

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

| DOCUMENT NO.<br>AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE                                                                  | DATE       | RESTRICTION |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 001. memo                | Theresa Loar to Wendy Sherman re: This week's highlights [partial]<br>(1 page) | 12/11/1998 | b(6)        |
| 002. memo                | Theresa Loar to Wendy Sherman re: This week's highlights [partial]<br>(1 page) | 12/18/1998 | P3/b(3)     |
| 003. memo                | Theresa Loar to Wendy Sherman re: This week's highlights [partial]<br>(1 page) | 12/23/1998 | P3/b(3)     |

### COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records  
First Lady's Office  
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### FOLDER TITLE:

Women and Politics [2]

2013-0534-S

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### RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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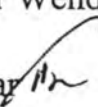
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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

May 29, 1998

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman

FROM: G - Theresa Loay 

SUBJECT: This week's highlights

### **Expanding Women's Political Participation**

o We had a productive meeting with ARA, FMP, and the League of Women Voters to review the League's responsibilities as the 501c3 for Vital Voices Latin America. They are enthusiastic about this partnership and being linked with this mechanism for expanding women's political participation. The League proposed a grants program for dispersal of the follow-through funds. We would announce available funding at the Vital Voices conferences and work with the League to create a proposal review committee.

o With a successful "yes" vote in Northern Ireland, and strong interest from the White House and the Irish-American community, we are moving ahead with the Vital Voices conference and plan to do an advance trip to Belfast next week. CG Kathy Stephens is arranging substantive meetings for us with key players such as Mo Mowlan, the International Fund for Ireland, and the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition. Luckily for us, former FSO Dave Pozorsky from Senator Mitchell's peace talks team who is now based in Munich, has agreed to provide substantive guidance on the ground in Belfast. This is key since Kathy Stevens is rotating out in July. Dave will meet us in Belfast next week. We will also lock in the conference planning group that will coordinate conference logistics.

o We met with Dr. Azir Nafisis, an Iranian professor at Johns Hopkins, to discuss the situation for women in Iran. Dr. Nafisis believes it would be useful to arrange a visitor program which brings Iranian youth to visit the U.S. to provide a better picture of the current situation in Iran. The Iran desk will follow up. Dr. Nafisis mentioned that some Muslim women were disturbed by Catherine O'Neill's comments in an article on her trip to Iran which implied that to Iranian women, there were some benefits to wearing the veil. We will ask Catherine to join us for a discussion with Dr. Nafisis and Mahnaz Afkhami to discuss their views on the article.

## Violence Against Women

- o We are working with INL and INR to devise a strategy for data collection on trafficking. INL proposed that we link intelligence on trafficking and alien smuggling and utilize the DOJ-State Intelligence Working Group that is already in place. INR will draft an action memo to the Secretary asking her to sign a letter to George Tenet asking him to step up information collection in this area.
- o Walter Sulzynsky, INL Legal Adviser in the Ukraine, came in to discuss how to improve the coordination and training of law enforcement personnel from the relevant U.S. departments in the region on trafficking issues. These enforcement officials will be in Washington at the end of June for the Gore/Kuchma meetings and we hope to meet with them to advance this idea further. Anita and Steve will brief the Gore/Kuchma law enforcement group at the June meeting. Walter is very engaged and will make a significant contribution to our joint initiative with Ukraine.
- o Steve joined the DOJ/DOL Worker Exploitation Task Force meeting today. This is the new task force Ray Fisher at Justice mentioned to us which was created to improve the Administration's enforcement coordination and response to worker exploitation cases, of which trafficking is one type. The task force is led by DOL's Solicitor General and DOJ's Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights and looks very promising, although some of the participants expressed narrow views of trafficking (e.g. its merely a border issue). We will work to ensure that the increased enforcement attention by DOL and DOJ is consistent with the Administration's broader trafficking policy objectives. We will also suggest that DRL send a rep to the next meeting.
- o Lois and I met with representatives of Human Rights Watch and NOW during their visit to the Department to advocate for US leadership on the arrest of the 50 persons still at large who have been indicted for rape and other war crimes in Bosnia. This is part of a well-orchestrated campaign that includes a letter with 1000 signatures, urging President Clinton to exercise leadership in NATO on the arrest of these suspected criminals. They were also meeting with Bob Gelbard, DRL, as well as top Pentagon officials.

o In our ongoing efforts to persuade AID to support grassroots programs that directly benefit women in Bosnia, we put AID and PRM together with the International Human Rights Law Group to explore possibilities for funding projects on domestic violence and psychological counseling. We will continue to encourage AID to pick up the very successful Bosnian Women's Initiative programs that PRM has funded for the last two years.

### **Miscellaneous**

o Two summer interns started this week. Emiko, a law student at Temple University, will focus on trafficking. Seth, an undergrad at the University of Michigan is working on the Craig Johnstone strategic planning/MPP project.



United States Department of State

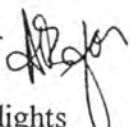
Washington, D.C. 20520

Senior Coordinator for  
International Women's Issues

June 5, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman

FROM: G - Theresa Loar 

SUBJECT: This week's highlights

**Expanding Women's Political Participation**

o We are having good substantive discussions in Belfast on the Vital Voices conference. One suggestion that has emerged is that we focus the conference on implementation of the peace agreement. Another idea is to bring women from other post-conflict countries to talk about how they took their place in their post-conflict society. EUR will be looking for support from you as they approach FMP for additional resources for the conference.

o Craig Johnstone continues to support efforts to integrate our issues into the regional bureaus. As you know, Craig brought in a DAS from each regional bureau for a briefing on our work. After the meeting, each bureau selected target countries where they believe our efforts would be most necessary and effective. EAP followed-up by sending a cable to their posts asking for input on next steps on policies and programs. The cable has solicited some insightful responses. This week we met with Craig and new EAP DAS Russ Deming to discuss how EAP will move forward. Craig has now directed each regional bureau to follow EAP's example.

o We are reviewing the Mission Program Plans, including those from the target countries identified by the regional bureaus. Most of the MPPs from the NIS countries have included programs on trafficking in women and girls and other forms of violence against women. We are also adding women's political participation in the project area and as a performance indicator.

o We are working with ARA and AmEmbassy Montevideo to make the final decisions about the hotel accommodations for Vital Voices. The Embassy is in the process of selecting an outside conference coordinator to handle the logistics. The coordinator will be in place before our advance trip to Montevideo which has been postponed until July. ARA drafted the private sector solicitation memorandum and we await M clearance.

- o We are following up with the National Democratic Institute, the Indonesia desk, and DRL to ensure that women's political participation is included in programs that support the development of a democratic society in Indonesia. We will try to tap into the DRL Human Rights and Democracy Fund which includes \$2 million for democracy promotion in Indonesia.

### **Violence Against Women**

- o We are talking with EAP, DRL and the White House on funding for projects for women in China that could be announced by the First Lady during the late June visit. Post suggested that we establish a visitor exchange program for women and we are discussing this idea with USIS. We are also talking to DRL about using the remaining rule of law funds for the distribution of informational books on women's legal rights. The book was created as a pilot project through the Ford Foundation and has been well received. We might try to link both of these projects, recognizing the Hill's skepticism about spending USG project funds in China.

- o Lois met with an editor from the Moscow daily *Nezvisimaya Gazeta*, to discuss Beijing follow-up and violence against women. The editor had heard about our plans for the Russia conference on family violence against women and would like to be involved, possibly to coordinate a workshop using the media to create an awareness of the problem.

- o Anita traveled to Canada to begin discussions with our Canadian counterparts to follow up on the March agreement made by Secretary Albright and Minister Axworthy to develop a women's human rights training model for civilian and military participants involved in peace operations worldwide. The day-long meeting resulted in basic agreements on objectives for training, a steering committee to provide guidance on policy and parameters for the training modules; identification of potential participants; and a timeline for implementation of the pilot training project by March of 1999. EUR, AID and our Embassy in Ottawa will play a prominent role in following this initiative.

- o At Steve Sestanovich's invitation, Anita attend the S/NIS Chiefs of Mission Conference in Istanbul last weekend to discuss the issue of trafficking throughout the former Soviet Union. Armed with maps, statistics, and talking points (enhanced greatly by INR and CIA unclassified data), Anita's discussion was well received. She stressed the point that trafficking in human beings was a cross-cutting global issue, involving human rights, health, migration, crime, corruption, and economics (i.e., if the economy is bad, victims fall prey; given the high profits to be made, traffickers flourish). Unfortunately, the general discussion of global issues was not as productive. Despite your memorandum of April 6 to S/NIS regarding G Priorities and Follow-up, and repeated attempts by Ambassador Gnehm and Pat Kennedy at the conference to outline the Department's global priorities, the actual integration of global issues into S/NIS mainstream policies and programs appears to remain incomplete. As the sole G representative, Anita offered examples of Global Bureaus' issues and areas of expertise that could strengthen S/NIS programs if integrated into the policy and planning process, including the MPP.



