving to the Creator and Redeemer of the world for the gift of this great treasure which is womanhood. In all its expressions, womanhood is part of the essential heritage of mankind and of the Church herself.

May Mary, Queen of Love, watch over women and their mission in service of humanity, of peace, of the spread of God's Kingdom.

With my Blessing.

From the Vatican, 29 June 1995, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul.

Joannes Paulus PP. II

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002. memo	Melanne Verveer to WAVES re: DOBs [partial] (1 page)	07/06/1995	b(6)

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FOLDER TITLE:

United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women - Issues [Binder] [1]

2013-0534-S
rc1750

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]
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 6, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR WAVES

FROM: Melanne Verveer
Office of the First Lady
Room 100, Ext. 66266

RE: Clearance for a meeting on July 10, 1995

Please clear in the following people for a meeting with me at 10:00 am on Monday, July 10, 1995 in Room 100 OEOB. Thank you.

Barbara Kohnen
Delores Leckey
Margaret Cafferty
Maria Riley
Kathy Thorton
Catherine Pinkerton
Annette Kane
Hesna Marie Chin
Theresa Loar
Kathleen Hendrix
Mary Curtin
Katherine Feely

(b)(6)

(002)

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THE HARVEST OF JUSTICE IS SOWN IN PEACE

*A Reflection of the National Conference of Bishops
on the Tenth Anniversary of The Challenge of Peace*



*National Conference of Catholic Bishops
November 17, 1993*



Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities

3211 Fourth Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20017-1194 (202) 541-3070 FAX (202) 541-3054 TELE 740042

Melan
Fly

Q Vatican

Sun

TO: Diocesan Pro-Life/Respect Life Directors
cc: State Catholic Conference Directors

FROM: Susan Wills
Assistant Director for Program Development

RE: 1995-1996 Respect Life Program

DATE: March 30, 1995

OPTIONAL FORM 10 (7-90)	
FAX TRANSMITTAL	
To: Melanne Verwee	From: Theresa Lora
Dep. Agency	Phone #
Fax #	Fax #
NSN 7540-31-317-2383	5059-101
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	
# of pages 1	

The Respect Life Program materials are well into development. Although some refinements are still being made in light of *Evangelium Vitae*, printing should be completed by the end of June.

The cause of the irksome delivery delays last summer was identified: shaving 1/8" on the width of the kit folder vastly increased the time it took the fulfillment company to stuff each of the 60,000+ folders assembled. A spacious folder has been ordered for this year's program.

The "Gospel of Life" has, rightly, superseded themes earlier considered. This year's poster features a photograph of the Holy Father taken on a visit to a Luanda, Angola hospital. As he blesses an infant girl, his face is radiant with love for the little child. A quotation from the encyclical will be superimposed on the photo. The flier (a palm card is just not big enough) will attempt to capture the beauty and power of the encyclical in a nutshell.

The topics covered in this year's program articles are as follows: capital punishment; a Catholic perspective on human embryo research; pro-life aspects of welfare reform; the Church's vision of womanhood in contrast to the Cairo/Beijing radical feminist view; the findings of the "Real Choices" project on factors underlying the decision to abort; and, the value of human suffering in the context of the assisted suicide debate.

Please return the enclosed order form(s) to us -- with labels where appropriate -- **NO LATER THAN APRIL 28, 1995**. It will greatly facilitate communications about orders if you would be so kind as to make two photocopies of each order, one for your records and a duplicate to be sent to us with your yellow original.

Press articles and photos (including the full-color photo of the Holy Father) will be mailed out in August.

Thanks, in advance, for taking the trouble to get your orders in promptly. If you have any questions about the program or your order last year, please call me or Ann Marie Walsh

104 117K 04 01 11-20 NO.002 4/56-6244

Question (IF ASKED) concerning the Holy See's Intervention in Plenary Session on 3/15

Q: What is the United States planning ^{WB} to do concerning the Holy See's intervention today in Plenary session at the CSW which called into question the accreditation of five NGOs that support choice?

A: THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ~~FAVORS~~ ^{strongly supports} THE INCLUSION OF AS MANY NGOS AS POSSIBLE THAT ARE RELEVANT AND COMPETENT IN THE PREPARATION PROCESS FOR THE UN FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND THE CONFERENCE ITSELF. WE BELIEVE THAT NGOS HAVE AN ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE IN THE CREATION OF CIVIL SOCIETIES AND ARE AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT IN THE FUTURE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

WE HAVE BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS AND OFFICIALS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON THE ISSUE OF NGO ACCREDITATION.

