

Technical Preparatory Meeting
for the 7th Annual First Ladies' Conf.

Panama City, Panama

U.S. Head of Delegation: Ms. Nicole Rabner

USAID ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PANAMA

I. BACKGROUND

The U.S. assistance program to the Government of Panama (GOP) began in 1940 with technical assistance for the establishment of a rubber development project. In December, 1950, a U.S./GOP technical cooperation agreement provided for continuation of the education program under which additional cooperative services in economic development, public health and agriculture were established. These four operations were popularly referred to as the Point IV program continued on a modest scale until 1957. In 1957, the first appreciable technical assistance began with a \$2.0 million Water and Sewer Construction Loan.

Following the establishment of the Alliance for Progress in 1961, an enlarged scope of U.S. assistance to include economic aid as well as technical assistance followed. From 1961 until December, 1987 (when the Noriega Regime requested USAID to leave Panama) USAID supported programs in rural, agricultural development and research, selected industrial and export development, education and health services, low-cost alternative energy systems, community development, low-cost housing and scholarships programs. The total value of the assistance provided over this period is approximately \$415.0 million.

During the economic and political crises of 1987-89, the economy was devastated and the GOP institutional capacity seriously impaired:

- ° Real GDP declined 14%; real GDP per capita fell 23.9%; unemployment increased to 30%; total deposits in the banking system declined 70%; the public debt amounted to \$4.8 billion or 267% of GDP. A legacy of policy induced distortions persisted, characterized by high trade barriers, price controls and a rigid labor code. The investment climate was further affected by cumbersome business licensing procedures.
- ° The turnover of the Canal was then only ten years away and there had been little planning for the transfer; the few properties that had already reverted were not maintained and were badly deteriorating.

II. FY 1990 - FY 1995

Following "Operation Just Cause" (December 20, 1989), the new Panamanian administration requested the return of the USAID. In February, 1990, USAID initiated: (A) an Emergency Assistance Program (\$40 million); (B) an Economic Recovery Program (\$352 million); and (C) a Human and Institutional Development Program (\$54 million). These programs were financed with part of the \$1.0 billion assistance package for Panama announced by President Bush on January 25, 1990. (\$451 in appropriated funds thru USAID; balance in form of trade benefits, credits, guarantees).

A. The Emergency Assistance Program (about 18 months): (\$40M)

- ° assisted 2,700 displaced families
- ° provided over 250 loans to small businesses affected by looting - preserving 1,800 jobs.
- ° assisted in reactivation of basic public services; created an additional 5,300 jobs.

B. The Economic Recovery Program (completed by mid 1992): (\$352M)

- ° Public Investment (\$113.9 million): schools, roads, health facilities, emergency employment (8,000 persons - FES)
- ° Private Investment (\$107.9 million - leveraged to \$219 million thru private banks): 2,400 new private investment: (Construction (\$13.6 million); Industry (\$41.8 million) Housing (\$41.8 million); Commerce and Services (\$103.4 million) and Agriculture (\$18.4 million).

- IFI's Arrears (\$130 million). Together with France, Japan and Taiwan, the U.S. implemented a package of financial assistance to help the GOP normalize relations with the IFIs.

C. Human and Institutional Development Program (Long Term) (\$54M)

- Natural Resources management; institutional development for justice sector; public finance and electoral systems; policy reforms in trade and investment areas; scholarships, rural community focused special development activities and municipal development.

III. IMPACT - THRU FY 1995

Panama's economy and public institutions by the end of 1995 were very different from that of 1990. The following are some key representative indicators that reflect the significant changes over this period. These are in no way exhaustive or complete.

A. Economics

- Real GOP growth rates - 1991 (9.6%), 1992 (8.5%), 1993 (5.4%), 1994 (4.7%), 1995 (2.8%);
- Inflation below 2%; unemployment 13%; deposits \$27 billion;
- USAID assisted Free Competition (anti-dumping/anti-trust) Legislation.

B. Administration of Justice

- System of financial management and budget administration in place;
- Systems for competitive personnel selection and in-service training programs in place;
- New standardized case tracking and statistical control system in place and is being automated;
- Judicial school established and operational.

C. Financial Management

- Integrated Budget, Accounting, Public Debt and Auditing systems developed established and operational throughout the GOP;
- Budget process transparent.

D. Environment

- Mass media, NGOs, community groups and GOP increasingly addressing threats to the environment;
- Measurement of deforestation rates and environmental degradation in Canal Watershed underway and permanent surveillance system is being established;
- Ecological Trust Fund established with USAID, GOP and TNC participation to provide 1.5 to 1.9 million in resources in perpetuity for monitoring and conservation activities in Watershed and Parks.

E. Reversion

- Transition Commission for the transfer of canal established and operational; framework law for its successor institution, the Panama Canal Authority, drafted and in consultation.
- Inter-oceanic Regional Authority created and operational; master plans for development of reverted areas developed.

IV. A YEAR OF TRANSITION - FY 1996

During this year a number of projects were terminated, and resources of others were refocused to address strategic and special objective.

Terminating Projects

- ° Improved Administration of Justice
- ° Tax Administration Reform
- ° Private Sector Housing

Projects with refocused resources

- ° Financial Management Reform
- ° Trade and Investment Development
- ° Economic Policy Reform
- ° Municipal Development
- ° Central and Latin America Peace Scholarships

Excess Property Program

The USAID/Panama's Excess Property Program distributes serviceable property that has been declared excess to USG (usually DOD) needs to eligible public and private non-profit institutions in Panama in order to provide humanitarian relief or economic and social development assistance. From 1991 through July, 1996, \$33 million worth of property and materials has been distributed to 1,310 NGOs and GOP agencies in all provinces of Panama. For the first 8 months of 1996, \$1.8 million worth of property has been given to 60 GOP agencies and \$.9 million to 45 NGOs. Imminent, accelerated reversion activity during the next 3 years should more than double the amount of property received to date under this popular and highly visible program.

V. USAID/PANAMA: A NEW AID FOCUS - FY 1997 - FY 1999

The principal justification for the USAID/PANAMA program remains as it was when USAID resumed activities in Panama in early 1990: to support U.S. foreign policy objectives aimed at successful implementation of the Panama Canal treaties. Under the treaties, Panama will assume full ownership, control and operation of the Canal on December 31, 1999. In the interim, the U.S. has begun transferring extensive U.S. military bases and Canal operating areas to Panamanian control.

Assistance to Panama at this critical juncture is clearly in the U.S. national interest. A substantial amount of U.S. and world trade transits the Panama Canal. A democratic, prosperous and stable Panama will help ensure smooth transfer of Canal ownership and control, contributing to efficient Canal operations well into the 21st Century. Environmental protection of the Panama Canal Watershed is vital to safeguarding the fresh water resources upon which Canal hydrology depends. Well planned, productive use of the reverted areas can help offset the loss of income resulting from the closure of the U.S. military bases, contribute to political stability and help preserve the ecology of the Canal Watershed.

A. The Panama Canal Watershed

Fresh water powers the Panama Canal. Every ship that transits the Canal requires 52 million gallons of gravity-fed fresh water which is then lost to the sea. The operation of the Panama Canal uses as much fresh water daily as a city of 11 million people. Widening of the Canal, which is now underway to permit additional transits, will further increase the demand for water. Fast-growing urban populations at each entrance to the

Canal depend upon the same sources of fresh water for individual and industrial needs, and their demands are increasing.

The Panama Canal Watershed is the only water source available to meet these needs. Its five rivers feed two large lakes which are indispensable to Canal operations and to urban potable water supply. Unfortunately, over the past thirty years, the Watershed has suffered massive deforestation, reducing its forest cover more than 60% and eroding its river valleys and lake shores. As a result, the fresh water supplies of the Canal Watershed are increasingly vulnerable to siltation, flood and drought.

Protection of existing forest cover and extensive reforestation throughout the Canal Watershed is an urgent priority.

(1) Background

- ° The 7-year Natural Resources Management (MARENA) project was initiated in 1991 to help Panama's public and private organizations manage the country's renewable natural resources, especially in the 326,000 hectare Panama Canal Watershed.
- ° \$18,000,000 in USAID funds have been authorized for this project with a planned counterpart contribution of over \$23,000,000.
- ° Project components include; Management of the Panama Canal Watershed, Management of National Parks and Wildlands, Establishment of a Nature Foundation/Endowment Fund, and Reforestation.

(2) Present Activities

- ° MARENA has provided in FY'96 \$1.3 million to finance infrastructure improvements for the 5 National Parks in the Panama Canal Watershed. These improvements include offices, residences, back country stations, boat ramps and public services.
- ° A joint Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute/INRENARE monitoring system will establish within INRENARE the capability to monitor key indicators as forest over, reforestation, water quality, erosion, situation and biodiversity.
- ° Four national parks within the Watershed have been surveyed and formally marked. Contracts have been issued to survey Chagres National Park.
- ° USAID contributed to two environmental laws approved by the GOP. A law defining incentives for reforestation was approved in 1993. Because of the incentive law 4,404 hectares were reforested in 1995, of which approximately 1,808 hectares were in the Panama Canal Watershed; a second forestry law, which includes laws on forest management, was approved in January of 1994.
- ° USAID has assisted INRENARE in decentralization of fiscal management by providing technical assistance and computer hard and software.
- ° USAID provided technical assistance for the development of a Preliminary Management Study "Priorities and Recommendations for the Integrated Management of the Panama Canal Watershed". This guide served as a basis for the "Regional Development Plan of the InterOceanic Region" and the "General Plan for Use, Conservation and Development of the Panama Canal Watershed" developed by the InterOceanic Authority (ARI).
- ° USAID supported the establishment of a \$25.0 Million Ecological Trust Fund is designed to provide funding support for conservation/environmental activities throughout the country, but principally in the Canal Watershed.

(3) Future Assistance

(a) Reforestation

USAID/Panama will emphasize reforestation within the Panama Canal Watershed over the next two years. This program will focus on direct reforestation and, in the process develop and test innovative systems and practices

which involve resident communities in the conservation and protection of the environment through sustainable agroforestry activities.

USAID's target for reforestation over the next three years is 3,000 hectares. USAID resources are not sufficient to reforest 3,000 hectares. This effort will need the support of the Ecological Trust fund, InterAmerican Development Bank, Other International Donors, Private Sector Reforestation Businesses, Local Non-governmental Organizations and community participation.

(b) Institutional Strengthening--INRENARE

- ° Assist INRENARE, other GOP institutions, NGOs and the private sector to develop and institute and National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP).
- ° Strengthen INRENARE to be able to manage, maintain and protect natural resources in Panama. Assist the institution enhance its capability to assess and analyze Environmental Impact Assessments, and develop mitigation actions to offset environmental degradation.
- ° Facilitate inter-institutional collaboration (IAF, IDB, EEC, etc...) to continue to support INRENARE, increase and improve environmental laws and protect the Panama Canal Watershed past the 21st century.

B. The Transfer of the Canal and Reversion of Military Properties

Imminent transfer of the Canal and the reverted areas presents Panama with great opportunities as well as challenges to its system of democratic governance. The extensive U.S. military bases and Canal operating areas which border the Canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific are already reverting to Panamanian control. Some of these areas retain thick forest cover, most have prime real estate potential and all have been carefully safeguarded and controlled over the years by the U.S. military and by the Panama Canal Commission.

With the scheduled reversion of all properties to the Government of Panama before the end of 1999, Panama must strengthen the central and municipal government institutions responsible for managing and protecting these areas. Mounting population pressure and encroachment from nearby urban concentrations threaten long term protection, planning and productive use.

Strong democratic governance and community participation will be required to ensure that future use of the reverted areas is compatible with environmental protection of the Canal Watershed, yet also generates continuing sources of employment, income and enjoyment for future generations of Panamanian citizens.

USAID has been providing fundamental, short-term, institutional building assistance to both the GOP's Transition Commission and the Interoceanic Regional Authority (ARI).

(1) Transfer of the Canal (Transition Commission) - Present Activities

USAID has been instrumental in providing technical assistance to address the following:

USAID has been providing - since 1993 - technical assistance to Panama to meet the challenge derived from the Canal Treaties. Within this context, the following are major accomplishments and actions undertaken to date:

- USAID assistance to the ad-hoc Presidential Commission during 1992 - 1994.
- The [Panamanian] Legislative Assembly approved in 1995 a Constitutional Amendment creating the Panama Canal Authority (the Panamanian entity that will assume Canal Management after December 31, 1999) based on a proposal of the *ad-hoc* Presidential Commission on Canal Affairs, prepared with USAID assistance.
- The GOP created the Transition Commission for the Transfer of the Canal (CTTC) in January, 1995, based on studies financed by USAID.

- A GOP Transition Plan (for the Transfer of the Canal) was developed by the U.S. firm Louis Berger with USAID funding. The Plan is being followed by the CTTC.
- A GOP Framework Bill to create the APC was drafted with technical assistance funded by USAID.
- Technical Assistance on labor issues A GOP to facilitate labor management and conflict resolution to avoid strikes under the new APC.