## The President's Interagency Council on Women

June 5, 1998

### MEMORANDUM

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman

FROM: S/PICW - Theresa Loar *TL*

SUBJECT: Weekly highlights from the Interagency Council on Women

o **Women in Prisons** - The Council Working Group chaired by Bonnie Campbell had a good meeting with the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women before she left Washington for her prison visits across the U.S. The Special Rapporteur gave us an overview of her work in various countries and explained her interest in studying sexual violence against women in U.S. prisons. Bonnie addressed some of the Rapporteur's major concerns including heavy sentences for women who use weapons for self-defense, children born to women in prisons, and the U.S. anti-discrimination law. This U.S. law contradicts the UN standard that women prisoners be guarded only by women. I will meet with the Special Rapporteur when she returns to Washington in mid-June. The Special Rapporteur came away from her meeting with you with a clear understanding of U.S. support for her agenda.

o **Seneca Falls** - We continue working with PA on the Secretary's participation in the Seneca Falls events. I learned that the National Women's Hall of Fame has the impression the Secretary will attend the reception and induction ceremony on July 10-11; however, we have not been able to confirm this with the Secretary's staff due to their travel schedule. We have learned that the rules state that if the inductee or a suitable representative cannot accept the award, the invitation may be deferred. I have also put out feelers for a headliner for the international day and closing ceremony and, unfortunately, it does not look like Mary Robinson is available.

o **Rural Women** - We are still looking for financial assistance for international delegates and are exploring the possibility of USIS missions funding some participants. Mrs. Gore has agreed to speak at the conference. We are working with PA on a message from the Secretary in the conference program.

o **Trafficking in Women and Girls** - Our ambassador to Bangladesh, John Holzman, came in to discuss trafficking in South Asia. We talked about our directive to conduct an international conference on this issue. Steve has been considering a series of regional meetings rather than one large international conference in Washington and wanted an opinion from the field. John believes this issue is best approached with a regional focus and was enthusiastic about having the SA gathering in Bangladesh. We are working with SA to explore ways to include this type of regional trafficking meeting in the possible November visit of the President and the First Lady. We are also working with AID, USIA, and Labor to get a handle on all of the players and resources available for this initiative in the region.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Senior Coordinator for  
International Women's Issues

June 12, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman

FROM: G - Theresa Loar *TL*

SUBJECT: This week's highlights

**Expanding Women's Political Participation**

- o The latest word from the WH on dates for Vital Voices Belfast is somewhere between Sept. 10 - 18. We have initiated weekly conference calls with the State coordinating team in Belfast and London and the WH. We are still talking with EUR's Tony Wayne about an EUR point person for conference coordination and follow-through.
- o We met several times with M, FMP, L, and ARA to finalize the solicitation memo for private sector support for Vital Voices Montevideo. We also met again with the League of Women Voters who may serve as the 501(c)3 for private sector funds. The Department's guidelines seem to change every week. We need to get some agreement soon on how to proceed so that we can raise the necessary funds. If we do not get a green light soon, the Department will have to identify funds to support this conference.
- o We continue to review MPP's and give our input at the regional bureau's review meetings. The regional bureaus have been receptive to our comments and Craig Johnstone's office has been helpful in ensuring that we are included in this process.
- o Despite a complete lack of interest from EAP, Dani has been working closely with S/RPP and USIA to identify funding and program ideas for additional international visitor exchange programs in China. We would like the First Lady to be able to announce expanded visitor programs specifically for women, including lawyers, local political leaders, youth, and rural women. According to USIA, the Hill's concerns re funding for programs in China does not apply to their programs. We will also check with H on this.

## **Violence Against Women**

o As a follow up to the May 15 Geneva UN and NGO roundtable discussion chaired by the First Lady, Lois contacted one of the participants from the Inter-African Committee (IAC) on Traditional Practices about how to collaborate on our efforts on FGM. The IAC president indicated that a letter from the First Lady would be most effective in encouraging adoption by the OAU (meeting this week in Burkina Faso) of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Violence against Women, which includes female genital mutilation. Lois worked with AF and the First Lady's office to get a letter to the IAC supporting their work.

o Building on your meeting with Ambassadors Collins, Morningstar and Sestanovich, we pulled together colleagues from INL, AID, S/NIS, and Embassy Moscow to move forward on the US- Russia Family Violence Against Women Conference scheduled for late October in Moscow. The Embassy has come alive on this project, no doubt as a result of your meeting. We are working to harmonize all USG efforts on violence against women in Russia and, with S/NIS on board, will push to get it on the policy track.

o As follow-up to the ASEAN deliverables meeting, Steve and I will coordinate the Department's work to identify an appropriate package for you to announce on trafficking. We will be working with INL, PRM and DRL to combine law enforcement and protection elements.

## **Outreach**

o I did a radio interview with April Ryan, White House correspondent for American Urban Radio, on USG efforts on FGM, including our collaborative efforts with NGOs. Her program will also include a segment on the First Lady's meeting with villagers in Senegal who have banned the practice.



## The President's Interagency Council on Women

June 12, 1998

### MEMORANDUM

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman

FROM: S/PICW - Theresa Loaf *TL*

SUBJECT: Weekly highlights from the Interagency Council on Women

o **Women in Prisons** - The Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women is visiting prisons across the U.S. Upon her return to Washington, June 18, the Special Rapporteur will debrief a group from State and Justice. I will also meet with her separately on trafficking

o **Seneca Falls** - On Monday Ann Lewis will debrief us on her recent visit to Seneca Falls. Following this meeting I will forward a recommendation to the Secretary regarding her participation. We are leaning towards recommending that the Secretary accept the nomination for induction into the Hall of Fame and attend the induction ceremony (Friday, July 10 reception, July 11 induction). We are also keeping in mind the possibility of your participation in the international day celebration cum closing ceremony, Sunday, July 19.

o **Rural Women** - Jill Long Thompson is doing an amazing job putting together this enormous undertaking (1000 delegates from 40+ countries). Our repeated intervention and encouragement of member agencies has paid off: AID is funding some African delegates; CIA printing services; HHS travel assistance, exhibit space, and break-out sessions; USIA staff to help with foreign press; Transportation, a break-out session; Energy, a break-out session and travel funding; and State's commitment to provide interpreter services. Many other agencies are offering volunteers for the week of the Conference. The Secretary's greeting to the Conference and her photo will be featured prominently in the Conference program. The First Lady is sending video greetings and Mrs. Gore will be speaking to the gathering.

o **Trafficking in Women and Girls** - EUR's Jim Gadsden and I met with the Italian Anti-Mafia Parliamentary Commission to describe the Administration's commitment to combat trafficking of women and girls and the Council's coordinating role. The delegation was very engaged and the discussion emphasized and reinforced our desire to

continue working closely on this issue in a number of areas including information-sharing. The Commission will also discuss trafficking issues when it meets with the Attorney General and the FBI Director.

o Steve met with representatives from the Departments of Labor and HHS to discuss their involvement in the Administration's trafficking work. We are exploring possible funding support -- particularly for a South Asian trafficking meeting -- from the DOL's offices addressing international labor issues. The President's 1999 budget proposal contains \$30 million for DOL's child labor and exploitation projects which may be used for activities involving trafficking of women and children. Steve attended the Department of Justice's intra-agency working group and encouraged DOJ's on-going implementation of trafficking initiatives after the July report to the Attorney General.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 19, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman

FROM: G - Theresa Loar 

SUBJECT: This week's highlights

**Expanding Women's Political Participation**

o We are moving along with plans for Vital Voices of the Americas. L has asked us to get clearance from USAID, including their legal people, and we are hopeful that this unexpected hoop will not slow down the process too much. ARA began approaching proposed participants for the honorary steering committee. We will follow-up with letters to these invitees and they can be co-signed by you and ARA. We would like to send the message that there is high level support for this initiative.

o We met with USAID and USIA to discuss the Vital Voices pre-conference hands-on political and media training day scheduled for Montevideo. USAID and USIA will take the lead on this event. We have proposed the names of some trainers that did excellent work in Vienna and we will maintain close contact to ensure that day is taking shape. ARA is also arranging a meeting with the Inter-American Development Bank next week to discuss their role as co-sponsor of the conference.

o Ambassador Ashby has invited ARA, Dani, and I to come to Montevideo during July 6-10 to visit the conference site, brief the Embassy coordinating team and meet with Uruguay government officials about the conference. We have asked ARA to cover the cost of our travel and may need your support with both ARA and FMP.

o We pulled together an interagency working group to aid in preparations for Vital Voices of Northern Ireland, including representatives from Jim Lyons' office, the Desk, the NSC, the First Lady's Office, Labor, Commerce, USTR, USIA, USAID, the U.K. and Irish Embassies and NDI. The working group which will meet every two weeks until the conference and then be involved in follow-up will inventory USG and other governments' programs and aid the substance of the conference program. Larry Butler at the NSC will lead the next working group meeting in my absence.

o We have arranged for Susan O'Sullivan to take my place and advise the First Lady's team on the trip to China. Susan coordinates China issues for DRL and served on our UN-CSW delegation this past March. I have been working very closely with Susan and Kelly Clements to pull this all together and to strengthen the briefing papers for the

Secretary's participation in several events with the First Lady. Susan's participation in the trip will ensure effective follow-through.

- o We have been working with Craig Johnstone on funding for additional USIA international visitor programs for women in China. We proposed five exchanges bringing women lawyers, legal aid workers, young leaders, local government elected officials, and small business owners. We will work with the First Lady's Office to include an announcement in the major speech in Shanghai.

- o We continue to review MPPs and to work with the regional bureaus to ensure our comments are integrated.