THE UNITED STATES INTERVENED TODAY IN PLENARY SESSION TO SUPPORT THE CALL BY THE EUROPEAN UNION TO POSTPONE FINAL ACTION ON ACCREDITATION OF NGOS UNTIL THE END OF THE CSW MEETING ON APRIL 5. WE EXPECT THAT THIS ISSUE WILL BE SATISFACTORALLY RESOLVED BY THE END OF THE CSW MEETING ON APRIL 5.

DRAFTED:CSW:JAMeor
3/15/95

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

OPTIONAL FORM 801 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages 1

To: Melanne Vermeer

Dept./Agency

Fax #

From:

Phone #

Fax #

Theresa

212-415-4726

212-415-4119

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Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 17871

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The Vatican And China Seek to Bar Opponents

By BARBARA CROSSETTE

UNITED NATIONS, March 16 — Six months before an international conference on women opens in Beijing, the Chinese Government and the Vatican are maneuvering to silence critics by asking the United Nations to deny them credentials to attend the meeting.

At least 200, possibly up to 300, nongovernmental groups have been affected, according to American officials and human rights organizations.

Among those being denied the necessary documents to attend are Taiwanese and Tibetan exile women's organizations, which China wants barred, and several religious groups, including Catholics for a Free Choice, which opposes the Vatican's stand against abortion.

The Vatican's observer mission here acknowledged today that it had challenged the credentials of certain groups but declined to explain why, according to the Rev. Carl J. Marucci, a mission spokesman. Calls to the Chinese mission were not returned.

Representatives of some conservative groups, secular and interdenominational, were also refused credentials initially, said Christopher J. Check of the Rockford Institute's Center for the Family in America in Rockford, Ill., which describes itself as a traditional organization supporting family life. Some of these groups, including Rockford, which had been turned down because they were told they were not sufficiently focused on women's issues, have now been admitted on appeal.

Several lesbian organizations report that their delegates have also been turned down after applying for credentials.

The Clinton Administration is pressing the United Nations Secretariat to reveal the names of groups and individuals being denied credentials, and to explain the grounds for rejection, American officials say. The United States has also called for the establishment of an international committee to review denials.

Representative Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat who is chairman of the international task force of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, said today that

"many women are very concerned about freedom of speech &

freedom of association at the conference."

"Accreditation should not be a politicized process," she said. On Wednesday, during a Congressional hearing, Ms. Pelosi asked Madeleine K. Albright, the chief United States delegate to the United Nations, to insist that a list of rejections be made public.

The dispute over free access to the Beijing meeting — where issues of women's rights in health, education, politics and economic development will be discussed — follows a confrontation last week in Geneva between China and the United States over a resolution at the United Nations Human Rights Commission critical of China's human rights practices.

In choosing Beijing as the site of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the United Nations and Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had been given assurances that the meeting would be open to all relevant unofficial groups involved in women's issues, in addition to official government delegations. Large international conferences attract thousands of such groups.

But this week, as delegates began arriving here to discuss the agenda for Beijing, some were told they had been denied accreditation.

Among them was Frances Kissling, president of Catholics for a Free Choice, who attended the United Nations Conference on Population and Development in Cairo last September without facing accreditation problems. Three similar Catholic organizations from Mexico, Uruguay and Brazil have also been denied accreditation to the Beijing conference.

"This is the same misuse of the Holy See's status as an observer at the United Nations that they were so roundly criticized for in Cairo — that they would take an internal church dispute between some adherents to Catholicism and the hierarchy and turn it into a U.N. matter," she said.

Tsering Norzom of the Tibet Women's Association, which is based at the Dalai Lama's exile headquarters in Dharamsala, India, said today that she had planned to take a group of about 80 Tibetans to Beijing, but had been told unofficially that the only Tibetans who could take part in the conference would be in the official Chinese delegation. China occupied Tibet in the 1950's, and many Tibetan leaders fled into exile after an abortive uprising in 1959.

"Our Tibetan women face two problems," Mrs. Norzom said. "One is accreditation. But we also have the problem of getting access to Beijing, because Tibetan women in exile carry an identity certificate that isn't a passport." Mrs. Norzom believes that the Tibetan exiles would almost certainly be denied visas.