(2) Future Assistance

With an extremely limited budget, continued USAID support is forthcoming in the following key areas to assist the Transition Commission face the challenges for a smooth transfer of the Canal:

- Public Information Plan (IESC)
- Documentation/Translation Center (CDIE)
- Programming and Control of Activities (Free Market Development Advisors Program)
- Labor Relations (funding U.S. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service assistance)
- Insurance/Risk Management Program (IESC)

Further assistance is also anticipated in areas such as:

- Development of the GOP's own transition plan and drafting of basic legislation
- Development of a governance structure of the new Panama Canal Authority
- Establishment of personnel and administrative procedures and labor policies to maintain sound labor/management relations
- Implementation of business-like financial systems
- Development of procurement policies and programs, tolls policy, in accordance with market and operating factors
- Establishment of new authorities over Canal ports

C. Productive Use of Reverted Areas (ARI)

(1) Present Activities

USAID support has been critical in the following:

- The GOP created the Interoceanic Regional Authority (ARI) in 1993, based on studies financed by USAID.
- ARI was provided in 1994 with a modern computerized Geographic Information System (GIS) funded by USAID. The GIS has allowed ARI a more efficient management and control of all reverted properties and is helping out on the decision making process for the end use of these properties. The GIS will be expanded in the next weeks with additional USAID funding.
- A master plan for the development of Fort Amador as a tourist resort center was prepared for ARI in February, 1996 by the U.S. firm, Edward Stone & Associates. The plan was financially supported by USAID.
- An international forum on reconversion of military bases was carried out in August 1995, co-sponsored by ARI, USAID and the Panamanian Real Estate Agents and Developers (ACOBIR). USAID provided the five key international experts (mainly from the U.S.), whose recommendations have been very helpful for ARI and the GOP in establishing plans to develop the reverted areas.
- An assessment for airport relocation sites (Paitilla, Albrook and Tocumen) was prepared and delivered to ARI by the U.S. firm Airways Engineering Corporation in December, 1995 under contract with USAID/Panama. The study will help out the GOP in making a final decision on the future use of Albrook.

- A study for the optimal use of Gorgas Military Hospital (when reverted) was carried out for ARI in March, 1996 by a volunteer from the U.S. International Executive Service Corps (IESC). The study will allow ARI make a final decision in this respect.
- A multi-year Cooperative Agreement with IESC is about to be signed in order to provide technical assistance to ARI in a timely and streamlined basis. Short-term assignments in Panama as well as networking and mentoring support will be available to ARI (particularly to its Marketing Division) to address their institutional goals and objectives.
- ARI has asked the USAID to provide technical support and funding on specific components or aspects of the "Ciudad del Saber" Project (currently in the planning stage), as for example, the design of a transition plan for the Panama Canal College. Mission is working with ARI's technical staff on the required paperwork (contractible scope of work, etc.) in order to move forward with this request.
- The Mission is processing the procurement of computers and office equipment to be donated to the CTTC's Executive Office for a better performance of their daily duties.
- The Mission has contracted an adviser from the Free Market Development Advisers Program (FMDAP) who will assist the CTTC in the development of a programming and monitoring system.
- The Mission is processing CTTC's request for technical assistance for the design of a Public Information Plan (on the transition process) and to organize a Document Translation and Management Center (DTMC).
- The U.S. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, with USAID support, has begun to provide technical assistance to the CTTC on labor issues concerning the framework draft bill for the new Panama canal Authority (ACP). A one-year formal agreement will be worked out in order to assist the CTTC in a streamlined and timely manner.

2. Future Assistance

Continued USAID support is expected to assist ARI in putting to productive use the reverted areas. Assistance to support:

- Current information technology initiatives, integrating attributes with maps and images, facilitating sharing of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) information with ARI Users, and improving information services.
- Short-term missions, to address a wide range of specific base conversion issues identified by ARI and focussing on the "promotion, networking and mentoring" needs of the Marketing Office, to be undertaken through a multi-year Cooperative Agreement with International Executive Service Corps (IESC).

D. Policy and Investment Climate (Fundacion Ande)

Under an ongoing Cooperative Agreement, the Mission will continue assisting the Panamanian private sector (through Fundación ANDE), in its efforts to improve the business climate through policy reform and the removal of specific constraints that will meaningfully impact investment development (export-oriented) and job generation; particularly as these improvements affect the Canal reverted areas. The assistance is supporting the implementation of the following project activities:

- Modernization of the Public Registry;
- Regulation of the new law on industrial property rights;
- Development of a new law to provide legal stability for local and foreign investment;
- Development of a framework law for the securities market;
- Development of a private convention bureau (tourism);
- Development of an export pilot plan (to remove specific constraints and develop streamlined institutional procedures).
- Workshops to develop a unified private sector vision/mission on Panama's future development.

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Revised by: EPO:RGHellyer:mdev 09/96



7^{ma.} CONFERENCIA DE
ESPOSAS DE JEFES DE ESTADO
Y DE GOBIERNO DE LAS AMERICAS

Panamá, 22 de abril de 1997.
Nota No. 0227

Señor Embajador:

A solicitud hecha por la Primera Dama de Panamá, tengo a bien remitirle la carta de invitación para la Primera Dama de ese país, a fin de que sea entregada personalmente por usted.

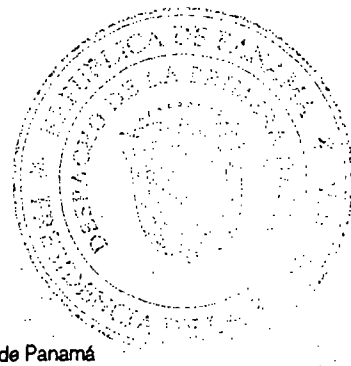
Igualmente le agradeceríamos que nos mantuviera informados acerca de la confirmación que usted reciba, sobre este particular.

Para cualquier información adicional estamos a su disposición en los teléfonos: 270-23-22/23-04/23-05/227-96-30 y en los números de fax: 270-23-06/227-46-40.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para reiterarle a Vuestra Excelencia las seguridades de mi consideración y aprecio.

Leonor Calderón A.
Coordinadora Nacional de la Secretaría Pro-Témporte

/yv.





7^{ma}. CONFERENCIA DE
ESPOSAS DE JEFES DE ESTADO
Y DE GOBIERNO DE LAS AMERICAS

2 de mayo de 1997
Nota No. 0127

Honorable Señora
Hillary Rodham Clinton
Primera Dama de Estados Unidos
E. S. D.

Estimada señora Clinton:

Reciba usted un afectuoso saludo y los mejores deseos de renovados éxitos en las tareas que desempeña.

Manteniendo vivo nuestro mutuo interés por el desarrollo del continente americano y en calidad de Secretaría Pro-Témpore de la VII Conferencia de Esposas de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de las Américas, me dirijo a usted para invitarla a Panamá los días 24 y 25 de septiembre cuando celebraremos la Conferencia antes citada.

El cambio en la fecha inicialmente propuesta ha sido motivado por razones de fuerza mayor. Esperamos sea de su conveniencia.

Bajo el título **Construyamos el Futuro de América con Derechos Humanos y Cultura de Paz**, le proponemos desarrollar los siguientes temas:

1. - Propuesta triagencial OPS-UNICEF-UNFPA
Escuela Siglo XXI
2. - Educación para los Derechos Humanos y la Cultura de Paz
UNESCO
3. - Integración de la Mujer Rural en Actividades Productivas y
Comercialización. IICA-CIM
4. - Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil
OIT

Debo señalar que de existir propuestas adicionales, éstas se podrán evaluar en la Reunión Técnica Preparatoria, donde se aprobará la Agenda Final.

Igualmente proponemos darle seguimiento a los temas tratados durante la VI Conferencia:

- 1.- Control de Sarampión
- 2.- Prevención de la Morbilidad Materna
- 3.- Prevención del Embarazo Precoz
- 4.- La América contra el Cáncer
- 5.- Violencia Intrafamiliar
- 6.- Participación de la mujer en los espacios de poder.

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7^{ma} CONFERENCIA DE
ESPOSAS DE JEFES DE ESTADO
Y DE GOBIERNO DE LAS AMERICAS

Página No. 2
Nota No. 0127

Con el fin de trabajar en los temas antes expuestos hemos convocado la Reunión Técnica Preparatoria para los días 27, 28, 29 y 30 de mayo en Panamá. Por tal motivo, le solicitamos haga del conocimiento de su equipo técnico, la fecha y temática que se desarrollará en dicha reunión.

A su vez, le adjunto la propuesta del reglamento interno de la VII Conferencia, con el ánimo de que usted realice los comentarios de rigor para que el producto final sea consensuado, permitiendo un mayor dinamismo en nuestras reuniones.

Quedo con la confianza de contar con su presencia en esta tan importante Conferencia, donde una vez más las Primeras Damas y las delegadas oficiales aunaremos esfuerzos por un continente mejor.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para reiterarle mi estima y consideración.

Dora de Pérez Balladares
Dora Boyd de Pérez Balladares
Primera Dama de la República de Panamá

CT/yv.



FREE TRASLATION

Panama, May 5th, 1997.

Mrs.
Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady of the Republic of the United States

Dear Hillary:

Please receive my warm regards and the best wishes of renewed success in the tasks you perform.

Keeping alive our mutual interest in the development of the American Continent, and as the Pro-Tempore Secretary of the Seventh Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, I address you to invite you to convene in Panama on September 24 and 25, when we will be celebrating this Conference.

The date initially proposed has varied due to major causes. We Hope the now date is of your convenience.

Under the title **Let us Build the Future of America with Human Rights and Peace Culture**, we propose the development of the following subjects for your consideration:

1. Trilateral Proposal : PAHO/UNICEF/UNFPA
"Twenty-first Century School"
2. -Education for Human Rights and Peace Culture: UNESCO
3. Integration of the Rural Woman in Trade and Productive Activities: IICA-CIM
4. Eradication of Children's Work: ILO

I must point out that if there are any additional proposals, these may be pondered during the Technical Preparatory Meeting, where the final agenda will be approved.

Likewise, we will follow up on the subjects addressed during the Sixth Conference:

1. - Measles Control
2. - Maternal Deaths
3. - Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy
4. - America Against Cancer
5. - Domestic Violence

In order to work on the aforementioned subjects, we have scheduled a Technical Meeting for May 28th, 29th and 30th in Panama. For this reason, we request that your technical team be informed of the date and themes to be developed in the said meeting.

-2-

At the same time, I am including a proposal for the Seventh Conference's Debate Rules. Please review these and provide us with your comments, so that the final product will be the result of consensus.

I remain confident that you will attend this meeting, where once again the First Ladies and special delegates unite efforts for a better continent.

I avail myself of the opportunity to reiterate the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

Dora Boyd de Pérez Balladares
First Lady of the Republic

FREE TRANSLATION

PROPOSAL: DEBATE REGULATIONS. CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS

GENERAL DISPOSITIONS

Article 1

Participants

The delegations of the countries attending the Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government will be integrated by the Head of Delegation, Government Delegates, Technical Advisors and Guest Delegates.

Article 2

Types of Participants

The Heads of Delegation are defined as the First Ladies of each of the countries attending the Conference.

The Government Delegates are defined as those participants designated by the First Ladies and by the governments which do not have a First Lady, to be their representatives during the Conference. The rights of the Government Delegates are defined according to precedence order, and are not equal to those of the First Lady.

The Technical Advisors are defined as those members on the team of the First Lady who are responsible for coordinating the substantial aspects of the Conference.

The Guest Delegates are defined as the representatives of International or Non-Government Organizations.

Paragraph: The Government Delegates, Technical Advisors and Guest Delegates are alternate delegates, and are subject to protocol precedence.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONFERENCE

Article 3 Speech Rules

No alternate delegate may speak out during the Plenary Meetings without previous authorization of the Pro-Tempore Secretary.

The Pro-Tempore Secretary will give the floor to the speakers in the order established previous to the meeting. The Pro-Tempore Secretary may call a speaker to order when his/her observations do not relate to the subject being discussed.

Article 4 Speech Limitations

- a) The First Lady, as Head of Delegation, has ten minutes to present her country's speech. The order will be defined alphabetically or in a lottery drawn during the Preparatory Meeting.
- b) The Pro-Tempore Secretariat may limit the alternate delegate's time during his/her intervention, in a period equal or shorter than that granted to the Head of Delegation.
- c) The alternate delegates are allowed no more than two interventions on the same subject. Before a decision is made, two speakers in favor and two against a theme proposal may speak in order to establish such limits.

Article 5 Precedence

A Government Delegate may be granted precedence to deliver his/her country's speech and the conclusions of his/her delegation's work. However, the protocol rule of precedence on participation and deliberation rights prevails.

