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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

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DATE: 9/3/96 6 pages including cover sheet

TO: June Shih
Office of the First Lady
FAX: 456-5709

FROM: Tom Hushek
Office of Multilateral Affairs

SUBJ: Follow-Up to Beijing

TEXT: Attached is a list of a few highlights from reporting cables that have come in during the past year concerning follow-up to Beijing. (There wasn't as much material as I had hope, but the Namibian legislation certainly looks worth mentioning.)

In addition, I'm attaching a list of projects in Africa that utilize USG Democracy and Human Rights Fund (DHRF) monies for women's rights projects, consistent with the Beijing Platform for Action. These are good examples where the USG is involved, often at a grassroots level.

I hope some of this is of use. I apologize for the unfinished appearance, but had to look for previously cleared language/reporting.

Also, for your consideration, there are NGOs who have been more systematic in following countries' activities since Beijing. You might want to contact Interaction (Ms. Kindervatter) which, I believe, is tracking this info -- and may have it on the Internet. (Theresa Loar's office may have contact info for this NGO.)

Suzanne Kindervatter
Inter Action

667-8227

NAMIBIA: The National Assembly overwhelmingly passed the "Married Persons Equality Bill" in April, the most significant piece of gender legislation to be enacted since independence. The legislation elevates women to equal status with their husbands and permits married women to open bank accounts, sign contracts and serve on the boards of companies without first having to obtain permission of their husbands. Previously, women married under the "Community of Property" rules were treated as minors, and could not open a bank account, enter into a contract or serve on the boards of companies without their husbands' permission.

BOTSWANA: The Government of Botswana has begun a process of reviewing national legislation with a view to eliminating or revising laws which discriminate on the basis of sex (for example, marriage and property laws). The GOB has met with the women's NGO coalition to determine Botswana's plan of action and develop practical strategies for implementing Beijing commitments.

LUXEMBOURG: The new Ministry for Promotion of Women (created in 1995) sponsored a survey asking women for what areas they considered to be the top action priorities. Child care concerns were considered the highest priority, followed by employment concerns. They are also taking administrative steps to eliminate discrimination against women and ensure equality of treatment, and considering education and training for women.

EU Conference on Trafficking in Women, June 10-11, 1996 (Vienna)

Caribbean Countries

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1996 DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FUND (DHRF):WOMEN'S PROJECTS IN AFRICA**BOTSWANA**

Women Against Rape - School-based investigations and educational workshops.

Women's NGO Coalition - Printing of quarterly newsletter disseminating information on post-Beijing activities.

Emang Basadi - Advocacy group to conduct a workshop on how to develop a women's political caucus in Botswana.

BURKINA FASO

Government of Burkina Faso Women's Division - Workshops devoted to "Promotion of Equal Political and Social Rights for Women".

CAMEROON

Association de Lutte Contre Les Violences Fait Aux Femmes (A.I.V.F.) - For a series of radio broadcasts concerning violence against women.

CHAD

ASTBEF - Workshops educating and combatting female genital mutilation.

COTE D'IVOIRE

Ivorian Association for the Defense of the Rights of Women (AID-F) - Campaign to educate women about sex discrimination and women's rights, addressing violence against women and girls.

DJIBOUTI

Legal Women's Group - Training seminar on legal rights of women in a predominantly Muslim society.

ETHIOPIA

The Ethiopian Women Lawyer's Association (EWLA) - Project designed to promote the economic, social and legal status of women.

Hundee - Series of workshops to conduct civic education training for women in Oromiya.

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GABON

The Association of Women Jurists (AWJ) - Seminars and training materials on women's legal rights.

GAMBIA

Gambia Women's Awareness Project - Workshop to sensitize Gambian women to their rights under a provisional government.

GHANA

Ghana Association for Women's Welfare and the Muslim Family Counseling Service - Female Genital Mutilation educational campaign in Northern Ghana.

GUINEA

Guinean Women's Legal Association (AFJG) - Education and training of paralegals on women's legal rights.

LESOTHO

Women and Law in Southern Africa - Research project to encourage consciousness-raising among men and women regarding domestic violence.

MADAGASCAR

Study Group for Economics and Social Solidarity - Poster campaign for human rights and the legal rights of women in a democracy.

MALAWI

The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs and the National Commission on Women in Development - Workshops to develop Beijing plan of action for Malawi.

MALI

The Commissariat Des Femmes - Workshops, plays and radio programs explaining the central themes of the Beijing women's conference throughout the country.

Association Pour Le Progress Et La Defense Des Droits Des Femmes Maliennes - Civic education and workshop project for women in four regions of Northern Mali.

Comite D'Action Pour Les Droits De La Femme Et De L'Enfant (CADEF) - Training of trainers program in the region of Sikasso to implement a project on democratic education for women.

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Comite D'Action Pour Les Droits De La Femme Et De L'Enfant (CADEF) - Ten panel discussions and workshops in elementary and high schools for more than 3,000 students on female genital mutilation.

Association of Women Lawyers - Training of paralegals who will provide legal advice to women and minors as to their rights under Malian Law.

Association of Women Lawyers - A mobile legal clinic in Northern Mali where resources, including knowledge about women's rights, are woefully inadequate.

MAURITANIA

Mauritian League of Human Rights - Conference and publication of a "Guide to the Rights of Women in Mauritania".

NAMIBIA

University of Namibia - Program on sexual assault education and prevention, as well as various programs to raise awareness of the issue of violence against women.

NIGER

Association Pour L'Integration De La Femme Dans L'Economie Nigerienne (AIFEN) - Program targeting women's groups and girls on their legal rights to an education.

NIGERIA

Nigerian Association of University Women - Training of trainers program on voter education for rural women.

SENEGAL

Women in Law and Development in Africa - Educate women on their role in elections and encourage women candidates through a series of public forums and radio shows.

Hope Without Borders - Series of seminars in five regions on the protection of the legal rights of women and children.

Association of Women Living Under Muslim Laws - Printing and translation of a magazine interpreting provisions of the Senegalese Family Law Act and its effect on women.

SIERRA LEONE

Women Organized For Morally Enlightened Nation (WOMEN) - Workshops and seminars in conflict resolution and civic education for women.

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Women's Peace Movement - Support groups efforts to seek a negotiated settlement to Sierra Leone's internal conflicts.

National Commission For Democracy (NCD) - Prepare rural women to participate in local elections.

TOGO

Ligue Togolaise Pour Le Droit De La Femme - Publish materials and a public education campaign on the issues of the Beijing conference.

UGANDA

Forum for Women and Development - Conduct training for women parliamentarians and candidates.

ZAIRE

Union National Des Femmes - Democratization training seminars aimed at women's groups with a focus on participation in the electoral process.

ZAMBIA

National Women's Lobby Group - Training of women community action leaders on women's legal rights in a democracy.

ZIMBABWE

UNIFEM/WILDAF - Public speaking, constituency building, parliamentary rules and fund raising training for female politicians at the local and national level.

Ministers of Parliament - Workshop by expert on land tenure and women's rights.

