Remarks made by the First Lady
Hillary Rodham Clinton
at the ICPD+5 NGO and Youth Forum
February 7, 1999
at the Netherlands Congress Center
The Hague, The Netherlands

Thank you so much Florence for that kind introduction. I am intending to obtain a copy of it for my mother. I am delighted to be here. I apologize for being somewhat delayed both by some airplane trouble at the beginning of my efforts to leave Washington and then by some weather which delayed my landing. But I am so pleased by the reports I have received about this conference and particularly what you have done together, bringing generations and people from across the world to a common purpose here today. I want to thank Mr. Meijer for his commitment in organizing this forum. We would not be here were it not for your efforts, Mr. Meijer, thank you very much. And to Ambassador Biegman. And to Dr. Sadik. We all, all of us in this hall, and countless others who may never know either of your names, owe you a great debt of gratitude for your leadership in the process leading up to Cairo and at the conference itself and for your continued efforts on behalf of the implementation of the Program for Action. I am deeply grateful, as I know all of us are, for your particular efforts. I also want to thank all of the distinguished ministers, NGO leaders, youth leaders, and representatives especially from the Dutch government and all of you who are gathered at this forum.

I am honored to have been asked to be here because I think it is essential that we have this opportunity to talk about the progress that has been made since Cairo and the challenges that still lie ahead. Every one of you here has in some way contributed to the progress that has been made and I hope every one of you here will contribute to the ongoing efforts to meet the challenges that stand before us. Every one of us has a role to play in bringing about the promise of the Cairo Conference. I was particularly moved by what I heard from the young people, the descriptions of what you all had to say, your concerns, were ones that I hope we keep at the forefront of our deliberations.

Now I know that there still may be some who are disappointed that Ginger, of the Spice Girls, was not able to be here. And I confess I am no substitute, singing is by no means a strong point. But I have thought a lot about women's voices, whether they are raised in song, whether they are whisper, whether they are a cry of anguish, or a laugh. I've heard women's voices all over our globe. And I recently ran across a poem by a woman poet from Suriname, Joanna Schouten Eltenhert, (phonetic). I think her words remind us of why we are here today.

Nothing rises so high as a voice that calls out in the middle of the day.
A voice so fine, a voice so strong. It's never false.
Even when the wind blows hard.
Woman, you rise so high you inspire,
You abide in the midst of the battle of everyday.

Think for a moment of the countless women all over the world in every country represented here, who are locked in the battle of the everyday. Those words represent all women: women who are struggling to care for and educate their children; women who are seeking more control and authority over their own lives; women who want to contribute to the progress that's being made in their communities and their countries. As I look at this great crowd I can see the diversity, men and women from around the world, and I am struck as I was struck in Beijing, by the passion, the commitment, and the energy that you possess that brings you here.

You are the vanguard of Cairo. The ones who are making the ICPD program of action come alive for people. And your presence here at The Hague is truly a reflection of the new reality we are creating. No longer are the discussions about global challenges or their solutions decided upon solely by government officials and policy-makers -- often behind closed doors. In a movement that was truly born at Cairo and caught fire in Beijing, non-governmental organizations have finally taken their rightful place at the table, in their own countries and international forums like this.

Finally, the voices of ordinary citizens are being heard on the critical issues that affect their lives. Grass-root organizations and people working on the frontlines of their communities are becoming part of decision-making processes. The role that NGOs play in planning, developing and monitoring programs and services that advance women and families is being recognized for the value that it brings.

Almost five years ago now, NGOs and governments together helped forge a historic consensus around the challenges of global population growth and development. They understood that we had to take a different approach. Many of you said, let us stop focusing on lowering numbers and work instead on lifting up lives. Let's make sure that women, children and families are at the heart of economic and social development efforts. Let's create a far more comprehensive approach, that's based on choice and opportunity, not government control or coercion.

Now I know how difficult it was to bring so many views together and to reach a consensus, not only on the language of the final program of action but on its goals itself. There were many times when talks were at a stand still. When NGO leaders would come down from the balconies and out from the side rooms to help people find common ground and craft common language. The level of NGO participation in Cairo on official delegations in U.N. meetings at the U.N. forum was certainly unprecedented, but it did set a standard that we have to continue not only to meet but to exceed. I wanted to come here first to salute all of you. Not just for the invaluable work many of you did in Cairo but for the progress that you are helping to make that transforms those goals on paper into realities in women's and men's lives.

Before coming here I invited NGO leaders in my own country to come to the White House to talk about the challenges that the United States faces in the area of family planning both in our own country and around the world. These are organizations as many

of yours are that have placed the concerns of women and children at the top of our nation's agenda. They have fought tirelessly in the halls of Congress and in their own communities to ensure that the legitimate needs of all people are recognized and met. They are the ones who have pushed successfully to increase our funding for family planning programs in the United States and to work to make abortions in America safe, legal, and rare.

And on my trips overseas I have been privileged to see first hand the extraordinary work that many of you are doing. I have seen young mothers cradling their newborns and learning how to care for them, at health centers run in small villages and in poor urban neighborhoods in some of our planets largest cities. I have visited family planning and reproductive health services that are literally saving lives. I have also seen first hand the programs that are leading the struggle against domestic violence and all violence against women. I've met young girls whose dreams have been ignited because now they have a chance to go to school, and I've sat and listened to women whose hopes for the future are being realized because they have received small loans that allow them to start their own micro-businesses.

Yet even as we celebrate the progress that is being made by NGOs throughout the world we recognize how far we still have to go. Many NGOs are struggling to grow, to be sustainable, be recognized. And there are, I know very well, governments that still stifle the valuable work of NGOs. We need to more to help equip NGOs with the skills, training, the advocacy they need to be effective change agents in their local areas. We need to continue to pressure governments to understand the invaluable role that NGOs play, and the kind of partnership that governments should seek to have with NGOs on behalf of the betterment of their people.

So today I challenge all of us to forge even stronger links with one another and with our government partners to ensure that the commitments made in Cairo are actually enacted. I also challenge us to keep sharing our own experiences. You know sometimes, when we listen to long statistical outlines of what is happening in various parts of the world, or when we hear the data come tumbling forth about maternal mortality, or infant mortality, or any of the other issues that concern us, they do not have the same impact as one or two stories from your own experience. Stories that you can tell to your neighbors, your friends, your colleagues, or the media in your country, to make it clear that what we are doing is not only saving lives, but transforming lives. And creating the groundwork for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

I also challenge us to continue to reach out to young people. This Youth Forum has attracted young people who are contributing greatly to the discussions here. In the newsletter that has been put out, I read that one person said that, "People have finally started talking with young people instead of merely about youth." And that is what we must do more and more of. By next year, nearly one billion adolescents, the largest generation ever in the history of humankind, will be entering their reproductive years. Whether they have reproductive information and services that they need, whether they

have the education and health care and economic opportunity to lead fulfilling lives, depends on the actions we take now.

I also urge all of us to continue to reach out to fathers and sons and husbands. If progress is to be made in promoting family planning and gender equity – or any of the challenges before us – then men must continue to be full and willing partners in this process. A few years ago, I was privileged to visit Senegal, and I visited some of the villages that were learning about democracy, and were using skits and role-playing to teach one another about what it meant to be a citizen in a democracy. And as they learned more and more about democracy and speaking up and voting, they began to look at issues that affected their lives. And in one village a conversation about Female Genital Mutilation began. And that conversation led top a vote, and by majority vote of both men and women, that village decided to forever eliminate FGM among their young girls. Two men in the village became so involved in this debate that they took it upon themselves to start traveling to other villages, walking long hours to get to the next village, to talk to villagers there about what their village had done. This grassroots effort, that involved both women and men, led eventually to the petitioning of the government to pass a law outlawing FGM. And finally this year that law was passed. So the kind of democratic cooperation; the commitment to goals by both men and women, will literally change and save girls lives in Senegal.

And that brings me to my final challenge. And it's a challenge that we need especially to hearken to in these days when we feel sometimes that we take one step forward and then maybe a half a step back. But the challenge to all of us is to persevere. Don't ever think that the work you do day in and day out is not having an impact on people's lives. And don't ever think you are working alone. Look around you here. Feel the strength in numbers and common purpose that this great hall gives us all.

As the poem I started with says, you inspire, you abide, in the midst of the battle of every day. We have come a very long way in the last years. It may not seem fast enough to many of us who are impatient, and I'm sure it seems absolutely glacial to the young people. But it wasn't until Nairobi that domestic violence was recognized as a crime, and not a cultural activity, or a family matter. It was not until Cairo that we began to talk about lifting up women's lives and making development and population go hand in hand as our twin goals. And it wasn't until Beijing that we said once and for all that women's rights are human rights. There are no differences. So we have made progress together. And if we continue to make that progress, we will see Cairo's goals enacted. And countless men, women, and children, who make never come to The Hague, whom you may never touch directly, will be grateful for your work. God bless you for the work you do, every single day, in the midst of the battle. Thank you very much.

UNITED STATES EMBASSY
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE

FAX TRANSMITTAL

February 8, 1999

FOR:	Stephanie Jones	FAX: 070-~~381-9345~~/392-5244 392-3490
FROM:	Steve Rounds	FAX: 070-365-8837

NO. PAGES: 5 (Including this page)

SUBJECT: Transcript of the First Lady's speech 7 February, 1999

Attached is the transcript of yesterday's speech for clearance.

260TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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February 07, 1999; Sunday 15:06 Eastern Time

Sunday Hague Clips

SECTION: International news

LENGTH: 449 words

HEADLINE: Slowdown of Population Growth Urged

BYLINE: ANTHONY DEUTSCH

DATELINE: THE HAGUE, Netherlands

BODY:

Volunteer agencies are ''the vanguard'' of U.N. efforts to slow the world's soaring population and must not lose heart in the face of dwindling financial support, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said Sunday.

With the world's population expected to hit 6 billion later this year an increase of 20 percent in just 12 years 140 non-governmental organizations met in the Netherlands Sunday to assess progress toward slowing population growth since a landmark conference in 1994 in Cairo.

Despite a serious shortfall in funding, both from industrialized donor countries and developing nations, Mrs. Clinton called for the groups to keep working.

''The challenge to all of us is to persevere. Don't ever think that the work you do day in and day out is not having an impact on people's lives,'' she told the meeting ahead of a U.N. forum opening Monday. ''You are the vanguard of Cairo.''

A global resolution adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo calls for universal access to affordable reproductive health services by 2015, including family planning, sexual health services and programs for adolescents.

''We have come a long way in the last years. It may not seem fast enough for many of us who are impatient, and I'm sure it seems glacial to young people,'' she said. ''(But) if we continue to make that progress, we will see Cairo's goals enacted.''

Although volunteers reported progress in achieving some Cairo targets, they said momentum was being slowed by funding problems.

Attiya Inayatullah, the president of International Planned Parenthood, called the forum ''a wake-up call to ambivalent and disinterested donor countries.''

The United States cut financial support to the U.N. Population Fund last year amid congressional concern that it was promoting abortion, but it will soon review a proposal by Rep. Carolyn Maloney of New York to reinstate funding.

''We as Americans are not living up to our goals,'' Maloney said in The Hague.

The first lady was scheduled to deliver the keynote address for the U.N. forum opening Monday, but will cut short her visit to fly to Jordan for King Hussein's funeral. Hussein died Sunday of cancer at the age of 63.

As they did in Cairo, abortion and birth control were expected to provoke heated controversy in The Hague, with delegates from the Vatican expected to lead the debate.

Mrs. Clinton praised U.S. grassroots groups for playing a key role in family planning initiatives.

''They are the ones who have pushed successfully to increase our funding for family planning programs in the United States and to make abortion in America safe, legal and rare,'' she said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 07, 1999

145TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Globe Newspaper Company
The Boston Globe

February 8, 1999, Monday ,City Edition

SECTION: NATIONAL/FOREIGN; Pg. A7

LENGTH: 82 words

HEADLINE: Forum targets population growth;
WORLD BRIEFS

BYLINE: (AP)

BODY:

THE HAGUE - Volunteer agencies are "the vanguard" of UN efforts to slow the world's soaring population and must not lose heart in the face of dwindling financial support, Hillary Rodham Clinton said yesterday. With the world's population expected to hit 6 billion this year, an increase of 20 percent in only 12 years, 140 nongovernmental organizations met in the Netherlands yesterday to assess progress toward slowing population growth since a landmark conference in 1994 in Cairo.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 08, 1999

142ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 The Atlanta Constitution
The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

February 8, 1999, Monday, CONSTITUTION EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 04A

LENGTH: 763 words

SERIES: Home

HEADLINE: WORLD IN BRIEF;
Kosovo talks clear early hurdle

BODY:

Serbian officials and Kosovo Albanians agreed on principles that would keep the embattled province inside Yugoslavia for at least three more years as they met separately Sunday with international mediators at a French chateau. Getting down to serious work after Saturday's ceremonial opening, international mediators presented the warring factions with a framework agreement worked out by the Contact Group of six outside nations trying to arrange a settlement. The mediators also presented a set of 10 non-negotiable principles for the talks, including a guarantee of Yugoslavia's territorial integrity. That means Kosovo's ethnic Albanians have to give up their demand for independence for their province --- at least during a three-year interim period. Both a Serbian negotiator and a Western mediator said all sides had accepted those principles.

EUROPE First lady addresses population conference Volunteer agencies are ''the vanguard'' of U.N. efforts to slow the world's soaring population and must not lose heart in the face of dwindling financial support, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said Sunday. With the world's population expected to hit 6 billion later this year --- an increase of 20 percent in just 12 years --- 140 non-governmental organizations met in the Netherlands on Sunday to assess progress toward slowing population growth since a landmark conference in 1994 in Cairo, Egypt.

No more royal seal for British smokes Britain's royal family has withdrawn its prestigious seal of approval for the tobacco company that makes Benson and Hedges cigarettes, Buckingham Palace said Sunday. The move, hailed by anti-smoking groups, was the most public sign yet of royal opposition to tobacco. A palace spokesman said Gallaher Ltd. has until the end of the year to remove from all its packaging Queen Elizabeth II's coat-of-arms, the symbol that signifies a royal warrant, or seal of approval. Gallaher has held a royal warrant for 122 years, through generations when smoking was more fashionable.

German ruling party gets election setback German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's new government lost a major electoral challenge Sunday, a state election that became a battleground for a plan to grant dual citizenship to some foreigners. The opposition Christian Democrats won 44 percent of the vote for the Hesse state legislature, according to the final tally of all 76 precincts, compared with 39 percent for Schroeder's Social Democrats, which have governed the state for eight years with the environmentalist Greens. The Christian Democrats said their victory reflected voter dissatisfaction with the federal government's plans to reform Germany's citizenship laws and grant dual citizenship to as many as 4 million foreign residents.

Spy novelist reveals fictional hero's origin Fans of John Le Carre's spy novels have wondered for decades whether his bespectacled hero George Smiley was based on a real-life British spy. And if so, which one? In a BBC radio interview

broadcast Sunday, the author revealed that his enigmatic character was based on two men: a spy in MI5 --- the British national intelligence agency for which Le Carre once worked --- and his former Oxford University lecturer. ''He grew out of two people,'' Le Carre said. ''One was a spook I was working with who wrote novels under the name of John Bingham and was otherwise the Lord Clanmorris.'' Le Carre did not name the other man. The Sunday Times newspaper said the other man was the Rev. Vivian Green, Le Carre's former tutor at Oxford.

AFRICA Eased terms offered for peace talks Sierra Leone's president Sunday invited the rebel army to peace talks and offered for the first time to let the insurgents meet with their jailed leader. In an abrupt reversal, President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah said in a state radio broadcast that he was willing to meet with the Revolutionary United Front on condition that it stop fighting and publicly recognize his government. In return, Kabbah said his government would allow Foday Sankoh, the charismatic founder of the Revolutionary United Front, to meet with a rebel delegation.

ASIA Fighting in Kashmir leaves 25 dead Fighting between Indian security forces and Kashmiri militants has left at least 25 people dead in five clashes over the weekend, authorities reported. Much of the violence took place in remote areas of Kashmir, where several groups are fighting for independence from India or for a merger with Pakistan. Both countries claim the Himalayan territory; more than 17,000 people have died in fighting since 1989.

LOAD-DATE: February 8, 1999

bc-Hague-forum 02-08
First Lady Lauds 'The Battle of the Everyday' at Hague Forum
To: International Desk
Contact: Joke van Kampen, (42-070) 06-519-78121,
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THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Feb. 8 /U.S. Newswire/ -- First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Sunday challenged participants at the Hague Forum on population and development to persevere in ``the battle of the everyday'' where world struggles are finally won or lost.

Speaking at a joint session of the pre-conference Youth, Parliamentarians and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Forums, Mrs. Clinton praised the global progress they have helped to make on meeting the goals set in 1994 at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. ``Every one of us has a role to play,'' she said. She quoted a Surinamese poem that praised women who ``rise so high in the battle of the everyday'' and urged conference participants to do likewise.

Mrs. Clinton was among several speakers who warned that the world's young people will be hurt the most if governments do not keep the funding and policy promises they made five years ago. She said policymakers needed to ``talk with young people, not about youth.''

NGOs, she said, have now taken their rightful place at the tables where decisions are made about delivering services and meeting human needs. She challenged the audience from 180 nations to forge stronger links with one another, keep sharing their experiences, and reach out to fathers, sons and husbands in seeking better lives for women.

Mrs. Clinton left the conference Sunday night to attend the funeral of Jordan's late King Hussein but said she would return Tuesday to deliver her keynote speech.

Speaking earlier for the NGOs, Rachel Kyte of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature told a panel on partnerships that population and development activists seem ``in danger of regressing into a kind of sectarianism...talking to ourselves in ever decreasing circles.''

Lis Hirano, a Brazilian architect, reported from the Youth Forum that the gathering of 132 people under 30 from 111 nations had asked for specific youth-oriented commitments from the Hague Forum that opens Monday: life-skill training outside formal institutions of education; a parallel ``United Nations for Youth'' organization to foster sharing of resources; national budget allocations for youth projects, especially health concerns; and programs to foster tolerance and curb violence.

The ICPD Programme of Action reflected consensus among 180 nations that the current generation of more than 1 billion people under 30-the largest ever-will be key to the planet's future, and that adequate spending and resource commitments are imperative to meet their needs for contraceptive and reproductive health services, education and jobs. To underscore these points, the Youth Forum presentation concluded not with the traditional weighty paper document but a five-minute video, ``Room to Grow,'' produced by independent U.S. filmmaker Martin Lucas.

The NGO Forum held sessions on key issues: resources and putting commitments into action; reproductive health services; human and reproductive rights; the interrelationship of poverty, development, environment and reproductive health; and partnerships-among government, the private sector and civil society, and at local, national, regional and international levels. Each session discussed recent successes, current problems, and actions needed now. Mahmoud Fathalla, immediate past chair of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics and an NGO Forum Advisory Board member, cited three indicators of progress:

-- Momentum is growing worldwide for the idea that women are ``ends and not means, subjects, not objects,'' he said.

-- World silence on sexual matters has been broken, so that discussion can

be more open on sensitive matters such as unsafe abortion and female genital mutilation. Divergent views on unsafe abortion must be respected, he said, ``but you cannot keep the issue under the carpet when 20 million women every year are victims of this violence.''

-- Partnerships among governments, NGOs and the private sector are working, so that each sees the ``value added'' of working with the others.

Fathalla said he remains concerned about ``the widening gap'' between developing nations' spending for population programs, now at 70 percent of their commitment, and donor nations' spending, at only 25 percent of their promised share. Donor nations must see that this is ``an investment they cannot afford not to make,'' he said.

Nafis Sadik, executive director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), sponsor of the gathering, said she was pleased overall with world progress toward ICPD goals. She cited policy changes ``in almost every country,'' including South Africa's incorporation of reproductive rights into its constitution and recent decisions in Senegal and in several other sub-Saharan countries to outlaw female genital mutilation.

NGOs, she said, ``continue to be strong advocates of difficult issues'' to their governments, and their role is steadily increasing. Each nation will make its own decisions on what information and services go to young people, she said, but ``the discussion should not hold up implementation of the basic agreement that young people must be enabled to protect their own reproductive health.''

At the Parliamentarians' Forum, held in the historic Ridderzaal (Hall of Knights), built in the 13th century, 225 lawmakers organized into seven regional and global groups, identified seven priority areas for action:

-- Reviewing laws on reproductive health and rights, revising them where necessary;

-- Establishing laws, policies and resources to educate girls, empower women and remove barriers to their full participation in society;

-- Urging increased spending for education and health care for adolescents, youth, the elderly and the disabled

-- Ensuring that international trade agreements are ``consistent with the long-term perspective of food security'';

-- Calling on donor governments to increase official development assistance to 0.7 percent of their gross national product, with 4.5 percent of that assistance devoted to population and reproductive health programs;

-- Urging measures to prevent economic crises, ``protect the poor from the consequences of an economic collapse,'' and reevaluate developing nations' debt repayments; and

-- Calling for a global exchange of information and best practices, and for support for advocacy and resources to achieve ICPD goals.

U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.) said the recent action by the U.S. Congress to cut off all funding for UNFPA in fiscal 1999 was part of an effort by the current Republican majority to turn back the gains of previous years. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) said she would introduce legislation to restore $25 million in fiscal 2000 and $35 million in fiscal 2001.

(E=iBLF)

**** filed by:US-F(--) on 02/08/99 at 11:39EST ****
**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 02/08/99 at 12:52EST ****

PM-World Population,0303
Conference opens to examine progress, pitfalls in Cairo plan
By MIKE CORDER= Associated Press Writer=

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) Alarmed at soaring birth rates in countries already struggling to feed, clothe and educate their people, delegates from 180 nations opened a weeklong U.N. population conference today.

The 1,500 delegates will discuss how to implement and fund a plan drawn up five years ago at a population conference in Cairo, Egypt.

``Before the dawn of the next millennium, the six billionth human inhabitant of this planet will be born,'' Dutch Health Minister Els Borst said in an opening speech. ``The crucial question is to what extent that child will be able to live a dignified, productive and happy life.''

The plan adopted in Cairo in 1994 calls for universal access to affordable reproductive health services by the year 2015, including family planning, sexual health services and programs for adolescents.