Article 6 Speech Time Limitation

- a) According to protocol precedence, the Pro-Tempore Secretary may limit the extension of each speaker's interventions and the number of each representative's interventions on a single subject.

- b) During a debate, the Pro-Tempore Secretary may read the speakers' list and declare this list closed. Nevertheless, if a speech given after the closing of the list makes it advisable, the Head of Delegation may be granted the right to respond.

Article 7

Proposals and Amendments

The proposals and amendments must be written and presented to the Pro-Tempore Secretary, who will distribute a copy of these to the delegations.

Article 8

Representation of the Delegations

Each Delegation may be represented by a Head of Delegation, a Government Delegate or a Technical Advisor during the first Plenary Sessions. Participation of the delegation representatives is subject to protocol precedence.

Article 9

Designation of the Alternate Representatives

If designated by the Head of Delegation, the counselors, technical advisors, experts or individuals of a similar category may act as commission members. Nevertheless, during the sessions these representatives will not have full voice and vote rights. These will be entitled only to the First Lady of each country, not to the alternate delegates.

Article 10

Voting Rights

The Head of Delegation will have the right to vote on the Final Declaration and the Action Plan, according to protocol precedence.

Article 11

Voting Procedure

- a) Voting will be made in alphabetical order, according to the names of the countries.
- b) No debate or proposal can take place during the voting process. The name of the country will be called out here, and it may answer yes or no, or it may abstain.

Article 12

Rules to be Observed During Voting

Once the beginning of the voting process is announced by the Pro-Tempore Secretary, no representative may interrupt it.

Article 13

Session Organization

Acknowledging the value of the debate, and in order to make the best use of time during this Summit, the following dispositions are to be observed:

a) Extension of the Plenary

It should not extend itself for more than three hours.

b) Closing of the speakers' list.

The organization of the debate demands that the list of speakers who wish to participate be closed two weeks prior to the Conference.

c) Extension of the interventions

The time for the programmed interventions must not exceed fifteen minutes. Any spontaneous intervention during the Plenary may not take longer than three minutes.

Article 14

Consensus

The Pro-Tempore Secretariat may propose that decisions be made by consensus in order to settle differences, without restricting the rights of the participating countries.

Article 15

Response Rights

a) During the sessions, the delegations may use the right to respond at the end of the Plenary, within the established time.

b) When exercising response rights, the interventions of each delegation will be limited to two per subject and may not exceed five minutes.

FINAL DISPOSITIONS

Article 16

Benefits

All countries of the region that express their interest and adhesion to the programs proposed and to be executed within the context of the Seventh Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government's Final Declaration, shall benefit from these.

FICHA DE ACREDITACIÓN
Reunión Técnica Preparatoria
Entregar a la Secretaría Pro Tempore antes del 15/5/97

PAIS.....
Nombre..... Apellidos.....
Fecha de nacimiento..... Lugar.....
Nacionalidad.....
No. de Pasaporte o Doc. de Ident. Personal.....

Función o cargo.....
Teléfono..... Fax.....

Llegada el día..... Procedencia..... Vuelo..... Hora.....
Partida el día..... Destino..... Vuelo..... Hora.....

Acreditado/a como:

Delegación Oficial ☐
Organismo Internacional ☐

Información médica:

Alergias:.....
Alguna condición médica o medicamento especial.....
.....

Para uso de la Acreditaciones de la 7ma. Conferencia

No. de acreditación..... Recibida por.....
Entregada por..... El día..... Firma el que entrega.....

To: Liliana Ayalde@LAC.CEN, Madeline Williams@LAC.AA
From: Jean Meadowcroft@LAC.DR
Cc: Carol Dabbs@LAC.DR, Sheila M. Lutjens@LAC.DR, Sarah
Wright@LAC.DR, Sharon Epstein@LAC.DR
Bcc:
Subject: Panama declaration/school health
Attachment: panasumt.edh
Date: 5/23/97 2:58 PM

The paragraphs of the LA PAZ declaration on education (14, 15, 16) should be updated and modified along these lines (this is in the attachment):

para. ed. 1: We reaffirm that adequate finance for primary education is essential to providing quality education for all children, girls and boys, rural and urban, indigenous and Spanish-speaking. Quality schools with books and trained teachers are essential to increasing the proportion of children who succeed in passing each school year and completing primary school. The Miami Summit Initiative 16 set a goal of 100 percent primary school completion; the current average is about 65 percent. We emphasize the need n to improve public primary schools beginning immediately.

para ed. 2: We believe parents have a very important role in their children's schooling. Those schools that involve parents in school governance show higher levels of student learning achievement. Schools need to involve parents in decision making and to reach out to parents to help their children's learning at home.

para ed. 3: We urge government and non government organizations to include health education in the school curriculum. We encourage leaders in health and in education to exchange ideas for promoting good health for school children as well as their younger sisters and brothers.

Also, USAID Bolivia sponsored a very interesting and useful program of radio education on health for school children, which also included teaching those children to look after their pre school siblings health. I will photocopy a description of this program and get it to you this aft. USAIDs in Honduras currently have radio education programs that could adapt this for their country; USAIDs in Guatemala and Nicaragua were active in radio education; Costa Rica had a Global bureau sponsored environment radio education program, and USAID Haiti has begun ppilot efforts in radio ed. While we cannot ask those missions to take on extra funding obligations, these Bolivia programs may be of interst to other donors or even to govenrments with a bit more funds that already do radio education; adapting the programs from Bolivian Spanish and culture should not be very costly. This might be an idea that would help address the Panama first lady's interest in having more health education in the schools.



PROGRAMA DE
APRENDIZAJE POR
RADIO
INTERACTIVA

OFICINA CENTRAL

1- La Paz
Marchoaga N° 2526
Edificio 14
Paz - Bolivia
Tel: 591-2-320316
Fax: 591-2-391233

SUCURSALES:

URI - Cochabamba
Paredes 488
Edificio 4484
Cochabamba - Bolivia
Tel./Fax 28762

MARI - Santa Cruz
Chiguano 277
Edificio 6012
Santa Cruz - Bolivia
Tel./Fax 343971

EN JONES PARTICIPANTES:

Education Development
Center (EDC)
- Fe y Alegría (F y A)
Project
Ministerio de Educación y
Cultura (MEC)
• Programa de Educación por
Radio (PER)
United States Agency for
International Development
(USAID)

202

46-6-0540

SCHOOL-HEALTH EDUCATION THROUGH INTERACTIVE RADIO:
THE BOLIVIAN EXPERIENCE

Bolivia's infant mortality rate is among the highest in the western hemisphere (98/1000 DHS¹). Fourteen percent of the children born do not live to see their fifth birthday. In 1990, UNICEF² reported that one Bolivian child dies of a preventable disease every 10 minutes. These alarming child survival statistics are further exacerbated by massive migration from Bolivia's traditional rural sector (58% 1976) to its cities (58% 1992³). As a result, urban unemployment is high, and unskilled laborers who lack the means to compete for jobs gravitate to peri-urban settlements where they have limited access to potable water, latrines, or sewage systems. It comes as no surprise that children living in these settlements are frequently the victims of Bolivia's health crises. Oddly enough, education about health, is not included in the school curriculum.

In 1989, the education and health authorities in Bolivia, with financial support from the U.S. Agency for International Development and technical assistance from Education Development Center, began testing the feasibility of using an alternative instructional model called Interactive-Radio Instruction (IRI) to teach easily applicable health concepts and influence behavior change. "Diarrhea Prevention and Oral Rehydration" was selected as the topic of the initial pilot module because of its relevance to ongoing Child Survival activities in Bolivia. In departure from traditional health projects which target the adult population--particularly women of child-bearing age, the Radio Health curriculum was designed for children in the 8-13 age group who often act as caretakers for younger siblings and engage in household activities relating to food preparation and sanitation. Because these older children have a major influence over their own health and nutritional status and that of their younger siblings, it is critical that they have the information they need to make informed decisions and provide responsible care. In addition, children who learn basic health concepts and practices at a young age are more likely to maintain them as parents.

Compelling research confirming the correlation between female literacy and infant morbidity and mortality provided additional incentive for targeting young school children. In 1989, a DHS¹ report confirmed that Bolivian women with at least a 5th grade education were far more likely to use modern health care facilities and family planning services than women with less education. Unfortunately, parents do not always perceive the importance of education for their daughters, or are obliged by economic circumstances to keep them home working and caring for younger siblings. Given these external demands, the attendance of girls in school is often erratic, and by fourth grade, a disproportionate number of females have dropped out permanently.

A unique aspect of the Bolivian experience is that Programa de Aprendizaje por Radio Interactiva (PARI) went beyond the passive transmission of health concepts to the applied practice of healthy habits. By using interactive radio to target children in the formal school environment, rather than traditional media to reach parents in the nonformal environment, IRL was able to develop an effective instructional methodology which integrates basic knowledge in health with practical activities that are within the means of the child. The result is a combination of attitude modeling and behavior change.

Another secret to the success of Radio Health is its use of baseline research to develop convincing messages; and its commitment to the child-to-child approach which targets older children as agents of change--to reinforce practice, disseminate knowledge, and influence family health decisions. The basic premise driving curriculum decisions is the belief that instruction be limited to those actions that a child can do for himself, or do for or teach to a younger sibling. Both qualitative and quantitative data gathered by the project indicate that the radio lessons have had a positive impact on children's attitudes and habits. There is evidence of more handwashing than before, more households are filtering water, and more children know how to recognize and respond to the problem of dehydration brought about by diarrhea. Most important, children are beginning to understand the concept of "being healthy".

Based upon the results of the Radio Health pilot, PARI is presently developing a comprehensive preventive-health curriculum for school children in grades three to five. In 1993, more than 1000 third and fourth-grade classrooms in Bolivia's principal cultural and geographic regions will participate in the validation of the new curriculum including--cholera, personal and dental hygiene, acute respiratory infections, immunizations, transmittable diseases, and accident prevention. Nutrition, environmental health, and self-esteem will be validated during the 1994 school year, as will a parallel community-based program for out-of-school youth and adults.

Although it is too early to assess the long-term impact of PARI on behavior change, a comprehensive operations research programme is currently being undertaken through 1996 to track the course of the messages from radio to student to household. In the meantime, tests measuring student comprehension of Radio Health messages have produced significant results in several areas including the proper preparation and application of homemade oral rehydration solution, and identification of how older children can help younger children with diarrhea (Fryer⁴).

Bolivia may be the first country to use interactive radio for school-health education; however, it is not the first time that the methodology has been applied in this country. In 1987, Bolivia developed and pilot-tested a radio-based mathematics curriculum in 20 second-grade classrooms. By 1992, nearly 200,000 school-children in grades two through five had learned their mathematics using IRJ; and in 1993, a Ministerial Resolution decreed "interactive radio mathematics" part of the official curriculum, thus paving the way for national implementation. With an average annual recurrent cost of U.S. \$81 per student (Jamison⁵), interactive radio math has proven itself to be a cost-effective mechanism for improving the efficiency, accessibility, and quality of Bolivia's education system. Students using "Radio Math" in grades two through five, test on the average 50% higher than their traditionally-schooled counterparts. In part, this can be attributed to the active role that the student plays in the learning process. The lessons, which provide direct instruction to students in the schools, consist of 25 minute broadcasts where children respond to instruction by the "radio teacher" several times each minute. Classroom teachers are encouraged to take an active role in guiding student interaction during the radio lesson, and by directing a 20 minute post-broadcast session using suggestions provided in their teachers' guide.

The promise of IRJ in responding quickly and convincingly to national priorities, however, goes beyond the decision of Bolivia to place health education back on the school agenda. Rather, it lies in the power of this experience to motivate other countries to identify ways in which they too can apply the methodology to other emerging areas of concern such as AIDS, reproductive health, and the environment.

1. Instituto Nacional de Estadística: ENCUESTA NACIONAL DE DEMOGRAFIA Y SALUD 1989. IRD/Macro Systems, Columbia, MD., 1989.
2. UNICEF: LIFE FOR CHILDREN, UNICEF-BOLIVIA, La Paz, Bolivia, 1990.
3. Ministerio de Planeamiento y Coordinación: CENSO NACIONAL DE POBLACION Y VIVIENDA 1992.
4. Fryer M: HEALTH EDUCATION THROUGH INTERACTIVE RADIO: A CHILD-TO-CHILD PROJECT IN BOLIVIA, *Health Education Quarterly*, Vol 18, No. 1, Spring 1991, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1991.
5. Jamison DT, Fryer M, Barron de Luna B, Oros Mendez E: EL PROYECTO DE EDUCACION POR RADIO EN BOLIVIA: EVALUACION DE COSTO EFECTIVIDAD, Radio Learning Project Report, 1990.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mark L. Schneider, AA/LAC, USAID

From: Jan Emmert, for
Margaret J. Sarles, LAC/RSD/DHR, USAID

Subject: Proposed Rough Draft Points on Human Rights for the
Declaration of the Seventh Conference of Wives of Heads
of State and Government of the Americas

=====

A) On Political Obstacles to Political Participation of Women
and the Potential for increasing participation through Local
Governments

**WE RECOGNIZE that the participation of women in the
political life of our countries, and particularly their service
as elected government officials, has remained well below the
potential, even as legal barrier to participation have
diminished.