### **Violence Against Women**

- o Last week we reported that Lois worked with AF to get a letter from the First Lady supporting the work of the Inter-African Committee (IAC) to eliminate female genital mutilation (FGM). The President of the IAC had indicated that a letter from the First Lady would be most effective in encouraging adoption by the OAU of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Violence against Women, which calls for the eradication of FGM as a harmful health practice. We are happy to report that the OAU meeting last week, in Burkina Faso, adopted the Addis Ababa Declaration. This is a major victory for the anti-FGM forces. The next step will be setting up a working group of the OAU, IAC and other interested organizations, to draft an African Charter incorporating this Declaration. We will be following these developments closely.

- o The latest in Afghanistan is not good. The Taliban religious army abruptly ordered the closing of more than 100 private schools in Kabul that had been educating girls in defiance of the ban on girls' education. These include home based schools run by female teachers who had lost their jobs because of the ban on women working, as well as vocational training schools, some being run by international aid groups. Under the rules, schools will not be allowed to teach girls older than eight and will be limited to lessons about the Koran only. We are working with SA, PRM and IO to determine a response.

### **Outreach**

- o Barbara Crossette from the Italian New York Times called me to clear up some misinformation about the Special Rapporteur's visit and about our work in general. We will be sure to keep her up-to-date on our work.

- o I spoke to fifty journalist for PA's Regional and Specialty Media Conference on Tuesday about our work. We will be following up with calls to some of the more relevant media organizations next week.

- o *Glamour* magazine requested a quote from me about Dorothy Thomas, former Director of the Women's Rights Project for Human Rights Watch. They are profiling

Dorothy as a recipient of the MacArthur Gems Award. My interview stressed the value of NGO's working in partnership with the government and what a great advocate Dorothy is on international women's human rights.

### **Trafficking in Women and Girls**

o We held a meeting to coordinate the Department's development of trafficking initiatives to announce at the ASEAN conference in July. Meeting participants included G, S/P, INL & AID. Our objective is to craft a balanced package of prevention, protection, and enforcement projects. Because the ASEAN countries are major source, transit and destination countries for trafficking, this is a big regional issue. During the meeting the participants agreed that a cable should be sent to the EAP post to identify how participating countries can reinforce these efforts with complimentary initiatives. We envision these projects serving as an initial step leading to discussion and implementation of long-term cooperative efforts in the region including convening a regional conference on trafficking.



The President's Interagency Council on Women

June 19, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman

FROM: S/PICW - Theresa Loar *Theresa Loar*

SUBJECT: Weekly highlights from the Interagency Council on Women

o **Seneca Falls** - The decision memo regarding the Secretary's participation will go forward today. We are recommending that the Secretary accept induction into the Hall of Fame at the ceremony on July 11. The Secretary would make brief personal remarks when she receives her medal. The ceremony is sold out (1200 guests) and will be filmed by PBS and the major networks for viewing at a later time. The organizers are also hoping to have live coverage over the internet. The luncheon following the ceremony would provide an excellent forum for the Secretary to make a major address on women's issues. The organizers at the Park Service and the Hall of Fame are very enthusiastic about this idea. This speaking opportunity would fit well with other Administration participants, the First Lady on July 17, Secretary Shalala and Secretary Herman on July 18, and (tentatively) the Attorney General, on a date TBD.

o **Rural Women** - We are working on lining up an appropriate official from State to represent the Secretary and speak at the Agriculture Conference, June 28-July 2. Neither Bonnie Cohen nor Melinda Kimble is available; you are on leave. Julia Taft may be available. We would welcome your thoughts on contacting Strobe Talbott or Stu Eizenstadt about this.

o **Trafficking in Women and Girls** - Steve brought together most of the U.S. delegation to the Ukraine US/EU trafficking meeting (July 8-9) to discuss how to sustain and expand the present effort there. Steve also emphasized to AID our view that it is vital that AID focus on economic alternative prevention initiatives as part of the USG comprehensive effort. Trafficking will be addressed in a Gore-Kutchma joint law enforcement statement and that will be another good opportunity to emphasize a balanced approach to this issue.

o We took advantage of the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur Radhika Coomaraswamy to discuss the Administration's coordinated effort to address trafficking. During this very good discussion, she stressed that we should work as closely as possible with the EU, UN and NGOs on this issue, not only on law enforcement and legal systems reform, but also protection of the victims. She also recommended that we give attention to Nepal, which faces a terrible health problem from AIDS connected with trafficked women and children. Responding to the ALDAC on trafficking, AmEmbassy Kathmandu provided an excellent cable last month that highlighted the AIDS problem due to trafficking and some excellent projects that have been undertaken to protect trafficking victims. We think that this bodes well for working positively in this region since our embassy in Bangladesh also has expressed a strong desire to work with us on this issue.

o **Personnel** - PER confirmed that Lidia will get an offer today to start on July 6. We are delighted.



## The President's Interagency Council on Women

July 2, 1998

### MEMORANDUM

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman

FROM: S/PICW - Theresa Loar *Theresa Loar*

SUBJECT: Weekly highlights from the Interagency Council on Women

o **Seneca Falls** - We assume that the Secretary will accept induction into the Hall of Fame and deliver a major address on women's issues at the induction luncheon. We have provided background material to Bill Woodward for her remarks. Carol Bellamy has agreed to deliver the keynote speech for the closing ceremony/international day celebration. Ann Lewis was delighted with your suggestion. A group of young women will draft their own Declaration of Sentiments at Seneca Falls and will present it to Carol Bellamy. Hafsat Abiola, the 24-year-old daughter of Nigeria's last democratically elected president, will also speak at the closing.

o **Rural Women** - The Second International Conference on Women in Agriculture was reported to be a tremendous success despite the negative comments by Al Kamen. Over 1000 ambitious women from fifty nations participated in the five day event. The First Lady welcomed the participants via video and Mrs. Gore gave the keynote address at the conference opening. Numerous breakout sessions proved to be informative as they covered a wide range of topics from Soil Management to Biotechnology, Intellectual Property & Rural Women. Sharon and Seth attended to coordinate the translation services and greet the VIP's.

o **Trafficking in Women and Girls** - Steve leaves for the US-EU trafficking conference in Ukraine on Tuesday. He will speak about the future directions for USG efforts to combat trafficking. Steve will continue on to Italy to meet with our Embassy and the Italians to follow-up on our trafficking initiatives.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 2, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman

FROM: G - Anita Botti *AB*

SUBJECT: This week's highlights

**Expanding Women's Political Participation**

o Theresa and John Hamilton will see you Monday to discuss Vital Voices of the Americas. On Monday, we will also meet with the coordinating team including, the Inter-American Development Bank, ARA, L, M, FMP, USIA, and AID, to discuss next steps in the conference plans. ARA and L will send the revised solicitation memorandum back to Bonnie Cohen for approval. On Monday evening, Theresa and Dani leave for the advance trip to Montevideo on ARA funded travel orders.

o Dani and DRL met with Dr. Ludmila Gryaznova, a Belarusian woman who participated in the Vital Voices Vienna Conference. She said Vital Voices was the best conference she ever attended, it taught her skills she could bring back and use in her country. Dr. Gryaznova explained that she was one of the sixteen wives and mothers of political prisoners in Belarus who wrote an appeal to the First Lady urging her to intervene on their behalf. Lois worked with the First Lady's office to draft a response which Dr. Gryaznova said left an enduring impression. She also said the First Lady speaks about human rights on a family level and in language that people understand.

**Violence Against Women**

o Lois attended a briefing on the situation of women in Afghanistan by Linda Thomas-Greenfield, our person on the ground in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The situation gets worse for women. Medical treatment for women in hospitals is almost a farce. She described her visit to a locked "women's ward" of one hospital and the fear of those with her that someone would see them enter the ward. Her opinion is that we could just as well leave Afghanistan since the Taliban is preventing us from carrying out any programs anyway. However, that is what the Taliban want us to do. Therefore we have to stay.

o I was invited by S/NIS to provide an overview and summary of USG efforts to combat trafficking to the Gore-Kutchma law enforcement working group. The session which was co-chaired by S/NIS and INL included a USG request for agreement to additional steps by Ukraine and several proposals for future cooperative efforts. We will

continue to work with S/NIS and our interagency partners to support the law enforcement initiatives.

- o Even more gloom in Afghanistan. Another edict was just issued by the Taliban requiring all international NGOs (such as Save the Children and CARE) in Kabul to move their offices and residences to a single isolated compound. The NGOs have challenged this saying they will leave the country if this edict is enforced. The UN dispatched a delegation to Kabul on June 30 to discuss the worsening conditions for the humanitarian assistance community in Kabul.

## **Outreach**

- o We were asked by IO/UNP to clear on a diplomatic note concerning the difficulty some divorced spouses of international organization employees were having obtaining court-ordered child and spouse support payments. These organizations have asserted immunity from jurisdiction of the courts and have not taken voluntary steps to ensure support payments are made by their employees. The diplomatic note requests these organizations to take voluntary steps to provide court-ordered information on salary and benefits of an employee involved in divorce and family law proceedings and to enforce court-ordered payments. Hardship (often extreme) on spouses and dependents would be averted.

- o Alyse conducted two brainstorming meetings for Vital Voices of Northern Ireland with NGOs that work with women's organizations and democracy building programs in the region. She also attended a victory party for the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, to spread the word about the conference. In the election, the Coalition won two seats in the new Assembly and women over all took 14 of the 108 seats. These numbers, although rather low, are significantly higher than the predictions we heard when we were in Belfast.