The Hague Forum, the first major step in a review process that will culminate in a special meeting of the U.N. General Assembly in June, began with a minute's silence in memory of King Hussein of Jordan, who died Sunday.

The main attraction on the conference's first day, a keynote speech by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, was postponed because she was in Jordan for Hussein's funeral. She was to deliver her speech on Tuesday.

While progress has been made on many fronts, national delegations were stressing that funding remains a critical problem.

The Cairo conference produced a 20-year plan intended to increase global spending on population issues to $17 billion by 2000 and to $22 billion by 2015. Current spending is about $10.5 billion, said Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director of the U.N. Population Fund.

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 02/08/99 at 11:46EST ****
**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 02/08/99 at 14:44EST ****

BC-UN-POPULATION

Women's empowerment blocked by wars, poverty

By Eric Onstad

THE HAGUE, Feb 8 (Reuters) - An endless cycle of wars in developing countries is hurting women and drowning out the message that family planning brings social benefits, a United Nations population conference heard on Monday.

The Hague Forum, which began on Monday, is the first major follow-up to a landmark conference in Cairo five years ago. The Cairo meeting launched a 20-year programme of international action to stabilise the world's population, which is set to top six billion later this year.

Delegates from 180 countries were expected to hear appeals at the meeting to do more for female empowerment and adolescent reproductive rights. U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton was due to address the conference on Tuesday.

Monday's opening session focused on the plight of women in countries ravaged by war.

``It is pointless to talk about family planning issues or reproductive health when women are in situations of conflict and genocide,'' said Nana Rawlings, wife of Ghana's president Jerry Rawlings.

``Women are starting to stand up and say enough is enough on the African continent, especially on the state of conflict,'' she added in a keynote speech.

A staggering debt burden and an unequal global economy were also blocking developing countries' efforts to achieve Cairo's population programme, Rawlings said.

The 1994 conference was a watershed because it broke for the first time with traditional demographic targets in favour of a radical new approach, ``people rather than numbers.''

But its goals, such as providing universal access to reproductive health services by 2015, are rendered meaningless when women have to struggle to survive, Rawlings argued.

``Women and children form a disproportionate share of today's war victims, the wars that were started by men,'' she said.

Developing countries are also burdened by a global economic system in which commodity prices are falling and bilateral aid is declining, Rawlings said.

The Cairo conference concluded that women would decide to have fewer children if they were given proper access to education, health care and social opportunities.

As a result, in Ghana the age of marriage has now been set at 18, making illegal traditional nuptials at ages as low as 12, Rawlings said. A ritual practice of female servitude has also been banned, as has female genital mutilation.

The five-day Hague Forum aims to provide input for the U.N. Commission on Population and Development in New York in March, which will review the five years of action following the Cairo conference.

REUTERS

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 02/08/99 at 07:59EST ****
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3RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Associated Press
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February 09, 1999; Tuesday 15:04 Eastern Time

SECTION: International news

LENGTH: 448 words

Tuesday Hague Clips 1

HEADLINE: 1st Lady: Let Women Decide on Kids

BYLINE: ANTHONY DEUTSCH
AP-World-Population ,0483

DATELINE: THE HAGUE, Netherlands

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton took the podium at a U.N. population conference Tuesday to declare that all women should be allowed to make their own family planning choices and to praise those fighting China's restrictive one-child rule.

Mrs. Clinton was addressing 1,500 delegates from 180 countries in The Hague this week for the first major review of progress since a landmark 1994 U.N. population conference produced a 20-year plan to stem population growth and empower women worldwide.

''I hope we can agree first and foremost that government has no place in the personal decisions a woman makes about whether to bring a child into the world,'' the U.S. first lady said, to loud applause.

''That is a decision that should be made freely and responsibly without government coercion,'' Mrs. Clinton said, referring to governments who ban abortion outright, severely limit family planning services or like China enforce strict limits on family size.

Praising liberals in China, she spoke of ''new voices ... who are working to ensure that their country's family planning practices are voluntary and respectful of individual rights.''

She also backed an agreement reached between the Chinese government and the U.N. Population Fund, UNFPA, under which the agency has set up programs promoting voluntary family planning in 32 regions of China. Local officials in those area agreed to suspend their coercive family planning policies during the pilot programs.

Mrs. Clinton's comments were interpreted by delegates as a jab at the U.S. Congress, which last year withdrew funding for the UNFPA, in part because of its involvement in China. She said the Clinton administration was planning a $25 million donation to the agency in 2000.

Kate Michelman, president of the Washington, D.C.-based National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, praised the 30-minute speech as a powerful vision for women's rights.

''She gives women around the world hope that their lives can be better,'' Michelman said.

Mrs. Clinton said all women should have access to family planning programs, including safe abortion. Even in countries where family planning services are off-limits and abortion is illegal, wealthy and well-connected women can still manage to get access to those services, the first lady said.

According to the World Health Organization, about 78,000 deaths a year are due to unsafe abortions.

''That's equal to a jet plane full of pregnant women every day,'' said Rahman Anika, a delegate from the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy.

The WHO also estimates there are 20 million unsafe abortions a year and about 585,000 woman die in childbirth annually.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 09, 1999

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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Agence France Presse

February 09, 1999 UN-population lead 17:26 GMT

SECTION: International news

LENGTH: 561 words

HEADLINE: Governments must get out of women's lives: Hillary Clinton

DATELINE: (ADDS further quotes, background)

BODY:

THE HAGUE, Feb 9 (AFP) - Governments must stop meddling in individuals' family planning and leave women to make their own choices, Hillary Clinton, wife of US President Bill Clinton, told a UN conference on Tuesday.

"Government has no place in the personal decision a woman makes about whether to bring a child into the world," Clinton said at the world population conference organised by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

"That is a decision that should be made freely and responsibly without government coercion," she said.

"Human history is filled with the voices (..) of women who have suffered and died because governments were making decisions that women should have the freedom to make."

Clinton stressed however that it was the government's duty to provide adequate family planning information for women so that they could make an informed choice.

Governments must also provide the basic tools necessary to ensure that women could give birth or have abortions in safety.

"While governments have no place in such personal decisions, governments can and must play a critical role in helping women and families lead full and productive lives, and that includes making available voluntary family planning.

"Through family planning, we not only lessen the number of unwanted pregnancies but we diminish the number of illegal and unsafe abortions that cause so many deaths and so much suffering," she said.

According to World Health Organisation statistics, about 78,000 women die each year from unsafe abortions.

"Women do not have to die in childbirth. They don't have to bleed to death or suffer from terrible infections. (..) Motherhood can be a safe and healthy experience," the US First Lady said.

She highlighted the needs of poor women who do not have the same access to information and health services as richer women.

Education is vital in reversing this situation, she stressed.

"When we educate a woman, we educate a family and when we educate a family, we educate an entire society.

"No nation can move forward when women and children are trapped in endless cycles of poverty," she said.

Clinton was speaking on the second day of a five-day conference during which delegates from 180 countries are examining the progress made and obstacles encountered since the first International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994.

In Cairo, 179 countries signed the ICPD Programme of Action which aimed to promote a controlled world population growth, linking it to development, environment, health and human ressources.

With a population of three billion in 1960, the world is poised to breach the six-billion mark in October.

Although progress has been made since the Cairo conference, Clinton stressed that there were still many more improvements necessary.

"With nearly 600,000 women around the world who still die every year, that is one every minute, from pregnancy-related causes, this is no time to cut back our commitment to family planning," she warned.

"Respect for women's rights must be at the heart of our efforts to improve the quality of life for all the planet's citizens."

Among those present at the conference are Gro Harlem Brundtland of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Peter Piot of UNAIDS, Carol Bellamy of Unicef and James Speth of the UNPD.

jp/agv

LOAD-DATE: February 09, 1999

9TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Associated Press
AP Worldstream

February 09, 1999; Tuesday 11:26 Eastern Time

SECTION: International news

DISTRIBUTION: Europe;Britian;Scandinavia;England

LENGTH: 539 words

HEADLINE: AP Photos AMS101-103

BYLINE: ANTHONY DEUTSCH
World Population, 1st Ld-Writethru

DATELINE: THE HAGUE, Netherlands

BODY:

Praising reformers fighting to ease restrictive population policies such as China's one-child rule, Hillary Rodham Clinton told a U.N. conference Tuesday that all women should be allowed to make their own family planning choices.

''I hope we can agree first and foremost that government has no place in the personal decisions a woman makes about whether to bring a child into the world,'' the U.S. first lady said to loud applause from delegates at The Hague Forum.

''That is a decision that should be made freely and responsibly without government coercion,'' Mrs. Clinton said, referring to governments who ban abortion outright, severely limit family planning services or like China enforce strict limits on family size.

Praising liberals in China, she spoke of ''new voices ... who are working to ensure that their country's family planning practices are voluntary and respectful of individual rights.''

She also backed an agreement reached between the Chinese government and the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) under which the agency has set up programs promoting voluntary planning in 32 regions of China. Local officials in the regions agreed to suspend their coercive family planning policies during the pilot programs.

China's representative in The Hague could not be reached for comment.

Mrs. Clinton's comments were interpreted by delegates as a jab at the U.S. Congress, which last year withdrew funding for the UNFPA, in part because of its involvement in China. She said the Clinton administration was planning a dlrs 25 million donation to the agency in 2000.

Kate Michelman, president of the Washington, D.C.-based National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, praised the 30-minute speech as a powerful vision for women's rights.

''She gives women around the world hope that their lives can be better,'' Michelman said.

Mrs. Clinton said all women should have access to family planning programs, including safe abortion. Even in countries where family planning services are off-limits and abortion is illegal, wealthy and well-connected women can still manage to get access to those services, the first lady said.

''What we ask is that all women have the same right to do so on their own behalf,'' she said.

Mrs. Clinton was addressing some 1,500 delegates from 180 countries in The Hague this week for the first major review of progress since a landmark 1994 U.N. population conference in Cairo, Egypt, produced a 20-year plan to stem population growth and empower women worldwide.

Her support for women's rights to legal reproductive health care was echoed by Pragya Shah, a young girl speaking for the Nepalese Family Planning Association. She told delegates of a 14-year-old Nepalese girl, Min Min Lama, recently jailed for 20 years for taking medication to induce a miscarriage.

According to the World Health Organization, there are about 78,000 deaths a year directly resulting from unsafe abortions.

''That's equal to a jet plane full of pregnant women every day,'' said Rahman Anika from the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy. The WHO also estimates there are 20 million unsafe abortions a year and about 585,000 maternal deaths annually.

(ad/mc/bk)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 09, 1999

6TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Associated Press
AP Worldstream

February 09, 1999; Tuesday 13:32 Eastern Time

SECTION: International news

DISTRIBUTION: Middle East;England;Africa;Asia

LENGTH: 478 words

HEADLINE: AP Photos AMS101-102

BYLINE: ANTHONY DEUTSCH
World Population, 1st Ld-Writethru,0535

DATELINE: THE HAGUE, Netherlands

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton urged governments Tuesday to abandon coercive family planning and allow women to make their own reproductive decisions.

''I hope we can agree first and foremost that government has no place in the personal decisions a woman makes about whether to bring a child into the world,'' the U.S. first lady said to loud applause from U.N. delegates at The Hague Forum.

''That is a decision that should be made freely and responsibly without government coercion,'' Mrs. Clinton said, referring to governments who ban abortion outright, severely limit family planning services or like China enforce strict limits on family size.

She praised reformers in China and backed an agreement reached between the Chinese government and the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) under which the agency has set up programs promoting voluntary planning in 32 regions of China. Local officials in the regions agreed to suspend their coercive family planning policies during the pilot programs.

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''That's equal to a jet plane full of pregnant women every day,'' said Rahman Anika from the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 09, 1999

BC-UN-POPULATION

Hillary Clinton: U.S. backs global family planning

By Eric Onstad

THE HAGUE (Reuters) - First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on Tuesday vowed fresh U.S. commitment to fund global family planning despite budget cuts by Congress.

``When nearly 600,000 women around the world still die every year -- that is one every minute -- from pregnancy-related causes, this is no time to cut back on our commitments to family planning,'' she told a United Nations population conference.

President Clinton's administration was determined to provide money and work with other governments to meet goals agreed at a landmark population conference in Cairo in 1994, she told delegates from 180 countries.

With the world's population set to top six billion this year, the meeting in The Hague is reviewing progress toward an ambitious 20-year action plan agreed in Cairo, focusing on empowering women and improving reproductive health.

Delegates in Cairo agreed $17 billion was needed by 2000, but they are short by $7 billion.

The first lady said she hoped Congress, in the 2000 budget, would restore at least $20 million in funding for the U.N. Population Fund which was cut this year after conservative opposition.

Opponents should understand that improving women's health and providing family planning services would reduce the number of abortions, she said.

The United States has spent over $3 billion since 1994 to help implement the Cairo goals, which include providing universal reproductive health care to all by 2015, U.S. officials said.

Relative to the size of its economy, the U.S. contribution put it eighth out of 20 major donors. But to meet the Cairo objectives, Washington would have to triple its spending on population and health programs by next year to $2 billion annually, the officials added.

REUTERS

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 02/09/99 at 10:44EST ****
**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 02/09/99 at 15:55EST ****

11TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 9, 1999, Tuesday, BC Cycle
15:09 Central European Time

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 244 words

HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton: Let women have control of their lives and bodies

DATELINE: The Hague

BODY:

Women should have control over their lives and their bodies, Hillary Clinton told a group of international delegates in the Dutch capital on Tuesday.

Family planning, contraceptives and medical attention should be available for all woman, the U.S. First Lady said at the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) conference.

Governments need to stay out of women's decisions whether they want to have children, Clinton told some 2,000 representatives from 180 countries on the second day of the week-long conference, designed to review progress made in curbing global population growth.

She spoke out against bans on contraceptives and measures taken by the state to control populations, saying governments should make sure all children are wanted and all pregnancies are planned.

Clinton acknowledged China's promise to loosen its one-child policy, saying Chinese should be able to have more children if they want.

The UNFPA conference is reviewing progress made since the world population conference was held in Cairo five years ago.

UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik of Pakistan spoke of clear progress, saying in many countries the political basis existed to implement the goals mapped out in Cairo.

Dutch Health Minister Els Borst noted that global population will reach 6 billion this year. She said, however, it was not the number that counted but the economic, social and health conditions of mankind. dpa dh

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 9, 1999

5TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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AP Online

Jordan Clips

February 09, 1999; Tuesday 14:00 Eastern Time

SECTION: International news

LENGTH: 701 words

HEADLINE: Women Offer Sympathy to Queen Noor

BYLINE: LAURA KING
AP-Jordan-The-Women ,0738

DATELINE: AMMAN, Jordan

BODY:

In the end, it was she who comforted them.

At Amman's Ottoman-era Zahran Palace, an endless line of Jordanian women in black Bedouin robes, in army fatigues, in chic business suits came Tuesday to pay their condolences to Queen Noor, the American-born widow of their fallen king.

She didn't merely receive them; she embraced them.

The queen saw her husband's grave for the first time earlier Tuesday, when she and immediate family gathered at the gravesite at dawn for private prayers.

Arab Muslim tradition mandates the separation of men and women during the most emotionally charged and religiously significant moments of funeral rites, and royal women are buried in a segregated section of the royal cemetery.

So Noor the former Lisa Halaby, an architect from Washington, D.C., who took her husband's religion when she married him 21 years ago was not present Monday when King Hussein's body was ritually washed and scented with musk, prayed over in the palace mosque, borne by mourners to the royal burial ground, and lowered into a stone-lined grave clad in a simple white shroud.

The queen spent the funeral day largely sequestered, in the company of other royal women and visiting dignitaries, among them Hillary Rodham Clinton.

On Tuesday, however, the gates of the palace were opened to ordinary Jordanian women.

The 47-year-old Noor, tall and slender in a close-fitting black jacket and long black skirt, her pale face free of makeup, stood at the head of a royal women's receiving line, greeting a line of women stretching out the door.

As the women approached, she stroked their cheeks, cradled their faces in both hands, enfolded them in her arms, bent to peer intently into their eyes. One stern-looking middle-aged army officer, in fatigues and a black beret, sobbed in the queen's arms.

The cloistered nature of the event made this striking outpouring possible. Only women were present, except for an elderly man in the corner: the royal incense bearer, in a crisp khaki uniform and red-checked kaffiyeh headdress, holding an elaborate brass censer.

''At an emotional time like this, people need to express their feelings and, because of public practices here, that is more easily and naturally done within the same gender,'' University of Jordan sociologist Musa Shkeiwi said.

There was no question of breaking with the tradition of separation for the king's funeral, even though Jordan's brand of Sunni Islam tends toward the tolerant and secular-minded.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright stayed away from the king's funeral, noting the policy of exclusion. But the women visiting Noor on Tuesday said they did not feel left out, either from funeral rites or the males-only reception for the new king taking place Tuesday across town.

''We are among ourselves, and we can be ourselves,'' said one middle-aged mourner, hand-in-hand with a female friend.

Despite her husband's death, Noor still has an important public role in Jordan: She retains her title of queen, and she is the mother of Hamzeh, the new crown prince.

King Abdullah's wife, Rania, does not automatically receive the title of queen, which can only be bestowed by Abdullah. And Jordan allows for more than one woman to hold the title.

Although Noor was to spend the next two days, eight hours a day, greeting visitors, she received each woman as if she were the first mourner, pausing only momentarily to adjust the white headscarf draped loosely over her long blond hair.

''It's as if she was the one to give condolence, not I,'' said Insaf Kadrasheh, 62, as she emerged red-eyed. ''She held my hands, really held them like this,'' she said, clasping a reporter's hands for emphasis, squeezing gently.

A Bedouin woman with blue face tattoos, Thiba Sadeq el-Hamoud, said she had gotten up before dawn to travel to the capital from the desert town of Mafraq to see the queen.

''Hussein was our king,'' she said, sobbing. ''I would have given my eyes to him I told her that.''

The Jordanian women who met with her, however briefly, said it was a moment they would never forget.

''She was so brave,'' said Mrs. Kadrasheh. ''She is ... well, she is a queen.''

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 09, 1999

18TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Associated Press
AP Online

February 09, 1999; Tuesday 02:50 Eastern Time

SECTION: International news

LENGTH: 713 words

HEADLINE: Clinton, Ex-Presidents at Funeral

BYLINE: TERENCE HUNT
AP-Clinton-King-Hussein ,0750

DATELINE: AMMAN, Jordan

BODY:

Four U.S. presidents involved in a quarter-century search for peace in the Middle East bade farewell to a beloved ally Monday, standing together in silent tribute beside the casket of King Hussein.

Bill Clinton, George Bush, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford joined an extraordinary array of world leaders in paying respects to the monarch who ruled Jordan for 46 years and was recognized as a steady voice of moderation in Arab-Israeli peacemaking. Jordanian officials said about 50 heads of state attended.

''Hussein really did bring people together,'' Clinton marveled. ''People coming from all around the world, countries that are at each other's throat, here meeting in peace and friendship and the sanctity of the umbrella of this great man.''

Clinton got a hug from ailing Russian President Boris Yeltsin. He chatted briefly with Syrian President Hafez el-Assad, a holdout to Mideast peace talks. He talked with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Britain's Prince Charles and Prime Minister Tony Blair, France's President Jacques Chirac, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, Spain's King Juan Carlos and many others.

Clinton asked Assad to support Jordan, the only Arab nation other than Egypt to sign a peace accord with Israel. ''Assad sort of said yes,'' said Sandy Berger, Clinton's national security adviser.

The U.S. presidents two Democrats and two Republicans flew here overnight together on Air Force One, exchanging remembrances of the king and comparing notes on Russia, North Korea, the Middle East and Kosovo.

In a near-freezing cold, the four presidents and a crowd of dignitaries stood patiently outside Raghdan Palace to enter the throne room where Hussein's casket rested. Later, they joined hundreds of officials in a procession behind the king's caisson.

Hussein's horse, an Arab stallion named Amre, strode down the streets, a pair of boots backward in the stirrups, symbolizing the fallen horseman.

Clinton, Carter and Bush expressed confidence that Hussein's 37-year-old son, the newly crowned but politically untested King Abdullah, would follow the path of peace blazed by his father. ''He'll do just fine,'' Bush said.

Carter recalled that King Hussein sought permission for Abdullah to attend all official U.S.-Jordanian discussions at the White House many years ago, when the boy was just 12. Carter said he was confident Abdullah was qualified to lead.

A parade of luxury sedans brought world leaders to the palace for private audiences with the new monarch. After a 25-minute meeting with Abdullah, Clinton and the former presidents met with the staff of the U.S. Embassy. Clinton recounted his talk with the new king.

''He said in the most moving way ... 'I and all of my brothers and sisters have absorbed our father's teaching. We know what we are supposed to do and I intend to do it.' And he said it in a way that exuded the quiet, humble confidence that I saw so often in his father,'' Clinton said.

Berger said Clinton stressed to Abdullah the importance of reassuring Israel about Jordan's commitment to peace.

Hillary Rodham Clinton met privately at the palace with Hussein's widow, the American-born Queen Noor. In a scene unlikely in the United States, after the meeting, the queen left the palace, jumped into the driver's seat of a Mercedes and drove away with her two daughters and Hussein's daughter by his third wife.

Mrs. Clinton said later that while meeting with the queen, ''I could not help but think how much better off this region and our world would be if not only leaders, but all of us, stopped to think: How would King Hussein have acted, what would he have said?

Clinton ran into Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a tent outside the Royal Guard's Mosque on the palace compound. Only Muslims were allowed inside for the prayer ceremony.

Later, Clinton spoke of the Israeli delegation and Hussein's ability to unify people.

''I looked at the Israeli delegation today, I could hardly believe my eyes,'' Clinton told the U.S. Embassy staff. ''All the candidates for prime minister were there. They were walking together.

''I don't know if they talk at home,'' Clinton said, ''but they were all talking here. I thought it was as if Hussein was hugging them all, you know?''

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 09, 1999

33RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Times Mirror Company
Los Angeles Times

February 9, 1999, Tuesday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part A; Page 13; Foreign Desk

LENGTH: 849 words

HEADLINE: FUNERAL FOR A KING;
AN APPRECIATION;
FOR THOSE WHO KNEW HUSSEIN, HIS GRACIOUSNESS LIVES FOREVER

BYLINE: ROBIN WRIGHT, TIMES STAFF WRITER

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

For almost half a century, he was known as the PLK--Plucky Little King.