**WE RECOGNIZE there has been great change in the
hemisphere in the importance and authority of municipal/local
governments. Mayors and councilors are now locally nominated and
elected in many countries, and there is an emphasis on increased
local citizen participation in deciding on priorities for local
government.

**WE BELIEVE these changes offer many new and accessible
opportunities to expand the political participation of women. WE
ENCOURAGE women of the municipalities of the hemisphere to take
an active interest in the decisions and expenditures of their
local governments, to participate actively in public meetings
soliciting citizen participation into those decisions, and to
contest local elections. WE ENCOURAGE political parties,
national and local government officials, and NGOs to actively
solicit and welcome the participation of women in local
governments.

**WE COMMIT OURSELVES as First Ladies, to actively encourage
the participation of women in the local governments of our
countries.

B) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**WE HIGHLIGHT that domestic and sexual violence against
women is one of the serious and underreported human rights
problems affecting women of the region.

****WE BELIEVE** that governments of the region should take urgent and sustained action to combat and eliminate such violence against women, to expose and condemn it, and to assure that the instrumentalities of the State and the justice system do not tolerate it.

****WE COMMIT OURSELVES** to bring public attention to this problem by our public recognition of NGOs and government programs which assist and protect the victims of such violence, and which educate women about their legal rights and how to access them.

****WE ENCOURAGE** governments to pass legislation consistent with regional conventions on violence against women, where such legislation has not already been passed. And **WE ENCOURAGE** governments and NGOs to actively train police and judicial personnel in how to deal with it positively and fairly.

C) **WOMEN'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

****WE RECOGNIZE** that a legal framework for non-discrimination against women is often not in place, and that women's rights in the workplace and within families are frequently violated. Even when legal guarantees exist, women, and particularly poor and less educated women, often are not aware of their legal rights in the workplace, or with respect to property and inheritance.

****WE ENCOURAGE** NGO and government programs of legal literacy for women, which actively work with women to educate them about their legal rights in the workplace and the family, and about how to seek redress or protection when those rights are violated.

****WE ENCOURAGE** governments to establish effective mechanisms to investigate the violations of the rights of women in the workplace, in the family, or by any public official, including mechanisms such as ombudspersons, or human rights commissions.

****WE COMMIT** ourselves to the support of programs which help more vulnerable women understand their legal rights in the workplace and the family, and how to seek redress, where needed.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mark Schneider, AA/LAC, USAID

From: Jan P. Emmert,
for Margaret J. Sarles, USAID/LAC/RSD/DHR

SUBJECT: Proposed Activity for Mrs. Clinton
at the First Ladies regional conference
Panama (October 97):

Annouce/Sign New Grant to Inter-American Institute of
Human Rights (IIHR)

=====

BACKGROUND:

During the President's trip to Costa Rica in May 1997, the First Lady and the Secretary of State visited the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR). Both expressed strong support for the work of IIHR.

USAID has been among the major donors to the Inter-American Institute for Human rights since its founding in 1980. In recent years, the level of support has been about \$1.5 million per year. The current 6 year grant will expire during the next year.

IIDH is an organization which works in Latin America and the Carribean "to promote and strengthen respect for human rights and consolidate democracy through research education, training political mediation, and technical assistance...." One of its component institute has also been in the forefront of promoting free and fair elections in the region. (See newsletter and brochure attached.)

PROPOSAL:

That an event during the Panama meetings be focused on the award of a new grant to the Institute.

We will aim for the signing of a new grant to IIDH which would follow the current grant, and would include an increased focus on women's hman rights. If the legal requirements for the new grant are not completed by then, it could be a formal annoucement of a grant and a signature of intent. The grant would continue support of the IIDH core regional program at the current levels of \$1.5 million per year and may incorporate additional assistance for specific electoral or human rights activities in several countries.

u:\dipub\docs\iidh\newgrant.523 (5/23/97)



6ª CONFERENCIA DE ESPOSAS
DE JEYES DE ESTADO
Y DE GOBIERNO
DE LAS AMERICAS
Secretaría Pro-Tempore

SIXTH CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS

DECLARATION OF LA PAZ

WE, THE WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS, MEETING IN THE CITY OF LA PAZ BETWEEN 3 AND 6 DECEMBER, 1966, WITH THE PURPOSE OF ANALYZING "THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT" AND IN AGREEING UPON ACTIONS, INSPIRED IN DIALOGUE, SOLIDARITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT, SUBSCRIBE TO THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES:

1. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE SUBJECTS OF SOCIAL POLICIES SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN AN ORGANIZED AND ACTIVE MANNER IN THE PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES SO THAT EVERYONE MAY DEVELOP TO THEIR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL IN ORDER TO ASSURE THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE TO RECEIVE PROPER CARE INCLUDING NUTRITION, HOUSING, HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT AND RECREATION.

2. WE RECOGNIZE, NEVERTHELESS, THAT ON OUR CONTINENT BARRIERS EXIST FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE SECTORS OF OUR POPULATION, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, IN REACHING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND EXERCISING THEIR RIGHTS.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES SHOULD WORK WITH RESPONSIBILITY AND SOLIDARITY PROMOTING CONDITIONS OF OPPORTUNITY AND EQUITY THAT WILL ALLOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF ABILITIES, MEANS OF ORGANIZATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THE LINK BETWEEN SOCIAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS WHOSE INTER-RELATIONSHIP MAKES POSSIBLE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF DEVELOPMENT, AND GUARANTEES THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PRESENT GENERATIONS WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE WELFARE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS.

5. WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THAT SEEK COMPLETE AND FAIR PARTICIPATION FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE SOCIAL SECTORS.

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6. WE OFFER OUR MANAGEMENT AND MOBILIZING ABILITY TO CONTINUE FULFILLING COMMITMENTS WE HAVE MADE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF EACH COUNTRY, MADE AT THE MEETINGS OF VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, SANTA LUCIA AND PARAGUAY, AND ALSO TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN, HELD IN NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER OF 1990; THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, HELD IN RIO DE JANEIRO IN JUNE OF 1992; THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, HELD IN VIENNA IN JUNE OF 1993; THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT, HELD IN CAIRO IN SEPTEMBER OF 1994; THE SUMMIT ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, HELD IN COPENHAGEN IN MARCH OF 1995; THE IV WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, HELD IN BEIJING IN SEPTEMBER OF 1995; THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT HELD IN ROME IN NOVEMBER 1996; AND THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS, HELD IN MIAMI, RELATING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS THOSE EXPRESSED IN AGENDA 21 CONCERNING WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

7. WE COMMIT OUR FIRM SUPPORT TO SOUND AND EFFECTIVE SOCIAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE HEMISPHERE FOSTER, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

8. WE HIGHLIGHT THE ETHNIC AND CULTURAL VALUE OF OUR SOCIETIES AS AN ESSENTIAL FACTOR TO BE CONSIDERED IN FORMULATING AND IMPLEMENTING POLICIES AND STRATEGIES DIRECTED TOWARD WOMEN AND CHILDREN, IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF HARMONY, PEACE, EQUITY, PLURALISM AND DIVERSITY.

9. WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO JOIN EFFORTS, COORDINATE ACTIONS, AND SHARE EXPERIENCES WITH THE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION OF ALL COUNTRIES OF THE CONTINENT.

10. WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH IN OUR POPULATIONS, ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN, IN ORDER FOR THEM TO REACH THEIR FULL PARTICIPATION WITHIN THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LIFE OF OUR SOCIETIES, FOR WHICH WE STRIVE TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS AIMED AT SOLVING CRITICAL HEALTH PROBLEMS IN THE AMERICAS.

11. WE REITERATE OUR SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS TO REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ACCESS TO PRENATAL CARE AND DELIVERY BY TRAINED PERSONNEL; THE DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES ABLE TO SOLVE OBSTETRIC EMERGENCIES; SEXUAL EDUCATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH*; AND DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTARY, ACCESSIBLE AND HIGH QUALITY FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES AVAILABLE TO COUPLES. FURTHERMORE, WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE AT ALL LEVELS OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM AND AT ALL STAGES OF WOMEN'S LIVES.

* Guatemala considers that the term "reproductive health," in accordance with its national legislation, should be understood as "integrated health".

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12. WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO MOBILIZE NATIONAL EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM MEASLES AND TO ERADICATE THIS ILLNESS FROM THE AMERICAS. WE APPLAUD THE EFFORTS AND SUCCESSES ATTAINED BY ALL OUR COUNTRIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THIS ILLNESS AND ALL THOSE ILLNESSES THAT CAN BE PREVENTED THROUGH IMMUNIZATION. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ACTIONS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE HIGH COVERAGE OF IMMUNIZATION SO THAT THE GOAL OF ERADICATING MEASLES CAN BE MET BY THE YEAR 2000.

13. WE ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A REGIONAL PROJECT DIRECTED TO THE REDUCTION OF MALNUTRITION FROM MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCY IN THE HEMISPHERE, AND TO THE HIGH RATES OF ANEMIA AND THEIR SEVERE CONSEQUENCES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

14. WE EMPHASIZE THE PRINCIPLE ROLE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN ORDER FOR PEOPLE TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS, BROADEN THEIR SPECTRUM OF THEIR OPPORTUNITIES, STIMULATE THEIR CREATIVITY, IMPROVE THEIR INCOME, AND PROMOTE THEIR ADAPTATION TO TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES THAT WILL IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF WOMEN.

15. WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAS, PROMOTING BROAD AND EFFECTIVE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES AND ADOPTING BETTER INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE IN ORDER TO SHARE INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING THE MOST EFFECTIVE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REALITY AND REQUIREMENTS OF EACH COUNTRY.

16. WE REITERATE THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTING THE EDUCATION AND INTEGRATED TRAINING OF WOMEN, PARTICULARLY IN THE RURAL AREAS, AND PROGRAMS THAT WILL ALLOW THEM TO BENEFIT FROM THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF OUR COUNTRIES.

17. WE RECOGNIZE INTRAFAMILY VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM AND A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH AFFECTS IN A SPECIAL MANNER WOMEN OF ALL AGES AND SOCIAL GROUPS. FOR THIS REASON, WE URGE GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP PUBLIC POLICIES ORIENTED TOWARDS CONFRONTING THIS PROBLEM IN AN INTEGRATED MANNER.

18. WE URGE GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP PUBLIC POLICIES WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING WOMEN'S EQUAL ACCESS TO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES AND TO POWER STRUCTURES IN ALL ASPECTS OF PUBLIC AND POLITICAL LIFE. CONSEQUENTLY, WE RECOMMEND FORMULATING AND IMPLEMENTING SPECIFIC PROGRAMS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORIENTATION AND MEASURES AGREED UPON BY GOVERNMENTS AT THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN HELD IN BEIJING IN 1995 WHICH ARE DETAILED IN CLAUSE "G" OF THE PLATFORM OF ACTION, WHICH RESULTED FROM THIS CONFERENCE.

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19. WE DECIDE TO STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE PRO
TEMPORE SECRETARIAT THROUGH ACTIVE MECHANISMS OF CONSULTATION AND
COORDINATION, TO FOLLOW UP ON THE COMMITMENTS MADE AT ALL MEETINGS; AND
TO FOSTER THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL
LEVELS IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE OUR ACTIONS.

20. WE RECOGNIZE THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION OF INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES IN
FACILITATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS DIRECTED
TO MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRIES. WE URGE THEM TO
CONTINUE TO COOPERATE IN ORDER TO REACH THE OBJECTIVES PROPOSED IN THE
PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE SIXTH CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS.

21. WE EXPRESS OUR SATISFACTION TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA FOR THE
SIGNATURE OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT SIGNED IN OSLO, NORWAY ON DECEMBER 4,
1996 AMONG THE SECTORS INVOLVED, WHICH CONSTITUTES A DECISIVE STEP IN THE
PEACE PROCESS OF THIS FRATERNAL NATION.

22. WE ACCEPT THE KIND OFFER OF THE FIRST LADIES OF PANAMA AND CHILE THAT
PANAMA BE THE SEAT OF THE VII CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS IN 1997, AND THAT CHILE BE THE SEAT OF THE VIII
CONFERENCE IN 1998.

23. WE THANK THE FIRST LADY OF BOLIVIA, AND, THROUGH HER, EXPRESS OUR
THANKS TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THIS COUNTRY FOR THEIR WARM
WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY.