- o Our Vital Voices of Northern Ireland Interagency Working Group is moving along. Next Monday each agency will report back on ways their agency can be involved in the conference and follow through. USIA has already agreed to conduct outreach to the press in the region and run a press center at the conference. Meanwhile, our Vital Voices team in Belfast, is spreading the word all over Ireland.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Senior Coordinator for  
International Women's Issues

July 10, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman

FROM: G - Anita Botti, Acting *AB*

SUBJECT: This week's highlights

**Expanding Women's Political Participation**

- o Despite the recent flare up of fighting in Northern Ireland, plans for the Vital Voices conference in Belfast are moving forward. The conference may be held the first week in September and tied to the President and First Lady's trip to Moscow.
- o Planning is also on track for the hemisphere wide Vital Voices conference to be held in Montevideo October 1 - 3. Theresa, John Hamilton, Jim Thessin, and Jim O'Brien will meet with Bonnie Cohen on Monday, July 13 to review the role of the private sector in the conference. Theresa plans to brief you sometime in the afternoon.

**Violence Against Women**

- o We continue to hold weekly conference calls with Embassy Moscow to plan for the Family Violence Against Women conference scheduled for fall '98. Unfortunately USAID seems reluctant to participate fully. They continue to review a technical report on Gender Violence which was written last year; this report is critical to the planning group since it will help delineate the final areas to be covered in the conference and also help DOJ decide on appropriate speakers for the conference. S/NIS folks are working closely with us to ensure that Ambassador Collins is involved in all aspects of this process.
- o Human Rights NGO Felice Gaer, called today upset about what is happening at the ICC negotiations in Rome. According to her, the Vatican and a group of Arab states are pulling out all references to "gender" in the statute. NGOs are concerned that this will undo all of the Beijing achievements. Congresswoman Slaughter's office also called about the same matter. We are trying to follow-up with the delegation on these issues.

## **Outreach**

o Lois was contacted by Georgina Wright (wife of British Embassy's DCM and former foreign service officer in her own right) for a briefing on the work of our office. Lois also put her in touch with Gretchen Welch in the DG's office on the issue of promoting and appointing more women to senior positions in the foreign service, including ambassadorships. This is timely, since the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Baroness Symons, is in town next week. She has been trying to attract more women, minorities and people with disabilities to the British diplomatic service. She will be discussing these issues, particularly about women, at a dinner hosted by the British Ambassador at his residence on Monday, July 13. We understand that you may be on the guest list and have attached a copy of Baroness Symons bio for your information.

## **Interagency Council on Women**

o We reviewed the final schedule for Seneca Falls yesterday at a meeting chaired by Ann Lewis at the White House. Everyone is delighted that the Secretary has agreed to accept the invitation for induction into the Hall of Fame. The Secretary's advance team has determined that the induction ceremony will be a better venue for her speech than the luncheon; consequently, the Secretary's time on site will be shorter. The Secretary's participation in this anniversary celebration is a solid beginning to a week long celebration which includes the First Lady's keynote address on July 16, followed by Secretaries Herman and Shalala on July 17.

o We worked closely with Bill Woodward on the Secretary's Hall of Fame speech. The speech is outstanding and we will work with PA to see if it can get wide circulation, and possibly placed in the State magazine.



United States Department of State

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

Senior Coordinator for  
International Women's Issues

July 17, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman  
FROM: G - Theresa Loar   
SUBJECT: This week's highlights

**Expanding Women's Political Participation**

- o The White House will likely announce Vital Voices Belfast next week. It will be follow-on to the President and First Lady's visit to Russia and will overlap with the President's visit to Belfast. We have been asked to go out to Belfast again next week to accelerate the conference process. This timing of the conference will be a huge undertaking but the event is very important for implementation of the peace process. We have continued to hold program brainstorming meetings with NGO and private sector experts on Ireland issues. Our Interagency working group is expanding and we are working hard to get all agencies (i.e. Commerce, Labor, SBA, Justice) to identify follow-up commitments.
- o Dani and I had a productive trip to Montevideo last week. The Embassy needed some motivation from Washington. The conference facilities are great. ARA/EX is in the process of hiring a Montevideo based conference coordinator to handle all of the logistical arrangements. As you already know, my meeting with M went well and the solicitation memorandum was approved. Our calls to the private sector are underway.
- o We are working closely with ARA to include materials on Vital Voices of the Americas into the President Sanganetti's visit to Washington next week. The First Lady will drop by a White House meeting to discuss the Vital Voices conference.
- o Melissa completed the first stage of the S/NIS/C inventory of women's projects. This report summarizes all USIA, AID, and INL programs targeted to women. We will continue to work with S/NIS/C to conduct a needs assessment to determine what additional programs should be developed.

## **Violence Against Women**

- o Anita met with S/NIS to involve them in the upcoming visit of a delegation of women from Ukraine on the issue of trafficking in women and girls to and from their country. Anita and S/NIS will meet this group while they are in town and will ensure the appropriate meetings are arranged.
- o We attended an ASEAN planning meeting and advocated for a deliverable for the Secretary on trafficking. S/P supports including this topic in the discussions. We are also preparing talking points for the Secretary's speech in Sydney at the end of her ASEAN trip.
- o The Moscow conference on family violence against women is moving on the fast track. We are working closely with S/NIS which will develop a policy action plan to engage the government on this issue. We provided talking points for the Vice President's briefing book on the Moscow conference.

## **Outreach**

- o There has been a great response to the *USA Today* cover story on the partnership between Secretary Albright and the First Lady. We worked closely with Susan Page to ensure the article had a positive tone and described specific results of the Secretary's work to advance the status of women.
- o We hosted the Honorable Deborah Morris, New Zealand's youngest ever minister for Youth Affairs and Deputy Minister for Women's Affairs, during her visit to Washington. Alyse coordinated her schedule which included: a meeting at the White House with Melanne Verveer, visits to local youth organizations and youth shelters, and a roundtable at the Department with young leaders to strategize about ways for young people to serve as a global force for change. Alyse also worked with the Secretary's Open Forum to coordinate a speaking engagement for the Minister on the need for young people to get involved in international issues. This event drew a crowd of approximately one hundred Washington interns. Following this event, State Department officials spoke to the interns about the need for young people to engage in foreign affairs.
- o Alyse spoke to a group of 120 young women representing every state in the nation about the work of our office to integrate women's issues into the mainstream of American foreign policy and the need for more young people to get involved in international issues. They were in Washington with the Girls Nation Program.



United States Department of State

*Under Secretary of State  
for Global Affairs*

*Washington, D.C. 20520-7250*

Senior Coordinator for  
International Women's Issues

September 18, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman  
FROM: G - Theresa Loar *TL*  
SUBJECT: This week's highlights

**INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

I gave the keynote address at the IDB Forum on the Americas monthly luncheon Wednesday discussing *Vital Voices* Montevideo. Over 100 NGOs, press members and Latin American policy folks attended the luncheon to hear about the *Vital Voices* Montevideo conference and Secretary Albright's commitment to this as part of her foreign policy agenda.

**GENDER & PEACE KEEPING**

The second meeting of the US-Canada steering committee for gender issues and peacekeeping met in Ottawa September 16 & 17. The objective of this G-8 initiative is to develop a training course/ module for peacekeepers. The US delegation was lead by Anita Botti and included IO, AID, and AmEmbassy Canada. The Pearson International Center for Peace Keeping in Halifax will develop this course with a pilot ready some time early next year. This initiative has generated a great deal of interest at the UN as a resource for military and civilian peacekeepers.

**CEDAW**

As discussed, I participated in a press conference pep rally for CEDAW organized by Representative Woolsey on September 10th. Despite our concerns, the event went well with good NGO attendance and eight women Members speaking. The United Methodist

Women stacked up ten thousand letters in favor of CEDAW for a good visual to demonstrate grassroots support.

### **THE *VITAL VOICES* BELFAST INITIATIVE**

In the days following the *Vital Voices* Belfast conference, our partners in Mo Mowlam's office and numerous participants have told us how they are moving forward on the \$2 million+ partnership projects developed at the conference. Alyse is linking us up with the Mo Mowlam, David Trimble and Seamus Mallon U.S. "Road Show," sponsored by the Industrial Development Board in New York, Chicago and Boston in October, to expand follow-up activities and partnerships. I'd like to discuss Embassy London and Consulate Belfast follow-up.

### ***VITAL VOICES* OF THE AMERICAS**

As we get down to the wire on *Vital Voices* Montevideo, we are running into a fiscal crunch involving the possible need for bridge financing to cover the private sector contributions that are not yet in hand. Jim Lawrence has been working with ARA/EX to move this along so we can fund some regional participants.



## The President's Interagency Council on Women

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Honorary Chair

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright  
Chair

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

September 23, 1998

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman

FROM: S/PICW - Theresa Loar

SUBJECT: Highlights of the Council's Activities

### WORKING GROUPS

#### **Women's History**

- Lidia joined Ann Lewis' meeting on the Commission for Celebrating Women's History. Ann and Beth Newburger, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs, GSA, will co-chair a presidential panel which will hold public meetings across the country and recommend to the President the best means to acknowledge and celebrate the roles and accomplishments of women in American history. Ann will involve Council members with a presentation at the next Council meeting.