It was not a sign of irreverence or ridicule directed at his diminutive size. The familiarity instead reflected the great admiration of virtually everyone who came into contact with Jordan's King Hussein.

In an era when monarchies are otherwise in demise, he was the Everyman King, as accessible to his people and the press as he was to prime ministers and presidents. We all really meant, "Long live the King," because behind that deep, authoritative voice speaking in that clipped, blue-blood British accent was an impish smile, a zest for adventure, even a little mischief, and a profound humility.

He was certainly among the least pretentious of the world's royals, despite protocol officials at his Amman palace cautioning visitors about turning their backs on the king or crossing their legs so that the soles of their feet faced him. "Don't worry about them," the king told me the first time I interviewed him. "They're well intentioned." And he chuckled.

The king's warmth was genuine. After the 1994 peace accord with Israel, Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton hosted a formal reception for the signatories at the State Department. The receiving line was telling. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the no-nonsense former general, clearly wasn't much interested in the fanfare and shook hands perfunctorily. President Clinton was basking in the limelight of a major foreign policy success, chatting with everyone in line. Hillary Clinton was coolly hurrying up the procession her husband had slowed down, barely acknowledging those like me she didn't know.

King Hussein was next. It was his moment of honor, an event capping decades of determined and secret diplomacy.

"Ah, Robin, how are you?" he began, before I could offer congratulations on the peace accord. "We haven't seen you in Amman lately. When are you coming to

visit? And how's your family?"

Hillary Clinton leaned over momentarily to see if perhaps I might be someone interesting or important. I wasn't, of course. But the king had a way of making those around him feel they were of value and worth knowing.

His sense of humanity was central to his greatest achievements.

In the world's most volatile region, the Jordanian monarch was perhaps the only man not over-whelmed by the politics of hate. He dared to meet secretly, and often more than once, with every Israeli leader save Menachem Begin--and only because Begin backed out.

"What a wonderful discovery it is to find out that people across that barrier feel the same way, have the same fears, have the same hopes, have the same suffering," he told me in a 1996 interview.

In a region of intransigent politicians and radical politics that almost cost him his life in repeated assassination attempts, the Jordanian monarch was an enduring optimist. His grand vision extended beyond both his own legacy and his own time.

"There is no alternative to peace for any of us," he told me. "We would be failing not only ourselves, but we would be failing all future generations if we do not seize this opportunity."

And in a region holding out against democracy, King Hussein began gradually transforming a poor desert kingdom with a predominantly tribal and nomadic society into a modern pluralist political state. Since the late 1980s, Jordan has conducted three multi-party elections for its new parliament.

"The clock can't be turned back. Popular participation is the best way to achieve our political objectives," he said.

His parting words to me were prescient. "Jordan was once a country that people said could not survive. But now we are an example for others. I hope others will come and build on our democratic experiment. We have every reason to believe that we can eventually achieve what happened in Europe--and more," he said.

"But it's also not something that will happen in a single lifetime."

Despite his passion for peace, King Hussein was no political angel. He was prepared to shed blood. He went to war with Israel in 1967, a deadly mistake that cost his kingdom the strategic West Bank and historic Jerusalem in a mere six days of fighting.

He fought with Arabs, both neighboring Syria and Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization, which he ended up booting out of Jordan. He also was prepared to use a firm hand--very firm, if need be--at home. Despite the new parliament, he usually had the last word.

And he made serious political mistakes, most recently by siding with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein during the 1990-91 Persian Gulf crisis. He later reversed course and called for the Iraqi despot's ouster. His enduring

relationship with the United States also often cost him stature in the Arab world.

Yet the Hashemite king was still more warmly embraced than any other contemporary Mideast leader. And even in his mistakes, his detractors often conceded that the king was probably well-intentioned.

Wright, a staff writer in The Times' Washington Bureau, has covered events in the Middle East for 25 years.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: February 9, 1999

AM-Hussein-Women,0527
Hussein's queen bids farewell from a distance
With AM-King Hussein, Bjt
AP Photos AMM149,176
By ALIA SHUKRI HAMZEH= Associated Press Writer=

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) Queen Noor watched her husband's burial from afar.

The American-born wife of King Hussein hugged the monarch's sister in a courtyard about 100 feet from the grave. Muslim tradition prohibits women even wives from attending burial rites.

The scene was a profound summary of Noor's life since becoming Hussein's fourth wife in 1978. The Princeton-educated architect has adopted and adhered to the customs of her husband's desert kingdom.

Several women dignitaries, including first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and the Netherland's Queen Beatrix, came to Amman to pay their respects but were unable to join mourners at the burial.

Noor paid her last respects to Hussein in a private room at the Bab al-Salam ''Door of Peace'' palace on the outskirts of Amman. Noor, 47, then emerged with puffy and tear-clouded eyes, looking pale and wan in a long black skirt and jacket. Her hair was covered with a white scarf in a sign of traditional mourning.

She stood in the palace's doorway with her two daughters and watched Hussein's body carried away for a nine-mile procession through Amman to the Raghdan Palace compound, where he was buried next to his father and grandfather.

Noor was later driven to Raghdan and waited with her daughters, Iman, 15, and Raya, who turns 13 on Tuesday. They went to a second-floor room after world leaders and other mourners filed past the coffin and the body was moved to a nearby mosque to begin the burial rites, said palace sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Media coverage in the palace was banned.

``The queen walked with her hands crossed and often bowed to salute soldiers greeting her at the entrance of Raghdan,'' said one source.

To the echo of verses from the Koran sounding from loudspeakers, Noor shook hands and kissed several women officials. They included Mrs. Clinton, Beatrix, Irish President Mary McAleese and Queen Sofia of Spain, a close friend of the Jordanian royal family.

Mrs. Clinton arrived at Raghdan in a four-car motorcade. The first lady emerged slowly from her limousine, her head covered by a beige scarf. She spent about a half hour alone with the queen, said her spokeswoman Marsha Berry.

Later in the evening, Noor was greeted by Arab and Western leaders.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright stayed away from the funeral in deference to Muslim tradition, spokesman James P. Rubin said Monday.

``One should not make too much of it,'' Rubin said after Albright told ABC-TV she did not attend the funeral because women were not allowed to participate in Muslim funeral rites.

Albright said it would have been awkward to go under the circumstances.

``I think it is better to be here, and the president and Mrs. Clinton are representing the United States. And I think that is appropriate,'' she said.

Eds: Associated Press Writer Sonya Ross and AP Diplomatic Writer Barry Schweid contributed to this article.

**** filed by:APE-(--) on 02/08/99 at 16:00EST ****
**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 02/08/99 at 17:28EST ****

BC-JORDAN-HILLARY

Hillary Clinton in Jordan for Hussein funeral

AMMAN, Feb 8 (Reuters) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton arrived in Jordan early on Monday to attend the funeral of King Hussein, who died on Sunday of cancer.

She flew in from the Netherlands where she had been speaking at a U.N. conference.

U.S. President Bill Clinton was due later on Monday from the United States.

The first lady, who did not speak to reporters, was greeted on arrival at Queen Alia Airport by Jordan's Prime Minister Fayez al-Tarawnah.

The U.S. president, in a tribute earlier, said King Hussein, who ruled his country for nearly half a century and made a historic peace accord with Israel in 1994, had exhibited rare courage.

``When peace finally comes to the Middle East, his name will be inscribed upon it. That day, King Hussein will smile upon us once more,'' he said.

REUTERS

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 02/07/99 at 20:03EST ****
**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 02/08/99 at 08:36EST ****

UNITED STATES EMBASSY

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE

FAX TRANSMITTAL

February 8, 1999

FOR: Toby Graff
White House
FAX NO.: 202-456-2960/7805

FROM: PAO- Steve Rounds
FAX NO.: 31-70-365-8837

NO. PAGES: 17 (including this page)

SUBJECT: Dutch Press Coverage of First Lady visit- Translations

Attached is all Dutch press coverage (with translations/summaries) of yesterday's visit.

UNITED STATES EMBASSY THE HAGUE

USIS PRESS TRANSLATION

EXCERPTS:

2/8/99 DE VOLKSKRANT (page 3)

Under the headline "Hillary's Home Match Before UN Public," Annicke Kranenberg/Rob Vreeken in DE VOLKSKRANT report: "NGO representatives from some 140 countries had been hoping for days that the president's spouse would speak to them during the evaluation of the 1994 UN Population Conference in Cairo. When she entered the Congresgebouw in The Hague, she was welcomed with a standing ovation. They all seemed to express their admiration in the applause for the president's wife who has suffered so many humiliations this last year. Hillary Clinton did not seem to be preoccupied by the impeachment trial which is being conducted against her spouse. With enthusiasm she praised the NGOs which , since the conference in Cairo, 'have finally been accorded their well-deserved place at the negotiation table.' In her view, women, youth, and men must have their say in reproduction, sexual rights and health care. NGOs play a major role in this.

"We must not only save lives, but also change lives", the First Lady states. She referred to the prohibiting of FMG (female genital mutilation) in Senegal. During a visit to this African country she learned that the initiative had been taken by one village, where the inhabitants wanted to abolish the traditional practice. Messengers traveled to other villages to try to activate a movement by the people against FMG. This led to a legal prohibition.

Hillary remained silent about one issue on the agenda: money. As a matter of fact, that (issue) could be painful. Although the Clinton administration is favorably inclined toward the UN Population Fund, UNFPA, the Congress is an obstacle. A majority (in the Congress) does not want aid funds to go to China because of the country's one-child policy and violations of human rights. Conservatives fear that the UNFPA may use the money to promote abortion. This year, for the first time, the UNFPA will receive no money at all from the United States.

Hillary touches only tangentially on the American debate on abortion. National health organizations are doing good work, she states. "They ensure that abortions are safe, legal, and infrequent."

Now that the earth has a population of almost six billion people and attempts to slow down the population growth take place only gradually, Hillary says that the NGOs must not abandon hope. "The challenge is to endure. Never think that your work has no influence on people's lives". Offering the umpteenth applause, the NGO representatives in the room received compliments from the woman who has had to share her private life with the rest of the world.

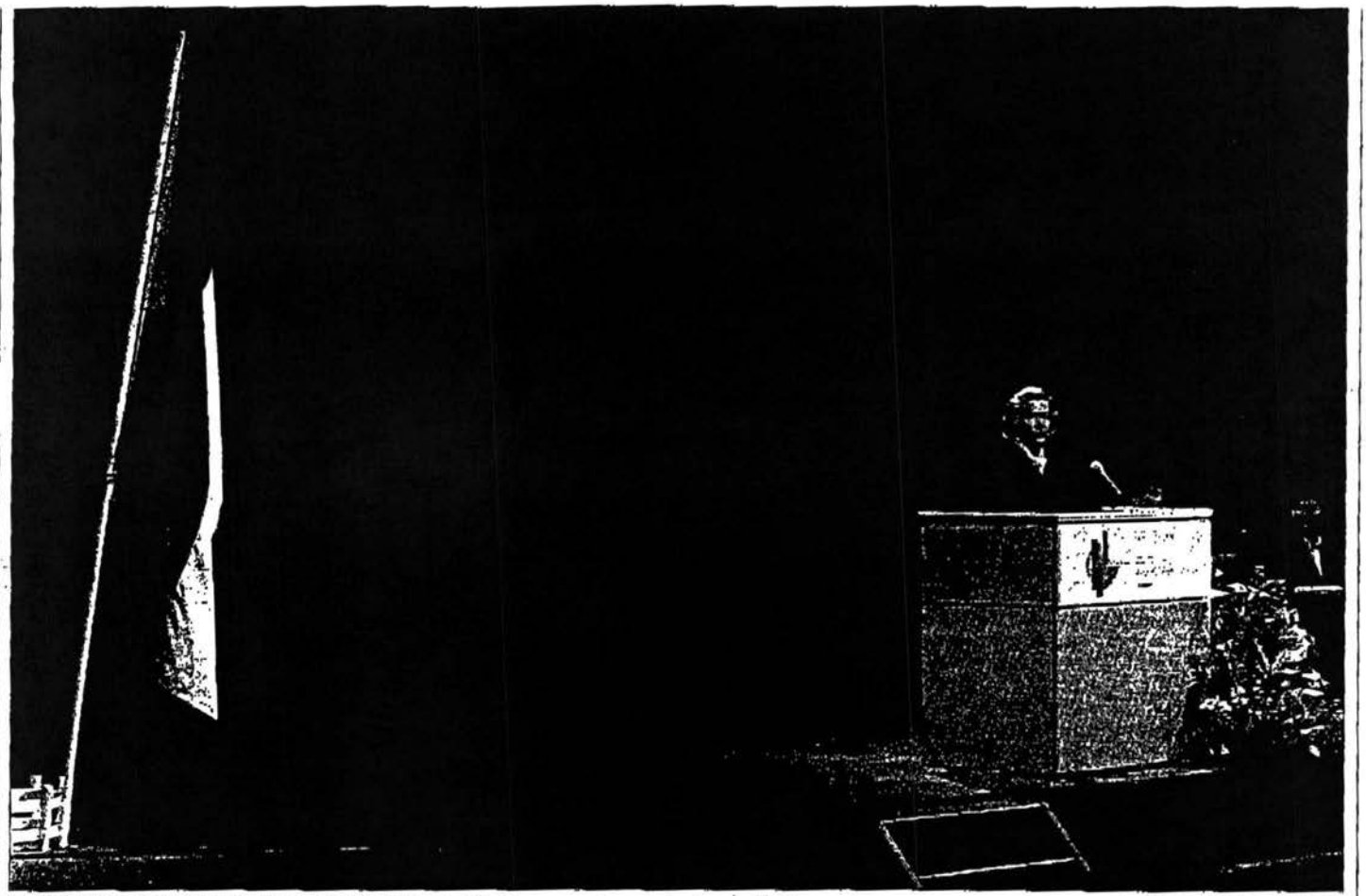
"The events of the past year have made people finally realize who Mrs. Clinton really is,' says

Cynthia Schneider, U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands and a good friend of Hillary. 'They can see that she is a complete person, a mother, a working wife and a friend.' Schneider described her attitude as 'grace under pressure' – under pressure she has kept her dignity.

Before the President's wife left for a reception in Schneider's residence, she visited the International Court Tribunal for Yugoslavia where she met with Judge Gabrielle Kirk McDonald. The one hundred meters between the two buildings were covered by the First Lady and her delegation in armored cars, escorted by motorized police.

The speech which Hillary Clinton was scheduled to deliver this morning before the government delegations was cancelled because of the funeral of King Hussein. Tomorrow, however, she will return to deliver her speech. It is not known yet whether she will meet with Prime Minister Kok who is going to Jordan with Queen Beatrix. In the eyes of the visitors the conference is already a major success. Hillary came, spoke, and was victorious.

The article is accompanied by a photo of the First Lady during her address to the conference.



First Lady Hillary Clinton tijdens haar toespraak tot het congres. FOTO BERT VERHOEFF – DE VOLKSKRANT

Hillary's thuiswedstrijd voor VN-publiek

Van onze verslaggever
Anneke Kranenberg
Rob Vreeken

DEN HAAG

Komt Hillary nog? Is koning Hussein al dood? Deze twee vragen hadden, afgelopen weekeinde in het Haagse Congresgebouw, alles met elkaar te maken. De First Lady zou de grote attractie worden van de VN-bevolkingsconferentie. Maar ze zou natuurlijk óók naar de begrafenis van de dode koning moeten. Als zondagochtend het bericht doorsijpelt dat Hussein is overleden, zit Hillary Clinton gelukkig al in haar Boeing op weg naar Nederland.

De afgevaardigden van niet-gouvernementele organisaties (ngo's) uit ongeveer 140 landen hebben dagenlang gehoopt dat de presidentsvrouw hun zal toespreken tijdens de evaluatie van de VN-bevolkingsconferentie in Cairo van 1994. Als Hillary om vijf uur 's middags haar entree maakt, krijgt ze een staande ovatie.

Iedereen lijkt zijn bewondering voor de presidentsvrouw, die het afgelopen jaar zulke vernederingen moest ondergaan, in dit applaus te leggen.

Hillary Clinton lijkt zich geheel niet bezig te houden met het impeachmentproces dat tegen haar echtgenoot wordt gevoerd. Gedreven huldigt zij de ngo's, die sinds de conferentie in Cairo 'eindelijk de verdiende plek aan de onderhandelingstafel' hebben gekregen. Volgens haar moeten vrouwen, jongeren en mannen kunnen meebeslissen over voortplanting, seksuele rechten en gezondheidszorg. Daarin spelen ngo's een belangrijke rol.

'We moeten niet alleen levens redden, maar ook levens veranderen', zegt de First Lady. Ze refereert aan het verbod op vrouwenbesnijdenis in Senegal. Tijdens een bezoek aan het Afrikaanse land hoorde zij dat het initiatief was uitgegaan van één dorp, waar de bewoners de traditionele praktijk wilden afschaffen. Boodschappers trokken naar andere dorpen om een volksbeweging tegen vrouwenbesnijdenis op gang te krijgen. Dit leidde tot een wettelijk verbod.

Over één onderwerp van de agenda zwijgt Hillary: geld. Het zou ook misschien wat pijnlijk zijn. Hoewel de regering-Clinton

> First Lady steekt ngo's hart onder de riem

het VN-bevolkingsfonds Unfpa, organisator van de Haagse conferentie, goed gezind is, ligt het Congres dwars. Een meerderheid wil niet dat hulpgeld naar China gaat, vanwege het éénkindbeleid en de schendingen van mensenrechten. Conservatieven vrezen dat Unfpa het geld gebruikt om abortus te bevorderen. Dit jaar krijgt Unfpa voor het eerst helemaal geen geld van de VS.

Hillary laat zich in haar toespraak zijdelings uit over het Amerikaanse abortusdebat. Nationale gezondheidsorganisaties doen goed werk, zegt ze, 'Zij maken abortus veilig, legaal én zeldzaam.'

Nu de aarde al bijna zes miljard bewoners telt en pogingen om de bevolkingsgroei terug te dringen traag verlopen, zegt Hillary dat de ngo's de moed niet moeten verliezen. 'De uitdaging is om vol te houden. Denk nooit dat jullie werk geen invloed heeft op de levens van mensen.' Met het zoveelste applaus ontvangen de ngo-vertegenwoordigers in de zaal het compliment van de vrouw die haar privé-leven met de rest van de wereld moest delen.

'Door de tegenstanden van het afgelopen jaar zien mensen duidelijk wie mevrouw Clinton werkelijk is', zegt Cynthia Schneider, de Amerikaanse ambassadeur in Nederland en goede vriendin van Hillary. 'Ze zien dat ze een complect mens is. Een moeder, een werkende vrouw en een vriendin.' Schneider typeert haar houding als 'grace under pressure' – onder druk heeft zij haar waardigheid behouden.

Voordat de presidentsvrouw naar een receptie in de ambtswoning van Schneider vertrekt, brengt ze een bezoek aan het Joegoslavië-tribunaal, waar ze rechter Gabrielle Kirk McDonald ontmoet. De honderd meter tussen de twee gebouwen worden door de First Lady en haar delegatie in geblindeerde auto's, omringd door motorrijders, afgelegd.

De speech die Hillary Clinton vanochtend zou houden voor de regeringsdelegaties gaat niet door vanwege de begrafenis van koning Hussein. Maar morgen komt ze terug om alsnog haar toespraak te houden. Of ze premier Kok, die met koningin Beatrix naar Jordanië afreist, morgen ook zal ontmoeten, is nog niet bekend.

Voor de bezoekers van de conferentie kan zo al niet meer stuk. Hillary kwam, sprak en overwon.

De Volkskrant, 2/8/99

2/8/99 DE TELEGRAAF (page 3)

Under the heading "Lightning Visit by Hillary to The Hague, DE TELEGRAAF reports: "Hillary Clinton paid a lightning visit to the World Population Conference in The Hague's Congress Center. Delayed by problems with her aircraft before she left Washington and bad weather over the Valkenburg airfield she delivered a fifteen-minute pep talk to a thousand international participants, exhorting them to apply new methods to contain the explosive growth of the world population.

The conference was made possible by a donation of one million guilders from Minister for Development Cooperation Herfkens. Hillary, who is going to attend the funeral of Jordan's King Hussein today together with her husband President Clinton, pleaded in The Hague for a different approach to birth control by putting the emphasis on better conditions of life and sexual education – rather than target figures. Hillary will return to The Hague on Tuesday."

Bliksembezoek Hillary aan Den Haag

De Telegraaf
2/8/99

• *Hillary Clinton heeft een bliksembezoek gebracht aan een wereldbevolkingsconferentie van de Verenigde Naties in het Haagse Congrescentrum. Met een vertraagde aankomst door problemen met haar vliegtuig bij vertrek uit Washington en slecht weer boven het vliegveld Valkenburg, hield zij er een peptalk van een kwartier om duizend internationale deelnemers aan te sporen nieuwe methoden in praktijk te brengen om de explosieve bevolkingsgroei in de wereld te beperken.*

De conferentie is door minister Herfkens (Ontwikkelingssamenwerking) met een gift van een miljoen gulden mogelijk gemaakt. Hillary, die vandaag alweer aan de zijde van president Clinton de begrafenis van de Jordaanse koning Hoessein bijwoont, pleitte in Den Haag voor een andere benadering van de geboortebeperking door niet streefcijfers, maar verbetering van levensomstandigheden en seksuele opvoeding centraal te stellen. Hillary keert dinsdag terug naar Den Haag. FOTO: RICHARD MOUW

2/8/99 TROUW (page 3)
"WOMEN TAKE THEIR PLACE AT GOVERNMENT BOARDS"
by Barbara Berger and Nicole Lucas

"Let us think for a moment of the numerous women throughout the world who are captured by the daily struggle for survival. Women who would like more self-determination in their lives. It is for them that here we build toward a new reality."