24. SIGNED IN THE CITY OF LA PAZ, BOLIVIA, WITH TWO ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS IN
SPANISH AND ENGLISH, ON THE SIXTH DAY OF THE MONTH OF DECEMBER OF THE YEAR
ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY-SIX.

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de la Nación

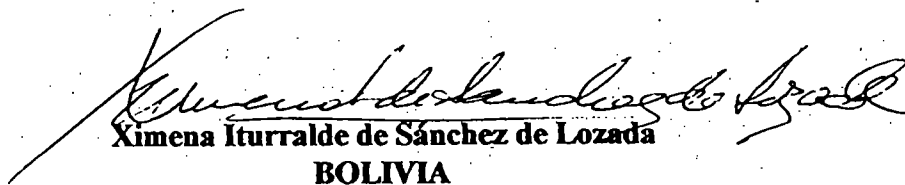
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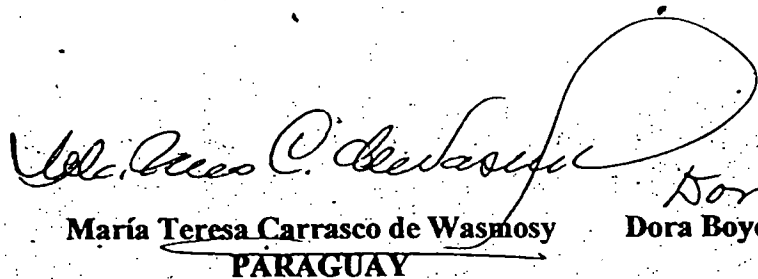
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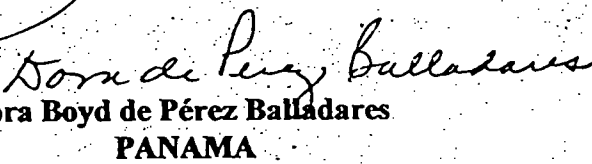
Fax. (591-2) 356973

La Paz - Bolivia

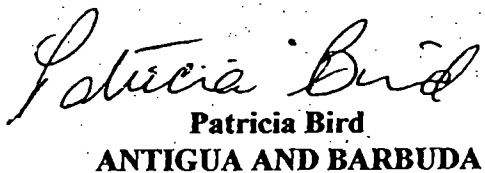
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GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS**

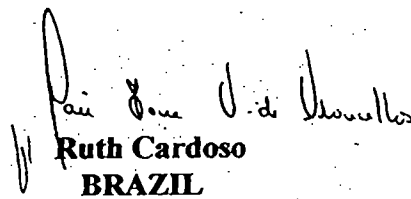

Ximena Iturralde de Sánchez de Lozada
BOLIVIA


María Teresa Carrasco de Wasmós
PARAGUAY


Dora Boyd de Pérez Balladares
PANAMA

**WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT**


Patricia Bird
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

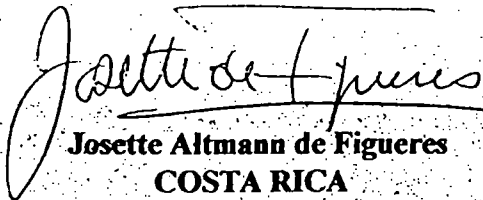

Ruth Cardoso
BRAZIL

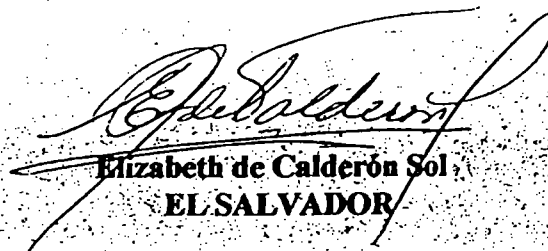

Marta Larraechea de Frei
CHILE

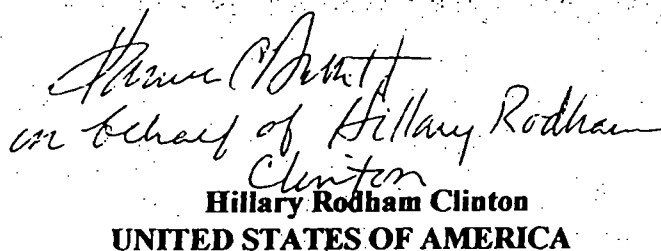

Jacquín Strouss de Samper
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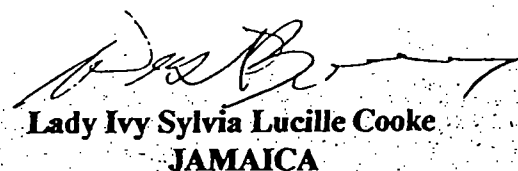

Josette Altmann de Figueres
COSTA RICA


Elizabeth de Calderón Sol
EL SALVADOR

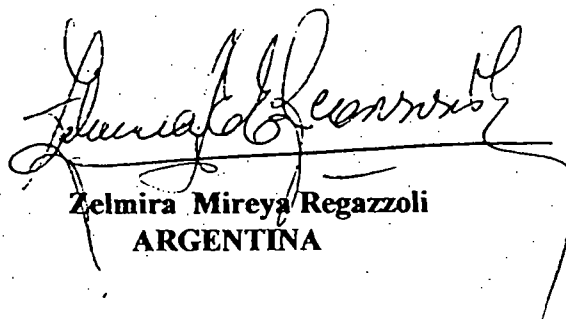

on behalf of Hillary Rodham Clinton
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

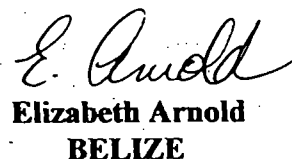

María Marietta Mitchell
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Bessie Watson de Reina
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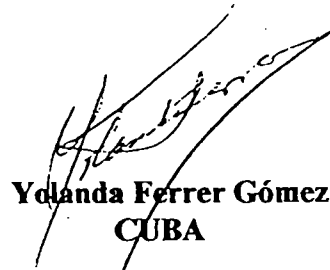

Lady Ivy Sylvia Lucille Cooke
JAMAICA

REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT


Zelmira Mireya Regazzoli
ARGENTINA

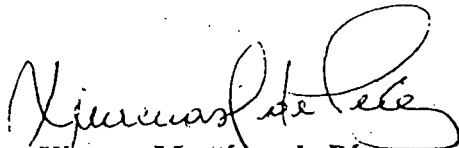

Elizabeth Arnold
BELIZE

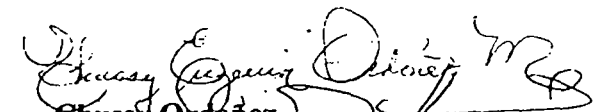

Jean Augustine
CANADA

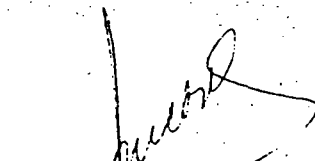

Yolanda Ferrer Gómez
CUBA

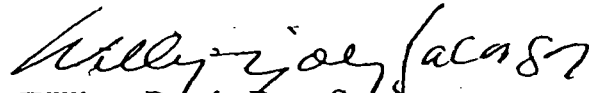
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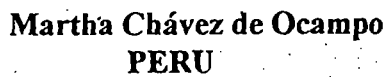
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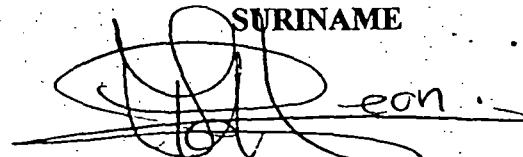

María Carmen Oñate
MEXICO


William Ramón Baez Sacasa
NICARAGUA


Martha Chávez de Ocampo
PERU


Ismay Patricia D'León
SURINAME


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CENTER FOR ELECTORAL PROMOTION AND ASSISTANCE (CAPEL)

This specialized center of the IIHR was created in 1983 to promote the principles of democracy, the Rule of Law and free and fair elections, regarded as core elements of the theory and practice of human rights. IIHR/CAPEL provides political and electoral technical assistance and promotes political rights with a multidisciplinary approach. It works with electoral organizations, legislative bodies and political parties. IIHR/CAPEL is divided into three units:

The purpose of the **Unit for Technical Assistance Projects for Electoral Organizations** is to ensure that elections are free, fair and competitive, as well as technically efficient. The goals of this Unit are to provide specialized technical assistance to electoral organizations in the following areas: institutional strengthening and development; civil and electoral registries; civic education and promotion campaigns; electoral administration and logistics; training for electoral bodies and members of civil society who participate in electoral processes; and the relaying of election results and their dissemination to the public.

The **Unit for International Cooperation Projects** is responsible for executing the agreements and resolutions adopted by the Association of Central American and Caribbean Electoral Organizations (Tikal Protocol, 1985), the Association of South American Electoral Organizations (Quito Protocol, 1989) and the Inter-American Union of Electoral Organizations (1991). IIHR/CAPEL is the Technical Secretariat of these three bodies, which were set up to provide an institutional mechanism for the exchange of knowledge and expertise and the further development of electoral systems, as a means of achieving truly democratic regimes, and to strengthen communications and horizontal cooperation among the member organizations. In this context, IIHR/CAPEL also dispatches missions of observers, composed of experts in electoral affairs, to the electoral processes that take place in the region. Lastly, this Unit publishes and disseminates materials on electoral matters.

The **Unit for Political Participation and Governability Projects** conducts and distributes research projects in the field of constitutional and electoral legislation in collaboration with academic institutions. It also contributes to the functional, organizational and institutional strengthening of political parties and law-making bodies in the region, with special emphasis on municipal and parliamentary bodies, in the latter case via the Program for Legislative Development (PRODEL). Furthermore, this Unit provides opportunities for the analysis of political, legal and electoral processes and the issue of governability, through the Inter-American Elections Course, which is held biennially.

EDITORIAL UNIT

Through its **Editorial Unit**, the IIHR supports all those working on behalf of human rights in the region. It has produced over 230 titles, ranging from books and reviews to compilations, manuals and teaching aids, videos and, most recently, compact discs on important aspects of human rights. The IIHR produces five regular publications: the IIHR Newsletter (quarterly), the IIHR Revista and the Electoral Newsletter (biannually), and two series: Basic Studies in Human Rights and Specialized Studies in Human Rights.

LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER

The IIHR provides pertinent information and documentation through a library administered jointly with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. It holds the most complete collection on the international law of human rights in Spanish in Latin America. The Documentation Center systematizes and processes information on specific human rights situations.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The activities of the IIHR are possible thanks to the support it receives from the following governments, academic entities, foundations and international organizations. This broad spectrum of collaborators ensures the independence and objectivity of the Institute's actions.

Government of Argentina • Government of Brazil • Government of Canada • Government of Chile • Government of Costa Rica • Government of Denmark • Government of Great Britain • Government of Honduras • Government of the Netherlands • Government of Norway • Government of Sweden/SIDA • Government of Switzerland • Government of Uruguay • Government of Venezuela • Amnesty International • Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) • Commission of the European Union (CEU) • Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) • The Ford Foundation • The Friedrich Naumann Foundation • Ibero-American Cooperation Institute (ICI) • Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) • Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) • Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) • International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development • International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) • The Jacob Blaustein Institute • The Konrad Adenauer Foundation • The McArthur Foundation • Organization of American States (OAS) • Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) • Spanish Red Cross • United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) • United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) • United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) • United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) • United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) • United States Agency for International Development (USAID) • University of Georgetown • University of Heidelberg

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The Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR) is an independent, international, academic institution that was created in 1980 under an agreement between the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Republic of Costa Rica, where its headquarters are located. The IIHR enjoys the full international and domestic legal standing needed to carry out its activities and to attain its objectives.

MISSION

■ ■ he mission of the IIHR is to promote and strengthen respect for human rights and consolidate democracy, through research, education, training, political mediation and technical assistance in the field of human rights. Its endeavors are guided by the principles of representative democracy, the Rule of Law, ideological pluralism and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms. The IIHR works with all sectors of civil society and the State and with international organizations. The IIHR does not monitor the conduct of governments nor investigate human rights violations.

INTER-AMERICAN SCOPE AND CONTEXT

■ ■ he IIHR conducts activities throughout the Americas, studying the particular needs of each country and each subregion. It contributes to the efforts of the international community through programs designed to develop respect for and the effective exercise of human rights and the consolidation of democratic processes. While denouncing and prosecuting cases before international organs of protection are outside its mandate, since its creation the IIHR has linked its projects to the actual conditions in the Americas, with a view to contributing to the development of a region that is characterized by political contrasts and constant change.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

■ ■ wenty-seven well-known experts drawn from every corner of the hemisphere sit on the Board of Directors, the IIHR's governing body. The Executive Directorate is responsible for executing the Institute's programs and activities, which it carries out with a multidisciplinary approach and the support of the academic, technical and administrative staff. In order to meet the needs of its beneficiaries, the IIHR is organized into the following areas and specialized centers:

AREA OF EDUCATION

The focus of this area is on promotion, training, education and technical assistance in the field of human rights. It is made up of a Sub-Directorate for Educational Operations and a Center for Educational Resources:

The **Sub-Directorate for Educational Operations** is composed of two units:

- The **Institutional Courses Unit** organizes the highly respected Interdisciplinary Course in Human Rights, the foremost academic activity of the IIHR, which brings together over 100 participants from throughout the hemisphere each year. The Course has been held for the past 14 years. A new departure in recent years has been the Regional Specialized Courses, which have so far been held in the Andean Region, the Southern Cone, Brazil and Central America.