#### **Women in the Global Economy**

- We had a good meeting with John Wolf yesterday on how to integrate the advancement of women into the APEC agenda. John will meet with Kitty Higgins before she heads out to lead the U.S. delegation to the APEC Ministerial on Women in Manila October 12-16. Kathy Hendrix and an ECON officer from Embassy Manila will represent State on this delegation. We agreed if this ministerial is to influence the APEC process the goals and next steps should be:
  - a few key organizing principles
  - development of APEC-wide guidance to assist in the implementation of the organizing principles
  - expectation that the Senior Officials (including John) will look to include this agenda as a cross cutting issue in the Economic and Technical Subcommittee
  - an ad hoc group to provide recommendations to the SOM in February.

The list of delegates for the October Ministerial was cleared by White House liaison and invitations were sent on Council letterhead.

- Kathy Hendrix attended the third annual meeting of the Women's Leaders Network from APEC economies in Kuala Lumpur in August 31 to September 2. This group will recommend an agenda and outcomes for the October Ministerial. The Women's Leaders Network

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<http://secretary.state.gov/www/iacw/index.html>

meeting was disorganized and participants complained that the U.S. paper on human resource development had not been completed. Kathy is following-up with Labor.

## **Mentoring**

- Lidia met with Leslie Thornton, Chief of Staff, Department of Education. Leslie chairs the Mentoring Working Group. We need to find ways to get this group activated building on the success of the *Take Our Daughters to Work Day* program. Leslie will explore participation of Council members in Education's Back to School initiatives.

## **Rural Women**

- As follow-up to the June International Conference on Women in Agriculture, Jill Long Thompson, from USDA met with the First Lady of El Salvador, and my counterpart in the Argentine Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Teresa Sola. In the First Ladies' Summit, there are funds for rural women's projects. However, most of the rural women need help developing the strategy plan which is required to secure the grants. Jill's team along with other Council members can provide technical assistance to help rural women develop their strategic plans. Jill is working with the First Lady's office to bring this idea into the First Lady's Summit in Chile in late September.

## **OUTREACH**

- **NGO Public Briefing.** On Friday, September 11 the Council held a quarterly NGO public briefing for our largest crowd yet, over 100. I kicked-off the meeting with an account of the success of the *Vital Voices* conference in Belfast and our expectations for the *Vital Voices* conference in Montevideo. I emphasized how valuable it is to have the Council as a coordinating mechanism on these projects. Council-sponsored events and interests were highlighted in brief reports on the Second International Conference on Women in Agriculture held in June, an update on CEDAW, including my briefing on the Hill with eight women members, the announcement of the working group on Microenterprise chaired by Ellen Lazar at CDFI Fund, and an overview of recent developments in Trafficking in Women chaired by Anita. Kitty Higgins conducted a breakout session on Women in the Global Economy focusing on the upcoming October APEC Ministerial on Women. Anita chaired a breakout session on trafficking. Our partners from other agencies and the NGOs discussed their work coordinating with the Council.
- **Women's Policy, Inc.** Lidia met with Marjorie Sims and Lesley Primmer Presily. They would like to coordinate a Policy Lunch for the women members of the 106th Congress in February 1999 which the Council, Women's Policy, Inc., and the Congressional Caucus for Women would co-sponsor. A representative of the Council (either the Secretary or you) could deliver the keynote address. Other Council members could discuss their work and ensure that Congressional members view the Council and Women's Policy, Inc. as a resource on issues.

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Council Meeting**, with Secretary Albright and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, October, 1998 (date TBD).
- **Vital Voices of the Americas Conference**, Montevideo, Uruguay, October 1 - 3, 1998.
- **APEC Ministerial on Women**, October 12-16, Manila



## The President's Interagency Council on Women

October 23, 1998

### MEMORANDUM

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman  
G - U/S Designate Frank Loy

FROM: S/PICW - Theresa Loar *DL for TL*

SUBJECT: This week's highlights

### **Expanding Women's Political Participation**

- We received a terrific response on the *Vital Voices* of the Americas Conference. Four of our Ambassadors have already met with their country delegations to discuss follow-on action plans. Pete Romero and I are hosting a debrief with the U.S. participants, sponsors, and other interested parties on November 5. Melanne Vermeer will join us. We are also working with ARA on a meeting with all of the Ambassadors from Latin America and the Caribbean to the U.S. in mid-November. This event will coincide with the OAS Commission on Women meeting and a number of the *Vital Voices* delegates will be in Washington.
- We are also working with ARA and AID on a few *Vital Voices* events for the First Lady's trip to Guatemala, El Salvador, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic in late November. Dani is working with the First Lady's Office to shape a day long *Vital Voices* seminar which will bring together approximately thirty of the conference participants from Central America. This event would conclude with a roundtable discussion with the First Lady.

- The *Vital Voices* Belfast Interagency Working Group has been meeting regularly since the conference. We formed a core group of government and non-governmental partners for each of the three tracks. I have been in close contact with Ky Fort at the Consulate in Belfast and we are putting plans in place for a visit to Northern Ireland in early December to firm up the follow-up mechanism between the USG and Mo Mowlam.
- One of the projects coming out of *Vital Voices* Belfast is *Grassroots*, a community development organization in Northern Ireland. Alyse linked up the three young founders with various youth community development organizations such as the Peace Corps, Americore, and City Year to further develop their organization and seek support. The goal of *Grassroots* is to keep young people in Northern Ireland working to rebuild their communities. The organization will give college graduates a stipend and place them in community organizations for one year. *Grassroots* will also visit similar community organizations in New York, Boston, and San Francisco.

### **Violence Against Women**

- Rick Inderfurth and I met this week to discuss the ever increasing restrictions imposed by the Taliban and the strong interest in a Washington based event, to include the USG, focusing on women and girls in Afghanistan. We agreed that I would explore concrete ways that Americans can help alleviate the suffering of Afghan women and girls. We had an excellent meeting with Holly Burkhalter of Physicians for Human Rights to discuss their recent report on the effects of the Taliban's restrictions on women's access to medical care and their ideas for engaging the American public. We are also working with Feminist Majority as they notch up their campaign to call attention to the treatment of women and girls in Afghanistan.
- Anita and I met with our Canadian counterparts to discuss a range of issues. They are also focusing on increasing public concern about the treatment of women in Afghanistan. Anita explained our strategy to combat trafficking in women and we agreed to stay on touch on Beijing + 5 preparations.
- Consuelo Cabrera Rosales, member of the National Commission for the Rights of Indigenous Women in Guatemala, came in to meet with us about her organization's proposal to create a "Defensoria" or protectorate within the Guatemalan government for the rights of indigenous women. Lidia will work with DRL and ARA to explore this proposal.

## Trafficking in Women

- As we build towards a principals meeting on trafficking, we pulled together the interagency trafficking working group this week. I chaired the meeting which was broadly attended by representatives from throughout State and other agencies. It is apparent that widespread coordination is required to deal with this issue. Steve continues to work closely with the State offices on the final drafts of an anti-trafficking protocol to the International Crime Convention.
- Following our lunch with Finnish Foreign Minister Halonen, Anita stayed on to work with representatives from the embassy and foreign ministry to look into cooperation on the areas of violence and trafficking. The programs we develop will focus on the Baltic region and Northern Russia complementing the Northern European Initiative.

## Outreach

- I spoke with Pat Morrison of the *Los Angeles Times* about the USG's strong commitment to defending women's human rights in Afghanistan. Morrison used a good quote from the Secretary in her piece, clearly identifying the US as standing up for women and girls in Afghanistan. Mavis and Jay Leno contributed \$100,000 to the Feminist Majority Foundation for their campaign to highlight the issue of women in Afghanistan throughout the United States. This donation has received widespread publicity with press conferences in NYC and Los Angeles and interviews with Mavis on Larry King Live and Extra. Mavis is a member of Feminist Majority and we met in March when we both testified before Dianne Feinstein on the status of women in Afghanistan.
- In response to the Secretary's remarks at Seneca Falls, Anita was interviewed by a producer from *Dateline* for a one hour story by Maria Shriver on trafficking in women and girls. They are just beginning their research on the issue and will talk with many of our NGO contacts. They will also interview other members of the interagency working group, including our representative from Justice who will discuss their work to prevent and prosecute trafficking in the United States.
- The *Washington Post* is seeking interviews with Administration officials for a story on domestic servitude/trafficking by diplomats in the United States. Steve set up a meeting with State and Justice representatives to discuss issues involving the scope of diplomatic immunity and a case that has come to the attention of the Criminal Civil Rights Division at Justice.
- Lidia made a presentation to a group of 30 California business women who wanted to learn more about the USG focus on issues affecting women and families. This meeting fit into our outreach strategy to actively seek opportunities and expand our work with the private sector.

- Steve briefed sixty NGOs on the USG's anti-trafficking strategy at the U.S. UN Mission in New York. This session was a good opportunity for us to get input on our work from the NY-based NGO community.
- Lidia participated in a *Vital Voices* briefing for the Women's Taskforce at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, one of the NGOs that participated in Montevideo conference. They were extremely enthusiastic about the conference and follow-up plans.

### **Gender and Institutional Change**

- We presented the next step of the strategic plan for our office to Craig Johnstone. We have been working closely with Craig's office to identify goals, objectives, and programs. Our next step is to identify USG resources required for this mission. Given the scope of our work, this is a comprehensive undertaking. Craig's team is working closely to advise how to shape this determination, an important element of the strategic planning process.