Yesterday in The Hague, Hillary Rodham Clinton encouraged the international women's movement in its struggle for self-determination over their bodies and lives.... In recent years, Hillary Rodham Clinton said, independent women's organizations have obtained a seat at government tables. 'Finally, the voices of ordinary people are being heard, but we still have a long way to go. There are still authorities who do not want to listen.' She said that attempts to make abortion 'safe, legal and rare' were successful in the United States, thanks to cooperation between women's rights and health organizations.

The American First Lady briefly stopped in The Netherlands yesterday on her way to the funeral of Jordan's King Hussein. At this moment, hundreds of representatives of independent organizations and governments are gathered in The Hague to examine what the results are of the vows made five years ago at the international World Population Conference in Cairo

Rodham Clinton emphasized that it was necessary to involve 'fathers, sons and spouses' in the process of giving women greater choice. "They must be full and willing partners". According to her it is thanks to the involvement of men that FMG has been prohibited in Senegal this year.". . .

Trouw, 2/8/99 p.3

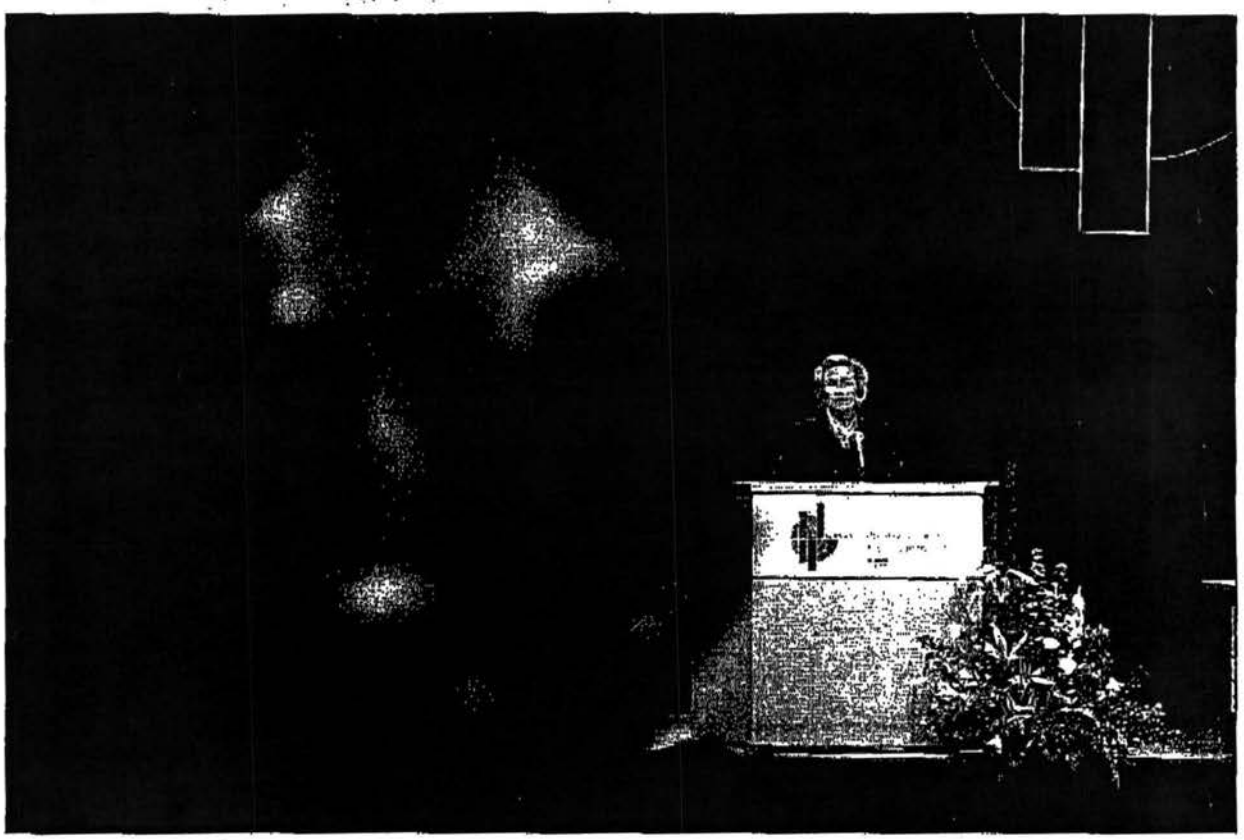
'VN zijn bang voor religie'

Amerikaanse hoogleraar religieuze studies: Behoefte aan zingeving groeit

Bevolkingsconferentie

Barbara Berger en Nicole Lucas

DEN HAAG – De Verenigde Naties zijn bang voor het woord 'godsdienst'. Het wordt systematisch uit de VN-documenten gehouden. Maar als je niet erkent dat religieuze gevoelens belangrijk zijn voor miljarden mensen, mannen én vrouwen, kun je nog zoveel internationale afspraken maken over emancitie of vrijheid, het werkt niet.



Hillary Clinton in Den Haag. FOTO MAARTEN HARTMAN

Begrijp dr. Riffat Hassan goed: de Amerikaanse hoogleraar religieuze studies, zelf moslim van Pakistaanse afkomst, pleit niét voor meer invloed van fundamentalisten als het Vaticaan of moslimextremisten. „Maar we moeten wel de dialoog aangaan en niet bang voor ze zijn." Volgens Hassan wordt de behoefte aan zingeving wereldwijd steeds groter.

„Religie is ontzettend belangrijk en inspirerend voor miljarden mensen, of je dat nou leuk vindt of niet. Dat wil ik terugvinden in de VN-documenten, want anders gaan ze aan de realiteit voorbij. Het leven in al zijn facetten valt niet te reduceren tot droge statistieken. Er bestaat immers geen makkelijke manier om te praten over gevoelige zaken als abortus en anticonceptie. De invloed van religie moet ook bij deze onderwerpen op tafel. Ga het debat maar aan, ook met mensen die anders denken. Anders kom je in de praktijk niet verder."

Begrijpelijk is de koudwatervrees van de VN wel, stelt Hassan. Immers, de VN ontstonden op de puinhopen van oorlogen, waarbij religie vaak een rol speelde. „De VN proberen het thema 'religie' zoveel mogelijk te ontwijken. Ze weten niet hoe ze ermee om moeten gaan. In de documenten staat altijd wel dat rekening moet worden gehouden met sociale, culturele en politieke factoren, maar religie staat er niet bij. Toch is religie veel meer dan cultuur."

Hassan was afgelopen weekeinde in Den Haag voor een internationale bijeenkomst waar vrouwen-, mensenrechten-, en milieuorganisaties onderzochten wat er van de voornemens van de bevolkingsconferentie in Cairo in 1994 terecht is gekomen. Daar erkenden 180 VN-lidstaten dat emancipatie van vrouwen de sleutel is om de bevolkingsgroei af te remmen.

Hassan: „We moeten erkennen dat godsdienst de grootste hindernis is voor de emancipatie van vrouwen, zeker in de islamitische wereld. Daar groeit de bevolking immers het hardst." Met de Koran in de hand verhinderen religieuze leiders dat vrouwen zeggenschap krijgen over hun lijf en leven. „Maar er is ook een andere interpretatie van de Koran mogelijk. Kijk naar anticonceptie. Volgens de conservatieve moslimleiders verbiedt de Koran dat. Volgens de liberalen zwijgt de Koran erover. Maar dat klopt niet. De Koran benadrukt sociale gerechtigheid, redelijkheid en de noodzaak kennis te verwerven als ethische principes. Kijk naar de meerderheid van de moslimvrouwen. Die zijn arm, analfabeet, wonen in een dorp en hebben al tien kinderen. Natuurlijk geeft de Koran hun het recht anticonceptie te gebruiken."

Dat blijkt, opvallend genoeg, in Iran, dat na de revolutie een bevolkingsexplosie kende. De religieuze leiders stimuleren op grote schaal het gebruik van anticonceptiemiddelen. Hassan: „Daar mag het wel, al is het natuurlijk om pragmatische redenen. Vrouwen mogen daar ook op grote schaal naar de universiteit. Het analfabetisme is in tien jaar tijd volledig uitgebannen. Het regime moest wel, het moest ook iets positiefs doen voor de bevolking, en koos voor gezondheid en scholing."

Volgens Hassan is theologische kennis essentieel voor de vrouwenstrijd in kerk, synagoge, tempel en moskee. Dit bleek mereen tijdens de discussie, toen een man uitvoerig uit het Oude Testament citeerde om duidelijk te maken dat de vrouw ondergeschikt is aan de man en vooral geschikt om kinderen te baren. Hij werd van replick gediend door de Zuid-Afrikaanse theologe Denise Ackermann: „In Genesis staat ook dat slavernij mag. Dat vinden wij al lang niet meer terecht, ook de kerk niet."

„Over de verhouding tussen mannen en vrouwen staan heel verschillende teksten in de Bijbel. Maar ik ga geen pingpong spelen met de teksten. Daarvoor is de Bijbel me te dierbaar. Hetzelfde geldt voor het beeld van God. God is voor mij te groot om in een doosje te stoppen met het etiket 'man' erop."

2/6/99 HET FINANCIEELE DAGBLAD (page 2)
"A WOMAN OF THE TYPE: "WE WILL NOT GIVE IN"

M. Smits in HET FINANCIEELE DAGBLAD observes: "Will The Netherlands welcome this weekend a future president of the United States? When Hillary Clinton – the wife of the current president – is no longer the First Lady at the end of his term in January 2001, she will be free again to take up her own career. It now appears that Vice President Al Gore has the best chances to become the Democratic Party's presidential candidate, but with Hillary 'in the backyard' one never knows....

"She is undoubtedly the most influential wife of a president in America's history of more than two centuries. The only one with whom she might have to share the honor is probably Eleanor Roosevelt....

"Hillary Clinton is a highly intelligent and successful lawyer who is politically oriented toward the left. She is strongly feminist and succeeded in building a brilliant career....

"Hillary Rodham Clinton was the first woman to play a key role in the electoral campaigns of her husband with the public goal of presenting themselves a team, a tandem. That almost turned against the Clinton couple in the 1992 presidential elections because a politically powerful First Lady was a truly abhorrent idea to the majority of the U.S. electorate. Nevertheless, Hillary was allowed a whiff of real power after her husband's electoral victory when she was given an influential assignment as head of the staff which was instructed to draft far-reaching reforms in the health care and insurance systems.... Such a system of reforms was dreadful to contemplate for many American politicials, because it was much to progressive. . .

"Since then Hillary Clinton has played the role of First Lady more traditionally as is expected from presidential wives. But she did not disappear into the kitchen. On the contrary, she entered public life with two scandals which, for a long time, were a threat to the reelection of Bill Clinton as president. People seem to have forgotten, now that they feel sorry for Hillary after the sexual escapades of her husband, but barely two or three years ago, she was the one who was under fire – to the detriment of her life companion.... 'Whitewater' and 'Travelgate' caused a poisonous atmosphere in the political arena for months....

"The extent to which U.S. party politics are governed by emotions is clear from the fact that the tide turned in favor of Hillary as her husband became cornered by Paula Jones and Monica Lewinsky. Hillary's reaction has always been: stand by Bill.....

"It has been said more than once: it is a question of self-interest and survival. If Hillary really loves power and influence, she will be better off with the survival of her marriage than with a divorce....She is a woman who will never be sidelined by persons or circumstances. In this context , her name recurs more frequently of late as one or a future president. That could be fun: because the Republican camp as well a has a woman who is named in connection with the presidential nomination; Elizabeth Dole.

"Anyway, Hillary is coming to The Netherlands this weekend as the wife of the president, but with business cards in her own name in her purse. She knows a bit about The Netherlands thanks to an earlier visit – and thanks to the tulip which she was offered in 1993 in Washington and which bears her name. In The Hague, the First Lady will attend a congress conference on worldwide population issues.... She will deliver a speech to 2000 participants. Hillary Rodham Clinton will always make herself heard to people – wherever she goes or whatever she does. With all her charm she is and remains a factor which the world should take into account. That goes for The Netherlands and The Hague, tomorrow and next week."

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Het Financieele Dagblad, 2/6/99

Een vrouw van het slag 'wij wijken niet'

VAN ONZE REDACTEUR

AMSTERDAM — Begroet Nederland dit weekeinde een toekomstige presidente van de Verenigde Staten? Wanneer Hillary Clinton, echtgenote van de huidige president, bij het aflopen van diens ambtstermijn in januari 2001 niet langer First Lady is, krijgt zij haar handen vrij om weer een echt eigen carrière op te pakken. Naar het nu lijkt zijn de papieren van vicepresident Al Gore om de volgende Democratische presidentskandidaat te worden, het best, maar met Hillary 'in de achtertuin' weet men het nooit.

Van de huidige First Lady kan alles gezegd worden, maar niet dat ze de schijnwerpers heeft gemeden sinds haar man Bill in 1992 voor de Democratische nominatie ging en aan het einde van dat jaar ook werd gekozen tot president. Hillary was er bij, altijd, en deed heel wat meer dan er naar kijken. Zij is ongetwijfeld de meest invloedrijke presidentsvrouw in ruim twee eeuwen Amerikaanse geschiedenis geweest. De enige die zij misschien in de eer zou moeten laten delen, is Eleanor Roosevelt.

Als Hillary Rodham werd mevrouw Clinton in oktober 1947 geboren in Chicago. Begin jaren zeventig ontmoette ze op Yale University William Jefferson Clinton, met wie ze in 1975 trouwde. Uit hun huwelijk werd één kind, dochter Chelsea, geboren.

Hillary gebruikt haar mans naam Clinton achter haar eigen naam pas sinds de aanloop naar de presidentsverkiezingen van 1992. Al die jaren sedert 1975 ging zij als Hillary Rodham door het openbare leven. Een hoogintelligente, succesvolle en politiek linksgerichte advocate met sterk feministische inslag, die een glanzende carrière wist op te bouwen. In het jaar voor haar huwelijk maakte ze deel uit van de juridische staf die het aftreden van Richard Nixon, de 'impeachment' van deze Republikeinse president, voorbereidde. Ruim twintig jaar voordat zij zelf als lijdend voorwerp in zo'n historisch zeldzame procedure belandde aan de zijde van haar echtgenoot.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is de eerste vrouw geweest die in de verkiezingscampagnes van haar man (die voor en na 1980 twee keer gouverneur van Arkansas was) een rol op de voorgrond speelde met de openlijke bedoeling de constructie van een team, van een tandem, uit te stralen. Dat keerde zich bij de presidentsverkiezingen van 1992 nog bijna tegen het duo Clinton, want een werkelijk politiek machtige First Lady in het Witte Huis was het schrikbeeld van een groot deel van de Amerikaanse kiezers. Toch mocht Hillary na de electorale zege van haar man nog even aan de concrete macht snuffelen. Zij kreeg een invloedrijke functie als hoofd van de staf die ingrijpende hervormingen moest voorstellen voor het stelsel van gezondheidszorg en ziektekostenverzekeringen. In die maanden werd openlijk gelonkt naar wat in Nederland met het plan-Simons in het derde kabinet-Lubbers werd beoogd.

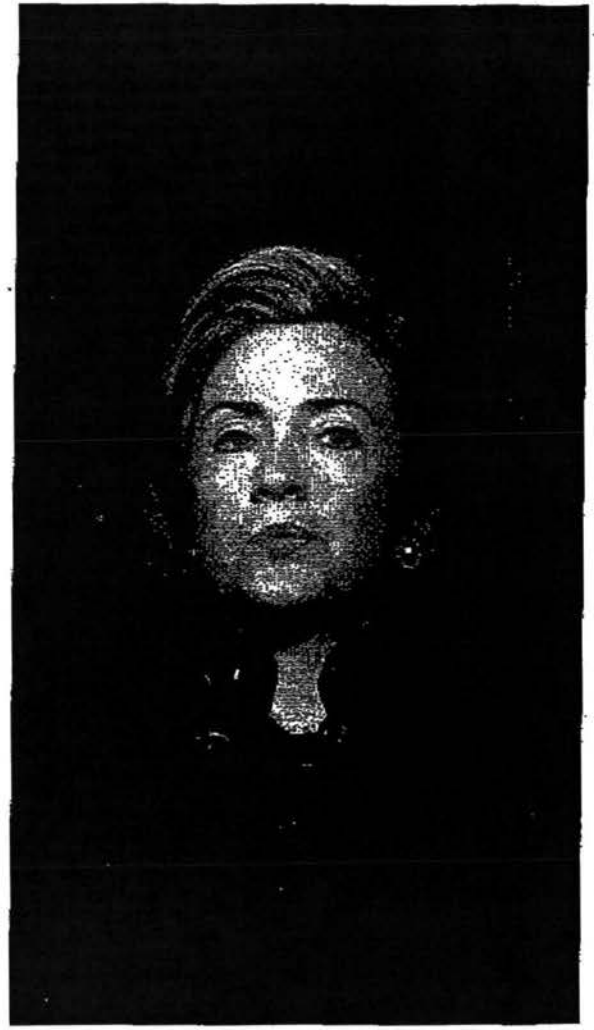
Een dergelijk stelsel was vele Amerikaanse politici een gruwel,

> Een intelligente, en politiek linksgerichte advocate met sterk feministische inslag

want veel te progressief. Toen in het voorjaar van 1993 in Nederland de Simons-kar in de politieke modder strandde, volgde de Hillary-voorstellen in de VS kort daarna. Overigens om heel andere en oppervlakkiger redenen, want de voorstellen zoals uitgewerkt voor de Amerikaanse samenleving werden door het Congres domweg te links en daarmee gevaarlijk gevonden.

Sindsdien speelde Hillary Clinton iets meer de rol van First Lady zoals die van presidentsvrouwen verwacht wordt. Maar achter het fornuis verdween ze allerminst. Ze kwam daarentegen in de publiciteit met twee schandalen, die zelfs lange tijd een bedreiging vormden voor een herverkiezing van Bill Clinton als president. Het lijkt alweer haast vergeten nu Hillary een medelijdend oog op zich gevestigd weet na de buitenechtelijke escapades van haar man, maar nog nauwelijks twee, drie jaar geleden was zij het die onder vuur lag ten nadele van haar levensgezel.

Beide affaires zijn goeddeels verstomd na de succesvolle herverkiezing van Clinton in november 1996, maar 'Whitewater' en 'Travelgate' hebben vele maanden de politieke arena van een giftige atmosfeer voorzien. De eerste had te maken met onoorbare onroerendgoedtransacties, de tweede met nepotisme rond het reisbureau van het Witte Huis.



Hillary Clinton: ongetwijfeld de meest invloedrijke presidentsvrouw in ruim twee eeuwen Amerikaanse geschiedenis. FOTO REUTERS

Hoezeer echter de Amerikaanse partijpolitiek mede geregeerd wordt door emoties, blijkt wel uit het tij dat zich ten gunste van de vrouw Hillary keerde naarmate haar man via Paula Jones en Monica Lewinsky verder in het nauw geraakte. Het antwoord daarop van Hillary is trouwens altijd geweest: achter Bill blijven staan. Zelfs toen de president wel moest toegeven dat er inderdaad sprake was geweest van een verhouding met Lewinsky, bleef Hillary voor de buitenwacht één met haar man.

Het is meer dan eens geopperd: dat is vooral een kwestie van eigenbelang en zelfbehoud. Als Hillary werkelijk van macht en invloed houdt, is ze meer gediend met het instandhouden van haar huwelijk dan met een scheiding. Dat laatste zou altijd nog kunnen worden overwogen voor de periode na het verstrijken van Clintons ambtstermijn. Er in Het Parool deed Emma Brunt onlangs zelfs de suggestie dat Hillary 'wel gek' zou zijn om haar huwelijk op te offeren. Wat Bill deed, doen de meeste mannen (en veel vrouwen) en is op zichzelf geen reden de huwelijksband te verbreken. Alleen vervelend voor Hillary is dat allerlei details over de verhouding tussen de president en Lewinsky openbaar werden, aldus de columniste.

Het komt wel overeen met het algemene beeld van Hillary. Zij is een vrouw die zich door personen of omstandigheden nooit opzij zal laten zetten. In die context dukt de laatste tijd ook haar naam op als een of enkele presidenten vooruit wordt gekeken. Dat kan nog leuk worden, want ook in het Republikeinse kamp loopt een vrouw zich warm voor de nominatie: Elizabeth

> Van haar kun je alles zeggen, maar niet dat ze de schijnwerpers heeft gemeden

Dole. Twee kemphennen in het strijdperk zou een sensatie zijn in een Amerika dat zelfs nooit verder kwam dan één kandidate voor het vicepresidentschap (Geraldine Ferraro in de jaren zeventig). Anderzijds is het in het mannenbolwerk Amerika (vooral de Republikeinse kant) schier ondenkbaar dat twee vrouwen elkaar het presidentschap zullen betwisten.

Naar Nederland komt Hillary dit weekeinde in elk geval nog als vrouw van de president, maar met eigen visitekaartjes in haar tasje. Ze kent Nederland van een eerder bezoek. En van de tulp die zij in 1993 kreeg aangeboden in Washington en die haar naam draagt. De reden van het bezoek is overigens een zuiver internationale. In Den Haag zal de First Lady congresseren over mondiale bevolkingsvraagstukken, een initiatief van de VN. Hillary spreekt er de 2000 congresgangers toe. Uiteraard, want Hillary Rodham Clinton zal altijd van zich laten horen, waar ze ook gaat, waar ze ook komt. In al haar innemendheid is en blijft ze steevast een factor waarmee de wereld rekening heeft te houden. Ook Nederland, ook Den Haag. Morgen en komende week.

M. SMITS

2/8/99 ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD (page 3)
By Orkun Akinci

IF HILLARY COMES, YOU DO NOT MAKE JOKES

The Hague – Americans like to offer their most important people good protection. For you can never know what might happen because in their eyes everybody is a potential criminal. Therefore, if Hillary Clinton comes to the Congressgebouw for fifteen minutes the entire circus starts. And do not dare to make jokes about it.

The First Lady was about one hour late yesterday afternoon at the Conference. Naturally, everybody was nervous because she was the most important guest. Forum organizer Wouter Meijer was the only one who received a little bit of information, but he was not allowed to share that with anybody. One should not imagine a situation in which someone would manage to find out where she was.