- The **Information Unit** administers and executes research projects and the systematization and dissemination of information on human rights through the IIHR Documentation Center and Joint Library. This Unit also supervises execution of the agreement between the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the IIHR regarding the joint Library, as well as being responsible for modernizing the IIHR's information and research systems.

The **Center for Educational Resources (CRE)** executes actions in the field of formal and non-formal education in human rights. The CRE aids educators in the Americas in incorporating the subject of human rights into their teaching activities through a range of academic cooperation programs, including the promotion and dissemination of education in human rights, training in the subject, and the production of teaching aids.

AREA OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The activities of the Public Institutions Area promote the observance of human rights and the integration of democratic principles within public institutions. It is composed of three highly specialized programs:

The aim of the **Administration of Justice Program** is to strengthen human rights norms, practices and values through the work of the Judiciary. As an independent, neutral branch of government, the Judiciary is in a position to guarantee the effective exercise of human rights within domestic legal systems. The Program also provides training to judges and judiciary personnel vis-à-vis human rights norms, particularly those established under current international instruments, and analyzes domestic legislation to see whether it conforms to the norms of the international law of human rights.

The **Security Forces, Human Rights and Democracy Program** provides training in human rights to members of security forces in the region, with the active collaboration of the military and police institutions involved. It implements training seminars and technical assistance projects related to education in human rights for military and police institutions.

The objective of the **Ombudsmen and Human Rights Program** is to promote this institution in Latin America as one of the best and most effective bodies for the protection of human rights. In addition to technical assistance missions for the creation and promotion of this institution in countries where it still does not exist, the IIHR holds training activities for officials of ombudsmen offices in the region. The IIHR is also the Permanent Technical Secretariat of the Federation of Ibero-American Ombudsmen.

AREA OF CIVIL SOCIETY

This Area focuses its efforts on the study of the main human rights problems that affect civil society and on strengthening the organizational and institutional capabilities of civil society organizations, providing technical assistance for their professionalization, modernization and specialization for the monitoring and defense of human rights. It is made up of the following programs and projects:

The **Program for the Strengthening of Civil Society Organizations** provides technical assistance and training to different organized groups within civil society, in order to strengthen their participation in the promotion and protection of human rights, and their role in resolving social prob-

lems and monitoring government institutions, in the field of human rights.

The **Gender and Human Rights Program** conducts research into the major issues involved in women's human rights and contributes -through advisory and technical assistance to NGOs and other organizations committed to the elimination of gender-based inequalities- to the development of education, promotion and training mechanisms and actions that foster equality and respect for women's rights in every sphere of society.

The **Program for Migrant Populations** contributes to the search for integrated legal solutions, based on the observance and effective exercise of human rights, and to protection and assistance efforts for social groups whose human rights are affected by internal migration and emigration caused by political and social violence.

The **Indigenous Peoples Program** focuses its efforts on technical assistance for indigenous organizations and NGOs committed to the development and protection of the rights of these peoples. It also compiles domestic legislation and trains lawyers and members of indigenous communities. Furthermore, this program mobilizes technical resources to support the efforts within the inter-American system to develop an inter-American instrument on the rights of indigenous peoples.

The **Integrated Projects Unit** is currently responsible for two projects:

- The **Project for the Prevention of Torture and the Treatment of Victims of Torture** uses creative approaches to promote the reinsertion and rehabilitation of survivors of political and police violence, both minors and adults. This project also provides training to health professionals in the treatment of victims of torture, to law and medical students in prevention and professional ethics, and to the staffs of prisons and NGOs that work within the prison system in the prevention of torture;

- The **Education for Life in Democracy Project** is developing and testing a model for the teaching of this subject and works on human rights promotion and education at the local level.



7^{ma} CONFERENCIA DE
ESPOSAS DE JEFES DE ESTADO
Y DE GOBIERNO DE LAS AMERICAS

**Reunión Técnica Preparatoria
VII Conferencia de Esposas de Jefes de Estado
y de Gobierno de las Americas**

Programa Provisional

Martes 27

Llegada de las delegaciones
Acreditación.

Miércoles 28

8:00 - 8:30 Acreditación

8:30 - 9:00 Inauguración

9:00 - 10:30 Primera Sesión de Trabajo
- Metodología de la Reunión
- Metodología para presentación de Informe de
Seguimiento.

10:30 - 11:00 Refrigerio

11:00 - 1:00 p.m. Segunda Sesión de Trabajo
- Acciones pendientes de los Acuerdos en Ejecución.

- 2 -

- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Almuerzo Libre [USAID]
- 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Tercera Sesión de Trabajo
- Presentación de Nuevos Proyectos por las Agencias Internacionales
1- Escuela siglo XXI OPS - UNICEF - UNFPA.
2- Educación para los Derechos Humanos y la Cultura de Paz - UNESCO.
3- Integración de la Mujer Rural en Actividades Productivas y de Comercialización - IICA - CIM.
4- Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil - OIT - AECI.
- 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. Refrigerio
- 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Cuarta Sesión de Trabajo
- Continuación de la Presentación de Nuevos Proyectos.
- 8:00 pm. Cena y Espectáculo Típico
Restaurante Tinajas.

Jueves 29

- 8:00 - 10:00 Quinta Sesión de Trabajo
- Grupos de Trabajo de los 4 Proyectos nuevos.
- 10:00 - 10:30 Refrigerio
- 10:30 - 12:30 Sexta Sesión de Trabajo
- Continuación de Grupos de Trabajo.

- 3 -

- 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. Traslado a la Presidencia de la República.
- 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Almuerzo Ofrecido por la Primera Dama a las Delegadas Técnicas Principales.
- 2:30 - 3:00 p.m. Traslado al Hotel.
- 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Séptima Sesión de Trabajo
- Presentación de Conclusiones de los Grupos de Trabajo.
- Noche Libre.

Viernes 30

- 8:00 mtg with Ambassador -
- 8:00 - 10:30 Octava Sesión de Trabajo
- Información Logística de la VII Conferencia
- 10:30 - 11:00 Refrigerio
- 11:00 - 12:30 Novena Sesión de Trabajo
- Discusión del Proyecto de Declaración de la VII Conferencia.
- 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Almuerzo Libre.
- 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. Décima Sesión de Trabajo
- Discusión del Reglamento.
- 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Clausura.
- 6:00 p.m. Brindis de despedida.

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE
SANTIAGO SUMMIT PRESENTED BY THE CHAIR

I. Education

- Formulating actions in accordance with the proposals of the Responsible Coordinators in the Plan of Action they have prepared on the subject.
- Additional actions such as student exchange programs, distance education programs and incorporation of new technologies.
- Actions to develop training and skills improvement programs for workers with the aim of confronting under favorable circumstances changes resulting from the application and development of new technologies. Special attention should be given to programs for adult training.

II. Preserving and Strengthening Democracy and Human Rights

- Formulate actions based on the work that the Responsible Coordinators of this theme are carrying out.
- Actions in the area of education for democracy and full respect for human rights.
- Actions aimed at enhancing the participation of civil society.
- Actions aimed at strengthening municipal and regional administrations.
- Actions that guarantee the protection of the human rights of all migrant workers and their families.
- Actions aimed at reinforcing Hemispheric proceedings to confront corruption, narco-trafficking, and terrorism.
- Actions in the area of confidence and security building measures between states.
- Actions in the area of strengthening judicial systems.
- Actions aimed at cooperating on projects for modernization of the state that the countries of the Hemisphere may undertake in the administration of labor matters in accordance with the regulations and the legislation in force in each country.

III. Economic Integration and Free Trade

- Actions related to the negotiation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) in accordance with the progress achieved by the Ministers in charge of the subject.
- Actions on capital markets to be determined after the meeting of Ministers of Finance this December.
- Actions for the development of cooperation in science and technology.
- Actions related to regional energy cooperation.
- Actions for the establishment of an adequate hemispheric infrastructure, especially in matters of transportation and telecommunications.

* In accordance with the agreement of the Hemispheric Ministers of Transportation to the effect that the Western Hemisphere Transportation Initiative (HTI) be included in the agenda of the Summit of the Americas.

IV. Eradication of Poverty and Discrimination

- Actions in support of micro-enterprises and small and medium-sized businesses as a way of promoting the creation of new jobs through access to sources of credit, the development of vocational training, programs designed to obtain an increase in productivity, the introduction and application of new and more advanced technologies.
 - * The education theme may be considered in any of these action initiatives.
- The implementation or modernization of effective systems of property registration for those countries that require it.
- Actions in the area of health based on the proposal of the Pan-American Health Organization.
- Actions in accordance with the agreements adopted at the Conference on Women held in Managua, including a specific program related to education.
- Actions leading to the promotion and adoption of internationally accepted labor norms and procedures. (Ad referendum by the delegations of Brazil, Mexico, Colombia.)
- Actions aimed at promoting greater participation of indigenous populations through adequate access to education, health and work training.
- Actions to combat hunger and malnutrition.

Sustainable Development. Considering the breadth of the Santa Cruz de la Sierra Plan of Action on the occasion of the Summit Conference to that effect, it is suggested that this theme be included in the Political Declaration that the Heads of State will sign, recognizing in said Declaration the progress that the Secretary General of the OAS will present in his report, and that reference be made to such agreements in the corresponding specific actions.

c:\sumtdemo



II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS: DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND PLAN OF ACTION

Health and Development: Advancing the Americas

Declaration of Principles

The Declaration of Principles of the Summit of the Americas held in Miami in 1994, clearly states that it is politically and morally unacceptable that some segments of the population do not share fully in the benefits of democratic stability and economic growth. These must be accessible to all, without discrimination by race, gender, age, national origin or religious affiliation. The heads of government pledged to work individually and collectively to eradicate poverty and discrimination in our hemisphere, and to guarantee sustainable development conserving a natural environment for future generations.

The specific goals in these fields are to improve access to quality education and health care as a mean to alleviate extreme poverty and illiteracy; to strengthen the role of women in all aspects of political, social and economic life; and to expand the capacity to prevent and control pollution, to protect ecosystems and the use of biological resources on sustainable basis, and to encourage clean, efficient and sustainable energy production and use.

To address the consequences of poverty on health and the resulting inequities, governments will continue to work to secure equitable access to health services as agreed upon in the Miami Summit Plan of Action. In addition, the true determinants of health must be appreciated, understood, and acted upon at the highest level. It is the social and physical environment, the behavior patterns of groups and individuals, the genetic make up and the health services that impact on health. This appreciation is as critical as the understanding that a concern for health is not only a moral imperative, but it is absolutely necessary if the investments made to increase economic growth are going to bear fruit. Moreover, there is still a need to further improve the understanding of the relationship between health and a country's socioeconomic development, between health, democracy and political stability.

There are still major health problems that need attention. There are too many unacceptable differences in health status between and within countries. Not enough children still never live to see their first birthday. Women die needlessly in childbirth and the health differentials between the rich and the poor, the urban and rural communities are unjust and avoidable.

Cholera and dengue persist as an indication of deficiencies in our environment and habits. Approximately 300 million people in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are threatened by diseases transmitted through drinking water, such as typhoid fever, and a myriad of gastrointestinal infections. Many specific actiological agents cause these problems but, the overarching concerns that impede progress in improving the public's health are poverty and its sister inequity.

Governments in the Americas need to find ways to meet old and new challenges. We must be able to link the old with what is new, engaging all to a specific megatheme: the alleviation of Poverty. Seeking health is a powerful means to surmount the obstacles, within a Panamerican perspective where Governments can achieve by working together what they can not achieve by themselves, considering concrete and measurable goals to be met. The effort of prioritizing and streamlining those actions can be accomplished.

It is envisioned that by making effective health technologies available to the countries of the Region, and reducing the time frame between the production of technology and its application will help to solve in a more effective fashion some health problems in the Region. These include the further development of vaccines, information and communication technologies, including telemedicine, as well as simple environmental and improved surveillance technologies. An increased capacity to manage information technologies broadens the access to data. It also democratizes the use of the knowledge and evidence based policies allowing policy makers to better legislate on health sector reform and achieve increased equity.

The development, availability, and assessment of health technologies will contribute substantially to improving health conditions and will also provide an opportunity for sustainable development and increased private-public sector partnerships in the 21st Century.