### **Women in the Global Economy**

- Kitty Higgins headed the U.S. delegation to Manila for the APEC Women's Ministerial which included two separate meetings, the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) followed by the ministerial meeting. Kathy Hendrix is representing State at the ministerial and SOM meetings. The "theme" of the ministerial is "Women in Economic Development and Cooperation in APEC." USG was responsible for drafting the human resource and development technical paper and recommendations that were considered at the ministerial meeting. The ministerial achieved consensus on a joint declaration which contains recommendations for APEC Leaders for consideration at their November meeting in Kuala Lumpur. The current financial crisis in Asia underscored the whole proceedings and is reflected in specific recommendations concerning possible disproportionately negative effects on women and calls for the establishment of social safety nets. Embassy Manila hosted the US delegation and assigned a senior political officer to the meetings.

### **Take our Daughters to Work Day**

- We sent out letters from Secretary Albright to all the young DC high school women who participated in our event. We asked them to complete a survey about their experience and future goals. We got a great response from one young woman who says the experience "inspired me to push for the stars." We are putting the group photo of the Secretary with the young women and this letter on our website. We will continue to follow-up with these young women and begin organizing next year's event with the Department of Education.

## **Possible new working groups:**

### **Women in Science and Technology Working Group**

Lidia will be meeting with the CIA Council rep to discuss their concept for a working group to develop partnerships between select federal agencies and industry and educational institutions. The partnership would focus on promoting scientific and technological academic initiatives for school-age girls. We have been approached by an NGO to help expand women's access in the U.S. and overseas to scientific and technical information. We will explore this idea with CIA as well.

### **Microenterprise Development Interagency Working Group**

- Ellen Lazar from Treasury has asked us to include the CDFI/SBA working group on microenterprise development to our roster. Ellen said that Betsy Myer, from SBA is supportive. The Presidential directive setting up the microenterprise group is in fulfillment of a USG commitment announced by Secretary Albright in Beijing.

## **Upcoming Events**

- **Council Meeting, with Secretary Albright and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, (date TBD).** Attached is the action memo that went to the Secretary requesting that she participate in this meeting. It is important that the Council meet again to build momentum on these issues.
- **NGO Briefing and Holiday Open House, December 17, 1998.** We will hold our last quarterly NGO briefing of the year and invite the attendees and other friends to visit our next offices on the sixth floor. We invite both of you to attend and would be delighted to introduce Frank to this NGO community.



## The President's Interagency Council on Women

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Honorary Chair

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright  
Chair

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

October 30, 1998

### MEMORANDUM

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman  
G - U/S Designate Frank Loy

FROM: S/PICW -Theresa Loar *DLH*

SUBJECT: This week's highlights

### **Expanding Women's Political Participation**

- We had an excellent meeting at Blair House with the First Lady of Colombia, Nohra Puyana de Pastrana, arranged by our *Vital Voices* partner Marylouise Oates. Mrs. Pastrana shared her commitment to advance the status of Colombian women and a desire to incorporate her democracy building programs under the *Vital Voices* umbrella. She has plans underway for a two day conference in February and seemed enthusiastic about our suggestion to expand the list of invitees to include a broad range of women leaders from throughout society, including potential private sector partners. We will continue to work with Mrs. Pastrana and share ideas on new projects for women.
- We are moving ahead in developing *Vital Voices* follow-up books for both the Montevideo and Belfast conferences. We are hoping that USIS will print and ship the books which will serve as a scrapbook/directory for participants, highlight strategies and action plans, and engage additional private sector support for the initiative.
- We had a great meeting with the President and COO of the Discovery Channel and Discovery's Senior V.P. for Latin America to discuss their follow-up commitment to the *Vital Voices* of the Americas Conference. Prior to the conference, they committed to airing public service announcements in the region. After hearing more about the concrete plans coming out of Montevideo, they are looking into producing twelve public service announcements, one for each of the key areas of focus that came out of the conference.

## **Violence Against Women**

- Anita is in Moscow this week for the U.S.- Russia Family Violence Against Women Conference. Ambassador Collins opened the conference and Bonnie Campbell brought some of her staff to provide hands on technical advice to the Russians. Anita and Bonnie will also meet with Ambassador Collins on his interest in a project on trafficking in women and girls. Anita will continue on to Warsaw to speak to the OSCE Conference on USG efforts to combat trafficking in women and girls. From Warsaw, she will travel to Geneva for meetings with Mary Robinson's people, the U.S. Mission, and IOM.
- We are meeting regularly with SA, PRM, DRL, and NGOs to help shape one element of the White House Human Rights Day event that will focus on Afghan women and girls. In light of the recent press attention to the plight of women and girls in Afghanistan, we want to be sure that USG efforts and policies are clearly communicated.
- We are working with the Secretary's Open Forum to bring in the author of the Physicians for Human Rights paper on the severe consequences of the Taliban's restrictions on women's health. We continue to work with NGOs to devise a plan of action for Americans to show their support for Afghan women and girls and I will review these with Rick Inderfurth next week.
- The fact-finding team commissioned by the Indonesian government on the May riots/rapes committed against Sino-Indonesian women will soon issue its report. We have been working closely with EAP and DRL to ensure that State issues a strong press statement when the report comes out on the USG commitment to protecting the human rights of women. I am hoping to meet with Stanley Roth next week to hear about his meetings on this issue during his recent trip to Jakarta. Since there is significant interest from the NGOs, I plan to invite Stanley to speak at our NGO briefing on December 17.

## **Outreach**

- I am in New York today to lead a panel discussion for the New Women: New Leadership Forum on leadership and partnership. Secretary Albright spoke to this group a couple of years back and they were eager to hear about USG work on behalf of women. This group of corporate leaders, mostly women, is a great audience to engage.

- Alyse and I will both address the State of the World Forum in San Francisco. The Forum brings together leaders from all over the world to engage in dialogue about the future. This year's focus, which we helped to shape, is investing in women. I will speak at the closing lunch and highlight the Secretary's commitment and the leadership role the USG plays in defending women's human rights and supporting women's role in building democracies. Alyse will speak on a panel about the importance of youth involvement in social change. She will describe the Vital Voices Initiative and the Secretary's interest in engaging young people in international affairs. We also worked with the Forum to get speaking roles for some of the young people who attended Vital Voices in Belfast and Montevideo.
- At the request of the White House Women's office, I spoke to the top 35 women CEOs in the Cable and Telecommunications industry at their first Leadership Summit. I spoke of opportunities for these women to use their positions in the communications industry to effect global change. I also briefed on the *Vital Voices* public-private partnership and our work on behalf of Afghan women and girls. They want to work with us to create communications strategies to raise public awareness about these and other Council initiatives.
- Lidia is developing a strategic plan for the Council to ensure that we use our full capacity over the next two years. We will begin with house calls to all of the Council representatives and will host a strategic planning session in early January.

### Upcoming Events

- Council Meeting with Secretary Albright and First Lady Hillary Clinton (TBD)
- *Vital Voices* of the Americas, U.S. Participants Meeting, November 5, 1998
- Proposed Blair House *Vital Voices* Event for Latin American Ambassadors and OAS CIM Members, November 16, 1998
- FLOTUS Trip to Guatemala, El Salvador, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, November 16 - 20. Guatemala and El Salvador are proposed sites for *Vital Voices* roundtables.
- S/PICW's NGO Briefing and Holiday Open House, December 17, 1998
- S/PICW Council Members Strategic Planning Session, January 1999



## The President's Interagency Council on Women

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Honorary Chair

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright  
Chair

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

November 6, 1998

### MEMORANDUM

TO: C - Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman  
G - U/S Frank Loy

FROM: S/PICW - Theresa Loar *TL*

SUBJECT: This week's highlights

### **Expanding Women's Political Participation**

- The *Vital Voices* of the Americas debriefing with some 75 American participants was a success. Pete Romero and Victor Marrero spoke about their commitment to incorporating the *Vital Voices* objectives into ARA and the OAS. Many of our private sector partners joined us and spoke about the programmatic partnerships made with the women from the region and their desire to collaborate on future projects. One main theme that was repeated throughout the meeting was that this event established linkages that could not be made anywhere else. Pete, Victor and I agreed upon on three track follow up plan.
  - ARA will lead the follow-up on the policy commitments drafted by ARA and announced by Ambassador Hrinak at the conference:
    - the Secretary will consider how to bring *Vital Voices* implementation into discussions with her NAFTA counterparts
    - our ambassadors in the field will meet with *Vital Voices* delegates, integrate outcomes from the conference into the missions' bilateral policy goals and use the Summit of the Americas to advance these policies.
  - USOAS will lead the efforts to use the *Vital Voices* initiative to energize OAS activities on behalf of women. These efforts will address the entire mission of the OAS, not just the Commission on Women.
  - Our office will continue to work with outside partners on private sector follow up activity and lead quarterly meetings to bring the three tracks of implementation together.

- We had a productive meeting with NSC and the First Lady's Office to discuss USG plans for Human Rights Day. We are coordinating with DRL to include a component on Afghan women and girls. We are also working with the NSC and DOD to include a deliverable on the U.S.-Canadian peacekeeping initiative which Anita is developing.
- At the Meridian House briefing for our new Ambassador to Ireland, Michael Sullivan, I briefed about the *Vital Voices* Northern Ireland initiative and the extensive follow-up throughout the U.S. and in Northern Ireland. Mo Mowlam has set up a Northern Ireland Steering Committee for the ongoing initiative. Ambassador Sullivan and his wife are both very enthusiastic about the Vital Voices Initiative and would like to play a key role in energizing the delegates from the South. North-South relations are vital to the success of the Good Friday Agreement and there is some talk of a virtual *Vital Voices* network linking Northern Ireland and the Republic.