SECURFAX C&W ITALIA > 39 6 5758346

152 P01 20.06.95 14:19

Statement by
Vatican Spokesman
Joaquin Navarro Valls

VATICAN INFORMATION SERVICE

FIFTH YEAR - N.114
ENGLISH
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1995

SUMMARY:

- BRIEFING HELD TODAY ON UN CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN BEIJING
- PONTIFICAL COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA HOLDS 4TH MEETING
- CARDINAL ORTEGA Y ALAMINO TO TAKE POSSESSION OF TITLE SUNDAY
- 1994 HOLY SEE FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO BE PRESENTED JUNE 23
- AUDIENCES

BRIEFING HELD TODAY ON UN CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN BEIJING

VATICAN CITY, JUN 20, 1995 (VIS) - Holy See Press Office Director Joaquin Navarro Valls this morning held the first briefing on the UN-sponsored 4th World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing from September 4-15. He spoke on the Draft Platform for Action and outlined the themes that will be discussed. Following are excerpts from the briefing:

"This 4th conference will deal with topics such as dignity, the rights and the roles of women in every aspect of social life, equality and human development. The point of departure for every other consideration for the Holy See is the human dignity of women, which is the foundation for the concept of universal human rights recognized by the United Nations Charter."

"The document that will be discussed in Beijing - 'Proposals for Consideration in the Preparation of a Draft Declaration and the Draft Platform for Action' - favors the operative aspects of the diverse topics. The Holy See shares this definition: the dignity of women in too many social and geographical contexts is far from being fully recognized."

"At the same time, the Holy See sees in this document pressure of an ideological character which seems to want to impose on women all over the world a particular social philosophy belonging to some sectors of western countries."

"If, on the one hand, the document wishes to liberate women from certain cultural conditioning, on the other hand it seems to wish to impose a western model of female advancement which does not take into account the values of women in the majority of countries of the world."

"THE DIGNITY OF WOMEN AND UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS. One has the right to think that the unanimous goal in Beijing will be to attain a common operative effort for the defense of the dignity of women and the promotion of their universal human rights. Incidentally, it becomes paradoxical and incomprehensible that the word 'dignity' - referring to women - appears systematically within brackets throughout the document. In the same way the term 'universal' is placed in parentheses when referring to the human rights of women."

"One reason among many for which the Holy See has insisted that the Platform for Action include some reference to the universality of human rights is that women in many countries do not enjoy the human rights recognized by the International Declarations. We think that it is not possible to promote and defend that which has not been defined. If every country limits itself to promoting generic rights of women not defined on an international level, then this conference will not represent any progress in the area of human rights for the majority of the world's women."

"LACK OF CONTINUITY WITH RESPECT TO PREVIOUS INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS. In many places the Document does not respect continuity with precedents and often with United Nations Declarations. For example, paragraph 12, whose inclusion was proposed by the Holy See Delegation, appears in parentheses, even though its contents come from the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna 1993). We retain that when one speaks of Human Rights there should be a general consensus on their content and, possibly, reference to international documents."

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"A similar reservation should be expressed on paragraph 107 j which, as it is formulated, intends to suppress the affirmation 'In no case will abortion be promoted as a method of family planning,' an affirmation adopted by consensus at the International Conferences in Mexico City (1984) and Cairo (1994).

"IDEOLOGICAL UNBALANCE. The recurrence of some concepts illustrates in some way the tacit social philosophy of the Draft Document. One can cite as an example that the term 'gender' appears around 300 times; 'mother/motherhood' appear fewer than 10 times, while the terms 'sex/sexual/sexuality' appear about one hundred times. From this point of view the document appears to be extraordinarily unbalanced.

This ideological unbalance is more evident, for example, in the section that proposes the defense of women's right to health. While the document talks 40 times of health problems related to sexual life (AIDS, reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, fertility control, etc.), only in two cases are tropical diseases mentioned. Still, the World Health Organization estimates, for example, 4 million cases of HIV infection in 1994, while the same World Health Organization estimates the cases of tropical diseases during the same period as hovering between 650 and 850 million."

"LINGUISTIC AMBIGUITY. ...The ambiguities of international language are often a way to avoid a concrete will to carry out what is expressed.

"Some terms in the document are often vaguely defined: 'sexual orientation' and 'lifestyle' lack a precise definition, and moreover, no juridical recognition in an international document exists for either one. This semantic and conceptual ambiguity could lead one to consider, for example, pedophilia as simply a mode of 'sexual orientation,' thus easily acceptable as a 'right.' The term 'sexual orientation,' proposed by some western countries, was not accepted by developing countries.