U.S. Government Followup to the U.N. World Conference on Women September 1996 Update

President's Interagency Council on Women: The President established the Interagency Council as a followup to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women held in September, 1995 in Beijing. The Council, chaired by Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala and Honorary Chair First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, consists of high-level representatives from each Federal agency working with government agencies to develop policy to promote the advancement of women and girls and engages in public education to support the successful implementation of the Conference agreements. On September 28, 1996, the Council is sponsoring a teleconference, "America's Commitment: The UN Women's Conference One Year Later" in which Americans across the country will join together to report on progress made since the Conference, share what's working in local communities, and look ahead to developing a National Action Agenda to improve the lives of American women and their families.

Women in the Paid Labor Force:

Working Women Count Honor Roll: In response to the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau's 1994 "Working Women Count" survey, to which over 250,000 U.S. women workers responded, the Bureau created the Working Women Count Honor Roll. A campaign that resulted in pledges from 1313 organizations that ranged from nonprofit organizations, businesses, elected government officials, labor unions, media organizations, to on-line computer services. These pledges focused on improvements in pay and benefits; policies to help employees balance work and family needs; and improvement opportunity through advancement, training, and antidiscrimination programs. As of September 1996, some 730, or more than half, of the businesses, governments and other organizations have already completed or have taken steps toward completing their pledges.

Minimum Wage Increase: An increase in the minimum wage was signed into law in August 1996. The minimum wage will increase from \$4.25 an hour to \$4.75 initially and to \$5.15 an hour a year later. Approximately 57 percent of workers impacted by this change are women.

Garment Worker Sweatshops Campaign: From September 1995 through July 1996, the Department of Labor convened four summits or forums urging the nation's largest retailers, contractors and manufacturers to join the effort to eradicate garment worker sweatshops as well as educating consumers about the plight of sweatshop workers in the U.S. In December 1995, the DOL released the Trendsetters List recognizing retailers and manufacturers which have assumed responsibility for monitoring work practices of contractors.

Retirement Savings Education Campaign: Using the slogan, "Save! Your Retirement Clock is Ticking," the Labor Department in coalition with over 150 organizations began a retirement savings education campaign to raise public awareness about the importance of pensions and saving for retirement. Women workers are a particular focus of this campaign because women traditionally earn lower wages and are less likely to be covered by an employer-based pension plan.

Enforcement Effort to End Gender Discrimination in Compensation Systems: The Labor Department's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs will focus significant enforcement effort on gender discrimination in compensation systems at every level of the corporate ladder, from entry level positions to management positions. It will develop a new reporting method which identifies pay differentials between men and women who are within the same salary band. The basis of any pay discrepancies will be examined, and appropriate corrective remedies will be sought. The OFCCP enforces Executive Order 11246, as amended, which prohibits employment discrimination based on sex, race, color, religion, or national origin by Federal contractors and subcontractors and requires that all such contractors take affirmative action to ensure equal employment opportunity.

Fair Pay Clearinghouse: To provide easily accessible information on how to get fair pay where women work, the Department of Labor's Women's Bureau opened the Fair Pay Clearinghouse on September 5, 1996. Along with publications entitled, "Worth More Than They Earn: Fair Pay for Working Women," and "What Works: Fair Pay for Working Women," the Clearinghouse includes a computerized database with several types of information: wage and occupational information, resource organization information, employer profiles and state fair pay laws.

"Don't Work in the Dark" Legal Literacy Campaign: The Women's Bureau kicked off its renewed publication and information campaign at 19 different locations around the country during the month of September 1996. The Working Women's Summits serve multiple purposes, one being the launching of a new national educational and empowerment campaign for working women, including a packet of information entitled "Don't Work in the Dark" designed to inform women about their rights under current laws. It includes the issuance/reissuance of six brochures on sexual harassment, family and medical leave, pregnancy discrimination,

wage discrimination, age discrimination, and disability discrimination.

Unwaged Work: The Departments of Labor and Commerce are undertaking consultations to determine how best to construct reliable estimates of the amount and value of unwaged work. The Departments are determining the degree to which information used by statistical agencies in other countries can be applied to the U.S. estimates and how to best use U.S. expertise on time use studies.

Women's Business Ownership:

Presidential Awards Program: The Department of Treasury, through the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, recently established the Presidential Awards Program to honor outstanding efforts to promote the development of microenterprise in the U.S. Awards will be made to different types of programs, reflecting the broad diversity of the field of microenterprise development, and best practices learned from the winning programs will be disseminated in the field.

Providing Information on Federal Programs Promoting Women's Business Ownership: The Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise and the National Women's Business Council have developed the following:

- * The Partnership newsletter aimed at promoting awareness of available Federal programs. To date, three issues have been published; the third was mailed to 14,000 individuals.
- * On-line access to opportunities for women business owners World Wide Web home page of the Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership;
- * A collection of success stories of women entrepreneurs that exemplify public/private sector partnership; the collection is meant to serve as a motivational tool and to provide information on Federal initiatives that foster women's business ownership.

Violence Against Women:

Implementation of the Violence Against Women Act: The Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice is leading a comprehensive effort to fight domestic and other forms of violence by combining tough Federal laws with state and local assistance in law enforcement, victim assistance, prosecutions and crime prevention. Recent initiatives include:

- * the National Domestic Violence Hotline, a nationwide, 24 hour hotline to provide immediate crisis intervention assistance to those in need. The number is 1-800-799-SAFE;
- * S.T.O.P. Grants. In January 1996, the DOJ approved the

S.T.O.P. (Services, Training, Officers and Prosecution) Violence Against Women plans for all 50 states plus U.S. territories; each grantee received \$426,000.

Guidance on Student on Student Sexual Harassment: In August 1996, the Department of Education issued draft guidance addressing student on student sexual harassment titled Sexual Harassment Guidance: Peer Sexual Harassment.

Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence: To address the alarming percentage of homicides as the leading cause of death on the job for U.S. women, with the highest number in the health care and social services sector, the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration developed the "Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Health Care and Social Service Workers," released in March 1996. The guidelines offer both policy recommendations and practical ideas employers can use to deter violence in the workplace without jeopardizing compassionate care for clients and patients. OSHA has also released draft guidelines for the prevention of workplace violence for the night retail industry. The comment period for receiving comments on the guidelines ends September 30, 1996, after which the guidelines will be revised and finalized. Outreach and education efforts will be conducted to assist employers in protecting their establishments from violence.

Health:

Institutional Mechanisms:

- * The Department of Health and Human Services has made improving women's health a top priority by establishing women's health coordinators in all HHS agencies and regional offices, and creating the first Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health position;
- * Direct funding of research and services by the HHS Public Health Service agencies is up more than \$650,000,000 since FISCAL YEAR 1993;
- * HHS is establishing the National Women's Health Information Center.

Breast Cancer:

- * HHS is implementing the National Action Plan on Breast Cancer, working as part of a major public/private partnership initiated by HHS to improve research, treatment, prevention, and public and health care professional education on breast cancer;
- * The Centers for Disease Control's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (offering free or low-cost mammography screening to low-income elderly and minority women) will be fully operational in all 50 states by the end of 1996.

HIV/AIDS:

- * HHS is urging physicians to counsel all pregnant women on the benefits of HIV testing, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are publishing new guidelines and educational materials for women and health care providers in response to evidence that treating HIV-positive pregnant women with AZT reduces the risk of transmitting the disease to the infant.
- * HHS is working to develop topical microbicides to help women protect themselves against HIV infection; the initiative includes \$100,000,000 for research and development.

