

draft
November 7, 1995

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS TO THE IDB MICROENTERPRISE CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
NOVEMBER 8, 1995**

It gives me great pleasure to join all of you gathered for this conference on "The Inter-Development Bank and Microenterprise: Promoting Growth with Equity." I regret that ~~because~~ I am accompanying the President to Japan ^{and} cannot join you in person.

Microenterprise is ^{heart} at the ~~core~~ of development because ~~we~~ ~~know~~ that micro-enterprise programs work -- they lift women and families out of poverty. It's called "micro," but its impact on people is ^{macro.} ~~gigantic~~; ^{we have} we've seen that it takes just a few dollars, often as little as \$10, to help a women gain self-employment, to lift her and her family out of poverty. It's not a handout; it's a helping hand.

Through my travels in my own country and around the world -- most recently to Nicaragua, Chile, Brazil and Paraguay -- I have seen the profound impact that microenterprise initiatives ^{that are having} ~~have~~ on families. From the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh to the Self-Employed Women's Association in India to Finca in Nicaragua to ^[AK-JEE-CHAN] Accion in Chile to Mi Casa in Denver, Colorado, I have met women whose lives are ^{being} transformed ^{because, for the first time, they have} by ~~gaining~~ access to credit.

In Bangladesh, ^{one} woman told me how with ^{her} ~~their~~ small loans, ^{she} ~~they~~ first bought a milk cow, then another milk cow, and then a rickshaw for ^{her} ~~their~~ husbands; ^{She and others knew} ~~knowing~~ that by working together, they could do even better by their families.

In Chile, a woman who sews clothing for a living longed to own a sewing machine, which she finally could purchase because of a small loan. ~~She said~~ ^{she said,} The machine meant so much ^{to her} that she couldn't stop kissing it. With it, she would be able to expand her business and prosper in ways before unimaginable, ~~and she~~ ^{he feeling,} ~~told me that she felt~~ ^{she said} like ^{was} ~~a~~ ^{being} bird released from its cage.

Another special moment came in Nicaragua at a gathering of women who are small borrowers at the FINCA bank. The women talked proudly about the livelihoods they had carved out from bakery businesses, and from making clothes and mosquito nets. I asked them at the end of their presentations if they had any questions, and one woman asked that I tell her about the women I met in India in a similar setting. I felt at that moment the ^{profound} ~~band of sisterhood~~ ^{sisterhood women share} ~~band of sisterhood~~ ^{weaved} around the world from a barrio in Managua to a village in India. ^{and beyond.}

The fact is: give a woman a seed, and she will plant it, she will water it, nurture it, then reap it, share its fruits, and finally, she will replant it. In this way, step by step, the world's poorest women are leading their families, their communities and their countries to a better future. When we help

these women to sow, we all reap.

I would like to congratulate the IDB and your President, Enrique Iglesias, for your pioneering^{spirit} and your leadership role in promoting microenterprise development. The IDB's commitment to microenterprise is clear from today's extraordinary convening and from your record of contribution to the economic security of so many. For almost twenty years, the Bank has helped to provide the credit, training and technical support that microenterprise programs need to expand businesses and improve the quality of goods and services small businesses can offer.

I am also delighted to know that the IDB is building on its own success by devising a new microenterprise strategy to improve economic opportunities for the region's poor and to support strong, sustainable institutions that deliver the specialized services the sector needs. Partnerships with the private sector will be vital if the Bank and the international development community are to help microenterprises -- and economies -- grow and to contribute to help people ^g no matter how poor ^g to become self-reliant.

Please accept my best wishes for a fruitful Conference.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF SCHEDULING FOR THE FIRST LADY

DATE: _____

ORGANIZATION/EVENT	IDB ^{Inter-American} Micro Enterprise Summit (Inter Development Bank.) (A)
DATE	NOV 17
LOCATION	
EVENT DESCRIPTION	
WH STAFF CONTACT	Melanne
STATUS	ACCEPT _____ REJECT _____ PENDING _____ VIDEO _____ MESSAGE _____
NOTES	Contact: Elena Suarez 623-1552 Bill to: David Smith Suarez Elena SUAREZ Inter American Dev. Bank 1300 New York Avenue NW #1214 Wash DC 20547

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

MEMORANDUM

FILE CLASSIFICATION: 190.CC7

DATE: July 18, 1995

Nicole *Dis call* *Micro credit summit*

TO : Ms. Melanne Verveer, Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady

FROM : L. Ronald Scheman, U.S. Executive Director

SUBJECT : Microenterprise Development Seminar -- November 17, 1995

Confirming our earlier conversation, the Inter-American Development Bank is hosting a major conference on Microenterprise in the Americas on November 17, 1995. The meeting will be attended by the leading practitioners in the field of microenterprise from throughout the Hemisphere. It will be the launching pad for a new \$500 million microenterprise fund to which the Bank committed itself at the Miami Summit last year.

Enrique Iglesias, President of the Bank, would like to invite the First Lady to address the conference. Since the First Lady has been deeply concerned about the field of microenterprise as a creative vehicle to empower low-income people to escape poverty through productive activities, she may be interested in making such an appearance, however brief.

At his meeting with the First Lady last year, Enrique Iglesias spoke to her about participating in one of the Bank's programs. She mentioned then that she would welcome the opportunity to come to the meeting at the Bank. She confirmed this to me when we saw each other a few weeks ago.

Could you bring this matter up and let me know: (1) If she is interested in this type of event, (2) If the date is available, and if positive, (3) How she would prefer to appear - either to open the conference as the keynote speaker or as the luncheon speaker.

cc: Enrique Iglesias