"SOME ASPECTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. The Holy See shares the emphasis that the Platform for Action places on physical, sexual, psychological and moral violence against women. For the Holy See this topic is a priority."

"The Holy See would like, however, a more decisive and radical condemnation of every kind of violence, also psychological, perpetrated against women, including forced sterilization, forced use of birth control or inducement to abortion. The Holy See has always expressed its deep worry regarding the number of women made objects of systematic sterilization plans which take place especially in developing countries."

"The Holy See Delegation proposed that these practices be included in paragraph 115 among the violations of the rights of women. Some delegations have wanted to put this proposal in brackets."

"In paragraph 40, the Holy See Delegation would like to have added to the list of attacks against young girls - limits to access to food, to education and to health care - also the denial of the very access to life ('and even life itself')."

"FAMILY. Surprisingly the theme of family and motherhood receives scarce attention and little space in a document of nearly 20 pages on women. Already in Chapter II the concept of the family as 'the fundamental unit of society...' is placed within brackets, in contrast with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art. 16,3. In fact, all of paragraph 30 goes to Beijing in brackets.

"On the topic of the advancement of women, the Holy See certainly shares the emphasis on the importance of their full participation in all the activities of social life. Nevertheless, it goes against all evidence to think that this emphasis should cancel the unique role of women in the family: a role that does not exhaust all the personal resources of femininity but that however is specific to women. Obviously this point of view is shared by the immense majority of women all over the world and by the societies to which they belong.

"Juridical regulations on the family should guarantee to women also the fundamental right to be mothers. Indeed laws should create conditions - environmental, legal, economic, etc. - favorable to the practice of motherhood. Perhaps the moment has come to affirm that the struggle for equal dignity between men and women implies also recognizing for women their being different and their being treated in a different way."

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162 P03 20.06.95 14:21

"It is the conviction of the Holy See, as has been recognized already in Copenhagen, that the work of women, today not remunerated, should be recognized adequately; work that nevertheless holds a particular social value. None of this is mentioned in the Beijing document.

IMMIGRATION. The Holy See attributes great importance to the rights of emigrant women...This topic has already gathered ample consensus at the Conference in Cairo.

"The Document addresses this theme in various places. It is nevertheless the opinion of the Holy See that the attention is insufficient, as are also insufficient the proposals suggested, which seem to represent a step backward with respect to Cairo."

"RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS. In all cultures parents are particularly interested in the education of their children and the exercise of their duty especially with respect to minors. The Holy See, making these worries its own, maintains that in Beijing no formula should be accepted that goes against the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which establishes the right of parents to choose the type of education they desire for their own children. Along the same lines of incomprehensible negation of some universal rights, in the document that goes to Beijing the proposal to guarantee the rights of women and girls to freedom of conscience and of religion in educational institutions has been refused.

"Even more serious is the attempt to deprive parents of their responsibility in the confrontation of the offer of programs and public services in the area of sexuality, including abortion."

The question and answer period with journalists, which followed the briefing, concluded in the afternoon and will be transmitted tomorrow.

OP/UN CONFERENCE WOMEN/NAVARRO-VALLS

VIS 950620 (1500)

PONTIFICAL COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA HOLDS 4TH MEETING

VATICAN CITY, JUN 20, 1995 (VIS) - The 4th plenary meeting of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America is being held in the Vatican from June 19 to 23 on "Evangelizers: Priests, Religious Men and Women, Laity."

Following the introductory greeting by commission president Cardinal Bernardin Gantin, vice president Bishop Cipriano Calderon presented yesterday a report on the activities and programs of this body as it faces current problems and challenges of the new evangelization in Latin America.

Bishop Calderon spoke at length about the agenda of the plenary meeting and introduced the different speakers of these days. He also stressed some of the initiatives of the commission, such as holding a symposium in the Vatican in 1997 or 1998 to mark the 1st Latin American Plenary Council, held in Rome in 1899 and called for by Pope Leo XIII. The symposium would be devoted to a study, from a historical point of view, of the last hundred years of the life of the Church in America and would serve as a preparation for the Synod of America.

The commission is preparing, in cooperation with the Pontifical Council for the Family, added the vice president, a meeting on "The Evangelical Activity of the Family Facing Sects," to be held in Petropolis, Brazil, at the end of August 1995.