Research:

- * HHS has a continuing commitment to increasing research on women's health issues and the requirement that women be included in clinical research trials;
- * HHS has initiated the largest prevention study ever undertaken in the U.S. on the cause of death and disability in postmenopausal women.

Expansion of "Team Nutrition" Programs: The Department of Agriculture will expand its "Team Nutrition" approach to nutrition education to the Food Stamp and WIC (the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children) Programs (women account for 60 percent of all Food Stamp recipients). Team Nutrition promotes food choices for a healthful diet through the media, schools, families, and the community.

Education:

National Town Hall Meeting: In July 1996, the Department of Education sponsored a National Town Hall meeting with satellite down-links around the country. This live interactive teleconference about educational programs and community efforts to improve gender equity in education, entitled "Women and Girls in Education: What's Working in Schools and Communities," addressed mathematics, science and technology and leadership for women and girls.

Gender Equity:

- * In May 1996, Department of Education representatives met with state sex-equity coordinators, who shared best practices and strategies to ensure that practices promoting gender equity are included in school-to-work and other vocational education initiatives.
- * Recent ED grants support the training of teachers in gender-sensitive methodology and instructional strategies that take advantage of the differences in perception, motivation, and cultural styles of female students; other recent grants focus on gender equity in math, sciences and technology.
- * In April 1996, the ED approved members of the Gender Equity

Expert Panel to designate promising and exemplary products, programs and practices.

Nurturing a New Generation of Women Leaders:

- * Recent Department of Education grants will provide women with training and experience in leadership development and self-sufficiency.
- * The Department of Education is supporting an international leadership forum (to be held in June 1997) which will address overcoming obstacles of employment, education, adequate health care and other issues, and will develop leadership skills in women with disabilities from all over the world.

Housing: Department of Housing and Urban Development efforts are underway through the National Partners in Homeownership, an unprecedented public/private partnership formed in 1995 to dramatically increase homeownership opportunity in the U.S. In June 1996, the Partnership launched the Homeownership for Women (HOW) initiative. This summer, the Partnership held seven regional homeownership summits the summer, each with a session on women's homeownership. In addition, the Partnership will:

- * Expand an existing toll-free telephone line to provide information packets about homeownership opportunities for women;
- * Create education and counseling programs for women homebuyers; and
- * Host a working roundtable on increasing women's homeownership for lenders, real estate professionals, and other housing industry representatives, women's advocates, and government officials.

Transportation:

Research and development of safe systems and equipment: The Department of Transportation continue to conduct the research, development and testing of systems and equipment used to protect operators and passengers of motorized vehicles, including development of more representative test dummies (i.e., children and pregnant women) and development of a "smart" airbag that can protect all vehicle passengers regardless of size.

National Conference on Women's Travel Issues: The Department of Transportation will co-sponsor the Second National Conference on Women's Travel Issues in October 1996 in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Environment: Environmental Protection Agency efforts include:

- * Addressing women's susceptibilities and exposure to environmental pollution, such as the Long Island Breast Cancer Study;

- * The Toxins Release Inventory, which tracks estimated chemical releases into the environment including chemicals with reproductive and developmental effects;
- * Working with the Girl Scouts of America to promote environmental stewardship.

UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women: The ratification of this women's human rights treaty is the Administration's top priority among human rights treaties presently awaiting advice and consent by the U.S. Senate.

White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach: The Women's Office hosts "At the Table," a series of roundtable discussions across the country between women and Administration officials.

Foreign Policy and Foreign Affairs:

Department of State efforts:

- * The Africa Bureau has developed a model to intensify programs and mission efforts to enhance the roles and status of women in Africa; and
- * Human rights reporting now examines the extent to which women are active participants in government and economic growth, and integrate women throughout the human rights reports.

U.S. Mission to the U.N. efforts:

- * UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright and U.S. Mission representatives continue to consult with American nongovernmental organizations in matters affecting women, ranging from implementation of the Bosnia Peace Agreement to resolutions regarding human rights in countries around the world.
- * The U.S. strongly supports the Secretary General's goal of gender equity by the year 2000 for the UN Secretariat.

International Development: The Agency for International Development's activities include:

- * Developing a Gender Plan of Action which includes modifying AID's strategic framework to reflect under each strategic objective the key role of women in development;
- * The Women's Legal Rights Initiative to help women develop an understanding of the legal system and empower women to understand the methods in which law inhibits or promotes their participation in social and economic life;
- * Increasing girls' primary school completion in 12 countries.
- * Focusing on providing credit, technical assistance and

other financial services to women's microenterprise development.

Trafficking of Children for Prostitution:

Promoting U.S. and International Education and Dialogue: The Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs has continued its efforts to broaden the U.S. and international dialogue on forced child prostitution. ILAB sponsored a September 1995 symposium, "Forced Labor: The Prostitution of Children," and published the proceedings as part of its child labor publications series. ILAB financially supports an International Labor Organization (ILO) program in Thailand to assist girls at risk of forced prostitution.

U.S. Military Policy on Child Prostitution: The Department of Defense has issued programmatic steps to be included in training programs and requires Military Services to carry out a program that underscores the Department's commitment to combating the child prostitution industry and ensuring that no DOD personnel knowingly or unknowingly support such activity.

International Communications: The United States Information Agency has created an international electronic bulletin board on worldwide follow-up activities to the UN World Conference on Women. The Internet address is <http://women.usia.gov/usia/>.

Nat'l Act Agenda

— Questionnaire

Internet

EXAMPLES OF CONFERENCE EFFORTS (as of 9/9/96)

- Maryland is planning a conference in each county [23] and will come up with recommendations at the end to present to the state legislature in Annapolis in January.
- North Dakota will link in to 4 - 5 Indian reservations.
- In Cleveland where they are working with a zero budget, both the former and current mayors will issue a proclamation on September 28.
- Oklahoma will downlink the satellite through their fiber optic network to all of their university campuses and vo-tech schools [40]
- At some sites the Girl Scouts are helping out.
- Massachusetts is planning one statewide conference at Simmons College for 1,500 - 2,000. People will be bused in from across the state. Topics to be covered are health, education and empowerment. At the end of the conference they will adopt an action agenda for Massachusetts to be presented to the legislature.
- Los Angeles is holding one of their sites at the Utah Street School in Boyle Heights for women in the Aliso Village housing project which will be a bi-lingual event.
- Stanford University cable network (Channel 51) will carry broadcast live at all Stanford campus locations and cable t.v. subscribers in Palo Alto, Atherton, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and unincorporated areas of San Mateo County.
- Delaware is planning one statewide conference at Delcastle Technical High School. Gov. Thomas Carper will open the conference. They will focus on grass roots, community-based programs in Delaware that are impacting on women's lives, and look ahead to develop a national action agenda as well as a global perspective on women's issues around the world.
- In Tallahassee the Governor will speak and his wife is the honorary chair.
- A site in Lynchburg, VA is sponsored by a women's shelter.
- City of Tacoma, WA will broadcast teleconference over their Municipal television station "TV Tacoma" and anticipates reaching 180,000 people. A workshop will also be held at a local college.
- A speaker at a Virginia site was a single welfare mother who is now the CEO of a small business minority ownership firm providing telecommunication services in the DC area.