Plan of Action: Initiative

Open and competitive economies and democratic governments are the hallmarks of the new Americas. Democracy empowers more and more people to take charge of their own destiny, to become actors on the local, national and international scenes. Nevertheless, the political support of Governments remains to be a key element to succeed on achieving the goals included in the Summit. We must persevere on building a closer and more robust partnership in that direction.

The proposed 1998 Summit of the Americas Initiative "*Health Technology Linking the Americas*", a single proposal with 3 well linked components, will foster the wide application of these health technologies to improve health conditions and contribute to human development, helping to define the inequities more clearly as well as providing the possibilities of reducing them.

The governments will:

1. ***Endorse a Regional Initiative for Vaccines that will address research, development, production and utilization of vaccines, and support the harmonization efforts in the area of pharmaceutical products, with special emphasis on essential drugs***

This initiative builds on the success of national immunization programs and regional efforts that resulted in the polio eradication and a new initiative to eliminate measles and neonatal tetanus, maintenance of high immunization coverage, and would help move the countries into the technological developments that will bring new and improved vaccines into their immunization programs.

This initiative will foster the technology exchange within the Region and with industrialized countries. Special attention will be given to the development of the following vaccines: triple viral vaccine (measles, mumps, rubeola), and polysaccharide vaccines against typhoid (S. Typhi), meningitis hemophilus (N. Meningitides), and pneumonia (S. Pneumonia), by means of promoting multinational projects for research and technological development. In a relatively short time, millions of children and adults in the Americas would be protected against vaccine preventable diseases through the wide availability of quality vaccines and drugs.

Together with the above, and taking into consideration the ongoing processes of economic integration, will be the support to countries in their efforts to harmonize regulatory requirements and procedures for the approval, registration and marketing of pharmaceutical products, with special emphasis on essential drugs. Regulatory harmonization will improve the availability of quality drugs and prevent the marketing of ineffective or dangerous products.

Finally, this initiative will stimulate collaboration among the countries, providing a concrete area of common interest to the private sector, international agencies and the multilateral lending institutions.

2. ***Strengthen and improving the existing regional networks of health information technologies and surveillance systems, such that all stakeholders have access to data to help them make correct decisions***

Countries must address existing and emerging issues through increased use of health communication technology and surveillance. It is necessary to take advantage of this opportunity in order to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of the data that countries can produce about their own health situation. Countries will support all the efforts towards developing more effective health information, epidemiological surveillance, networks of laboratory, and vital statistics systems which, among other objectives, are essential in reducing maternal mortality in adolescence and throughout the reproductive years.

There is no doubt that the rapid development of information technology will revolutionize our approach to health. Partnership in the area of telecommunications will generate networks which will allow for the exchange of information among countries and the use of telemedicine for increasing access to some services.

In addition, it will contribute to build institutional capacity for undertaking health care technology assessment. This constitute the basis for the rational adoption of, and investment in, new health care technologies. It is an area of increasing importance in the field of health systems development, and an instrumental piece for advancing the agendas of health sector reforms processes in the countries of the Region. It is aimed at assessing the safety, efficacy and cost of procedures and interventions, and bears direct implications for improving quality of care, for resource allocation practices, and for the definition of investment priorities in the health sector.

3. *Develop and utilization of effective low-cost technologies to provide Basic Sanitation Services, ensuring safe water supply, sanitation and solid waste management*

Governments can ensure the safety of the water sources in the conventional distribution systems. In some countries the systems that are proposed are no doubt efficient, but are costly. Development and utilization of proven effective low-cost technologies in this field, will expand the provision of basic sanitation services, will diminish the health risks associated to this problem, and it would have a positive impact in the poor population segments of the countries, especially in the rural areas. It would reinforce as well the goals of the 1990 World Summit for Children by fostering declines in infant and child mortality. There are also newer developments in the field of solid waste disposal, sanitary disposal of garbage, and promising ideas for returning waste to agricultural areas, thereby in the medium term, enhancing food production.

Several of these technologies already exist, requiring further dissemination and application. This effort would be complemented with an intense program of technical cooperation for the application of these technologies.

This approach will also allow to support the items of the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas that accompanied the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, in terms of identifying and adapting these technologies to the concrete realities of our countries.

Memorandum

April 28, 1997

TO: Ambassador Richard C. Brown

CC: Christian Kennedy

FROM: Joyce Seunarine

RE: Nicaragua meeting on women--informal report

The Hemispheric Conference on the Role of Women in Society, held April 24 to 26, 1997 was very successful for our Nicaraguan hosts. Delegates from 19 countries attended, along with six observers from Canada and various international organizations. Most notably absent were Brazil and Bolivia.

The meeting opened on Thursday 4/24 a.m. with a brief address by the First Lady of Nicaragua (text attached). The US ambassador attended the opening as did several other members of the diplomatic community in Managua.

Working sessions began Thursday 4/24 p.m. with remarks by Sra. Rosa Argentina Lopez, Executive Director of INIM (text attached).

The agenda was as Nicaragua had previously submitted. For the working sessions the delegates were divided into two groups composed of (Group 1) two members of the US delegation (Ayalde and Loar), the representative from the Bahamas who attended the meeting on behalf of the CARICOM countries, and delegates from Central America; and (Group 2) the other US delegates (Seunarine and Manatt) and the delegates from South America.

The two working sessions (Thursday 4/24 afternoon, Friday 4/25 a.m.) were devoted to a line-by-line analysis and discussion of the list of indicators proposed by Nicaragua. At the Friday afternoon session, both groups met in "plenary" to resolve differences in interpretation and emphasis on the proposed set of indicators.

At the final session on Saturday 4/26, the delegates agreed as follows.

1. To accept the System of Indicators with adjustments as agreed among the parties.
2. That Nicaragua will present its system of indicators to the 5/20-21

SIRG.

3. That each Summit member country will make an effort to report to Nicaragua by May 5 on progress made in the following areas as they relate to women:

- A. Participation of women in political decision making
- B. Education
- C. Public policies and mechanisms as they relate to the promotion of advancement for women.

4. That Nicaragua will use the reports to include comments on progress made in the hemisphere in Item 18 in its May presentation to the SIRG.

No formal document resulted from the meeting; however, I anticipate that Nicaragua will forward the final set of Indicators to each country. A reporting cable should be ready this afternoon.

Personal evaluation:

The meeting was completely successful for the Nicaraguans. All delegates were treated with great kindness and consideration, and hospitality was excellent. The meeting was extremely well organized, as was the logistics of lodging and transportation for 24 official delegates and 6 observers. Although the meeting site was remote and there were little opportunities to enjoy amenities and recreational facilities, the atmosphere was very pleasant.

Relations among the delegations were very friendly, and interchange was characterized by mutual interest, union and cooperation. The US delegation also worked very well together. Open discussions on the indicators was occasionally heated, especially in the area of reproductive health, which encompasses the sensitive issue of family planning.

Once it became clear that the Nicaraguans would not entertain any deviation from the planned agenda, no particular US objectives were stated or pushed. However, it was necessary for the Summit Office representative to explain more than once the procedures of the SIRG.

3. There was some discussion of formally requesting the SIRG to include an item on women in the Santiago Summit; however, the final decision of the group, as you can see from the above report, did not refer to the 1998 Summit.

4. This really was a "technical level meeting." The US delegation was conspicuous for its size (average delegation: 1 person); and my impression was that many were trying to

figure out what we wanted by appearing in such force. Also, there was some negative reaction to the distribution of the Loar document on "International Follow-Up to the UN

Fourth World Conference on Women," particularly from the Caribbean representative, who complained that the report makes no mention of CARICOM countries. Other Latin American countries who were not mentioned in the report also complained. Loar explained that the paper was circulated as an example of how a concise report could be made, and the US delegation otherwise quickly smoothed it over.

5. Two side events:

A. After the opening session, Michele Manatt, Liliana Ayalde, and I met privately with the First Lady of Nicaragua. Michele explained that women's issues are extremely important to the US First Lady, etc. Michele suggested that perhaps Mrs. Clinton would request a short meeting with the FLN during the upcoming Central American "mini-summit." I suggested that if such a meeting occurred, the FLN would have a wonderful opportunity to explain the progress that Nicaragua has made in women's issues and to inform her of our meeting and its outcome.

B. On Saturday afternoon, a television interview was taped with INIM director Lopez and US delegates Manatt and Seunarine. I expressed gratitude for the Nicaraguans' hospitality and the opportunity to exchange ideas with professional colleagues from all over the hemisphere; Michele spoke at length on the importance of women's issues, and the US policy on women, and the Summit of the Americas.

Michele will request an opportunity to meet with you for briefing.

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MATERNAL MORTALITY IN THE AMERICAS

Maternal mortality continues to be a critical problem in the Americas. Although data collection and reporting is unreliable in many countries, it is estimated that Latin American women overall have a moderate Total Fertility Rate [TFR] (3.1) and Maternal Mortality Ratio [MMR] (median ranging from 140-190), but approximately 23,000 women die each year of pregnancy-related causes. These aggregates, however, mask wide variation, from Haiti with the highest MMR of 456 to Barbados which has the lowest at 43. Ten countries have maternal mortality ratios above the average for the region: Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Guatemala, Brazil, Honduras, Peru, El Salvador, Bolivia, and Haiti. (The MMR in the US is 8; in Canada, 3.) Indigenous women, women in rural areas, young women and adolescents are particularly at risk.

Causes of maternal mortality are divided into direct causes (those causes which occur only during pregnancy and the peripartum period) and indirect causes (those which are aggravated by pregnancy but may be present even before pregnancy, such as diabetes, malaria or hepatitis). Approximately 80% of all maternal deaths are estimated to be the result of due to direct causes.

Although routine surveillance of maternal mortality and its causes are poor, analysis of survey data shows that incomplete abortion, hemorrhage and hypertension continue to be the principal causes of maternal deaths. The real number of abortions is unknown because of its illegal character and accompanying penalties. Other important causes of maternal mortality include: sepsis, obstructed/prolonged labor, and ruptured uterus. To reduce maternal mortality the use of family planning, pre-natal care, clean delivery, and emergency obstetric care for complications of delivery need to be promoted.

Innovative approaches funded by USAID which have been developed over the past several years including: (1) Community Assessment tools which allows researchers and program managers to draw a full picture of the context in which maternal health services are used or not used by the community; (2) Training Needs Assessment which determines the levels of knowledge and skills of service providers; (3) Validation Study of Self-Reported Serious Maternal and Neonatal Complications which shows that self-reporting is NOT a reliable approach to arrive at local descriptions of major complications differentiated from less serious ones. While these findings are disappointing, knowing the approach does not work is critical to developing effective strategies which are effective.

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In addition, WHO/UNICEF, with input from the USAID-funded Mothercare project, developed and promoted "Essential Obstetric Care," a package of medical functions needed to reduce the 80% of maternal deaths due to major direct obstetrical complications.

The Ministers of Health of the Americas approved a Regional Plan for Maternal Mortality Reduction in the Americas in 1990. There has been some progress, but no significant improvement. At the Miami Symposium, there was an agreement to draw attention to the problems of maternal mortality because of its strong linkage to the well-being of women and children.

The World Summit for Children established a goal of reducing by one half 1990 maternal mortality levels prior to the year 2000. This goal was re-confirmed at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and at the Summit of the Americas (Miami, 1994).

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MATERNAL MORTALITY GRANTS

It is estimated that 23,000 women die from pregnancy-related causes each year in Latin America. From community-based studies in developing countries, it has been shown that 80% of maternal deaths can be attributed to hemorrhage, sepsis, hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, obstructed/prolonged labor and ruptured uterus, and septic abortion. These conditions are treatable with available technology. But in environments where resources are scarce and poorly organized, women continue to die. Some of the barriers to safe motherhood in the Americas include: the lack of complication recognition, the inability of women to seek care due to low status in society, the dearth of accessible/affordable health care, poorly trained/culturally-insensitive healthcare workers, shortages of medical supplies and equipment and a lack of reliable transportation.

The reduction of maternal mortality and the improvement of maternal health care in the Americas have become major issues in the past few years, with new initiatives being launched at the Summit of the Americas' Symposium on Children. To address the problem of maternal mortality, USAID has developed a strategic approach for more effective delivery of selected health services: such as essential care for obstetrical complications. The regional initiative takes a three-pronged approach, aimed at improving service delivery through more effective community response, better quality of care at the level of first referral, reform aimed at improving the overall policy environment, and promotion of legislation/policies to reduce maternal mortality.

The initiative will be implemented by a partnership between the USAID-funded MotherCare and the Quality Assurance projects and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). MotherCare will focus on community response to increase the capability of selected PVO networks and Ministries of Health to identify and respond to community efforts to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality, including training and educational campaigns. The Quality Assurance Project will take the lead in the area of quality of care at the first level of referral. PAHO will take the lead on policy environment for the intensive implementation of the Basic Emergency Care aspects of the Regional Plan for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality. PAHO's work will include revising and reaffirming the 1990 Regional Plan; strengthening the regional and country Interagency Coordinating Committees which bring together relevant ministries at a country level and all interested parties at the regional level; promoting of legislation to reduce maternal mortality and building high level political support for reduction of maternal mortality; including support for developing follow-up action by the First Ladies of the region.