Meijer too did not feel very comfortable. "That White House security man with the ear-phone did not tell me everything. The Americans keep every move she makes a secret. They are so afraid of that terrorist Bin Laden, that they tend to exaggerate. They have screened us completely during these past few days. They called me to the embassy. I felt like I was in a James Bond movie. I don't know who interrogated me but I would not be surprised if the CIA or the FBI were involved. Those men grilled me thoroughly. You can't make any jokes; they don't appreciate that. They wanted to know exactly what was going to happen. When I said that Hillary would be presented with a bouquet of flowers at the end, they wanted to know what kind of flowers. Square ones, I said. But that was not considered funny."

In the end, she was presented with red roses after she delivered a fifteen-minute address to the Forum participants. The First Lady used wonderful words, said Meijer, but in fact that was only moral support for the participants, who are making efforts for sexual rights for women and children all over the world. "Do not think that you are alone in your battle. Look around and feel the power of being together. We have come a long way. God bless you for the work that you do every day." And then she was gone, destination unknown. For that would be sensitive information. A spokesperson of the American Embassy could not imagine that anyone would give out information about Hillary's program. "That is not for the destined for the public, surely you do understand that, right?" Hillary will be coming back to The Hague on Tuesday to address the Conference. In the meantime, she will be attending the funeral of King Hussein."

De Amerikaanse First Lady Hillary Clinton begroet op een VN-conferentie over bevolkingsbeleid in Den Haag Nafis Sadik, voormalig voorzitter van The Society for International Development. *Foto ANP*

Als Hillary komt, maak je geen grapjes

Door Orkun Akinci

DEN HAAG - Amerikanen bieden hun belangrijkste mensen graag een goede bescherming. Je weet immers nooit wat er kan gebeuren, want in hun ogen is iedereen een potentiële misdadiger. Als Hillary Clinton voor een kwartiertje naar het Nederlands Congresgebouw komt, treedt dus het hele circus in werking. En wáág het er een grapje over te maken.

De Amerikaanse *First Lady* was gistermiddag een uurtje te laat om het forum aan de vooravond van een VN-conferentie over bevolkingsbeleid vanaf het begin mee te maken. Nervositeit alom natuurlijk, ze was tenslotte de belangrijkste gast. Organisator Wouter Meijer was de enige die een beetje op de hoogte werd gehouden, maar hij mocht niemand iets doorvertellen. Je moet er toch niet aan denken dat iemand erachter komt waar ze uithangt.

Ook Meijer was niet helemaal gerust op Hillary's komst. „Die man van de beveiliging van het Witte Huis, met dat dopje in zijn oor, vertelde mij niet alles. Bij die Amerikanen is elke stap die ze zet geheim. Ze zijn zo bang voor die terrorist Bin Laden, dat ze hun maatregelen overdrijven. Ze hebben ons de laatste dagen helemaal doorgelicht. Ze riepen me naar de ambassade. Ik voelde me daar net in een James Bond-film. Ik weet niet door wie ik allemaal ben ondervraagd, maar het zou me niet verbazen als de CIA en de FBI erbij waren betrokken.

„Die mannen zijn echt helemaal gedrild. Je mag geen grappen maken, dat kunnen ze niet waarderen. Ze wilden precies weten wat er allemaal ging gebeuren. Toen ik zei dat Hillary aan het einde nog een bos bloemen zou krijgen, wilden ze meteen weten wat voor bloemen. Rechthoekige, zei ik toen. Dat was niet leuk."

Het werden uiteindelijk rode rozen, nadat ze de deelnemers aan de conferentie een kwartiertje had toegesproken. De presidentsvrouw gebruikte prachtige woorden, vond Meijer, maar in feite gaf ze alleen morele steun aan alle aanwezigen die zich inzetten voor de seksuele rechten van vrouwen en kinderen over de hele wereld. „Denk niet dat je alleen staat in je gevecht. Kijk om je heen en voel de kracht van het samenzijn. We zijn een heel eind op weg. God zegene jullie voor het werk dat jullie iedere dag doen."

En weg was ze weer, bestemming onbekend. Dat zou namelijk gevoelige informatie zijn. Een woordvoerster van de Amerikaanse ambassade kan zich niet voorstellen dat iemand iets over Hillary's programma zal zeggen. „Dat is niet voor het publiek bestemd, dat snapt u toch zeker wel?"

Overigens komt Hillary dinsdag weer naar Den Haag, dan om de regeringsconferentie toe te spreken. In de tussentijd zal ze de begrafenis van de Jordaanse koning Hussein bijwonen.

Algemeen Dagblad 2/8/99 p. 3

UNITED STATES EMBASSY THE HAGUE
USIS PRESS TRANSLATION

Following is a translation of an article by Willem Post which appeared in the 2/6/99 edition of *Het Parool*.

HILLARY FOLLOWS 'PILGRIM FATHERS'

Tomorrow evening, Hillary Clinton will visit The Hague for the U.N. Population Conference, if 'circumstances' in Washington allow it. According to "America expert" Willem Post, the Netherlands must be a 'safe-haven' for the First Lady compared with the commotion at home.

No doubt the First Lady must feel more at home in the Netherlands than in hostile Washington at the moment. We know that she has strong feelings for our country. She has praised our healthcare system and has used it as a model for her own healthcare program.

Our political climate suits her style of progressive politics far better than the conservative nature of politics in the U.S. She is an expert in the problems of the Third World and she admires our progressive ideas about population issues and development cooperation. She will feel right at home in the global atmosphere of the U.N. conference, that will focus on what life is really all about.

Many of us are very impressed by the way she always fights for the rights of women and children all over the world. Like her role model Eleanor Roosevelt, Hillary should be made a sort of travelling U.N. ambassador when her husband leaves office in 2001. In her role as an influential speaker for so many different global platforms, Hillary announced the new "Cairo vision": that is not to emphasis the cold demographic statistics that predict a population disaster, but to turn the mentality of the public around as soon as possible. Contraception, which has everything to do with women's rights, especially in the Third World, is an area, for example, where education and healthcare are needed. "Real democracy is not based on power, but comes down to respect for each other," according to Hillary. Her crusade is actually social rights.

Central Park
Many are saying she will run for Senator of the State, and therefore city, of New York. The Dutch were at the forefront of the religious tolerance and multiethnicity that characterize that city. She will feel right at home in such enlightened society. She should walk around Central Station in Amsterdam once. It is still a bit like the sixties there. But, there are a lot more ties between Hillary and our nation. She has a special relationship with the Roosevelts and especially with Eleanor Roosevelt, who she often

has "conversations" with. The Roosevelts have their roots in Zeeland in the Netherlands and the then First Lady often visited the Netherlands. She grew up near Soestdijk, where she was a friend to our progressive princess Juliana. It is a shame that Hillary never meet our old queen. Maybe she, like me, would be interested in the conversations these two spiritual women had together. I think Hillary and our old queen, who now suffers from the side effects of old age, would get on well. It would be a beautiful and touching gesture if Hillary would stop by to have a cup of tea with her.

Unfortunately, she probably will not have time to visit Soestdijk. A good alternative would be a visit to the Beschuitalley in Leiden, where a unique part of U.S. history may be admired: that is the Pilgrim Museum, which is housed in a beautiful fifteenth century house at the foot of the Hooglands church. Some six hundred U.S. newspapers recently reported on the threatened closure of this museum of the "first Americans", when the Museum's director Dr. Jeremy Bangs was told by the Dutch government that he had to return to the U.S. His resident's permit was about to expire. Happily, that problem has been resolved.

A visit by the American "queen" would be a great honor for the museum and the Pilgrim Fathers, as they brought the religious freedom, that was unique at the time, to the U.S. Their democratic church gatherings and "town meetings" had a profound effect on democracy in the U.S. They brought the federalism of the United Provinces of Holland to America, which later became the United States of America, to avoid confusion.

One of the Pilgrim Fathers was De Lanoy, forefather of Franklin "Delano" Roosevelt. When George Bush visited Leiden during his time in office, he claimed the Pilgrim's legacy for the Republicans. Now it is the turn of Clintons, who are Democrats.

Well-informed U.N. officials have said that she might visit the museum. The museum is hard at work polishing and dusting the many sixteenth and seventeenth century objects, including their latest acquisition; a collection box from the church of the pilgrim fathers. We try to find meaning in everything...

We warmly welcome Hillary to the free world. It is easy to understand why she travels so much, because it must be unbearable to live in a snake pit like Washington. It is like an island that is drifting away from the U.S. coast. Her political opponents and journalists from the tabloid press gather at the White House gates daily to sink even deeper into the mud than they already have. It must be extremely painful for an intelligent woman such as Hillary to have to deal with all this sleaze. She stands above the parties and knows what it is really all about: a partisan witch-hunt that aims to hurt political opponents by any means necessary. She discovered her husband's political talents long ago. She refined those talents. The President is a sensitive, somewhat chaotic man, who needs a lot of organizing. She is his director. She sacrificed everything for him.

I wonder how she managed to keep going when she had to put her career as a top lawyer on hold and take a simple teaching job in Arkansas. Watermelons and chicken farms are

all they have there: a kind of Drenthe at the beginning of the century, but in the U.S. "Stand by your man", but then with a higher purpose. She has invested in her husband's political career and she has to think about her long-term goals. Her political career is about to take off.

The Press

We have heard that Hillary would rather not speak to the Dutch and international press because she is worried that they will ask all kinds of inappropriate, personal questions. But that is not true. No-one from the serious press in the Netherlands would do that for the simple reason that we are used to separating the political life from the private one. We would rather ask Hillary why Washington has honored so few of the financial promises it made at the U.N. Population Conference in Cairo 5 years ago. She probably can not understand why either.

If the First Lady and the President could rule our country for one day, we would drop the case against Bill. 80 to 90 percent of the Dutch population feels that way, I would guess. Lying about sex, even before a grand jury, is not a reason to be impeached. He did not abuse his power and the greater good of the nation was in no way compromised. Impeaching the President for that would lower the threshold for what qualifies as an impeachable act to an absurd level. The Constitution would suffer. Congress would become too powerful in a world in which international security demands a strong President as leader.

When Hillary enters the Netherlands Congress Center, she will no doubt be met by crowds of Dutch people trying to catch a glimpse of her. They will come from far and wide. Although she will not be able to speak to them their eyes will say enough. They all respect her. She is, after all, their First Lady too.

Het Parool, 2/5/99

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FOTO ANP

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ANNEKE DE WIT

Hillary volgt 'Pilgrim Fathers'

Morgenavond komt Hillary Clinton naar Den Haag voor een VN-bevolkingsconferentie. Tenminste, als de 'omstandigheden' in Washington het toe laten. Volgens Amerika-deskundige Willem Post moet Nederland voor de 'first lady' na al het tumult in eigen land als een vluchthaven zijn.

WILLEM POST

ONGETWIJFELD voelt de Amerikaanse 'First Lady' zich meer in ons land thuis dan in het vijandige Washington. We weten dat zij iets heeft met ons land. Zij heeft onze gezondheidszorg geprezen en als voorbeeld gebruikt voor haar eigen gezondheidsprogramma.

Als progressieve politica past ze veel meer in ons politieke klimaat dan in dat van de conservatieve Amerikanen. Zij is een expert in Derde-Wereld-problemen en zij bewondert onze progressieve opvattingen over bevolkingsvraagstukken en ontwikkelingssamenwerking. Ze zal zich op haar gemak voelen in het mondiale sfeertje van de VN-conferentie waar het gaat over zaken waar het in het leven echt om draait.

Velen van ons zijn diep onder de indruk hoe zij altijd voor de rechten van met name vrouwen en kinderen in de wereld is opgekomen. Net als haar grote voorbeeld Eleanor Roosevelt zou Hillary eigenlijk een soort van reizend ambassadeur van de Verenigde Naties moeten worden als haar man is uitgeregeerd in 2001. Als invloedrijke spreker op zovele platforms in de wereld verkondigt Hillary vol overtuiging de nieuwe 'Cairo-visie': Leg niet teveel nadruk op de kille democratische cijfers die een bevolkingsramp voorspellen maar probeer zo snel mogelijk een mentaliteitsverandering tot stand te brengen! Bijvoorbeeld op het gebied van de anticonceptie wat alles te maken heeft met de rechten van de vrouw in met name de Derde Wereld, een effectieve voorlichting en een goede gezondheidszorg. "Echte democratie is niet gebaseerd op macht maar uiteindelijk op respect voor elkaar!," aldus Hillary. De verkondiging van sociale rechten, dat is eigenlijk haar kruistocht!

Central Park

We hebben ook gehoord dat haar naam veelvuldig genoemd wordt als toekomstig senator van de staat en dus ook van de stad New York. Begrijpelijk. De Hollanders hebben aan de wieg gestaan van de religieuze tolerantie en de multi-etniciteit die met name deze stad ook nu nog zo kenmerken. Zij voelt zich natuurlijk thuis in zo'n verlichte omgeving. Zij zou eens uit het Centraal Station in Amsterdam moeten lopen. Dan is het net alsof je het sfeertje van Central Park opsnuift. Beetje de jaren zestig nog. Maar er is veel meer dat Hillary aan ons land bindt. Zij heeft een speciale relatie met de Roosevelts en dan met name met Eleanor Roosevelt waar zij zelfs regelmatig 'gesprekken' mee voert. De Roosevelts zijn van Hollands-Zeeuwse komaf en de toenmalige 'first lady' heeft ons land vaak bezocht. Ze was kind aan huis op Snestdijk waar ze een goede vriendin van onze progressieve prinses Juliana was. Jammer, dat Hillary onze oude vorstin nooit heeft leren kennen. Misschien is zij net als ik ook ontzettend benieuwd naar de gesprekken die deze spiritueel ingestelde dames met elkaar gevoerd hebben. Ik denk dat het heel erg goed zou klikken tussen Hillary en onze prinses die nu helaas met nare ouderdomsverschijnselen kampt. Wat zou het een mooi en toepasselijk gebaar zijn wanneer Hillary even een kopje thee met haar zou drinken.

Helaas, 'Soestdijk' zit er waarschijnlijk niet in. Een goed alternatief zou een bezoekje aan de Beschuitsweg in Leiden kunnen zijn, waar een uniek stukje Amerika valt te bewonderen: het museum van de *Pilgrim Fathers* dat is gevestigd in een historisch vijftiende eeuws pandje midden in het mooiste deel van de oude binnenstad aan de voet van de Hooglandse Kerk. Zo'n zeshonderd Amerikaanse kranten, waaronder alle grote, hebben onlangs vol onbegrip gemeld dat dit museum van 'de eerste Amerikanen' gesloten dreigde te worden omdat de directeur, onderzoeker dr. Jeremy Baugs, van de Nederlandse overheid weer terug moest naar de Verenigde Staten. Bij een langer verblijf zou hij een illegaal worden. Gelukkig is dat probleem opgelost.

Maar een bezoek van de Amerikaanse 'koningin' zou een mooi eerbetoon zijn aan het museum en de Pilgrim Fathers want zij hebben in Amerika een religieuze vrijheid gebracht die voor die tijd uniek was. En met hun democratische kerkorganisatie en 'town meetings' hebben zij veel invloed gehad op de Amerikaanse democratie. Zij hebben het federalisme van onze verenigde Hollandse staten meegebracht naar Amerika dat dan ook later de Verenigde Staten 'van Amerika' werd genoemd om misverstanden te voorkomen.

Een van die Pilgrim Fathers was een zekere de Lanoy waar Franklin 'Delano' Roosevelt van afstamde. Toen George Bush tijdens zijn regeerperiode in Leiden kwam heeft hij namens de Republikeinen de erfenis van de Pilgrim Fathers opgeëist. Nu is het de beurt aan de Democratische Clintons.

Weligelichte VN-bronnen in New York geven het museum een kans om door Hillary bezocht te worden. In het museumpje is men, zo zag ik afgelopen weekeinde, al begonnen met het afstoffen van de vele spulletjes uit de zestiende, zeventiende eeuw, waaronder de nieuwste aanwinst: een armenpot uit de vrouwenkerk van de Pilgrim Fathers. We zoeken overal wat achter, dus...

We heten Hillary ook van harte welkom in de vrije wereld! We begrijpen dat zij veel rejst en dus veel van huis is (Eleanor deed dat ook), want het moet in de slangenkuil Washington een ondraaglijk leven zijn. Het is als een eiland dat langzaam aldrijft van de Amerikaanse kust. Politieke tegenstanders en roddeljournalisten verzamelen zich dagelijks als hyena's rond om de hekken van het Witte Huis om verder in de modder te wroeten. Het moet voor een intelligente vrouw als Hillary zeer pijnlijk zijn om al dat ordinaire gedoe mee te moeten maken.

Zij staat boven de partijen en weet waar het werkelijk om draait: een partij-politieke hetze die erop gericht is politieke tegenstanders maximaal en met vrijwel alle middelen te beschadigen. Als geen ander beseft zij wat op het spel staat. Zij heeft haar man lang geleden als groot politiek talent ontdekt. Zij heeft deze ruwe diamant bijgeslepen. De president is nu eenmaal een gevoelige, nogal chaotische man die veel leiding nodig heeft. Eigenlijk is zij zijn regisseur. Alles heeft zij voor hem opgeofferd. Zij heeft altijd ideeën boven haar eigenbelang geplaatst.

Hoe heeft ze, zo vraag ik me nu al, het vol gehouden om haar positie als top-advocate jarenlang te verruilen voor een 'eenvoudig' onderwijsbaantje in Arkansas? Watermeloenen en kippenfarms, veel meer is het niet. Wij zouden zeggen het Drenthe van Amerika, maar dan wel uit vroegere tijden.

'Stand by your man', maar we weten nu welk hoger doel hier achter schuilt: ze heeft politiek in haar man geïnvesteerd en denkt aan de lange termijn. Haar politieke carrière staat nu op het punt te beginnen.

Pers

We hebben gehoord dat Hillary liever niet met de Nederlandse (en andere) pers praat omdat ze wellicht denkt dat er net als in haar land allerlei ongepaste, persoonlijke vragen worden gevoerd. Maar dat is onzin. Niemand van de serieuze pers in Nederland zal zoiets doen om de eenvoudige reden dat we in ons land gewend zijn iemands privé-leven te scheiden van politieke zaken.

Wij zouden Hillary bijvoorbeeld liever vragen waarom Washington zo bitter weinig van de financiële verplichtingen, die vijf jaar geleden op de VN-bevolkingsconferentie in Cairo zijn aangegaan, is nagekomen. Zij worstelt natuurlijk ook met deze vraag.

Konden Hillary en echtgenoot maar eens één dagje 'First Lady' en president van ons land zijn. Het proces tegen Bill zou onmiddellijk worden gestopt. Zeker tachtig, negentig procent van de Nederlanders denkt er zo over, schat ik maar even. Leugenachtig gedrag vanwege seks, zelfs eventueel voor een grand jury, is geen reden voor afzetting. De staatsmacht is immers niet misbruikt en het landsbelang is niet ondermijnd. Een afzetting zou de drempel voor zo'n procedure veel te veel verlagen en het zorgvuldige evenwicht der machten in de Amerikaanse grondwet fundamenteel aantasten. Wat blijft er dan nog over van zo'n mooie grondwet? Het 'provinciaalse' Congres zou in een gevaarlijke wereld teveel macht krijgen daar waar de internationale gemeenschap een krachtig presidentieel leiderschap nodig heeft.

Als Hillary de komende dagen het Nederlands Congres Centrum binnenloopt zal zij ongetwijfeld vele Nederlanders achter de hekken zien staan die een glimp van haar proberen op te vangen. Ze zullen van heinde en verre komen. Al kan ze niet met hen praten, hun ogen zullen tegen haar spreken. Ze nemen hun petje voor haar af. Hillary is immers ook een beetje hun 'First Lady'!

UNITED STATES EMBASSY
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE

FAX TRANSMITTAL

February 9, 1999

FOR: Toby Graff, White House Press Office FAX NO.: 202/456-7805

FROM: Judy Butterman, APAO FAX NO.: 31-70-365-8837

NO. PAGES: 9

SUBJECT: FIRST LADY VISIT TO ICPD CAIRO +5: PRESS COVERAGE

Dear Toby,

Following should be three articles in the Dutch press of today and yesterday, with translations. Let me know if for whatever reason this does not go through.