- Kentucky plans to develop a women's health agenda at their one site.
- The conference highlight at Cleveland State University will be the creation of a 20" by 8 foot streamer bearing messages to Cleveland women of the year 2096. Signers will pledge to their great-granddaughters to improve the world for them in a specific way. The streamer will be placed in a time capsule of artifacts to be sealed at the end of the city's bicentennial year.
- In Minnesota there will be an affiliated traveling art exhibition entitled "Beyond Beijing" sponsored by the National Women's Caucus for the Arts and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. It will be hung at the MN Women's Consortium September 3 through October 1.

**TALKING POINTS FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES THAT BUILDS AROUND
THE CENTRAL MESSAGE:**

Human rights are women's rights; women's rights are human rights

GENERAL CONTEXT

- We are here today technically because one year ago the US government and 8,000 individual Americans participated in a world conference on women sponsored by the UN and held in China.
- In reality, however, our coming together is as much a piece of American pie as it is a response to a UN conference. This is a continuation of our work-in-progress here in the United States. We are a nation founded on human rights principles, with equality foremost among them, and a belief in inalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- We have been engaged in the work of living up to these founding ideals for more than 200 years. What we brought home from last year's conference helps us to focus on women, and on their situation, in relation to the promise and ideals of this republic.
- Let's leave the war between the sexes behind when we enter the new century. Let's talk about men and women as partners in building a family and a society. We can do it if the theory and practice of human rights are extended to all.
- And when we are talking about rights, we are not talking about a passive situation of waiting to be given something. We are born with rights. It is the responsibility of others and of society to recognize and respect them. But women are not waiting for an invitation. Women are at work claiming their rights, and working to bring society along with them.
- Rights mean responsibilities, and in fact rights not accompanied by responsibilities would soon erode. Women are claiming their rights so that they can fully participate in all aspects of private and public life, taking part in the building a better American society.
- The human rights of women are inalienable, indivisible and integral to human rights. Not some separate category. Too often we intellectualize human rights and talk about them in the abstract. It is in the concrete that they make their appearance.
- Many of our laws are really applications of basic human rights to specific circumstances.

■ The global focus on women's human rights was accompanied by an insistence that all issues are women's issues and that women's equality, development and peace -- the overarching goals of the conference -- cannot be discussed in isolation from the economic, political and cultural forces rapidly reshaping the world.

The entire Platform of Action adopted in Beijing is a document about the human rights of women, including women's right to education, health, and freedom from violence, as well as the exercise of citizenship in all its manifestations. Previous UN conferences were seen as primarily about women and development or women's rights rather than being about the concept of human rights. This expansion to what is generally considered the "mainstreaming of women's human rights" into a wider set of women's concerns reflects how women have been developing in their thinking, networking and organizing over the past years.

A. POVERTY

■ The feminization of poverty is in large part a function of the denial of women's human rights -- discrimination in inheritance laws, property laws, tax laws, social security laws and denial of equal access to credit capital and employment opportunities inevitably feminize poverty

■ Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services. (adequate standard of living -- includes housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications)

B. EDUCATION

■ Everyone has the right to education -- free at least in elementary and fundamental stages; higher be equally accessible to all on basis of merit

■ Illiteracy, especially failure or refusal of a society to see that women have the opportunity to achieve literacy is a violation of human rights.

■ The denial of equal educational opportunities, the steering of boys and girls into gender-stereotyped educational and employment areas not only constitute barriers to women's full contribution to national economies but must also be recognized as violations of women's human right to equal protection of the law

C. HEALTH

- Health and well being, including medical care and necessary social services; physical and mental health; bodily integrity of women and the girl-child;
- Reproductive rights -- the right of a women to control her own fertility is so central that her enjoyment of other rights depends upon it;
- Educational information about health. -- including family planning information necessary in order to make informed decisions;
- Protection of health, public health, and assurance of safety in working conditions

D. VIOLENCE

- The global dialogue about violence against women ranged from discussions of private acts of incest and domestic abuse to state violence in conflict situations and militray prostitution.
- A global movement has emerged since Nairobi (the 1985 UN conference on women). There, governments acknowledged the existence of domestic abuse and rape as social problems; now women are demanding accountability for it from governments.
- Women's rightful fear of violence results from their secondary status; The violence is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations which have led to the domination over and discrimination against women and the prevention of their full advancement;
- Women as well as men have the right to life, liberty and the security of person; no torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment; bodily integrity;
- Gender based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation including those resulting from cultural prejudices and international trafficking are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person

E. ARMED CONFLICT

- Humanitarian and refugee law call prohibit rape, enforced prostitution, indecent assault, humiliating and degrading treatmentt; slavery and slave trade (These are all human rights violations)
- Women have the right to seek asylum from persecution

F. ECONOMY

The right to work, to free choice of employment, just and favorable conditions of work, protection against unemployment; equal pay for equal work; just and favorable remuneration; to form and join trade unions; to own property; to have the same rights as men in other areas of economic and social life -- bank loans, mortgages, and other forms of financial credit

G. POWER AND DECISION-MAKING

Equal participation in the process of government; elimination of discrimination against women in political and public life; This is important because for too long a distinction was made between women's rights (private sphere) and men (public sphere) Thus, historically, at the UN, have a commission on human rights (concentrating on civil and political rights) and a commission on the status of women

Civil and political rights to take part in the conduct of public affairs directly or through freely chosen representatives; to have access, on general terms of equality, to public services in one's country

H. MECHANISMS

Governments have a legal obligation under international human rights treaties to take steps to ensure women's full participation in the political, economic, and social life of society. In the U.S. we have affirmative action, Title IX, the Interagency Council, the Women's Bureau, etc. as mechanisms

I. HUMAN RIGHTS

There can be no free and just world until all members of the human family enjoy civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

This is the effective remedy for violence against women -- the advancement of the status of women to equal with men and not secondary.

J. MEDIA.

K. ENVIRONMENT

The right to participate equally and without discrimination of any kind in the political, social and economic and cultural life of society; to take part in conduct of public affairs; have access on general terms of equality to public services;

CONFERENCE DOWNLINK SITES
[as of September 9, 1996]

ALABAMA

ALASKA

Contact: Corlene Rose or Janell Saucedo (907) 786-4493
Site: University of Alaska [Anchorage] (907) 786-4493

ARIZONA

Contact: Jane Barlow (602) 727-6186
Site: Arizona State University [Tempe] KAET-TV will provide a feed for other AZ conference site locations. Videoconference to be interactive with other sites. Tech coordinator - Roger Carter (602) 965-7661

ARKANSAS

Contact:
Site: University of Arkansas Medical School

CALIFORNIA

Contact: Joanne Black (707) 527-4552 FAX: (707) 527-4545 [H] (707) 878-2023
Site: Santa Rosa Junior College - Newman Auditorium, 1500 Mendocino Ave. [Sonoma County] (707) 527-4552 FAX: (707) 527-4545

Contacts: Sheila DeLany (408) 338-4436 FAX: (408) 338-3666
Site: Cabrillo Community College, 7500 Soquel Dr., Rm. 454 Forum Bldg. [Soquel - Santa Cruz] [Beyond Beijing of Santa Cruz]

Contact: Jacqueline Marie (408) 459-3255 FAX: (408) 459-8206 or Shane Snowdon (408) 459-2169 FAX: (408) 459-3616
Site: University of California at Santa Cruz - Kresge College, Rm. 321 [Santa Cruz]