...PLENARY/COM-AL

VIS 950620 (220)

CARDINAL ORTEGA Y ALAMINO TO TAKE POSSESSION OF TITLE SUNDAY

VATICAN CITY, JUN 20, 1995 (VIS) - Cardinal Jaime Lucas Ortega y Alamino, archbishop of San Cristobal de la Habana, Cuba, will take possession of the Title of Saints Aquilla and Priscilla on Sunday, June 25 at 7:00 p.m.

OP/TITLE/ORTEGA Y ALAMINO

VIS 950620 (50)

SICURFAX C&W ITALIA > 39 6 5758346

164 P02 21.06.95 14:24

"It is significant," he went on, "that in Rome, the center of Christianity and see of the successor of Peter, the Muslims have their own place of worship in the full respect of their freedom of conscience. In a significant circumstance such as this, one must, unfortunately, note how in several Islamic countries, equivalent signs of the recognition of religious freedom are missing. Yet the world, on the threshold of the third millennium, is waiting for these signs!"

John Paul II pointed out that "religious freedom is by now part of numerous international documents and represents one of the pillars of contemporary civilization." He concluded: "I truly hope the right to freely express one's own faith will be allowed to Christians and to all believers, in every corner of the earth."

AG/MOSQUE/RELIGIOUS FREEDOM/...

VIS 950621 (180)

BRIEFING ON BEIJING

VATICAN CITY, JUN 21, 1995 (VIS) - After outlining the Holy See position for the September 4-15 UN-sponsored 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, Holy See Press Office Director Joaquin Navarro-Valls made additional remarks and answered questions asked by journalists.

He noted that, in its contacts with other countries and institutions in recent months, the Holy See has discovered that "the consensus is growing daily" on its position for the conference on women. "We want Beijing to be a big success," he stated.

The first question concerned the issue of "gender," a term whose meaning was questioned by several member States at the Beijing PrepCom (Preparatory Committee) held in New York from March 15 to April 7. This term, the director explained, has traditionally been used in UN documents to mean "sex," that is, "masculine" and "feminine," man or woman. In fact, when the English word "gender" is translated into French or Spanish, it becomes the equivalent of "sex," "man" or "woman." A special committee was set up by the UN to study this term, following the request of some who wished to expand its definition to include, for example, transsexuals and homosexuals. Navarro-Valls reported on the results of that study and said that the meaning of the word "gender" remains unchanged from traditional UN use.

Asked about the composition of the Holy See delegation to Beijing, he responded that there would be 20 members, that the Holy Father was evaluating the possibilities, and that women would form, as they have in the past for international conferences, a great part of the delegation. Names will be announced at a later date.

To a question on what these international conferences mean on a practical level, Joaquin Navarro-Valls replied: "These conferences offer a Final Document on a specific theme which is proposed to the international community but which is not binding on the single nations. They are not laws. The UN is not a legislative organ. Every country has its parliament. The fact that these documents - from Cairo, Copenhagen, and from Nairobi 10 years ago - are not binding does not mean they do not have a value. They are a collective reflection which has a supranational level. These documents can have an influence, can be important, for example, when the nations of the world come to agree on one, two or ten points of action set forth in that specific document and then act on a national level."

"Why does the Holy See participate in these conferences?" he added, in answer to the same question. "It participates because the beautiful part of these conferences is that they are, in some way, an appeal to consciences." He quoted a member from another delegation at the Cairo conference who said he felt the fundamental contribution of the Holy See was its proposing to the international community an ethical dimension to the problems that everyone would be discussing. Navarro-Valls said "this is useful, this serves a purpose."

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164 P03 21.06.95 14:25

"What are the indispensable principles for the Holy See in view of the Beijing document and conference?" asked a reporter. The press office director responded: "The Holy See will insist on two things: the human dignity of the woman and the universal human rights of the woman."

The Holy See will not reach a "holy alliance" with Islam to form a united front in the face of the topics that will be discussed at the Beijing conference, said Navarro-Valls, who rejected the allegation made regarding the Holy See delegation at the Cairo conference. "Some Muslim representatives have wanted to present their concerns about some of the themes of the Peking document through international organizations. We have agreed to speak with them. However, although there are some areas of general interest for both them and us, there are some substantial differences between Christianity and Islam on themes such as women, family, etc., that do not permit us to arrive at any type of operative agreement."