Regards,

Judy

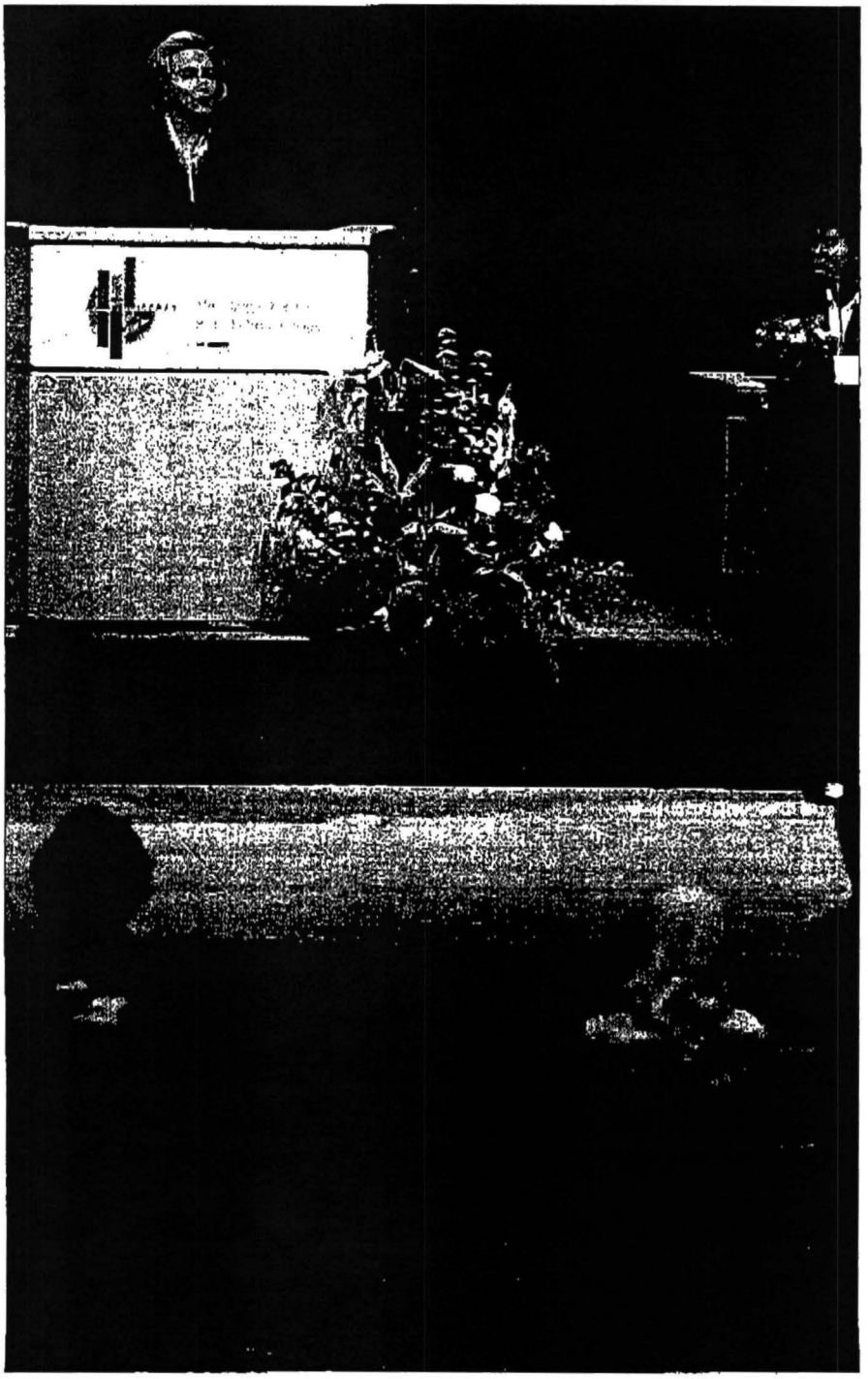
USIS PRESS TRANSLATION
Following is an article by a reporter which appeared in the February 9, 1999 issue of the Dutch daily, HET PAROOL (page 3)

THE POWER OF HILLARY
(by a reporter)
The Hague - The First Lady is delayed. But she has let the participants of the NGO Conference in The Hague that they do not need to wait for her. Around five o'clock, there she is, suddenly, in the front of the auditorium of the Congresgebouw, among the security agents. She gets a standing ovation.

Hillary Rodham Clinton addresses the conference with a strong voice, self-confident. She does not bring much news, but somehow the audience is captivated by her presence. Here stands not a humiliated wife, but a strong personality. Perhaps the strongest one in the White House.

Clinton is introduced by a Kenyan woman, who states that one can tell from an adult's demeanor whether or not he or she enjoyed a happy youth. "Hillary was a well brought-up child." The President's wife talks about reproduction and sexual health care. These are not matters which authorities should debate and decide behind closed doors. Men, women, and teenagers should be mobilized. "In order to limit births, we need the cooperation of men."

The conference which brought Clinton to The Hague has as its aim the evaluation of the U.N. population conference held in Cairo in 1994. A courtesy call which she was to have made on Prime minister Kok today is cancelled because of the funeral of King Hussein of Jordan.



Hillary Clinton: 'Voor geboortebeperking moeten mannen meewerken.' FOTO SERGE LIGTENBERG

De kracht van Hillary

(Van een verslaggever)

DEN HAAG – De *First Lady* is verlaat. Maar ze laat de deelnemers aan de conferentie van niet-gouvernementele hulporganisaties in Den Haag weten dat ze niet op haar hoeven te wachten. Rond vijf uur staat ze daar ineens, voor in de zaal van het Congresgebouw, tussen de veiligheidsbeambten. Een staande ovatie volgt.

Hillary Rodham Clinton spreekt de conferentie toe met krachtige stem, zelfverzekerd. Veel nieuws heeft ze niet te melden, maar onwillekeurig raakt de zaal in de ban van haar uitstraling. Hier staat geen vernederde echtgenote, maar een sterke persoonlijkheid. Misschien wel de sterkste in het Witte Huis.

Clinton wordt geïntroduceerd door een Keniaanse vrouw, die zegt dat je aan volwassenen kunt zien of ze een goede jeugd hebben gehad. "Hillary is een goed grootgebracht kind." De presidentsvrouw spreekt over voortplanting en seksuele gezondheidszorg. Geen zaken waarover autoriteiten achter gesloten deuren horen te beslissen. Mannen, vrouwen en jongeren moeten ervoor worden gemobiliseerd. "Voor geboortebeperking hebben we meewerkende mannen nodig."

De conferentie die Clinton naar Den Haag voerde, is belegd om de uitkomsten van de VN-bevolkingsconferentie van 1994 in Caïro te evalueren. Een beleefdheidsbezoek dat zij vandaag aan premier Kok zou brengen, gaat niet door wegens de begrafenis van de Jordaanse koning Hoessein.

Het Parool, 2/9/99

USIS PRESS TRANSLATION

Following is a summary of an article by Annieke Kranenberg and Rob Vreeken which appeared in the 2/9/99 edition of the *De Volkskrant.*

CHAIRPERSON BIEGMAN AFRAID THAT U.N. CONFERENCE IN THE HAGUE WILL BE VERY QUIET

The motto is "no mess, no press," but Ambassador Biegman is secretly hoping that the Vatican might cause a bit of controvery. The less conflict there is about the important issues on the agenda, such as sexuality and reproduction, and in particular women and girls, the less there is written in the press about those issues.

"I am worried that it is going to be too quiet," said Biegman. "I hope fundamental Christians or the Vatican will liven it up, but they know they are in the minority." Biegman and his ironical tone are back. Once again, Biegman, Dutch Ambassador to NATO, and formerly to the U.N., can show off his skills. At the U.N. population conddference in Cairo in 1994, he still managed to negotiate a broad-based progressive agreement in Cairo in 1994 in which the rights of women were forcefully enshrined, despite opposition from a few Muslim countries and of the Vatican.

Will the abortion issue be the hot topic again this week at the Cairo Program's evaluation? "I hope not," says hostess Nafis Sadik, head of UNFPA. "I would rather not have a philosophical, religious discussion. I would rather have a pragmatic debate about practical issues. We need to determine which problems are in which particular countries, and then provide solutions."

Money is the most salient problem. Great plans for family planning, mother/child care and AIDS awareness are not carried out through lack of funds. "The developing nations are doing their best, but they must cope with economic problems", Sadik states. "And the donors, the rich countries, are not fulfilling their promises."

Developing nations are responsible for two-thirds of the 17 million dollar Cairo Program budget, while the West is responsible for the other third. The sad fact is that the developing nations have lived up to 80 percent of their promised budget, while the West has only come up with a mere 25 percent of their commitment.

Biegman would like to debate this issue; "The developing nations are not just trying to please the West. They know that this is a big problem for them." Biegman and Sadik both point out a remarkable new development: donations by large corporations and grant agencies such as the Rockefeller Foundation. CNN boss Ted Turner last year gave the U.N. one million dollars: most of that went to Sadik's UNFPA. And last weekend there was applause in The Hague when it was made known that Bill Gates donated 2.2 million dollars toward population projects.

Thus far this trend is only exhibited in the United States. With regard to finances, this is. according to Biegman, "the sole thing which is good news". Admittedly, the EU has increased its funding for population by a factor of ten. "But that means only that up thill now they did nothing".

Biegman is lukewarm about the fact that many of the 180 countries represented at The Hague conference sent their health ministers as representatives. "I'd rather have the ministers of finance here. The problem is usually put in the social sector corner. There are only a few countries—Egypt and Indonesia—which have identified reproductive health as a fundamental issue."

Nafis Sadik characterizes the balance, five years after Cairo "very positive." There was a "gigantic response". Many governments, she says, have adopted the Cairo Program as policy for reproductive health, a term which embraces much more than birth control.

Examples? The large-scale recognition of phenomena such as rape, incest and domestic violence, says Sadik. The attention given to female genital mutilation. "Since 1994 many countries have adopted laws against FMG—Burkina Faso, Egypt, Uganda. Which of course doesn't mean that it no longer occurs. The President of The Gambia said it was part of African culture, while his own parliament had adopted a law against FMG! I wrote him a letter immediately."

Voorzitter Biegman vreest rust op Haagse VN-top

Volkskrant 2/9/99

Van onze verslaggevers
Anneke Kranenberg
Rob Vreeken

DEN HAAG

Stiekem hoopt Niek Biegman een beetje dat het Vaticaan deze week in Den Haag stennis gaat schoppen. *'No mess, no press'*, stelt hij nuchter vast. Hoe minder ruzie er wordt gemaakt op de VN-bevolkingsconferentie, hoe minder er wordt geschreven over de belangrijke kwesties op de agenda: de rechten op het gebied van seksualiteit en voortplanting, allereerst die van vrouwen en meisjes.

'Ik ben bang dat het té rustig wordt', zegt Biegman, voorzitter van de vijfdaagse bijeenkomst. 'Ik hoop nog op fundamentalistische christenen. Of het Vaticaan. Maar dat is een kleine club, en ze weten dat ze een kleine minderheid zijn.'

Biegman is terug, met milde ironie en al. Opnieuw mag de Nederlandse topdiplomaat – ambassadeur bij de NAVO, voorheen bij de VN – zijn kunsten vertonen. Op de VN-bevolkingstop van Caïro, 1994, maakte hij furore toen het Vaticaan en enkele moslimlanden een heftig debat aanzwengelden over abortus. De door Biegman geleide onderhandelingen brachten desondanks een breed gedragen document voort, waarin krachtig de rechten van vrouwen werden geheiteld.

Ontvlamt deze week in Den Haag, als de resultaten van het Caïro-program worden geëvalueerd, nogmaals het abortusdebat? Niets wees daar de afgelopen dagen in het Haagse Congrescentrum op. 'Ik hoop het niet', zegt gastvrouw Nafis Sadik, hoofd van het VN-bevolkingsfonds (Unfpa). 'Ik heb liever géén discussie over filosofische, godsdienstige zaken. Veel liever heb ik een praktische, pragmatische aanpak. We moeten vaststellen welke problemen er zijn in welke landen, en oplossingen aandragen.'

Een probleem dat direct in het oog springt: geld. Mooie plannen voor geboorteregeling, moeder- en kindzorg en aidsvoorlichting blijven mooie plannen door gebrek aan fondsen. 'De ontwikkelingslanden doen hun best, maar hebben te kampen met economische problemen', zegt Sadik. Landen als Indonesië en Thailand schroeven hun uitgaven terug. 'En de donoren, de rijke landen, komen hun beloften niet na.'

Van het 17 miljard dollar omvattende Caïro-pakket zouden de ontwikkelingslanden (die immers de meeste problemen hebben op bevolkingsgebied) tweederde voor hun rekening nemen. De rijke landen eenderde. Het treurige is dat de arme landen zich veel beter van hun taak hebben gekweten. Zij hebben voor 80 procent aan hun financiële verplichtingen voldaan. De rijke landen voor amper 25 procent.

Biegman zou het de moeite waard vinden om over die kwestie flink te debatteren. 'Er zijn steeds meer rijke landen met arme regeringen.' Hij denkt niet dat ontwikkelingslanden door die kwartiersheid zich van het Caïro-program zullen afkeren. 'Ze doen het niet om óns een plezier te doen, maar omdat ze inzien dat het voor henzelf een groot probleem is.'

Zowel Sadik als Biegman wijst op een opmerkelijke nieuwigheid: donaties van ondernemingen en kapitaalkrachtige stichtingen als de Rockefeller Foundation. CNN-baas Ted Turner schonk vorig jaar 1 miljard dollar aan de VN; het meeste daarvan ging naar Sadiks Unfpa. En afgelopen weekeinde klonk in Den Haag applaus toen bekend werd dat Bill Gates (Microsoft) 22 miljard dollar geeft aan bevolkingsprojecten.

De trend beperkt zich vooralsnog tot de VS. Wat betreft financiën is dit volgens Biegman 'het enige waar nog een beetje mooie muziek klinkt'. Akkoord de Europese Unie heeft haar bevolkingspotje met een factor 10 vergroot. 'Maar dat betekent alleen dat ze tot nu niéts deden.'

Dat veel van de ruim 180 in Den Haag vertegenwoordigde regeringen hun minister van Gezondheid hebben gestuurd, vindt voorzitter Biegman maar zo-zo. 'Ik zou bij voorkeur de ministers van Financiën hebben. Het probleem wordt meestal in de sociale sector neergelegd. Er zijn maar een paar landen – Egypte, Indonesië – die reproductieve gezondheid hebben aangewezen als kernprobleem.'

Nafis Sadik noemt de balans van Caïro, vijf jaar na dato, hoe dan ook 'zeer positief'. Er kwam een 'gigantische respons'. Veel regeringen, zegt ze, hebben hun beleid aangepast aan het Caïro-pakket van reproductieve gezondheid, een term die veel meer omvat dan geboortenbeperking.

Voorbeelden? Het als grootschalige fenomenen erkennen van verkrachting, incest en huiselijk geweld, zegt Sadik. De aandacht voor vrouwenbesnijdenis. 'Veel landen hebben sinds 1994 wetten gekregen tegen genitale verminking – Burkina Faso, Egypte, Uganda. Wat natuurlijk niet betekent dat het niet meer gebeurt. De president van Gambia zei: het hoort nu eenmaal bij de Afrikaanse cultuur. Terwijl zijn eigen parlement een wet tegen besnijdenis had aangenomen! Ik heb hem meteen een brief geschreven.'

Niek Biegman (links) verwelkomt Hillary Clinton op het podium in Den Haag. Nafis Sadik (rechts) kijkt toe.

FOTO GERT VERHOEFF - DE VOLKSKRANT

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USIS PRESS TRANSLATION

Following is a summary of an article by Stephane Alfonso which appeared in the 2/8/99 edition of the *NRC Handelsblad.*

HILLARY CLINTON RECEIVES A POPSTAR'S WELCOME

Yesterday, Hillary Clinton stole the show at the conference about population in The Hague. She called for "safe, legal and rare abortion." All eyes were focused on the door to the right of the podium in the Prince Willem Alexander Hall of the NCC on Sunday afternoon. Development cooperation Minister Herfkens stood waiting at that door. The important visitor from the U.S. kept everyone waiting for an hour, but Hillary Clinton still got a popstar's welcome.

The American First Lady addressed the international conference on population issues. Originally, the President's wife was to hold the second speech on the program, but the death of King Hussein of Jordan meant she was running late. The First lady praised development organization for their work in curbing population growth. It is expected that the world's population will grow above 6 billion and double in the next 40 years. The President's wife called for a more personal and dignified approach to population control, as opposed to the methods of traditional government control. Hillary said, "In the U.S., health organizations carry out good work by making abortion safe, legal and rare."

Five years ago at the Cairo population conference, 180 countries agreed that women should have the opportunity to decide how many children they want and when. Research shows that many women have more children than they would like. Women can be empowered by having access to condoms and contraception, but also by educating women on how to avoid unwanted pregnancy.

"Never think that your work does not make a difference," said the First Lady to the NGOs. "Statistics are less impressive than the experience that you can share." This was met with huge applause.

NGOs are critical of developing nations who have yet to fulfill their financial responsibilities to the Cairo action plan. The developing nations are footing two-thirds of the bill, while other countries such as the U.S. have lived up to less than half of their responsibilities. Hillary Clinton did not mention this issue that has been so troubling for her husband. Financial contributions to the UN population fund have been regularly blocked by the Republican majority in Congress. They worry that the money will be used for abortions.

The Cairo conference was dominated by the abortion question, which was started by the Vatican. The Vatican also objects to contraception and AIDS prevention campaigns. Bishop Muskens said yesterday that he wanted to reopen the debate on condoms, especially considering the proliferation of AIDS in Africa. Even though the church has campaigned against the use of contraception over the last five years, the effects of that

campaign have been minimal. "The Catholic Church in the Philippines has been spreading the rumor that the pill can cause abortions," says Romeo Marca of the Philippines. "Ordinary Catholics take little notice though." Other participants confirm that if contraception is available it is used.

The practice of female genital mutilation (FMG) has been prohibited by law in most countries in Africa. In Uganda there is pioneering project that tries to convince tribes that FMG can be replaced by harmless rituals. "You can give a girl a goat or a cow instead," says Francois Farah, the founder of the project. In 1996, the number of female circumcisions in Uganda has dropped by 36 percent.

Hillary Clinton als popster onthaald

Hillary Clinton stal de show, gisteren bij de conferentie over bevolkingsproblemen in Den Haag. Ze bepleitte „veilige, legale en zeldzame" abortus.

Door STÉPHANE ALONSO

ROTTERDAM, 8 FEBR. Alle ogen in de Prins Willem-Alexanderzaal van het Haagse congresgebouw waren zondagmiddag gericht op de deur rechts van het podium. Voor die deur stond minister van Ontwikkelingssamenwerking Eveline Herfkens onrustig te drentelen. Het hoge Amerikaanse bezoek liet ruim een uur op zich wachten, maar Hillary Clinton kreeg niettemin het onthaal van een popster.

De Amerikaanse *first lady* hield een toespraak op de internationale conferentie over bevolkingsvraagstukken in Den Haag. Aanvankelijk zou de presidentsvrouw vandaag een tweede toespraak houden, maar door het overlijden van de Jordaanse koning Hussein moest ze verstek laten gaan.

De *first lady* prees ontwikkelingsorganisaties voor hun pogingen om de groei van de wereldbevolking in te dammen. Naar verwachting zal de wereldbevolking dit jaar de zes miljard overstijgen, een verdubbeling in 40 jaar tijd. De presidentsvrouw pleitte voor een persoonlijke, menswaardige aanpak van het bevolkingsprobleem, in tegenstelling tot de traditionele aanpak waarbij overheidscontrole en dwang centraal staan. „In de Verenigde Staten verrichten gezondheidsorganisaties goed werk door abortus veilig, legaal én zeldzaam te maken", zei Hillary.

Vijf jaar geleden spraken 180 deelnemers tijdens een VN-conferentie in Cairo af dat vrouwen in staat moeten worden gesteld om het eigen kindertal te bepalen en zelf het moment van zwangerschap te kiezen. Uit onderzoek blijkt dat veel vrouwen méér kinderen krijgen dan ze eigenlijk zouden willen. Het 'in staat stellen' van vrouwen ('empowerment') kan door het verspreiden van condooms en anticonceptie, maar ook door het aanbieden van onderwijs, waardoor het krijgen van kinderen vaak wordt uitgesteld. Vrouwen die op latere leeftijd kinderen krijgen, willen er meestal ook minder. In Den Haag moet duidelijk worden of het Cairo-actieplan werkt.

„Denk nooit dat jullie werk geen invloed heeft", zei de *first lady* tegen de ontwikkelingsorganisaties. „Statistische watervallen maken minder indruk dan de ervaringen waarover jullie kunnen vertellen." Ze kreeg een daverend applaus.

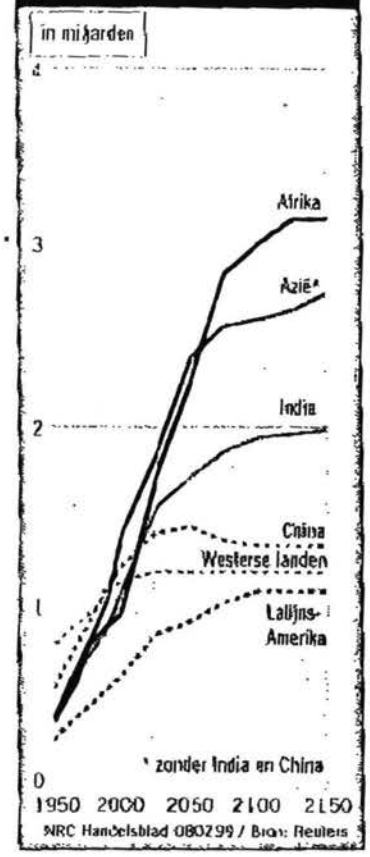
De ontwikkelingsorganisaties hebben veel kritiek op de ontwikkelde, welvarende landen, waarvan de meeste achterlopen met het nakomen van hun financiële verplichtingen voor de uitvoering van het Cairo-actieplan. De ontwikkelingslanden nemen tweederde van het budget voor hun rekening, de ontwikkelde landen, waaronder de Verenigde Staten, hebben nog maar voor minder dan de helft aan hun verplichtingen voldaan. Hillary Clinton zweeg over deze voor haar man pijnlijke kwestie. Financiële bijdragen aan het VN-bevolkingsfonds worden geregeld geblokkeerd door de conservatieven in het Amerikaanse Congres. De Republikeinen zijn bang dat het geld wordt gebruikt voor abortus.

De Cairo-conferentie werd destijds overschaduwd door een 'abortusrel', in gang gezet door het Vaticaan. De Heilige Stoel verzette zich bovendien tegen het gebruik van condooms, zelfs in anti-aids-campagnes. Bisschop Muskens zei gisteren op tv dat hij het gebruik van condooms juist bespreekbaar wil maken, gezien de ernst van het aidsprobleem in Afrika.

Hoewel de afgelopen vijf jaar actief campagne is gevoerd om het gebruik van anticonceptie te ontmoedigen, lijkt de invloed van de kerk tanende. „De katholieke kerk in de Filippijnen verspreidt het gerucht dat pilgebruik abortus kan veroorzaken", zegt de Filippino Romeo Marca. „Maar de 'gewone' katholieken trekken zich weinig aan van de stampij die bovenin de hiërarchie wordt gemaakt." Andere deelnemers bevestigen dat beeld: als anticonceptie beschikbaar is, gebruikt men die ook.

Het besnijden van jonge meisjes als overgangsritueel naar de volwassenheid is strafbaar gesteld in de meeste Afrikaanse landen. In Oeganda bestaat een opvallend project, waarbij stammen voorzichtig worden overgehaald om besnijdenis te vervangen door onschadelijke rituelen. „Je kunt meisjes bijvoorbeeld een geit of een koe geven", zegt François Farah, geestesvader van het project. In 1996 is het aantal besnijdenissen in Oeganda met 36 procent afgenomen.