Contact: Jenny Bloebaum (510) 272-6686 FAX: (510) 271-5151
Site: Alameda County Conference Center, 125 Twelfth St., 4th Floor [Oakland]

Contact: Dr. Laurel Waters (510) 283-8437 FAX: (510) 283-8439
Site: Hyatt Regency Embarcadero [San Francisco], American Medical Women's Assoc. conference, "Multi-Cultural Womens Health: Building Bridges," will incorporate satellite conference
Speakers: Keynote: Dr. Jean Fourcroy, National AMWA president

Contacts: Diane Nelson (415) 358-6804 and Kaveh Nikpour (415) 358-6883

Site: College of San Mateo Theatre via SAMNET CABLE Channel 8/KCSM-TV, 1700 W. Hillsdale Blvd. [San Mateo] Janet Frakes (415) 363-4872

Contact: Merrill Schleier (209) 946-3103 FAX: (209) 946-2406

Site: University of the Pacific - Owens Hall, School of Business [Stockton - San Joaquin County] Bonnie Mansfield (209) 369-7658

Contact: Thierry Gray (KPBS) (619) 594-2481 FAX: (619) 594-7103

Site: San Diego State University [San Diego] (619) 594-6898

Contact: Ron Moffett (619) 594-2379 FAX: (619) 594-1973

Laura Saito (619) 594-6898

Site: San Diego State University - International Student Center (619) 594-2423 FAX: (619) 594-1973

Contacts: Barbara Rhodes and Barbara Perkins (818) 362-3682 FAX: (818) 364-9802

Site: Cal State University - Oviatt Library, 18111 Nordhoff St. [Northridge]

Contact: Barbara Perkins (818) 362-3682 FAX: (818) 364-9802

On site: Lou Albert FAX: (818) 785-4672

Site: Los Angeles Valley College, 5800 Fulton Ave. [Van Nuys]

Contacts: Mayra Fernandez and Shirley Arce

Site: Utah Street School in Boyle Heights [for women in Aliso Village housing project - will be a bi-lingual event]

Contact: Richard Harris, regional Chair of the UNA

Site: Santa Barbara City College [will include downlink as part of their regional board meeting]

Contact:

Site: Cal State University [Long Beach]

Contact:

Site: Pacific Bell [downtown L.A.]

Contact:

Site: Valley College

COLORADO

Contact: Candice Carris (970) 382-0431 FAX: (970) 382-9134

Site: Fort Lewis College - Jim Resen Small Business Development Center [Durango] (970)

Contact: George Androuin (954) 919-5649 FAX: (954) 919-5001
Site: Florida International University - North Campus, Kovens Conference Center, N.E.
151st St. and Biscayne Blvd. [Miami]

Contact: Alejandra Lorenzo [Federal Women's Council] (305) 361-4404
Site: NOAA, 4301 Rickenbacker Causeway [Miami]

Contact: Susan Glaser (407) 588-2909
Site: Palm Beach Community College, 915 N. Lakeside Dr. [Lake Worth]

Contact: Betty Castor [Renu is assistant] (813) 974-2791
Site: University of South Florida-Cooper Hall 102, 4202 E. Fowler Ave. [Tampa]

Contacts: Dee Wilkins and Lynne Isaacs (407) 648-6922 FAX: (407) 648-6881
Site: Orange County Cooperative Extension Service-Henry Swanson Auditorium, 2350 E.
Michigan St. [Orlando] (407) 836-7972 FAX: (407) 836-7578

Contact: Karen Rogers (407) 328-4722 X3367 FAX: (407) 330-4489
Site: Seminole Community College [Sanford] To tape for possible future use

Contact: Shak Vasiliou (954) 424-5747 FAX: (954) 476-4820
Site: Nova Southeastern University - The Mailman Hollywood Bldg., 3301 College Ave.
[Ft. Lauderdale] (954) 424-5747 FAX: (954) 476-4820

Contact: Terry Longordo (352) 365-3566 FAX: (352) 365-3501
Site: Lake Sumter Community-Multi-Purpose Bldg. Rm. 002, 9501 Highway 441 [Leesburg]

Contact: Dr. Mohinder "Mona" Jain (941) 748-0137 FAX: (914) 746-4903
Site: Manatee County Health Dept., 10309 Braden Run [Bradenton]

Contact: Brown Collins (941) 925-3189
Site: First United Methodist Church, 3298 Gulf Watch Court [Sarasota]

GEORGIA

Contact: Angela Getter (404) 223-1484 FAX: (404) 215-7770
Site: Spelman College - Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby Academic Center 350 Spelman Lane
[Atlanta] Tech coordinator is Bill Ransom (404) 223-7686 FAX: (404) 223-7665

Contact: Dottie Gregg (706) 295-6953 FAX: (706) 295-6888
Site: Coosa Valley Tech, 785 Cedar Ave. [Rome] (706) 295-6953 FAX: (706) 295-6888

Contact: Wanda Campbell (706) 568-2134 FAX: (706) 569-3113
Site: Columbus State University - Elizabeth Bradley Turner Center [Columbus] (706) 568-

Contact: Sister Rachel West (317) 929-0263 FAX: (317) 935-1280
Site: Indianapolis

Contact: Debra Obiora (317) 274-7611 (317) 274-2347
Site: I.U.P.U.I., 425 University Blvd. [Indianapolis]

IOWA

Contact: Celia Naylor-Ojorongbe (515) 294-9387 FAX: (515) 294-6104 and Dr. Theresa McCormick (515) 294-9387
Site: Iowa State university - Gallery, Memorial Union [Ames]

Contact: Victoria DeFrancisco (319) 273-7102 FAX: (319) 273-2731
Site: University of Northern Iowa, 102 Sabin [Cedar Falls]

Contact: Bea Jacobson (319) 333-6100 FAX: (319) 333-6243
Site: St. Ambrose University - Galvin Fine Arts Center (FA 161) 518 West Locust St. [Davenport] (319) 333-6253 FAX: (319) 333-6243

Contact: Prof. Vibbs Petersen (515) 271-3563 FAX: (515) 255-0529
Site: Drake University [Des Moines]

KANSAS

Contact: Carol Wolfe Konek (316) 978-3234
Site: Wichita State University - Wiedeman Hall (316) 978-3100 FAX: (316) 978-3234

KENTUCKY

Contact: Kitty Amos (502) 852-0291 FAX: (502) 852-7007
Site: University of Louisville, Floyd Theater [Louisville]

LOUISIANA

Contact: Jackie DeHon (318) 397-6143
Site: Louisiana Technical College, Delta-Quachita Campus, 609 Vocational Parkway [West Monroe] (318) 397-6143 FAX: (318) 362-3174

Contact: Cheron Brylski (504) 942-3537
Site: Orleans Parish School Board Meeting Room, 4100 Touro [New Orleans] (Viewed on Cox Cable Channel 48) (504) 942-3537 FAX: (504) 942-3541

Contact: Bobette Apple (504) 763-3049
Site: C.B. Pennington Jr. Conference Center, 2323 Kenilworth Parkway [Baton Rouge]

Contacts: Fran Tracy-Mumford (302) 739-3743 FAX: (302) 739-3744 and Becky Emery
(410) 543-6070 FAX: (410) 546-6910