One journalist asked about the practice of aborting female fetuses, as occurs for example in China. Joaquin Navarro-Valls went back to the issue of human rights: "The important thing is to recognize that human rights are universal, and that consequently, it is not up to each country to decide what they are, because otherwise, we enter the realm of arbitrariness."

OP/CONFERENCE WOMEN/NAVARRO-VALLS VIS 950621 (730)

COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA: THE PROTAGONISTS OF EVANGELIZATION

VATICAN CITY, JUN 21, 1995 (VIS) - Yesterday, in the plenary assembly of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, which is taking place in the Vatican, the participants reflected on the protagonists of evangelization from the perspective of the third millennium of the Church.

In the morning, Cardinal Jose T. Sanchez spoke about priests; Cardinal Eduardo Martinez Somalo presented the role of religious in the work of the new evangelization of Latin America facing the third millennium; Cardinal Eduardo F. Pironio spoke on the apostolate of the laity as craftsmen of evangelization in the third millennium, with a special emphasis on the young. Lastly, Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo referred to the role of the family in the new evangelization of Latin America.

In the afternoon the ideas and proposals presented by the speakers were summed-up, underlining especially the problem of sects and the preferential option for the poor.

Cardinal Jan P. Schotte, C.I.C.M., secretary general of the Synod of Bishops, spoke this morning on the Synod for America. Later, time was given for observations, suggestions, and comments before reaching the final propositions, which will be presented this afternoon.

.../PLENARY/COM-AL VIS 950621 (200)

HOLY SEE ATTENDS CONFERENCE ON EUROPE-ISLAM RELATIONS

VATICAN CITY, JUN 21, 1995 (VIS) - Bishop Joseph Khoury, apostolic visitor for the Maronite faithful in Europe, and president of the Holy See delegation to the European Conference on Europe-Islam Relations, held in Stockholm, Sweden, from June 15-17, addressed the assemblage on "Europe in the face of the co-existence of religions."

He said that, in the process of building a great Europe, importance must be given to religious freedom and to the intermingling and peaceful co-existence in each country of believers of different faiths. Europe must "further become a common house, whose tenants belong to different ethnic groups and denominations: along with the Reformed Churches, Latin Catholics and Orthodox Christians live Oriental Catholics and Orthodox of the Middle East."

Vatican Will Champion Role of Mothers at a U.N. Conference

By CELESTINE BOHLEN

ROME, June 20 — A year after its bruising battle over the abortion issue at the United Nations population conference in Cairo, the Roman Catholic Church is gearing up again, this time to defend motherhood at the United Nations conference on women.

Without identifying its foes by name, the Vatican clearly considers itself at odds with a strain of Western feminism that it asserts has imposed its views on the draft document prepared for the conference, to be held in September in Beijing.

"In this document, the Holy See sees pressure of an ideological nature, which seems to want to impose on women of the entire world a particular social philosophy, belonging to certain sectors within Western countries," said Joaquín Navarro-Valls, the Vatican's chief spokesman, at a news conference today.

The Vatican announced today that its 20-member delegation at Beijing would be headed by a woman, as yet unnamed, who would marshal the forces of the church to defend the notion that women are equal to, but different from, men. The delegation also said that the moment has come to

affirm that the struggle for equal dignity among men and women also implies the recognition that a woman is different and needs to be treated in a different manner," Mr. Navarro-Valls said.

In particular, the Vatican objects to the short shrift given by the document to mothers and maternity — mentioned only 10 times in the conference's 120-page draft document, compared with some 100 references to sex and sexuality, and 300 references to gender.

"The family is mentioned only five times, and three times in a negative sense," Mr. Navarro-Valls said.

"Not to have the family recognized on an international level seems to me to be too much. From this point of view, the document is unbalanced."

The contested document has already made its way through a series of regional conferences and working committees, and has emerged heavily laden with objections made from all sides. In all, more than 30 percent of its text has been bracketed, which means that nearly one-third of its contents will be debated at the conference itself.

Some of the battles promise to be semantic — for instance, a proposed

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condemnation of "prenatal sex selection," which Mr. Navarro-Valls referred to as a euphemism for abortion of female fetuses.

The Vatican, for its part, wants to keep a condemnation of "forced pregnancy" from including language that would condone abortions in the case of rape.

One of the Vatican's chief goals will be to hold the ground it gained at earlier conferences, for instance, upholding the rights of parents to refuse sex education classes and forbidding the promotion of abortion as a family-planning tool.