Bevolking Afrika groeit het snelst



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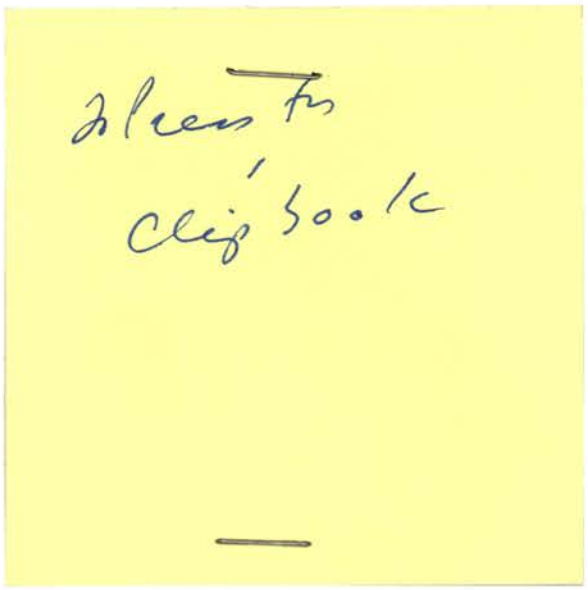
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Volunteer agencies working to slow the world's soaring population growth are "the vanguard" of U.N. efforts and must not lose heart, U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said Sunday.

"The challenge to all of us is to persevere. Don't ever think that the work you do day in and day out is not having an impact on people's lives," she told grassroots groups meeting ahead of a United Nations population forum opening Monday.

With the world's population projected to hit 6 billion later this year an increase of 20 percent in just 12 years some 140 voluntary organizations were assessing progress since the landmark International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994.

"You are the vanguard of Cairo, the ones that are making the ICPD program of action come alive for people, and your presence here in The Hague is truly a reflection of the new reality we are creating," Mrs. Clinton said to a standing ovation.

"We have come a long way in the last years. It may not seem fast enough for many of us who are impatient, and I'm sure it seems glacial to young people," she said.

The program of action adopted in Cairo and being reviewed at The Hague Forum this week calls for universal access to affordable reproductive health services by 2015, including family planning, sexual health services and programs for adolescents.

It also calls for universal access to primary education, measures to ensure equality between the sexes, and significant reductions in infant and maternal mortality.

"We have made progress together, and if we continue to make that progress, we will see Cairo's goals

enacted. And countless women, men and children who may never come to The Hague, who you may never touch directly, will be grateful for your work," Mrs. Clinton said.

The first lady was scheduled to deliver the keynote address Monday, but it was unclear whether she would cut her visit here short as she prepared to fly to Jordan for the late King Hussein's funeral.

Although volunteers reported progress in achieving some Cairo targets, they said momentum was being slowed by a serious shortfall in funding, both from industrialized donor countries and developing nations.

Attiya Inayatullah, the president of International Planned Parenthood, called the forum "a wake-up call to ambivalent and disinterested donor countries."

The United States cut financial support to the U.N. Population Fund last year amid congressional concern that it was promoting abortion in China and elsewhere, but will soon review a proposal by Rep. Carolyn Maloney of New York to reinstate American funding.

"We as Americans are not living up to our goals," Maloney said in The Hague.

In a step aimed at strengthening governments' support to the Cairo plan, lawmakers from 179 countries signed a joint declaration Sunday "to translate our personal commitments to collective political action."

Their pledge calls on national parliaments to play a more active role by introducing legislation to carry out the Cairo goals.

As they did in Cairo, abortion and birth control were expected to provoke heated controversy in The Hague, with delegates from the Vatican expected to be in the forefront of that debate.

Mrs. Clinton praised U.S. grassroots groups for playing a key role in family planning initiatives.

"They are the ones who have pushed successfully to increase our funding for family planning programs in the United States and to make abortion in America safe, legal and rare," she said.

(ad/mc/bk)

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APPLES FOR THE STUDENTS •PLUS

Problems Impede Global Plan to Curb Population Growth

By Barbara Vobejda
Washington Post Staff Writer
Sunday, February 7, 1999; Page A03

The concept was revolutionary and the goal ambitious: to curb the world's rapid population growth by keeping girls in school and enhancing the status of women. This global plan, a wholesale departure from simply doling out contraceptives to prevent pregnancies, was adopted with fanfare and unprecedented consensus by 179 countries at a United Nations summit in Cairo.

But five years into the effort, experts say, it has become clear that it will be much more difficult than expected to implement the massive social changes necessary for success. And in some places, the changes that have occurred have triggered new problems.

Couples in some countries, for example, have suddenly been unable to get condoms or birth control pills because the transition to a new system has caused glitches in the purchase of these products.

In many countries, a severe lack of health services has made it impossible to put in place one of the central goals of the program: to offer family planning as part of a broader health care system aimed at reducing maternal and infant deaths. The world has made no dent in maternal deaths, which were to be cut in half by 2000 under the Cairo program.

Most threatening to the 20-year plan is a massive shortfall in funding. The world's richer countries, which pledged $5.7 billion by next year, are less than one-third of the way there, making it virtually impossible that they will provide the funds needed to put the Cairo program in place.

"We are not keeping up with the problems, with the pace that the [Cairo] framework requires," Frank E. Loy, the U.S. undersecretary of state for global affairs, said in a recent speech. And when it comes to funding, he added, "it is sad but true that the country which risks being the biggest Cairo deadbeat of all is the United States."

World population will hit 6 billion this year, according to U.N. projections. And demographers say rapid population growth in many countries remains a major threat to health, the environment, quality of life and the world economy.

"What we do this year and in the next few years will determine whether the world has 8 billion people or 10 billion people or 12 billion people," said Timothy E. Wirth, a former undersecretary of state who now runs the United Nations Foundation, a private organization in Washington.

Some argue that the specter of rapid population growth has been overstated, citing the rapid drop in overall fertility worldwide.

"Never before have birthrates fallen so far, so fast, so low, for so long, all around the world," said Ben Wattenberg, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. He argues that even the high rates in developing countries will continue to fall as economic conditions improve.

In many industrialized countries, including the United States, fertility rates have dropped below "replacement" levels, meaning women average fewer than 2.1 children in their lifetimes.

But world population continues to grow, fueled by high fertility in many developing countries and a large younger population. That population "momentum," as it is known, looms in the current generation of nearly 1 billion teenagers moving into their reproductive years.

That sense of urgency is likely to set the tone at a summit this week in The Hague, the next step in the Cairo process. This phase, designed to assess the success of the program so far, will draw first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, cabinet-level ministers from as many as 80 countries and representatives from at least 170 governments.

In preparing for The Hague Forum, the U.N. Population Fund compiled a report on the progress made since the Cairo summit. It counts 41 countries that have adopted policy or legislative changes supporting the new family planning strategies. But it also cites considerable resistance in many countries to some of the goals, such as boosting the status of women.

Participating countries agreed in Cairo to increase spending to a total of $17 billion by 2000 and $22 billion by 2015. Two-thirds of that would come from developing countries and one-third from industrialized nations.

While spending increased immediately after Cairo, it has since stagnated, leaving the developing countries at about 70 percent of their 2000 goal and the donor countries further behind, at about one-third of the agreement.

Among donor countries, such as Japan, and developing countries, such as Indonesia, the Asian economic crisis has kept those governments from meeting their spending goals.

The United States, the largest single donor country, cut funding for

international family planning by about 30 percent, from $540 million in 1995 to $385 million last year. Antiabortion forces in Congress have successfully held up funding because of their concern that the aid would free up other dollars that could then be spent by overseas family planning agencies on abortion.

But a broader skepticism about the effectiveness of foreign assistance also has cut into funding levels.

"Foreign aid is typically seen as a tool of American interests, to spread our influence, particularly to the developing world. But the case for foreign aid is more difficult to make without invoking the prospect of Soviet influence," which ended with the Cold War, said Steven R. David, director of the International Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University.

The Cairo agreement was adopted with commitments from an array of governments, including the Vatican. For the first time, the plan discarded the notion of population "control," a long-standing, single-minded focus on contraception and sterilization as a way of meeting strict demographic targets.

Governments had learned that their earlier efforts had often backfired: Couples resented coercive efforts pushing sterilization, for example. And distribution of contraceptives without proper counseling and health care had led to illness and suspicion, keeping women from returning to the clinic.

The answer, the participants agreed, was a much broader strategy of improving the status of girls and women, informing them of their rights to choose contraceptives with proper counseling and providing health care at the same time to reduce pregnancy-related deaths and infant mortality.

In some parts of the world, the Cairo agreement has led to stunning change.

India, which for decades used numerical quotas establishing the number of sterilizations and contraceptives to be delivered by family planning workers, abandoned those targets nationwide in 1996. Despite a consensus that India needed to revamp its system, the decision to do away with targets inspired intense debate in that country and fear among some demographers that fertility rates would increase. The concerns were fueled by stories of men and women seeking sterilization but turned away because workers, no longer receiving incentives for meeting quotas, were unavailable.

"There are plenty of people who are nervous, whose primary concern is demographic, who still believe the most important thing is to get contraceptives to the largest number of people," said Adrienne Germain, president of the International Women's Health Coalition. "That's what's driven family planning in the past."

The change led to a decline in the use of family planning methods across India in 1996 and 1997, though the numbers increased again the following year, according to the Population Reference Bureau, a Washington-based research organization. And government surveys in India have shown no increase in fertility.

Despite the unease, the removal of targets was widely applauded by many groups inside the country and has created a ripple effect in tiny rural villages.

In Uttar Pradesh, one of India's poorest states, family planning services are now available through local milk cooperatives, resulting in 700,000 more men or women using contraception, according to Peggy Curlin, president of the Centre for Development and Population Activities.

Each morning, millions of women milk their cows and carry the pails to a local distribution point, where they can register for family planning services or receive condoms. Later, a trained worker will visit their homes to discuss contraception.

Meanwhile, some countries, such as Zimbabwe, have experienced a shortage of contraceptive products since family planning services were transferred from private organizations to the government, although there are no studies yet to determine if that has led to an increase in fertility. In Uganda, inadequate health services mean that women seeking sterilization must bring their own sutures, bandages and antiseptics.

Population experts caution that, given the dramatic scope of the Cairo agenda, five years is a short time to expect success.

"When you are working on fixing complicated problems on sexuality and human life, you're just not going to fix it the first try out," said Amy Coen, president of Population Action International. "It is crucial we see this as a beginning."

Measuring the Multitudes

The time it takes to add 1 billion people to the world's population has grown shorter but is projected to increase, the result of lower fertility.

IN BILLIONS

123 years: 1 billion to 2 billion 1927

33 years: 2 billion to 3 billion '60

14 years: 3 billion to 4 billion '74

13 years: 4 billion to 5 billion '87

12 years: 5 billion to 6 billion '99

14 years: 6 billion to 7 billion 2013

15 years: 7 billion to 8 billion '28

26 years: 8 billion to 9 billion '54

Note: Years 1995 and before are estimated; years after 1995 are projected.

SOURCE: United Nations Population Division

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Real World Financial Advice

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Anxious to slow the birth rate as the planet fast approaches the 6 billion mark, voluntary organizations met Sunday to map out their strategy ahead of a U.N. **population** conference.

Hundreds of agencies working to implement ambitious goals set at a 1994 international **population** conference in Cairo, Egypt, were drafting a report to be presented to the weeklong forum that opens Monday.

Youth groups and volunteers from most of the 180 United Nations countries who have sent delegations to The **Hague** were discussing the successes and failures of programs launched after the ground-breaking Cairo conference.

U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has made women's and children's rights a priority, planned to address the gathering later Sunday afternoon.

With the world's population projected to hit 6 billion later this year an increase of 20 percent in just 12 years the focus at The Hague Forum was on the progress in family planning, women's rights, reproductive health care services and AIDS prevention work.

The program of action adopted in Cairo called for universal access to affordable reproductive health services by 2015, including family planning, sexual health services and programs for adolescents.

It also called for universal access to primary education, measures to ensure equality between the sexes, and significant reductions in infant and maternal mortality.

Although volunteers reported progress in achieving some of those targets, they said progress was being hampered by a serious shortfall in funding, both from industrialized donor countries and

developing nations.

"The developing countries tried to implement the Cairo criteria but remain at least one-third behind the goals," said Amy Cohen, president of the U.S.-based population group Action International.

After cutting financial support to the U.N. Population Fund last year amid concern in the U.S. Congress that it was promoting abortion in China and elsewhere, the United States will soon review a proposal to reinstate its funding.

In The Hague on Saturday, U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney of New York released draft legislation for spending in 2000 and 2001, and Mrs. Clinton was expected to highlight it in her speech.

Maloney's bill proposes the reinstatement of dlrs 25 million in U.S. contributions in 2000 and dlrs 35 million in 2001. Because of the congressional cuts, the United States will spend nothing this year, Maloney said.

"We as Americans are not living up to our goals," she said.

As they did in Cairo, abortion and birth control were expected to provoke heated controversy in The Hague, with delegates from the Vatican expected to be in the forefront of the debate.

Universal access to family planning services, particularly for adolescents, and methods of contraception also were expected to generate debate.

WORLDwrite, a London-based youth education group, accused the conference of "a hidden agenda" by promoting birth control instead of focusing on ways to ease the misery in underdeveloped countries.

"Reproductive health is about cost-cutting not about spending more on infrastructure and economic development," it said. "Changing personal behavior and relationships will not solve the continuing poverty and hardship in the developing world."

(ad/mc/bk)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 07, 1999

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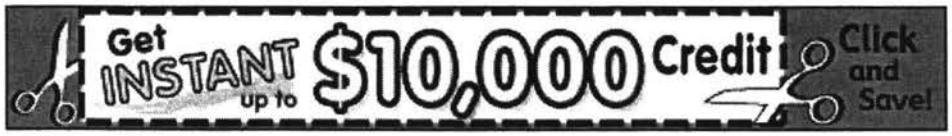

Saturday February 6 1:25 AM ET

U.N. To Review Plans To Stabilize World's Population

By Evelyn Leopold

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Since alarm bells sounded some 30 years ago about the dangers of an overcrowded planet, world leaders have initiated a panoply of programs to slow the population explosion.

But it will take at least another 50 years before the world's population, now at 5.9 billion, will begin to stabilize at 8.9 billion people, bringing monumental problems for poor nations in the interim, according to U.N. experts planning a forum next week in The Hague, Netherlands.

Alternatively, if programs falter and money to finance them remains scarce, the world could have 10.7 billion people by 2050.

``In short, the planet seems to have averted -- at least for now -- the threat of a population bomb. The danger now is that we will declare victory and go home," says the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA).

To take stock of which programs are working and which have been ignored, UNFPA has organized a five-day ``Hague Forum," beginning Monday, with delegates from 180 nations, including an address from U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Its purpose is to evaluate progress since a landmark 1994 conference in Cairo, the third such global meeting since 1974 and the one that switched directions from an emphasis on demographic control to general health care, education and choice as part of a family planning approach to curbing population growth.

The theory was that if women were literate, informed and able to make their own decisions, they would choose to have fewer children. Such action was needed to reduce poverty and hunger and to protect the earth's natural resources.

But the Cairo meeting was nearly derailed by heated arguments over abortion, which conference documents neither advocated nor outlawed. Organizers are hoping that debate will not resume, pointing to a U.N. General Assembly decision that says the Cairo document should not be renegotiated.

For the United States, the entire issue has turned into a political football after Congress late last year cut a $20 million grant to UNFPA, or about 7 percent of the U.N. organization's budget.

The main reason was UNFPA's experimental project in China to convince Beijing to allow voluntary family planning rather than coercive abortion programs. Britain has pledged to increase its share of UNFPA funding to make up for the U.S. loss.

Direct U.S. funding to countries for family planning programs was $540 million in 1995, before being slashed by Congress to its present level of $385 million, about a third of the goal.

But Nafis Sadik, the Pakistani physician who heads UNFPA, noted that Washington was not alone in failing to meet targets promised in Cairo, where nations agreed to increase spending on population programs and related projects to $17 billion by 2000 and $22 billion by 2015.

One third was to come from rich nations and in 1995 industrial states met their targets. But since then most have reduced support for population measures except for Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands.

On the plus side, Sadik said South Africa had initiated a policy giving all people access to reproductive health information and service, Eritrea attempted to do the same and Mexico was one of the first countries to set up a national women's health program that included family planning.

But in many countries, from Asia to Latin America, informing married or unmarried teenagers about sexual health was either taboo or not available -- even though half of the world's new HIV infections occurred among 15- to 24-year-olds. For related news, double click on one of the following codes: G E U AFN HEA ENV EMRG AFE LATAM US DIP ZA LDC NEWS NO NL SE LEN RTRS Friday, 5 February 1999 18:15:05 RTRS nN05315628

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Copyright 1999 Associated Press
AP Online

February 04, 1999; Thursday 17:08 Eastern Time

SECTION: International news

LENGTH: 582 words

HEADLINE: Nations Review **Population** Strategy

BYLINE: ANTHONY DEUTSCH

DATELINE: AMSTERDAM, Netherlands

BODY:

With the world's **population** projected to hit 6 billion this year, a weeklong U.N. **population** forum opening Sunday has taken on a new sense of urgency.

Delegates from 180 countries are gathering in The **Hague** to take a hard look at their headway toward the ambitious goals set five years ago at a landmark U.N. conference in Cairo.

"The choice the world has to make and make quickly is to take action that allows for lower birth rates," said Dick Bell, a spokesman for the Washington-based Worldwatch Institute.

"This is a very urgent problem and the industrialized countries need to face their responsibilities," he said.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton officially opens The Hague Forum on Monday after addressing representatives of some 800 voluntary organizations meeting separately on Sunday.

In 1987, the world population was 5 billion. It is expected to hit 6 billion this year, an increase of 20 percent in just 12 years, most of it in developing nations.

The program of action adopted in Cairo calls for universal access to affordable reproductive health services by the year 2015, including family planning, sexual health services and programs for adolescents.

It also calls for universal access to primary education, measures to ensure gender equity and equality, and significant reductions in infant and maternal mortality by that date.

"I'm very pleased with the progress since Cairo," said Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director of the U.N.

Population Fund, which organized both conferences.

"Policy changes are being made in almost every country ... so that's very positive," she said.

As they did in Cairo, abortion and birth control are expected to provoke heated controversy in The Hague, with delegates from the Vatican expected to be in the forefront of the debate.

Universal access to family planning services, particularly for adolescents, and methods of contraception also are expected to generate debate.

A leading issue will be the flagging financial commitment of U.N. members to programs designed to slow overpopulation and the impact of the world economic malaise on the problem.

"It is clear they have fallen short of the goals and that the industrialized countries have not come forward with the cash they promised," Bell said. "It is imperative that the wealthy countries recognize the urgency of funding these programs."

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development ended with a 20-year plan of action intended to increase global spending on population issues to $17 billion by 2000 and to $22 billion by 2015. The latest figures put current spending at about $10.5 billion, Sadik said.

Briefing reporters in Washington this week, Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs Frank E. Loy stressed the importance of The Hague conference and the role of the United States in global population affairs.

Though the United States is the largest financial backer of global population programs and has spent more than $3 billion since 1994, its yearly contribution has declined, Loy said.

"We're still the leader, but it's clear we should be and I hope we will be doing more in the future," he said. "It is certainly my intent to work with Congress to see if we can gain some additional support for these programs."

Congress withdrew financial support for the U.N. Population Fund last year amid concerns among Republicans that it was a platform for promoting abortion in China and elsewhere.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 04, 1999

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Yahoo! News Science Headlines

Monday February 8 1:02 AM ET

UN Population Plan Review Starts In Netherlands

THE HAGUE (Reuters) - Delegates to a U.N. population conference starting Monday will hear appeals to do more, and faster, for female empowerment and adolescent reproductive rights, pre-conference meetings indicated Sunday.

Dubbed The Hague Forum, the conference is the first major follow-up to a landmark 1994 conference in Cairo which thrashed out a 20-year program of international action aimed at stabilizing the world's population.

The Cairo conference, brokered by the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), was the third such global meeting since 1974 but the first to break with traditional demographic targets in favor of a radical new approach dubbed ``people rather than numbers."

Theorizing that if women were literate, informed and able to make their own decisions they would have fewer children, Cairo outlined an ambitious holistic program to promote general health care, education and female empowerment.

Five years later, the 180 nations who signed up to Cairo will meet in The Hague to assess progress so far.

The five-day Hague Forum, a dry run to provide input for the U.N. Commission on Population and Development review of Cairo in late March in New York, will pay special attention to gender equality and youth sex and contraception.

The world's estimated 1.2 billion adolescents -- the largest generation in world history -- are seen as the key to sustainable population growth in the future.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), parliamentarians and youth groups meeting ahead of the Hague Forum said Sunday that good progress had been made so far.

``Five years from Cairo it is still too early to measure the ... outcome," an NGO spokesman said. ``But the consensus around the principles of the Cairo agenda is gaining momentum."

Still, major problems remain. ``There is concern about the widening gap between what UNFPA has been asked to provide and the resources it has," spokesman Dr Mahmoud Fathalla said.

At Cairo, countries pledged to boost spending on population programs and related projects to $17 billion by 2000, with developing countries footing two-thirds of the bill and developed nations the rest. However, the majority of countries have fallen short of their commitments.

``Developing countries so far have met 70 percent of their commitments and donor (developed) nations 25 percent," Fathalla said. ``Implementing Cairo is an investment you cannot afford not to commit resources to."

Notable among non-payers is the United States, after Congress last year cut a $20 million grant to UNFPA. U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton has proposed reinstating funding.

The call has since been taken up by a U.S. congresswoman, Caroline Maloney, who will be presenting a bill to Congress to reinstate funds in 2000.

Other areas of concern include continued violations of women's rights and inadequate funding for pregnant women which have led to high rates of mortality in pregnancy and childbirth, according to Fathalla.

Mrs Clinton cut short her planned two-day visit to The Hague Sunday in order to attend the funeral of Jordan's King Hussein. An UNFPA spokeswoman said she would return to the Netherlands Tuesday to address the Forum.

