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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 24, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR MELANNE VERVEER
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

FROM: CHERYL MILLS *esm*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Women's Conference Publication

This memorandum responds to your request for guidance related to a publication that the Center for Policy Alternatives anticipates producing after the Women's Conference in China. In particular, you asked for guidance regarding whether that entity properly may seek, for inclusion in its publication, a letter from the President, an article or report drafted by U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright about the Conference, and pictures taken by the White House Photo Office.

It is my understanding from you that the Center for Policy Alternatives currently is planning to produce a post-conference publication. This document will cover such topics as how the Conference was brought together, the issues raised at the Conference, and the commitments made by each Nation, including the United States, to create a better world for women. This publication, if sold, will be sold at cost such that no profits will inure to the Center from its sale.

The Center would like to include a forward or an introduction written by the President. The President may draft an introductory letter or forward for this publication. Should the President decide to draft such a piece, this office requires that the entity publishing the document not use the fact of the President's participation to market the publication. Thus, the Center should be informed that it may not use the President's letter in advertising the publication. In addition, should the President agree to produce a letter or forward for the publication, the White House generally reserves the right to review the entire document to ensure it is appropriate for him to include his piece. The Center should be apprised of this condition to ensure it is consistent with their publication goals.

The Center also would like to include an article or report on the Conference by U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright. The White House has no rules or regulations that would limit her ability to produce such a piece. It is important, however, that the Center also consult with the Ethics Officer at the State Department to

ensure it does not have any applicable restrictions that might limit the Ambassador's ability to draft an article or report.

Finally, the Center would like to include photographs taken by the White House Photo Office to illustrate persons at work preparing for the Conference. It is my understanding that the White House Photo Office is the sole source for some of these pictures, including pictures of the First Lady and other federal employees working on behalf of the Conference. The White House Photo Office does, on occasion, make pictures available for educational publications. In such instances, however, the organization seeking photographs must pay for the costs associated with producing the photographs. Thus, if the Photo Office has relevant pictures that are appropriate for release, the Center must pay all production costs for each photograph.

As I reminder, it is important that the Center appreciate that the President's participation in this project does not make it a governmental enterprise. Thus, this publication may not be deemed the "President's Report on the Women's Conference," nor may the Center use any other title, affiliation or reference that suggests the document is a government publication or has the sanction of the government. In order to ensure that this distinction is observed, this office is prepared to review a draft of the document prior to production.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

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women's rights*MEMORANDUM

October 3, 1995

TO: Melanne Vermeer
FROM: John Shattuck
SUBJECT: White House program for International Human Rights Day -- a follow up to the Women's Conference

As we discussed over the telephone, International Human Rights Day (December 10) will be an opportunity for the Administration to highlight the year's successes in the area of women's rights as human rights. The President's and the First Lady's participation in a high profile celebration at the White House would underscore the achievements reached at the Fourth World Conference on Women and would also serve to emphasize that the commitments made in Beijing are directly tied to our domestic policy programs. Since December 10 falls on a Sunday, I propose that the White House celebration take place on Friday, December 8.

The goals that are common to our international human rights policy and domestic policy can be further emphasized by acknowledging some of the milestone anniversaries that occurred this year. Two specific anniversaries related to Human Rights Day are the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, which was created to protect human rights, and our country's 75th anniversary of women's suffrage, which granted women equal voting rights.

The President and the First Lady would have the opportunity to host the year's culminating event in recognition of the advancements made internationally and domestically for women and human rights.

President Clinton's record as a world leader on human rights issues is particularly impressive this year. The promised peace agreements in the Middle East, Northern Ireland, and Bosnia will lead to greater respect for the human rights of millions of people. Successful democratic elections in Haiti, establishment of a Truth Commission in South Africa, and the release from house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma are other examples of impressive human rights progress the White House is helping to achieve. The President's speech in San Francisco marking the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of

the United Nations underscored the U.S. role as a leader on human rights issues. International Human Rights Day will provide an opportunity for the President to reiterate our country's achievements.

Building on the First Lady's successes at the Women's Conference, Mrs. Clinton is the ideal spokesperson to deliver the moral message of the universality of human rights, as well as the political message of the Administration's commitment to women, girls, families, and their rights.

Mrs. Clinton could also be joined by other leading women who are contributing to the cause of human rights internationally and domestically. Within the Administration, Madeleine Albright, Geraldine Ferraro, Donna Shalala and other leading members of our Beijing Delegation should participate.

In the international arena, the President and the First Lady could invite a prominent person who has earned global distinction for promoting human rights. For example, Betty Williams received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977 for her work to promote peace in Northern Ireland. In recent years, Ms. Williams joined other Nobel Laureates in forming a human rights advocacy group. She traveled to Burma to call for the release of her sister Laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi, and provided the keynote address at a commemoration in Congress for International Women's Day 1995. We could also request a message from Aung San Suu Kyi, similar to the statement she provided at the Women's Conference.

In the United States, Coretta Scott King and Barbara Jordan exemplify the civil rights movement and the defense of equal rights for all U.S. citizens. Both Mrs. King and Ms. Jordan continue to be strong voices for the rights of minorities.

The White House could present a united political front on these issues by inviting bipartisan Congressional participation. There are many appropriate Democratic and Republican Members, including Nancy Pelosi, Nita Lowey, Connie Morella, Chris Smith, Jane Harman, John Porter, Carolyn Maloney, Jan Meyers, and Nancy Kassebaum. Members could be invited to attend or be part of a Host Committee.

Guests invited to this celebration should include members of the diplomatic corps, officials from previous Administrations, and Members of Congress. In addition, invitations should be extended to representatives of human rights non-governmental organizations, the press, leading academics, political analysts, congressional staff, and other friends.

While the program for the event would include a number of commemorative statements, the focus should be a policy announcement from the White House concerning the fulfillment of the commitments made at the Women's Conference. The policy statement should include as many details as possible about the implementation of programs. At a press conference in Beijing, Ambassador Albright provided the following outline of the Administration's commitments:

-- The President will establish a White House Council on Women to plan for the effective implementation within the U.S. of the conference's Plan of Action;

-- The Department of Justice will launch a six-year, \$1.6 million initiative to fight domestic violence and other crimes against women. These funds will be used for specialized policy and prosecution units to train police, prosecutors, and judicial personnel;

-- The Department of Health and Human Services will lead a comprehensive assault on threats to health and security of women -- promoting healthy behavior, increasing awareness about AIDS, discouraging use of cigarettes, and striving to win the battle against breast cancer;

-- The Department of Labor will conduct a grassroots campaign to improve conditions in the workplace;

-- The Department of Treasury will take new steps to promote access to financial credit for women;

-- USAID will undertake important initiatives to increase women's participation in the political processes and to promote the enforcement of women's legal rights."

The President and the First Lady would host the celebration, demonstrating their leadership with respect to the defense of human rights and basic freedoms. The line-up of speakers would demonstrate both the worldwide respect and the broad bipartisan support for these issues on the Administration's agenda. Politically, its a "win-win" event for domestic and international programs.

I look forward to discussing these ideas with you further and planning a successful program to mark International Human Rights Day 1995.