The initiative will be implemented from December 1996 through December 2001. It has a working budget of \$4,500,000, of which \$2,250,000 will be granted to PAHO.

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MEASLES ELIMINATION IN THE AMERICAS

Measles continues to be one of the leading causes of morbidity among childhood vaccine-preventable diseases. In 1995, the number of confirmed cases in the Region of the Americas was 4,025 (2,018 and 261 in Canada and the United States, respectively). A regional initiative to eliminate measles from the hemisphere was approved at the Pan American Sanitary Conference in September 1994.

Progress to date has been dramatic. A majority of countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region have shown a decrease in the number of confirmed cases of measles as well as major areas where transmission has been interrupted. Regional data as of July 31, 1996 indicated a 63 percent reduction of confirmed cases reported compared to the same period in 1995 and a 99 percent reduction compared to 1990. Progress in the control and elimination of measles in the region has demonstrated that the global initiative to eradicate measles is an attainable goal during the next 10 to 15 years.

Much of the success of the measles elimination program in the Americas is due to the implementation of a three-step strategy. This includes "catch-up" campaigns to vaccinate all persons 1-14 years old; routine vaccination of children 9-15 months of age ("keep-up"); and periodic mass campaigns for children 1-4 years ("follow-up"). The successful results (90 percent coverage in some areas) to date using this approach has prompted a commitment on the part of the countries in the Region, the Pan American Health Organization, USAID and other donors to target the year 2000 for the elimination of measles in the Region. Other countries in Africa and Asia where measles continues as a serious health threat are considering implementation of this three-step strategy.

Continued measles surveillance to confirm cases and identify those due to indigenous transmissions or importations using a regional network of laboratories and maintaining a high vaccination coverage rate (target of 95 percent) are critical elements to the elimination strategy. Additionally, there are mis-perceptions at various levels in many countries that measles is a "minor" illness. This will impede the political will necessary to allocate resources to support an aggressive approach in implementation of the measles eradication effort.

PAHO estimated that \$53 million in donor funds were needed for a 5-year regional effort in addition to the funds countries will spend on their own programs. USAID plans to contribute up to \$8 million; the PAHO budget will provide \$9.8 million; and PAHO has pledges of \$1 million from Spain and \$2.2 million from the Inter-American Development Bank.

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PAHO TODAY

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SPECIAL REPORT

Measles Elimination: Just Around the Corner?

If 35 million people—roughly the population of Tokyo and Osaka combined—donated just US\$ 1, measles could be eradicated from the entire Western Hemisphere by the year 2000, according to Dr. Ciro de Quadros, chief of PAHO's Special Program for Vaccines and Immunization. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) recently approved an US\$ 8 million grant to support measles elimination in the Americas, following a pledge of U.S. support from First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in her visit to PAHO on World Health Day last year.

Eliminating measles, which has already been accomplished in the English-speaking Caribbean, Cuba, and Chile, is feasible if the countries continue strong vaccination efforts, says PAHO Director Dr. George Alleyne. "This shows what we can do when we dare to dream of things that have not been done."

"None of the challenges facing the nations of this Hemisphere is more compelling or more important than the commitment to reduce child and maternal mortality," noted USAID's Mark Schneider at the grant signing. PAHO, he said, "once again is out in front of the drive to make

good on the pledge to eliminate a critical disease which affects so many people in our Hemisphere."

De Quadros cautions, however, that "we must keep up our guard" to succeed in measles elimination by maintaining the strategies of follow-up vaccinations, disease surveillance, and accessing hard-to-reach populations.

One to two of every thousand children who get measles die from it, and it can also make a pregnant woman have a miscarriage or a premature birth. Measles also causes ear infections, pneumonia, and encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain that can leave a child deaf or mentally retarded.

According to a 17 August surveillance report, confirmed measles cases in the Americas total 970, out of a total of more than 5,711 suspected cases in 1996. Eradicating measles is feasible and requires no new technologies, says de Quadros. Success stories abound, and cases having fallen dramatically from hundreds of thousands just a few years ago to 6,125 last year.

De Quadros sees the measles elimination issue shifting from the scientific to

Immunization—one of the most cost-effective of health interventions

the political arena. "Of course we could have a better vaccine and diagnostic tests, and we are working towards that," he says. "But we don't need to wait for them. It's more a matter of *when* are we going to do it [measles elimination]; meaning, it is a political decision."

The decision, he continues, should be an easy one: "What needs to be done now is that governments become actively involved; that they assign the resources needed for vaccination and

(cont. on page 3)



WHO photo/L. Taylor

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Special Report

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the surveillance, so health systems can go after cases that could be measles—usually children who have fever and a rash—and can investigate these cases. If resources are assigned, I have no doubt that by the year 2000, measles will not exist in this Region."

After PAHO's heralded successes in the eradication of other diseases from the Americas, such as smallpox and polio,

Dr. de Quadros is confident that the Organization will once again play a key role in eliminating yet another important disease—measles.

"Science and technology can produce incredible tools to combat disease and other problems, but usually they stay on the shelves and are never used," notes de Quadros. "The current case is clearly one of using these tools to solve the problems for which they were created." ■

Friday

Talking Points

Mrs. Clinton's remarks on Maternal Mortality

Maternal Mortality is a topic that is important to all women regardless of nationality, social status or ethnic group and its reduction should be the common objective of us all. The death of a women from maternity-related causes should be interpreted as a consequence of the relatively disadvantaged situation of a large number of women in the Region of the Americas. Lack of fundamental rights to information, services, and economic opportunities contribute to poor maternal health outcomes. Additionally, maternal deaths are often the end result of a process specifically related to nutrition, health and disease, which sometimes begins at an early age and transforms into a family and social tragedy. The death of any mother is a tragedy because we have the power to prevent maternal mortality.

At the Summit of the Americas and the First Ladies' Symposium on Children, there was an agreement to draw attention to the problems of maternal mortality because of its strong linkages to the well being of women and children. Maternal mortality is an important health problem that affects the individual, the family and society. Unfortunately, maternal health programs frequently are forced to operate with meager budgets. In general, the budget for maternal health is combined with the budget for infant health care, often allocating the greater share of financial resources to the infant health programs. The high profile infant mortality has received in the last 15 years has produced excellent results with substantial decreases in most countries. When maternal mortality is addressed with the same vigor, similar progress can be expected. Maternal mortality can be reduced only if it becomes enough of a priority to receive an adequate share of resources.

The First Ladies of the America's have an important role to play to improve the health conditions of women by speaking out about ways to prevent maternal deaths. By raising awareness about the benefits of spacing births and breastfeeding, good nutrition and the need for prenatal, post partum and safe delivery, most women will understand the minimum level of care they should expect during their reproductive years. We can help women who have obstetrical emergencies by encouraging women to recognize the warning signs of an obstetrical emergency and seek care immediately, by praising communities that mobilize transportation for women to a facility capable of responding to the emergency, and by acknowledging facilities that meet minimum standards of quality of care.

The proposal demonstrates innovative approaches to the reduction of maternal mortality. The use of a pathway to survival approach that identifies critical decision making points for women and health care workers is key to targeting action. It is not sufficient for a women to know she needs help, in many cultures the decision to seek care is often not hers, but is made by her husband or other relatives. By knowing where the critical decision points are, this project will help develop community awareness and support for families to make the right choice. This project has a strong client focus. We believe that if health care providers have better interpersonal communication skills, understand the concerns of their clients, and

are willing to work together with the community, the use of maternal health services will increase. Developed as the United States' contribution for responding to the Initiative discussed at the First Ladies' Symposium, this project also has limited resources to work with the First Ladies and other high level social sector managers to improve our ability to communicate effectively on this important subject, I would encourage all of us to take advantage of this opportunity.

We all know that to reduce maternal mortality it will take more than just rhetoric. We need to work together to make sure that every maternal death is accurately recorded, investigated and used to inform health workers and communities so that deaths can be averted in the future -- without fear of repercussions for the women or her doctor. We need to work together to create an environment where all women are considered more valuable than the gas needed to transport them to a facility. We need to overcome barriers to talking about women's health problems more openly. We need to provide access to information for women before they become sexually active and throughout their lives so that they can make informed decisions about what happens to them and their bodies. The partnerships forged under this program between PAHO and USAID are a big step towards that objective. Only by working together, will we achieve our goal to reduce maternal mortality by 50% by the year 2000.

Let's not forget that all maternal deaths will have a longlasting effect on the women's family and surviving children. I am reminded of a Chinese proverb that says, "There is only one pretty child in the world, and every mother has it." We need to do everything in our power to insure that every pretty child has a healthy mother. But we must also not forget that women are valuable and deserve the same opportunities for a healthy and happy life, not only for their roles as mothers, wives, or daughters but because each one is special in her own right.

**Signing of USAID/PAHO Regional Maternal Mortality Project
Wednesday morning session**

Context of the Event:

The Latin America Bureau of USAID in Washington is working to increase the effective delivery of health services in the Region. An agreement has already been signed for support to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to strengthen vaccination programs in the Region, with special emphasis on measles elimination. A second initiative will improve the capacities of countries in the Region to provide essential care for obstetrical complications at district and regional hospital levels.

This initiative will be implemented through a partnership between The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and two USAID-supported Global projects, Mother Care, and The Quality Assurance Project. PAHO will take the lead in improving the policy environment for the implementation of basic emergency care to reduce maternal mortality in the Region.

The 5 year grant to be signed at the La Paz Summit consists of \$2.2 million in USAID funds, to be matched by \$2 million from PAHO. It will assist selected Latin American countries (including Bolivia) where maternal mortality ratios are highest to establish Interagency Coordinating Committees; improve communications between regional and country program managers; improve program and epidemiologic data; increase high level political support to reduce maternal mortality; and analyze and promote legislation and policies to reduce maternal mortality.

During the first working session on Wednesday morning will be a short signing ceremony between USAID and PAHO to begin implementation of the grant to PAHO described above. The agreement will be signed by Mr. Mark Schneider, Assistant Administrator of USAID's Latin America and Caribbean Bureau, and Dr. George Alleyne, PAHO Director. Also present at the signing will be Mr. Frank Almaguer, Director of USAID/Bolivia, Dr. Carlos Linger, PAHO Representative to Bolivia, and Mrs. Sanchez de Lozada, First Lady of Bolivia. You will witness the signing, but will not be expected to present any formal statement.

Your Objectives:

-To witness the signing of the USAID/PAHO Grant agreement

Talking Points:

-Express support for this new Regional Initiative to reduce maternal mortality;

-Congratulate the Bolivian First Lady on her support for reducing maternal mortality in Bolivia.

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PARTNERSHIP UPDATE--MAY, 1997

The Partnership for Education Revitalization in the Americas is now being referred to as the Partnership, in short references, rather than PERA, (which translates in Spanish as pear).

Recent Progress by the InterAmerican Dialogue

Advisory Council:

The Executive Committee and Advisory/Consultative Council are in the final stages of formation; the former Mexican Secretary of Education, Dr. José Pescador, has expressed interest in joining the council.

Working Groups/Regional Coordinators:

The region wide Working Group on evaluation and standards is being organized by Ms. María Lucrecia Tulic of the Argentine Ministry of Education.

As part of Partnership, regional coordinators will be selected to develop activities in each sub-region. Dr. Carleton Corrales has been selected as the Coordinator for Central America activities. Dr. Corrales most recently managed a World Bank education program for Honduras.

Upcoming Conferences and Activities:

A regional conference on education finance will be held the last week of July in Bogotá, Colombia, sponsored by the Partnership and the Ministry of Education in Colombia.

The Partnership expects to receive a final proposal from the Chilean Ministry of Education for a regional workshop on education statistics, to be held in Santiago, Chile, in October.

The Partnership is consulting with Brazilian educators on a conference on education standards, in conjunction with the U.S. President's trip to Brazil in October. The Partnership has also been consulting with IBM on developing a conference of business and education leaders in the region.

The Partnership Website:

The Partnership has set up a website homepage, <http://www.preal.cl>, hosted by its partner organization CINDE in Chile (la corporacion de investigaciones para el desarrollo). The website has basic information on the objectives, and strategies of the Partnership, progress to date by participating centers in Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela, as well as lists of publications, which can be downloaded from the website. PREAL (Programa para la reforma de la educacion en la america latina) is the name of the earlier activity which the Partnership will expand.

In addition to its work with the Partnership, The InterAmerican Dialogue is developing two preparatory meetings for the Santiago Summit, one on education and one on trade, as requested by the Chilean government; these will take place in July.

Dr. Jeff Puryear of IAD will travel to Mexico next week, May 27-30, to confer with education leaders on the Partnership and the Summit of the Americas.