Site: Salisbury State University, Carruthers Hall Rm. 118

Contact: Dr. Chester M. Hedgepeth (410) 651-6557 FAX: (410) 651-6550

Site: U. of Maryland - Eastern Shore, Telecourse Studios/Office of Continuing Education
and Telecommunications [Princess Anne] (410) 651-6557

Contact: Karen A. Blood (301) 663-0539 Fax: (301) 663-9360

Site: Baltimore

Contact: Fran D. Tracy-Mumford (302) 739-3743 (O) FAX: (302) 739-3744

Site: Hebron

Contact: Phyllis Martin (410) 879-2000 X373

Site: Bel Air

MASSACHUSETTS

Contacts: Nancy Ryan (617) 349-4697 FAX: (617) 349-4766 and Marie Turley (617)
635-4427 FAX: (617) 635-3031

Site: Simmons College, 300 The Fenway [Boston]

Speakers: Keynote - Rosario Green of the UN; Dr. Susan Weld (delegae)

Contact: Dorothy Burrill (508) 362-2131, X4405 or 4688 FAX: (508) 375-4018

Site: Cape Cod Community College, Route 132 [West Barnstable]

Contact: Avery Ouellette (413) 538-2662

Site: Amherst College (serving the Five-College Consortium)

Speaker: Theresa Hines

MICHIGAN

Contact: Dr. Karen Brantley (313) 579-6989

Site: Wayne County Community College [Northwest Campus] 8551 Greenfield [Detroit]

Contact: Dr. Grace Stewart (313) 845-0757 or Polly and Amanda Howe (313) 562-6924

Site: Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen Rd. [Dearborn]

Contact: Evelyn DeNike (313) 226-6260 X149 FAX: (312) 226-3076

Site: Food and Drug Administration USA, 1560 E. Jefferson [Detroit]

Contact: Dean's Office (313) 993-1000

Site: University of Detroit-Mercy (?) - World Conference Center, 8200 West Outer Drive

MINNESOTA

Contact: Jane Olsen [Women's Center] (320) 654-5216 or 255-4958 FAX: (320) 654-5505
Site: St. Cloud State University - Learning Resource Center Rm. 100 [St. Cloud] (320) 255-4835

Contact: Brenda Powell (612) 962-6118 FAX: (612) 962-6360
Site: University of St. Thomas - Thornton Auditorium 10th and LaSalle Sts. [St. Paul] Tim Corwin (612) 962-4540

MISSISSIPPI

Contact: Mr. Leslie Boyd (601) 984-1220 FAX: (601) 984-1226
Site: U. of Mississippi School of Nursing - Auditorium [Jackson]

MISSOURI

Contact: Kit Jenkins (314) 771-2918 FAX: (314) 771-1530
Site: Webster University, Webster Hall; Winifred Moore Hall [St. Louis]

MONTANA

Contact: Lana Furdeil 1-800-848-3431
Site: Absalon Lounge, University of Great Falls [Great Falls] 1-800-848-3431

NEBRASKA

Contact: Deb Heinrich (308) 635-6102 FAX: (308) 635-6100
Site: Western Nebraska Community College - Room A-1, 1601 East 27 [Scottsbluff] Deb Heinrich (308) 635-6102 FAX: (308) 635-6100

Contact: Jan Potter H: (402) 426-5257 O: (402) 426-7238 FAX: (402) 426-7382
Site: Metropolitan Community College - Fort Omaha Campus Conference Center, 30th & Fort Sts. [Omaha] Linda Knell (402) 449-0214 FAX: (402) 455-1816

Contact: Betty Peterson (402) 426-5257 FAX: (402) 471-5655
Site: Southeast Community College - Room G-1, 88 & O Sts. [Lincoln] Bob Dempsey (402) 437-2709

Contact: Robin Menschenfreund H: (402) 463-4325 O: (402) 461-2406 FAX: (402) 461-2506
Site: Central Community College - Hastings Campus, East Highway 6, Platte Bldg. - Walnut Room [Hastings], Bob Baker (402) 461-2429 FAX: (402) 461-2506

Hau (512) 404-4035 FAX: (512) 404-4416

Contact: Phyllis Compton (915) 594-2143 FAX: (915) 594-2322

Site: El Paso Community College - Conference Room [El Paso]

Contact: Dr. Linda Schott (210) 458-4876 FAX: (210) 458-4487

Site: University of Texas at San Antonio - KIVA, MS 2.02.18, 6900 North Loop 1604 West
[San Antonio] (210) 458-4876 FAX: (210) 458-4487

UTAH

VERMONT

VIRGINIA

Contacts: Sue Rosenberg (703) 938-5031 FAX: (703) 938-3167 and Norma Gattsek (703)
838-5030 FAX: (703) 838-4976

Site: George Mason University - Johnson Center Ground Floor Multipurpose Room, 4400
University Drive [Fairfax] (703) 993-9000 FAX: (703) 993-1883

Contact: Jill Rinehart (804) 977-8480

Site: Charlottesville

Contact: Danielle Johnson (804) 262-1501 or (804) 231-6623 FAX: (804) 262-1428
Producer: Roberta Fountain (804) 560-8163

Site: WCVE, Channel 23, Public Television Station, 23 Sesame St., Richmond 23235
(804) 320-1301 FAX: (804) 320-8729 During production: (804) 560-8167

Contact: Jeff Wiuingham (540) 985-5900 FAX: (540) 853-8264

Site: Hotel Roanoke [Downlink will occur at end of VA Women's Studies Association
Annual Meeting 9/27-9/28]

Contact: Lewis Robertson (804) 832-3832

Site: Framatone Technologies Corporation, 3315 Old Forest Rd. [Lynchburg] [(804) 832-
3832 FAX: (804) 832-3068

Contact: Sandra Brandt (757) 588-3151 FAX: (757) 539-8022

Site: Virginia Beach

WASHINGTON

Contact: Mark M. Elliott (206) 641-5407 FAX: (206) 649-3108

Site: Bellevue Community College, 3000 Landerholm Circle, S.E. [Bellevue] (206) 641-

Contact: Roger Davis (715) 365-4428 FAX: (715) 365-4404
Site: Nicolet Area Technical College, Hyg G South [Rhinelanders]

WYOMING

PUERTO RICO

Contact: Dr. Hylsa Silva (809) 728-1515 X11471 FAX: (809) 727-5519
Site: Sacred Heart University - University Theater - Teatro Emilio S. Belauel Rosales St.,
Stop 26 1/2, [San Juan] (809) 728-1515 X1470 FAX: (809) 727-5519
Speaker: Sherry Henry [IACW]

Contact: Prof. Iris Guinals (809) 860-1950 or 887-9234 FAX: (809) 860-3470
Site: Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, Recinto de Fajardo, Call Box 70003 [Fajardo]

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Contact: Jacquell Dawson (809) 772-7234 FAX: (809) 774-4493
Site: Lime Tree Hotel [St. Thomas]

Contact: Jacquell Dawson (809) 772-7234 FAX: (809) 774-4493
Site: Buccaneer Hotel [St. Croix]

DRAFT

INFORMATION FOR STATE CONTACTS

As we move closer to September 28, this provides you an update on preparations and planning.