### **Violence Against Women**

- We met with Rick Inderfurth again this week to review public awareness activities and to discuss other diplomatic and humanitarian options to focus attention on the plight of Afghan women and girls. We also met with the Feminist Majority Foundation to discuss their public awareness campaign which includes significant support from Jay and Mavis Leno. Linda Thomas Greenfield the refugee coordinator out of Pakistan, shared her ideas on how to channel citizen concern into concrete humanitarian action. We will meet with Voice of America next week to encourage the radio programs that are broadcast throughout Afghanistan to let Afghan women know that their voices are being heard.
- The fact-finding team commissioned by the Indonesian government issued its report this week regarding the May riots/rapes. Working with EAP and DRL, Durriya Ghadiali, one of our new PMIs, ensured that the Department's press statement denounced the rapes, harassment, and torture aimed at ethnic Chinese women as "unacceptable and reprehensible."
- Durriya also met with Bob Sieple to discuss future possibilities for cooperation between our offices. Durriya has a background in Islam and the Middle East and we will work together on future initiatives with Muslim women's organizations, particularly regarding the situation in Afghanistan.
- After a year and a half of pushing from our office and AmEmbassy Moscow, the US-Russian Conference on Family Violence brought together for the first time government and NGO reps from all over Russia. The conference opened with a keynote address from Ambassador Collins and included Bonnie Campbell from DOJ. Several Russian speakers from within the government as well as the NGO community commented on the First Lady's keen interest and were appreciative of our involvement in assisting the Russian government to find concrete solutions to violence in the home. While the sessions at time were grueling and there was a fair amount of speechifying on the part

of government officials, the outcomes were positive. Recommendations came forward on programs to strengthen NGO participation and integrate key players such as law enforcement officials, medical staff, legislators and regulators. In follow-up to the conference, Anita will host a meeting with S/NIS, INL, USAID, and USIA to discuss next steps on policy and program initiatives.

### **Trafficking in Women**

- While in Moscow, Anita and Bonnie Campbell discussed trafficking with Ambassador Collins and potential next steps, including working with the Duma. The Duma representative for Human Rights has expressed interest in setting up a government council, modeling the structure of our own, to deal with trafficking.
- Anita also delivered the US statement on trafficking at the OSCE Human Dimensions conference in Warsaw. The US position was echoed not only by the Ukrainian delegation but other member state delegations as well, acknowledging trafficking as a form of modern day slavery. Anita had individual, productive meetings with representatives from UNIFEM and the Council of Europe as well as the delegations from the Ukraine and Russia.
- In Geneva, Anita met with number of international NGOs working collectively on trafficking including IOM, ILO, and UNHRC. These meetings were useful in identifying the groups' plans, as well as the distribution of resources dedicated to trafficking. UNHRC is planning to work in the NIS and South East Asia regions while ILO will be focusing primarily on South East Asia. The UN Foundation is funding a \$3 million project to combat trafficking in the Mekong sub-region. Clearly we have our work cut out for us to coordinate our USG efforts on trafficking with the diverse projects underway in the international community.

### **Beijing Plus Five**

- Our meeting today served to organize the work needed for the special session on Beijing Plus 5 planned for June 2000. We will address the Beijing Plus 5 issues at the next Council meeting. We will develop a framework that includes goals, budget for delegation travel, prepcom timelines, and possible delegation lists to start coordinating this effort.

### **Women in the Global Economy**

- Kitty Higgins, Chair of PICW's Working Group on Women in the Global Economy, briefed John Wolf about the APEC Women's Ministerial. John supports the creation of an ad hoc task force to examine social safety nets to protected the negative effects of the financial crisis on women. Lidia attended the meeting and, together with DOL, will develop a checklist of issues and possible pilot projects to be considered for 1999 APEC implementation..

## **Outreach**

- USIA joined me Wednesday in New York for the Women's Edition seminar on sexual violence, put on by the Population Reference Bureau. We had an animated round table discussion with the 10 journalists from developing countries (including one *Vital Voices* Vienna participant.) The main focus was the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action.
- The InterAmerican Development Bank is planning a young leaders millennium discussion and met with Lidia to ensure that the *Vital Voices* emerging women leaders were included.

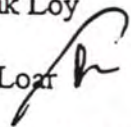
## **Upcoming Events**

- December 4, tentative date for a meeting of the President's Interagency Council on Women, chaired by the Secretary and the First Lady
- December 17, PICW NGO Briefing and Holiday Open House

December 11, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman  
U/S Frank Loy

FROM: Theresa Loy 

SUBJECT: This week's highlights

**Expanding Women's Political Participation**

- *Vital Voices* - Belfast follow-up is moving at a great pace. This week the President talked about the success of the *Vital Voices* Initiative at the NDI dinner in honor of the Peace Prize winners and at the White House event in honor of International Human Rights Day. This week we also conducted one of our regular conference calls with our government and non-governmental partners on the Political Track. Mary Boergers from the Ireland Leadership Program at American University is developing a forum in March to bring the fourteen women members of the new Northern Ireland Assembly to Washington for a week of advanced political training and skills enhancement. The forum participants will also look at ways they can work together across political party lines to advance issues concerning women in Northern Ireland. We have put Mary in touch with our NGO and foundation partners across the US to set up a speaking tour for these elected officials. They will also link up with our Congress.
- ConGen Belfast reported that the *Vital Voices* Women's Business Roundtable with Aida Alvarez was a successful exchange. I had asked Aida to stopover in Belfast during her Dublin/London trip to meet with her SBA counterpart in the Northern Ireland government to support its efforts and to lend technical advice. We are working with Mo Mowlam's *Vital Voices* steering committee to coordinate follow-up projects on the ground and arrange an agenda for our trip in late January.
- We have been approached by a number of regional bureaus interested in hosting *Vital Voices* conferences. After our experiences with the Belfast and Montevideo projects, Dani drafted an MOU to be used between the regional A/S and me before we take on any future *Vital Voices* initiatives. It is important that the regional A/S understand that the conference is a policy mechanism and a way to institutionalize these issues. Our office can provide issue expertise but the heavy lifting of regional expertise, full administrative support, and follow up policy development will come from the regional bureau. We believe this will make clear the responsibilities of the regional bureau as they prepare for and follow up on the conferences.

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|           |                                                                                |            |      |
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| 001. memo | Theresa Loar to Wendy Sherman re: This week's highlights [partial]<br>(1 page) | 12/11/1998 | b(6) |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------|

### COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records  
First Lady's Office  
Melanne Verveer  
OA/Box Number: 20060

### FOLDER TITLE:

Women and Politics [2]

2013-0534-S

rc1709

### RESTRICTION CODES

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

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- Durriya and I met with Dr. Oras Sutan Naji, one of two female members to the Parliament of Yemen. Reputed to be a conservative Arab and Muslim country, I was particularly impressed with Yemen's progress on women's political participation in the example of Dr. Naji and her extensive work in health issues. Dr. Naji lobbied for a visit by the First Lady to Yemen and gave three possible events that would anchor the First Lady's visit: the NDI emerging democracies conference in May 1999, the IFES Yemen-wide conference in March and to launch the USG supported demining private public partnership initiative (no set time). Durriya will join you, Frank, in your meeting with Dr. Naji today.

### Violence Against Women

- The Human Rights Day at the event was a major success and served as a public reminder that the Administration is firmly committed to advancing the status of women. We worked closely with DRL, SA, PRM, the NSC, and the First Lady's Office to ensure the event highlighted USG support for Afghan women and girls. We were pleased to have both the First Lady and the President focus on this issue. Dorothy Thomas, one of the recipients of the Presidential Eleanor Roosevelt awards, has been a close friend of our office and the human rights community was very enthusiastic about her award and the event
- As the 1998 country human rights reports are coming in from our missions overseas, Lois has developed a matrix for the issues to be included in the reports to address the status of women within the human rights context. We are splitting up the 100+ reports for review among our staff and will provide this matrix to the desks and DRL for their future reference. We expect that next year and beyond, the desks and DRL can use the matrix, with yearly updates and modifications, so that our review will not be required. This exercise will help institutionalize the women's human rights issues into the process for preparation of these annual reports.
- Anita has finalized plans for the next meeting of the US/Canada working group on gender in peacekeeping in January. At the meeting, which will include NGOs and AID and DOD reps, the curriculum for integrating women human rights into training for peacekeepers will be finalized. Also, a date will be set to launch the training at the Pearson Peacekeeping Center in Halifax in the spring. You may want to drop by this meeting to show your support for this project. This joint initiative was announced by the Secretary during her meeting last March with FoMin Axworthy.
- We are happy to report that (b)(6) the Indonesian ethnic Chinese rape victim Lois met with in July, was granted refugee status and has arrived safely in the U.S. Lois worked with DRL to provide the foundation for her grant of refugee status. Ms. (b)(6) family in Jakarta had received threats after she met with the Congressional Caucus on Human Rights and she remained in Singapore until her refugee status was granted. [001]

- We joined a roundtable discussion with the Pakistani Minister of Population Welfare of Pakistan on the possible implementation of shariah (Islamic law) in Pakistan and its effect on women. We also discussed her government's support for the Taliban. Minister Hussain's perspective was valuable since these issues are consistently raised here in the department and in meetings with NGO's.