And while the Vatican favors declarations guaranteeing women equal rights in society, it will also hold out for consideration of the "unique

role" of women within the family, including legal protection for working mothers and recognition of a woman's work at home.

"If on the one hand the document wants to liberate women from some cultural restraints, on the other it seems to want to impose in turn a Western model of womanhood which does not take due account of the values of women in most countries of the world," Mr. Navarro-Valls said.

Mr. Navarro-Valls said that the church had had discussions with Islamic groups on issues expected to come up at the Beijing conference, but said that on the fundamental question of women's rights, there could be "no accord on a operative level."

Vatican Criticizes U.N. Draft Document on Women

By Daniel Williams
Washington Post Foreign Service

VATICAN CITY, June 20—The Vatican took the offensive today on controversial issues to be discussed at this fall's United Nations conference on women near Beijing, attacking positions promoted by the United States and other Western countries on abortion, contraception, gender and family.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls criticized a draft U.N. document as giving an unbalanced picture of women by belittling their role as mothers. He acidly described parts of the conference draft as impositions by wealthy liberal Western countries on the more traditional developing world.

"The Holy See observes in this document pressure of an ideological character that appears to aim at imposing on women of all the world a social philosophy particular to some sectors in Western countries," Navarro-Valls told reporters in Vatican City.

With today's preemptive strike, the top hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church appears to be preparing for an ideological battle at the women's conference in September similar to the one it waged last year in Cairo at the United Nations' meeting on population and development. In Cairo, the Vatican successfully fought off an effort to include abortion as a human right in the final conference document.

Such high-profile efforts underscore a shift in the diplo-



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matic focus of Pope John Paul II's 17-year papacy. Until the end of the Cold War, winning democracy for Eastern Europe seemed the highest priority. With that mission accomplished, the pope has turned toward resisting the advance of Western social practices, some promoted by governments, that challenge church teachings.

In particular, the Vatican has come to regard the United States as having the global capacity to influence norms, including consumer habits, sexual preferences and family values. The Vatican seems committed to ensuring that liberal trends in American and Western culture do not receive a universal stamp of approval in a U.N. document.

To wage its battle, the Vatican has sought allies in the Third World. However, an alliance with Islamic leaders forged in Cairo over the abortion issue is unlikely to be repeated in China over women's issues, Navarro-Valls said doctrinal differences on the role of women exclude "operative" cooperation.

For its part, the United States appears eager to avoid a Cairo-type confrontation. On Monday, Madeleine K. Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, who will head the U.S. delegation to the conference, met with New York's Cardinal John O'Connor. She told him the United States would not promote "the more radical ideas" being floated for the conference and would work with the Holy See to give prominence to the role of women in the family, U.S. officials said.

At least one-third of the language in the draft document is in dispute, Navarro-Valls said. Words that to laymen may seem innocent are loaded with meaning for one side or the other.

For example, the word "gender" became a point of contention in several preparatory meetings. The Vatican said it has won assurances that if the word is used—and it ap-

pears scores of times in the draft—the meaning will be limited to the traditional male and female definitions, and not to "sexual orientation" categories that include gay, lesbian and transsexual. Navarro-Valls objected to the relatively few references to mothers and motherhood in the draft, which he called "extraordinarily unbalanced."

Navarro-Valls objected to proposals in the draft document that advice on abortion could be given to minors without parental approval. He also criticized the relative importance given in the draft to the prevention and treatment of reproductive problems and sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, compared with the attention given tropical diseases, which he said affect millions more women.

"At times, one has the impression of a preconceived attitude," he said, pointing to objections from feminist groups to the teaching of "natural family planning" as an alternative to church-opposed methods of contraception. Some Western governments have objected to suggestions that patients be advised of the risks of contraception, Navarro-Valls claimed.

With these issues enveloped in controversy, there is a danger that key areas of the Vatican's own agenda will be overlooked by the public, Navarro-Valls acknowledged.

In recent weeks, John Paul has spoken out in opposition to violence against women, defined not only as rape and physical beatings but also as pornography, prostitution and female infanticide. Such stands put him shoulder to shoulder with some feminist leaders, but it is possible that their differences on gender, abortion and other pressing questions in the West will continue to keep them apart.

Navarro-Valls also said today that the Vatican's delegation to the China conference would probably be headed by a woman, adding that if the leader is a woman, "she will not be a figurehead."