- Attached is an **Updated Technical Information Sheet**. Included on this sheet is a toll-free number for you to call on September 28 if you are having any difficulty in receiving the satellite transmission.
- The two hour broadcast will involve not only a panel discussion of the issues addressed in Beijing -- health, economics, education, violence and human rights, both domestically and internationally -- but also audience participation, videos of community projects, phone calls from some local conference sites and responses to questions and comments received via fax. We encourage your sites to fax in questions and comments before September 28 to the President's Interagency Council on Women at (202) 456-7357 **and on Saturday, September 28 to (202) 720-9553**. Please include the name of the person or group asking the question as well as the city and state.
- Judy Woodruff from CNN, who broadcast daily from Beijing during the Women's Conference last year, will moderate the program. The program will include government and non-government members of the U.S. Delegation to the UN Fourth World Conference on Women:
 - The First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
 - Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala *Health*
 - U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Madeleine Albright *Dept/HQ*
 - Director of the U.S. Delegation and former member of Congress, Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky
 - President of Drew University and former Governor of New Jersey, Tom Kean
 - U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Geraldine Ferraro *Hum. Rts*
 - Assistant Secretary of Education for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Judith Heumann *Disabilities*

- U.S. Representative to the Inter American Commission of the Organization of American States Commission on President and Founder of Hispanas Unidas, Maria Antonietta Berriozabal
- U. S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and President and CEO of the Center for Policy Alternatives, Linda Tarr-Whelan *Economy*
- President and CEO of Ms. Foundation, Marie Wilson
- President of the Women's Self- Employment Project, Connie Evans
- Head of the U.S. Delegation to the Third UN Conference on Women in Nairobi, Kenya and Participant at NGO Forum '95, Maureen Reagan

- We are continuing to compile and edit the material submitted for the National Action Agenda from governmental agencies, NGOs and individuals, and expect to issue a final report by the end of the year. We encourage you to submit recommendations for the National Action Agenda from your local sites to us. We will send to you via mail several documents that State Contacts have indicated would be useful to distribute at local sites including: a questionnaire for the National Action Agenda, an updated summary of the Council's work, and an informational sheet on the Women's Conference.
- A number of State Contacts have requested The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It is available from: the UN Department of Public Information,(fax your request to (212) 963-4556 or (202) 331-9191), or the Santa Rosa Junior College (phone (800) 548-6682, fax (707) 878-2023 or e-mail fhb@wco.com). Or you may down load the document from <http://www.undp.org/fwcw/dawfwcw.htm> or <http://www.usia.gov/topical/global/women/woman.htm>
- There are additional copies available of **Bringing Beijing Home**, a newsletter published by the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor in January 1996. Call the Council Office (202) 456-7350 to request copies.
- We are now in the process of responding to requests for phone bank calls to a local sites. If your site coordinators requested a speaker and do not receive a fax confirming the call by Friday, September 20, please let us know.

DRAFT

International Followup to the Beijing Conference as of September 1996

LATIN AMERICA:

Colombia

The National Legislature passed the following new laws:

- Addressing domestic violence;
- Protecting women who are heads of the household which gives preferences in housing projects and education to single mothers; and
- Requiring both the husband's and wife's signature to grant a divorce.

Panama

- The Federal Government set up a Women's Council including nongovernmental (school, church, women's groups and other NGOs) and governmental agencies to implement Beijing. This council develops legislation aimed at improving the status of women in Panama. The European Union has provide 18 million dollars to this agency;
- The National Legislature has reformed the Family Code which concerns the relationship between spouses and other family members especially in alimony and custody cases; and
- The Legislature also passed laws addressing domestic violence, victim counseling and training of women in nontraditional areas.

Ecuador

The National Legislature passed the following new laws:

- Protecting women in cases of domestic violence; and
- Stipulating that no married man can buy or sell anything if it affects his family's resources without his wife's consent.

Guatemala

- A national university has established scholarships for indigenous women to study political science to help them become involved in the political process; and
- The university has also established courses in human rights focusing on the effects of the Guatemalan civil war with a particular focus on the human rights of women.

Argentina

- Argentina's law on reproductive health, rejected for four consecutive years, has now succeeded in receiving partial sanction from parliament. Women's groups have still to secure full enactment of this modern legislation designed to protect the health of women and adolescent girls.

Brazil

- The ministry of health has committed to reduce women's mortality from cancer by providing free breast and uterus exams through public health systems; and
- The ministry of work has committed to undertake a new professional training program to reach 10,000 girls by the end of 1996.

Chile

As part of a plan to achieve equality for women and girls the government has committed to:

- Improving the quality of education of women, with special attention to the needs of girls;
- eliminating hidden curriculum and classroom discrimination; and
- Increasing women's participation in the labor force by providing child care and adequate training to give women a greater presence in decision-making positions in public life.

El Salvador

The government has created the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women. It's board of directors is headed by the First Lady and composed of six state ministers, the state attorney, the human rights defense attorney, and two representatives of NGOs. It's objectives are to promote development of women through equal opportunities, programs and projects, new legislation, and the reform of legislation and norms that discriminate against women.

Mexico

The Mexican government has developed a mechanism to monitor the government's implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the areas of health, education, work, social development and family.

ASIA:*Pakistan*

- The Pakistani government set up Beijing Followup units in each of its four provinces which include government and nongovernmental officials to address the needs of women on the provincial level;
- NGOs are working hard at the community level to increase awareness about domestic violence; and
- NGOs are also conducting community based training to help women become involved in the political process.

Nepal

- The National Legislature is considering legislation to allow women to inherit property;
- The police have established new crime units to help abused

- women and children; and
- A task force of legal experts were formed to amend laws that discriminate against women.

India

A constitutional amendment is currently being considered by the Indian parliament which, if passed, would require that one-third of all members of parliament be women. The bill is not likely to be opposed since almost all the political parties supported this in their manifestos in recent elections.

Japan

The government, NGOs and private groups established a "comfort fund" (for women from mainly Korea and the Philippines who were sexually victimized during World War II) to:

- Eradicate violence against women;
- Provide medical and welfare assistance to victims; and
- Establish lump sums payments to individual victims.

China

The government has created a five-year plan (1996-2001) to help women escape rural poverty. This plan emphasizes a two-pronged approach of teaching rural women marketable skills so they can become self-reliant and wiping out illiteracy.

Korea

The Legislature passed the Women's Development Act to stipulate basic guidelines for policies supporting women's advancement. The law provides a legal basis for rectifying gender discrimination in such areas as employment, education, social welfare, and human rights. The Act further strengthens the mandate of the ministry of political affairs to coordinate and monitor all government policies from a gender perspective.

Mongolia

The Mongolian government has increased the number of women in parliament from (0?, 2? we're checking) to seven after the Beijing conference.

Pacific Islands

For the first time many of these small countries have developed a national policy on women. This is a milestone.

The Philippines

The President approved a 30-year national plan for women which includes:

- Mandate that all government offices allocate a portion of their annual budget to women specific and gender oriented programs;
- Increase the training of rural women and give more access to credit;
- Impose more stringent penalties for those who engage in trafficking of women;

- The legislature is considering reclassify rape as a crime against a person, instead of a crime against chastity;
- They are also considering a bill to punish offenders of domestic violence has also been filed; and
- The police and justice department are developing a gender sensitivity training for police officers and judges handling cases of women and children.

AFRICA

Namibia

- Passed Marriage Equality Act which affords all women legal equality with men. Previously, although single women were considered full adults by law, married women were subject to the legal authority of their husbands. Married women could not even open a bank account without their husbands permission. This is no longer the case.