### **Trafficking in Women**

- Anita and Steve hosted a meeting on trafficking in women and children for the Catholic Coalition on Women. Representatives from Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities USA, the US Catholic Conference and the Office of the Archdiocese of New York discussed ways to become more involved in the prevention of trafficking through increased awareness and education. They also agreed that the church can assist in the protection of victims of trafficking through outreach programs and shelters here in the US and overseas.
- Anita, Steve and Kathy Moon (our visiting scholar from Wellsley College) spoke with Tom Lipman from the Washington Post for his upcoming article on trafficking of women and girls. We gave him a broad perspective of the problem, outcomes of the Secretary's action on the issue, and info on how the interagency working group Anita leads through the PICW is making headway. He will also interview Craig Johnstone about how his work with us to institutionalize a State Department response to this issue. Tom expects the article to run in January and we will continue to feed him updated information.

### **Outreach**

- As part of our work on the White House human rights day event, we invited five emerging leaders, in the US for work on human rights, to the event. Each of them were honored with recognition from the First Lady. Recently, they forged a partnership to work through their organization, Global Youth Connect, to support young leaders, raise youth awareness about human rights, and mobilize young people around the world to take action. Alyse also coordinated a roundtable discussion at the State Department for these young leaders. We invited young people from around the country who are currently interning in Washington to join the discussion and learn more about US foreign policy and the Secretary's commitment to reach out to young people.

- Durriya joined Her Royal Highness Sarvath El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan for her discussion on "Women in Islam" sponsored by Mahnaz Afkhami's group, Sisterhood is Global. Her Highness highlighted the importance of distinguishing between doctrine, culture and interpretation when discussing women and Islam. She buttressed her arguments with the many concrete examples of women's initiatives in Jordan which she supports. We also drew from this discussion to integrate the status of women into the papers NEA is preparing on the President and First Lady's upcoming trip to the Middle East. This discussion was well attended by prominent academics, the diplomatic community, and Muslim women's groups which resulted in provocative discussion.
- Durriya participated in a conference, which she organized, at the University of Texas at Austin entitled "Women of the Book: The Changing Face of Feminism in Judaism, Christianity and Islam." The conference brought together top scholars and activists in this field to engage the cross-section of feminism and religion, an issue which will gain increasing significance as we work on Muslim women's issues in Iran and Afghanistan. The conference participants were enthusiastic to learn of the work of the President's Interagency Council. We will meet with many of the participants to follow-up and in the future we will engage the academic community, an excellent source of expertise and support for our initiatives.
- Anita and I briefed a group of senate staffers organized by Senator Feinstein's office. They were very interested in Vital Voices, trafficking, Beijing Plus Five and women's human rights issues in Indonesia, Afghanistan, and Algeria.
- Lidia joined the US delegation to the Interamerican Commission on Women (CIM) of the OAS. The new U.S. delegate, Kathy Jurado, was appointed in time for this assembly which meets every two years. Our OAS Ambassador, Victor Marrero, has been key in trying to strengthen the CIM and open it up to NGO participation.
- I addressed the CIM delegates on *Vital Voices* follow up. Nine of the CIM delegates attended the *Vital Voices* conference in Montevideo and talked about the follow-up activities underway in their countries. This was an excellent opportunity to engage all of the CIM delegates in the *Vital Voices* Initiative. We prepared individual country packets with information for them to use in their home countries.
- Lois briefed a new class of foreign service officers at FSI on incorporating women's issues into their political and economic reporting. Lois will continue to work with FSI to integrate these issues into area studies, the courses that are mandatory for officers assigned overseas.

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| DOCUMENT NO.<br>AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE                                                                  | DATE       | RESTRICTION |
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| 002. memo                | Theresa Loar to Wendy Sherman re: This week's highlights [partial]<br>(1 page) | 12/18/1998 | P3/b(3)     |

### COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records  
First Lady's Office  
Melanne Verveer  
OA/Box Number: 20060

### FOLDER TITLE:

Women and Politics [2]

2013-0534-S

rc1709

### 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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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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December 18, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman  
U/S Frank Loy

FROM: Theresa Loar

SUBJECT: This week's highlights

**Expanding Women's Political Participation**

**Violence Against Women**

**Trafficking in Women**

(b)(3) our INR/CIA fellow, traveled to New York as part of her research project on trafficking in women and children. She met with the FBI, INS, and the Assistant U.S. Attorney for New York's Eastern district, all of whom have worked trafficking cases. (b)(3) also met with the NGO Coalition Against Trafficking Worldwide who put her in touch with a Czech trafficking victim. The info from this debrief will help our enforcement and protection efforts. [002]

**Outreach**

Alethea and I met with Mort Halperin, to strengthen the link between our offices. We reviewed the Council and the Senior Coordinator's goals and objectives for FY 1999 and 2000 and ways to further integrate these issues into Department regional and functional bureaus. Mort suggested working with the incoming Rule of Law Coordinator on a criminal justice system response to violence against women. Mort also for a briefing from Anita on trafficking in women and girls.

Alethea represented the Council at a meeting with Ambassador Linda Tarr-Whelan, U.S. Representative to the UN Commission on the Status of Women. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 1999 session of the CSW and solicit input for the U.S. statement on one of session's main themes: "Women and Health." Several NGOs working on women's health issues participated, as well as members of State, USAID and HHS. Topics suggested for the U.S. statement included women's experience with HIV/AIDS, female adolescent health, and women's access to healthcare, including family planning and mental health services. We advocated that the statement address the health status and assistance needs of trafficking victims and women and girls in Afghanistan. We

will continue to work with Ambassador Tarr-Whelan in the formulation of the U.S. statement for the 1999 CSW.

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| DOCUMENT NO.<br>AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE                                                                  | DATE       | RESTRICTION |
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| 003. memo                | Theresa Loar to Wendy Sherman re: This week's highlights [partial]<br>(1 page) | 12/23/1998 | P3/b(3)     |

### COLLECTION:

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Melanne Verveer  
OA/Box Number: 20060

### FOLDER TITLE:

Women and Politics [2]

2013-0534-S  
rc1709

### RESTRICTION CODES

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

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file

Women's Council

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 23, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman  
U/S Frank Loy

FROM: Theresa Loar 

SUBJECT: This week's highlights

**Expanding Women's Political Participation**

- Our Ambassador to Iceland, Day Mount, approached us about a *Vital Voices* Northern Europe to take place in Iceland (time to be determined). They see this as a mechanism to strengthen Strobe's Northern Europe Initiative. I am meeting with Ron Asmus in early January and will also meet with Marc Grossman. Anita's trafficking initiative with the Finns could fit well into this conference structure.
- After my discussion at the ARA Chiefs of Mission Conference last week on *Vital Voices* of the Americas follow-up, I met with a number of Ambassadors in the field who are taking this agenda into their embassies. They continue to look for equal support and coordination from the ARA front office. Pete Romero has now designated Sue Woods, the Canadian DAS designate, as the *Vital Voices* point of contact and we look forward to working with her.

**Trafficking in Women**

- (b)(3) our INR/CIA fellow, traveled to New York as part of her research project on trafficking in women and children. She met with the FBI, INS, and the Assistant U.S. Attorney for New York's Eastern district, all of whom have worked trafficking cases. (b)(3) also met with the NGO Coalition Against Trafficking Worldwide and debriefed a Czech trafficking victim. The information gathered during this trip will enhance our enforcement and protection efforts. [003]

## **Outreach**

- Alethea and I met with Mort Halperin to strengthen the link between our offices. We reviewed the Council and the Senior Coordinator's goals and objectives for FY 1999 and 2000 and examined ways to further integrate these issues into the Department's regional and functional bureaus. Mort suggested working with the incoming Rule of Law Coordinator on a criminal justice system response to violence against women. Mort also asked for a briefing from Anita on trafficking.
- Anita, H, and I met with staffers from the offices of Senators Feinstein and Wellstone. They are interested in strengthening USG efforts on trafficking. They are also eager to see comprehensive protection for victims in the United States which they hear from the NGOs is not adequately available. Senator Feinstein is moving off SFRC and on to the appropriations committee and wants to find ways to continue to support Afghan women and girls.
- Durriya met with Bob Seiple to discuss co-hosting a meeting with Muslim women's organizations in late January. This will initiate the building and strengthening of ties between the Muslim community and the State Department. We will continue to plan for this meeting and other follow-up events.

## **PICW Strategic Planning**

- We are moving ahead to prepare for the January 14 Council "offsite" which will be held from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm in one of the diplomatic dining rooms. Lidia and a professional facilitator on loan from AID are meeting with the representatives to discuss how they have effectively used the Council and what obstacles they face in carrying out the Council mandate within their agencies. Out of these interviews we will develop a worksheet that we will send to Council members before the strategic planning session. We hope you are available to drop by at some point during this session.
- Our quarterly Council NGO briefing followed by an open house was very well attended. We drew a crowd of over 200 participants, including the diplomatic corps and NGOs. Stanley Roth did a terrific job briefing on his bureau's commitment to women's human rights in FY 99 and 2000 and specifically on his activist role in a USG response on the allegations of the rapes of ethnic Chinese women in Indonesia. Craig Johnstone drew thunderous applause following a description of his institutionalizing gender project. Craig has a knack for describing this initiative in a way that NGOs and other governments can readily recognize as being immediately effective and having a long term impact.