South Africa

The Parliament has

- ratified CEDAW;
- passed the Commission on Gender Equality Act which establishes a commission to promote gender equality and advise/makes recommendations to parliament on legislation affecting women; and
- legalized a bill allowing abortion on demand. The President's Ruling Party has said that this bill reaffirmed constitutional principles of the right to privacy and personal security.

The government has:

- established Office on the Status of Women;
- established a provision of free health care for pregnant women and children under six; and
- Adopted a new constitution in May which includes an equality clause (section 9.3) that prohibits discrimination on the grounds of gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status and sexual orientation. The Platform for Action (the Beijing document was used as a reference guide by the South African government while developing their constitution.

Zambia

NGOs are working to get women involved in the political process. For example, one women's group lined up 300 women to run for political office. This same organization has petitioned the Organization of African Unity to include women in peace negotiations. Peace is the central theme of the women's political platform.

Mali

Adopted a comprehensive four-year plan which will devote \$22 million budget to the betterment of women in the areas of education, health, legal rights, the economy, the environment

and institutional support structures.

Cameroon

The Mothers for Mayor Campaign has succeeded in doubling the number of women mayors from 400 to 800 after Beijing.

Egypt

The government banned female circumcision in government health facilities and by all health care workers affiliated with the health ministry.

EUROPE:

Denmark

The Government has launched initiatives on equal pay and equal status for men and women.

Poland

The legislature is considering liberalizing its abortion policy. The new bill allows legal abortions to be performed until the 12th week of pregnancy for women in difficult personal and economic circumstances.



The President's Interagency Council on Women

Telephone (202)456-7350 • Fax (202)456-7357

From: Theresa Loar

Date: 19 Sept-96

To: Lissa / June

Of: _____

Fax Number: 6-5709

Subject: Intl Follow up to Beijing

Message: _____

Number of Pages (Including Cover): 6

International Followup to the Beijing Conference as of September 1996

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The Philippines

The President approved a 30-year national plan for women which includes:

- Mandate that all government offices allocate a portion of their annual budget to women specific and gender oriented programs;
- Increase the training of rural women and give more access to credit;
- Impose more stringent penalties for those who engage in trafficking of women;

- The legislature is considering reclassify rape as a crime against a person, instead of a crime against chastity;
- They are also considering a bill to punish offenders of domestic violence has also been filed; and
- The police and justice department are developing a gender sensitivity training for police officers and judges handling cases of women and children.

AFRICA

Namibia

- Passed Marriage Equality Act which affords all women legal equality with men. Previously, although single women were considered full adults by law, married women were subject to the legal authority of their husbands. Married women could not even open a bank account without their husbands permission. This is no longer the case.

South Africa

The Parliament has

- ratified CEDAW;
- passed the Commission on Gender Equality Act which establishes a commission to promote gender equality and advise/makes recommendations to parliament on legislation affecting women; and
- legalized a bill allowing abortion on demand. The President's Ruling Party has said that this bill reaffirmed constitutional principles of the right to privacy and personal security.

The government has:

- established Office on the Status of Women;
- established a provision of free health care for pregnant women and children under six; and
- Adopted a new constitution in May which includes an equality clause (section 9.3) that prohibits discrimination on the grounds of gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status and sexual orientation. The Platform for Action (the Beijing document was used as a reference guide by the South African government while developing their constitution.

Zambia

NGOs are working to get women involved in the political process. For example, one women's group lined up 300 women to run for political office. This same organization has petitioned the Organization of African Unity to include women in peace negotiations. Peace is the central theme of the women's political platform.

Mali

Adopted a comprehensive four-year plan which will devote \$22 million budget to the betterment of women in the areas of education, health, legal rights, the economy, the environment

and institutional support structures.

Cameroon

The Mothers for Mayor Campaign has succeeded in doubling the number of women mayors from 400 to 800 after Beijing.]

Egypt

The government banned female circumcision in government health facilities and by all health care workers affiliated with the health ministry.

EUROPE:

Denmark

The Government has launched initiatives on equal pay and equal status for men and women.

Poland

The legislature is considering liberalizing its abortion policy. The new bill allows legal abortions to be performed until the 12th week of pregnancy for women in difficult personal and economic circumstances.



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As per your request, see attached.

OPINION/ESSAYS

BEIJING: ONE YEAR LATER

Keeping Promises Made At UN Conference

By Suzanne Kindervatter

In the United States, victims of domestic abuse can call a hotline for help anywhere in the country. Women in Fiji can work any hours they choose, through the repeal of a law prohibiting women from working after 6 p.m. In India and Tanzania, efforts to ensure that women make up at least a third of national legislators have boosted the number of female lawmakers. Slovakian women are benefiting from a new labor law that includes paid maternity leave. More Korean families have access to child-care facilities through a new government-funded program. And in Egypt, new legal literacy training programs are available to women.

For those who wonder if a United Nations conference can make a difference in people's lives, these are examples of changes in laws, policies, and programs that already have resulted from the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing a year ago this month.

Here in the US, thousands of women in more than 500 communities will come together on Sept. 28 to assess the impact of the Beijing conference.

They will share what's working in their own communities and offer ideas for a National Action Agenda for Women. A high point in these community meetings will be a national teleconference from Washington from 2-4 p.m. EST, organized by the president's InterAgency Council on Women. It will feature first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, as well as other private and government members of the US delegation to Beijing.

The community conferences are the direct result of the commitments that the US, along with 188 other governments, made in Beijing in producing an historic "Platform for Action," a comprehensive set of specific recommendations for promoting equality between women and men around the world.

In a nutshell, the platform says "no" to poverty and to all forms of violence against women and girls. It says "yes" to literacy, parity in education, and expanding women's political participation. It says yes to economic opportunity, access to resources, health care throughout life, reproductive health and rights; yes to positive

portrayals in the media; and, overall, yes to women's rights as human rights.

What is remarkable about the Platform for Action is that it was created by women themselves. The United Nations allowed women's groups and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to participate in a series of preparatory meetings and in the conference itself. With this access, NGOs represented the interests of the women they serve and successfully lobbied government delegates to get their perspectives and priorities incorporated in the document. Therefore, the platform is not a plan imposed by government bureaucrats, but an agenda rooted in the realities of women around the world.

Through working with governments to prepare the platform, NGOs have an enhanced place in civil society. NGO-government partnerships exist where they didn't before. And NGOs have banded together in new coalitions to hold governments accountable. This expansion and legitimization of NGO influence is the fuel that is turning the UN document into concrete gains for women and their families.

But gains like those mentioned above are only a beginning. To fully implement the Beijing Platform for Action, NGOs are urging governments to develop long-term national-action plans. Many governments, including that of the US, are working to finalize these plans by the end of the year.

But NGOs dedicated to platform implementation see one critical gap: adequate allocation of resources by governments and the UN. Many national governments are recognizing the vital role of women in the welfare of families, communities, and national economies. Now it is time to alter spending priorities to reflect this reality.

The Beijing conference raised women's expectations. A total of 189 governments ratified the Platform for Action. NGOs are watching and demanding that governments deliver on their promises.

Suzanne Kindervatter is director of the Commission on the Advancement of Women at InterAction, a coalition of over 150 US relief, development, and refugee-assistance agencies.

Many governments recognize the vital role of women. Now it is time to alter spending priorities to reflect this reality.