Earlier Stories

- Teen Sex Looms As Big Issue At U.N. Population Forum (February 7)
- Teen Sex Looms As Big Issue At UN Population Forum (February 6)
- U.N. To Review Plans To Stabilize World's Population (February 6)
- UN To Review Plans To Stabilize World's Population (February 5)

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Copyright 1999 Associated Press
AP Worldstream

February 08, 1999; Monday 05:46 Eastern Time

SECTION: International news

DISTRIBUTION: Middle East;England;Africa;Asia

LENGTH: 580 words

HEADLINE: AP Photo planned

BYLINE: MIKE CORDER
World **Population,**0617

DATELINE: THE **HAGUE,** Netherlands

BODY:

Alarmed at soaring birth rates in developing countries already struggling to feed, clothe and educate their people, delegates from 180 nations opened a weeklong U.N. **population** conference Monday.

With global **population** projected to hit 6 billion later this year, some 1,500 delegates were stressing the need to implement and fund a plan of action drawn up five years ago at a groundbreaking **population** conference in Cairo, Egypt.

"Before the dawn of the next millennium, the six billionth human inhabitant of this planet will be born," Dutch Health Minister Els Borst said in an opening speech.

"The crucial question is to what extent that child will be able to live a dignified, productive and happy life."

The **Hague** Forum, the first major step in a review process that will culminate in a special meeting on the United Nations General Assembly in June, began with a minute's silence in memory of King Hussein of Jordan, who died Sunday.

The main attraction on the conference's first day, a keynote speech by U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, was postponed because Mrs. Clinton was in Jordan attending King Hussein's funeral. She was to return to the Netherlands Monday night and deliver her speech on Tuesday.

Many delegates dressed in the lightweight national costumes of their African and Asian nations looked chilled as they stepped into the conference center out of a snow storm in The **Hague.**

U.N. Deputy Secretary General Louise Frechette summed up the week's aims when she told the opening ceremony audience: "We are here to assess how far we have come in the realization of our objectives and to rededicate ourselves to their pursuit."

The program of action adopted in Cairo in 1994 calls for universal access to affordable reproductive health services by the year 2015, including family planning, sexual health services and programs for adolescents.

"Everything possible must be done to prevent the triple jeopardy of unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion and infection with HIV," Borst said.

The Cairo plan also called for universal access to primary education, measures to ensure gender equity and equality, and significant reductions in infant and maternal mortality by that date.

While progress has been made on many fronts, national delegations here were stressing that funding remains a critical problem.

The Cairo conference produced a 20-year plan of action intended to increase global spending on **population** issues to dlrs 17 billion by 2000 and to dlrs 22 billion by 2015. Current spending is about dlrs 10.5 billion, said Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director of the U.N. **Population** Fund.

"I sincerely hope that our deliberations ... will generate renewed political momentum so necessary policies are adopted and resources are made available," Frechette said.

As the conference got under way, there were signs that as in Cairo issues such as abortion, birth control and family planning would trigger fierce debate.

The London-based youth education organization WORLDwrite harshly criticized the U.N. conference for doing nothing practical to ease the misery of young mothers in developing countries.

"If their concern is really for the health and education of women and the girl child, why do they never advance plans to build more maternity hospitals and children's wards?" asked the group's director, Ceri Dingle.

"Genuine development will not be achieved for the price of a condom," he said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 08, 1999

Client ID: 72

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Sunday February 7 5:57 PM ET

Men Partners In Fight For Women's Rights-First Lady

THE HAGUE (Reuters) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton wrapped up a two-day non-governmental conference on reproductive health and sustainable population growth Sunday with a plea against excluding men from the fight for greater women's rights.

``I urge all of us to continue reaching out to fathers, sons and husbands," she told some 2,000 delegates from 180 countries.

``If progress is to be made in promoting family planning and gender equity or any of the challenges before us, then men must continue to be full and willing partners in this process."

The weekend NGO (non-governmental organization) meeting was one of several gatherings before a five-day U.N. population conference, aimed at providing information from the grassroots and aid workers on the ground.

The U.N. conference will evaluate progress five years after a Cairo meeting set out an ambitious 20-year action plan to stem population growth based on women's empowerment and education rather than demographic targets.

Mrs Clinton said that many advances had been made and urged NGOs to keep up their commitment to women's right to reproductive health and education.

``We have come a very long way in the past years...it may not seem fast enough, but it was not until Nairobi that domestic violence was recognized as a crime and not a...family matter," she reminded her listeners.

``It was not until Cairo that we began to talk about lifting up women's lives and making development and population go hand in hand as our twin goals, and it was not until Beijing that we said women's rights are people's rights, there's no difference."

Summing up the NGO discussions, Dr. Mahmoud Fathalla, an NGO spokesman, said the Cairo approach was working but many concerns remained. ``Five years since Cairo it is still too early to measure the outcome...but we are on the right track," he said.

Areas of concern included continued violations of women's rights and a severe lack of resources for the program, as the majority of countries have failed to meet their spending commitments.

``Every minute a woman in the prime of life is dying because of pregnancy and childbirth," Fathalla

said. ``Pregnancy is not a disease that should have to compete with other diseases (for funds),'' he said.

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Issue 3, 8 February 1999

Youth Forum Watchdog

NGO Youth Forum, The Hague, 5-7 February 1999

Late Night Tensions at page 7

We made it!

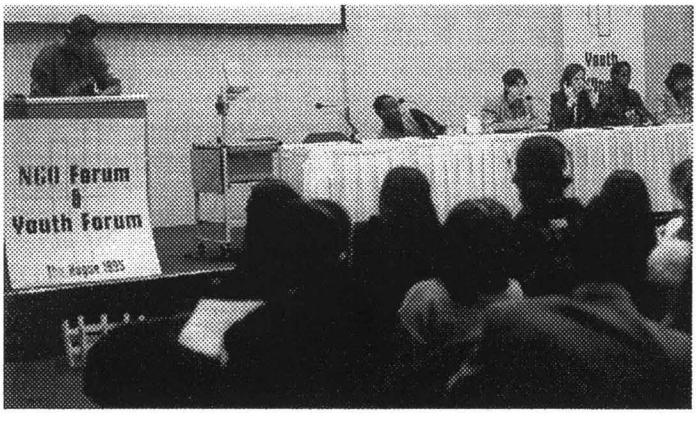
It was not the first youth NGO Forum BUT it was a first in many other ways. The ICPD + 5 Youth Forum was the first time that youth from around the world have been fully integrated with a United Nations meeting. Along with the 137 youth delegates, many others were essential to the success of the Youth Forum. These included representatives from the World Population Foundation, tireless volunteers from the Dutch Youth Council, and the other individuals who worked hard before and during the Forum.

SONU CHHINA

Youth delegates may rejoice in what they have accomplished but the real work is about to begin with the following recommendations:

Recommendations:
"It was a hell of a job, but we made it. Don't ask us how." The whole crew is bursting with pride when they talk about the final draft. The final plenary of the Youth Forum on Sunday afternoon was, however, just on the verge of being declared a war zone.
Tempers were barely under control as the reps dealt with the time constraint. With an edge to their voices, they lobbied emphatically for the changes they wanted.
Many reps complained of lack of organization and rules for the plenary. But, here are some of the exciting 'recs' that will land at the Hague Forum tables.

Sexual and Reproductive Health
In-school sexual education that covers sexual pleasure and confidence won near-absolute consensus. The forum also concurred that services for young people should be confidential, accessible, proactive, free (or at least affordable), non-judgmental and run by young people in collaboration with trained professionals.
The youth clearly expressed a need that community leaders (parents, teachers, religious and political leaders) should be mobilized to work together with young people, collaborating with the media and diverse interest groups (e.g. sports clubs and NGOs).
The forum decided that young people need to participate in all conferences about sexual and reproductive health. They also recommended the right to technical assistance and financial support from governments, NGOs, private sector and other youth organizations.



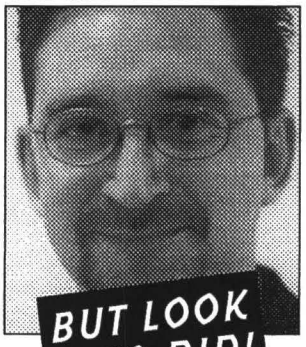
Violence
The human rights recommendations aim for the elimination of prejudice against minorities (e.g., HIV+ individuals) The paper lists a program to encourage and educate children, youth and adults towards greater tolerance, solidarity and knowledge of other cultures through means such as street theater.
The forum also called for addressing the role of the media in not presenting negative images that might affect youth and children's perspectives of violence.

Individual Development
The recommendations minced no words when asking for treatment as equal partners at ALL levels of the policy and decision-making process and demanding a UN organization for and by youth to foster sharing of resources.
The forum recommended that education be subsidized at all levels by reducing military spending and increasing education budgets.
The forum put forth the need for governments, private sector and NGOs to employ a fixed percentage of young people in permanent jobs.

Education
The youth forum demanded that primary school curricula should include instruction on democracy, sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender equality.
Recommendations on future action also included equal access to free education for all children below the age of 18.

Finally
The reps called on governments to enforce laws regarding the enrolment of children in school.
Several reps are still sore at the brushing aside of suggestions and demands made during the plenary. They were, however, overawed with the fact that they had completed their task.

Ginger Couldn't Make It,



Saved by U2: John O'Brien
Born in Dublin, Ireland, O'Brien first became involved in combating the Irish Government's refusal to grant basic reproductive freedoms when many of his friends were forced to endure unwanted pregnancies because of the illegality of both contraception and abortion. In protest of his country's criminalizing of contraception sales, John, in collaboration with local family planning organizations, began selling condoms. After undercover police officer exposed the ring of condom corrupters, O'Brien and Company were both tried and convicted. Rock band U2 not only offered to pay the legal fines but issued a statement denouncing the government's action thereby catalyzing a public outcry that ensured the law's subsequent repealing. Even after his brush with the law, John's commitment to sexual and reproductive freedom endured. As press officer for the Alliance for Choice, John brought national attention to the abuse of a previously thought innocuous constitutional amendment, "protecting the life of the unborn." Using the

Continued on page 2

Making Things Happen – Miles Away

Many of us have traveled over sea and land to hear the ideas of other young people and express our ideas with them. The Watchdog wanted to know about projects that participants have done to expose young people to issues of local and global importance.

BY MESHEA L. POORE

These include sexuality education, adolescent reproductive health, human rights, development issues, social development, population, gender issues and whatever else was interesting to them. Here is what we found. In Mongolia, there have been several conferences that have been held regarding these issues. The "One World" Conference series began November 1998. The focus is placed on youth between the ages of 15-19 years of age and builds on commitment to young people between the Government of Mongolia and the United Nations System. Youth delegate activities have shown that children should not wait for actions to be taken by local administrations, schools or parents. By speaking out, the young people have taken a stand for what they believe in and are demanding to be heard.

According to Nadia Van der Linde of the Dutch Council of Youth Population, workshops are being organized that will welcome students and provide them with information about human rights and the rights they have in maintaining there own sexuality. These workshops will allow the students to speak freely about issues that concern them and their peers. Nadia expressed that young people need to know about their sexuality and not be hindered by the idea that the subject is taboo. Although Holland is perceived as free-spirited, there are still some areas in which the communication could be better, she added.

Another project that was mentioned was bringing the Internet into the classroom and making it a part of the curriculum. By doing this not only would the student benefit by the sex education received, they will gain Internet skills and be able to discuss what they have learned with other young people. Communication is the key to breaking barriers.

Swagile Msananaga Juma, of Umati in Tanzania says that the Family Planning organization that he is a part of believes in counseling young people about their bodies and making them aware of the options they have in dealing with contraception and issues that can help prevent STDs. It is important that young people are able to make educated and conscious decisions when dealing with reproductive health issues. Without education we hold ourselves back. We not only need to educate ourselves about topics such as prevention against STDs and unwanted pregnancies but we need to spread that education to as many people that are willing to hear. These young people are planting a seed of hope for generations to come. They are committed to sharing information with others, and by them taking this initiative and making an effort change is in sight.

Hunting Time

As you might know, today government delegates are taking over: they start negotiating in the The Hague Forum at the NCC. Since we already know our way into the building, this is our opportunity to stress our points, some would call it lobbying, in political language it is called advocacy.

Just to make sure none of us wastes time, *Watchdog* ran to a specialist for advice on how to pursue our goals. Delia Barcelona, UNFPA's Senior Technical Officer allowed us to put it in our own words.

First of all don't be prejudiced about the way delegates treat youth. Youth issues are rising on political agendas. At forums like this, they're bound to listen to you and pay attention to what you're saying. Ms Barcelona thinks they should view youth as real partners and equals.

Here's one thing that might not seem appealing but is worthwhile in the end. Ms Barcelona said you should listen carefully to the presentations of your delegations, and then express your concerns and share the recommendations of the Youth Forum. *Watchdog* thought of another reason: you might catch them on promises, that you want to remind them of in the future. Once you establish contact you can continue this promising relationship back home.

One of the most important things is that you want eye-to-eye contact. Search your delegates during lunch breaks, try to get invited, or sneak in to receptions, or even chase them down hotel lobbies. Ms Barcelona suggested it might be nice to invite them over to the Youth Hostel. "Explore all venues."

BY MARIA EUGENIA MIRANDA

Continued from page 1

clause as a pedestal, Ireland's government threatened incarceration to a fourteen year-old suicidal rape victim should she travel to England to obtain a legal abortion. Again, public outcry enabled small but right-minded reforms. After a seemingly interminable two week deliberation, Ireland's Supreme Court reversed the lower court's injunction, allowing "Youth X" to travel to England. Bans on information regarding legal abortions elsewhere were lifted, and voters rejected a referendum that would have refused the right to travel to any woman believed to be pregnant.

Working as director of the Eastern European sector of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, he used his position to expand youth presence in leadership roles. "Too often reproductive rights leaders will fight for youth's clinical and educational access, but deny young people the opportunity to sit down at the boardroom table with them as equal partners." This ideology led to a campaign entitled, "Make It Happen. Make It Now" aimed at youth involvement and power around reproductive rights.

Nevertheless O'Brien concedes that a huge dearth exists in creating and supporting leadership roles for the young.

"Organizations like Choice USA that focus on developing leadership skills in young women are rare, though the success of forums like the Young Feminist Workshop yesterday provide hope that more organizations will become inclusive, if not youth-focused."

ALISON FRIEDMAN

Curtains Down

The NGO and Youth Fora closed yesterday with a final session filled with luminaries from the political and NGO world as well as key participants in the discussions of the last two days.

BY VANDANA TRIPATHI

Although positive about the achievements of the last five years, each of the speakers made sure to highlight concerns and remaining obstacles to further progress.

The Youth Forum was represented by Lis Hirano of Brazil, who reiterated the involvement of youth in campaigns, organizations, and movements all over the world. Citing the 137 participants from 111 countries at the Youth Forum, she reminded the audience that youth are "the engine of society."

The Youth Forum video premiered at the closing session - full of energetic music and quick cuts, the video showed young people around the world expressing their desires and hopes. Memorable was the young man whose dream was "to be rich without nobody having a problem with it!" The video's theme was ROOM for youth, flashed in red messages across the screen - "Room to grow, room to speak, room to learn, room to build."

The NGO Forum was encapsulated by Dr. Mahmoud Fathalla from Egypt. He cited successes – the consensus around the principles of Cairo, the broken silence on issues like unsafe abortion, and the partnerships between government and civil sector. In serious concerns, he noted the continuing violation of women's rights, the persistent tragedy of maternal mortality, and the disparity between fulfilled funding commitments by developed and developing countries.

Other speakers included Ambassador Nicolaas Biegman, the Netherlands' ambassador to NATO, and the Bangladesh Ambassador to the UN, Anwarul Karim Chowdhury. Both Biegman and Ambassador Chowdhury discussed the role of NGOs as the vanguard in educating people, advocating for change, and building political will.

Hillary Clinton reads the Watchdog! During her speech, Mrs. Clinton joked about her sorrow at not being Ginger. More seriously, she agreed with comments by a youth delegate that "We are finally talking WITH young people instead of ABOUT youth."

The final speaker was First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton of the United States. Mrs. Clinton focused her remarks on the needs of girls and women. Mrs. Clinton quoted a poet from Surinam: "You inspire, you abide, in the midst of the battle of every day." This notion of the struggles of women around the world to improve their everyday lives was a cornerstone of her message. Mrs. Clinton spoke passionately about the impact of the NGO movement on reproductive health and women's rights, moving the values of population and development, "not lowering numbers, but lifting up lives." Urging activists to continue to reach out to "sons, fathers, and husbands" as allies in the battles for rights and health, Mrs. Clinton closed with reminders of recent successes in changing perceptions of women's rights and health needs. Mr. Wouter Meijer of the World Population Foundation and Dr Nafis Sadik of the UNFPA closed the NGO and Youth Forums, with Dr. Sadik promising that "we will make a difference."

Portraits of 3 visitors

Romom David Izaguirre Discua
Honduras

CONJUVE

Grupo de trabajo: educación

"Me pareció muy productivo todo lo que trabajé con mi grupo. Hicimos lo que pudimos y estoy conforme. Creo que este foro es totalmente democrático y consensual. No me aburrí para nada, es muy entretenido"

Johanna Nystrom
Sweden

Swedish association for sex education

" I'm in the sub-group of government and democracy of violence group. It was efficient but we needed more time. It was fun to watch the folkloric dances and national costumes"

Carine A. Mbeg
Cameroun

Association camaronaise pour le bien-etre familiale

"Je suis dans le groupe de développement individuel je pense que c'est édifiant mais dommage qu'on n'a pas assez de temps.la soirée internationale était bien mais la touche africaine y manquait"

PHOTOS BY ITIR AKDOGAN

TEXT BY ITIR AKDOGAN AND MARIA MIRANDA

Things to look for

Monday and Tuesday, 8-9 February 1999

10:00 The International Hague Forum opens, with comments from:
- Nafis Sadik, UNFPA Executive Director
- Louise Frechette, Deputy Secretary General, UN
- Hillary Rodham Clinton, First Lady, USA
- Nana Rawlings, First Lady, Republic of Ghana

Afternoon:
Presentations from the Parliamentarians, Youth, and NGO Forums
This will be the official government delegations' opportunity to hear the results and recommendations of the forums that took place from 4-8 February.
Further presentations will be made by:
- Baron Vaea, Prime Minister of Tonga
- Elizabeth Aguirre de Calderon Sol, First Lady, El Salvador

The Hague Forum will be open to the delegates of the Youth Forum and will continue from 8-12 February. Representatives from 180 countries will meet to consider progress made in the last five years on the Cairo agenda. A Main Committee will be considering five themes in parallel to the Hague Forum:
- Creating an enabling environment for further implementation of the ICPD Program of Action
- Reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, and reproductive rights
- Gender equality, equity, and empowerment of women
- Strengthening partnerships
- Resource flows and financing for the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action

Among the plenary speakers during the Hague Forum will include:
- Louise Frechette, UN Deputy Secretary-General
- Gro Harlem Brundtland, World Health Organization Director-General
- Peter Piot, United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS Executive Director

The results from the Hague Forum will be presented to the Commission on Population and Development when it meets in March in New York.

* * *

Lundi et mardi, le 8-9 février 1999

10:00 le Forum International de Lahaye s'ouvre avec les commentaires de:
- Dr. Nafis Sadik, directeur exécutif de FNUAP
- Louise Frechette, Députée Secrétaire Générale NU
- Hillary Rodham Clinton, First Lady, EU
- Nana Rawlings, First lady, République de Ghana

Après-midi:
Les présentations des parlementaires et des Forums de Jeunesse et des ONG
D'autres présentations seront faites par:
- Baron Vaea, le Premier-ministre de Tonga
- Elisabeth Aguirre de Calderon Sol, First Lady, El Salvador

Le Forum de Lahaye sera ouvert aux délégués du Forum de jeunesse et aura lieu de 8 à 12 février.Les représentants de 180 pays vont considérer cinq thèmes en parallèle au Forum de Lahaye:
- Créer un environnement pour une meilleure application du plan d'action de CIPD
- Santé reproductive y inclus la plannification familiale, santé sexuelle et droits reproductifs
- Egalités des gendres et l'enforcement des femmes
- Renforcer les partenariats
- Ressources et finances pour l'application du plan d'action de CIPD

Aux participants du plénaire pendant le forum de Lahaye seront inclus:
- Luise Frechette, Députée Secrétaire Générale de NU
- Gro harlem Brundtland, Directeur Général d'Organisation Mondiale de Santé
- Peter Piot, Directeur exécutif de Programme de NU sur HIV/ AIDS

Les résultats du Forum de Lahaye seront présentés à la commission sur la population et le développement quand elle se réunira en mars à New York.

* * *

Lunes y martes , 8-9 Febrero 1999

10:00 El Foro Internacional de la Haya se abrirá, con comentarios de :
- Nafis Sadik, Director Ejecutivo del UNFPA.
- Louise Frechette, diputado y Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas .
- Hillary Rodham Clinton, Primera Dama Estadounidense.
- Nana Rawlings, Primera Dama de la Republica de Gana .

En la tarde:
Las presentaciones de los Parlamentarios, JOVENES y ONG's. Esta será la oportunidad de las delegaciones de gobierno para oir las recomendaciones de los foros realizados del 4 al 8 de febrero.
Las presentaciones adicionales estarán realizadas por:
- Baron Vaea, Primer Ministro de la Republica de Tonga.
- Elizabeth Aguirre Calderon Sol, Primera Dama de El Salvador.

El Foro de la Haya está abierto a los participantes del Foro de los jovenes y continuará hasta el 8 al 12 de febrero.
Representantes de 180 paises se encontrarán para evaluar los avances en la agenda planteada en El Cairo hace cinco años.
Un Comité Central estará considerando cinco temas paralelos al Foro de la Haya:
- La creación de condiciones y de un ambiente favorable para la implementación de futuros programas y acciones del ICPD.
- Salud reproductiva, que incluya planificacion familiar, salud sexual y derechos reproductivos.
- Género, igualdad y empoderamiento de las mujeres.
- Fortalecimiento de coaliciones.
- Recursos y financiamiento para la implementación de programas y acciones del ICPD.

Además del plenario se incluirán durante el Foro de la Haya las sigientes intervenciones:
- Louise Frechette, diputado y Secretario General de Las Naciones Unidas.
- Gro Harlem Brundtlend, Director General de la Organizacion Mundial de la Salud.
- Piter Piot, Encargado Director Ejecutivo del Programa contra las enfermedades de transmisión sexual y SIDA.

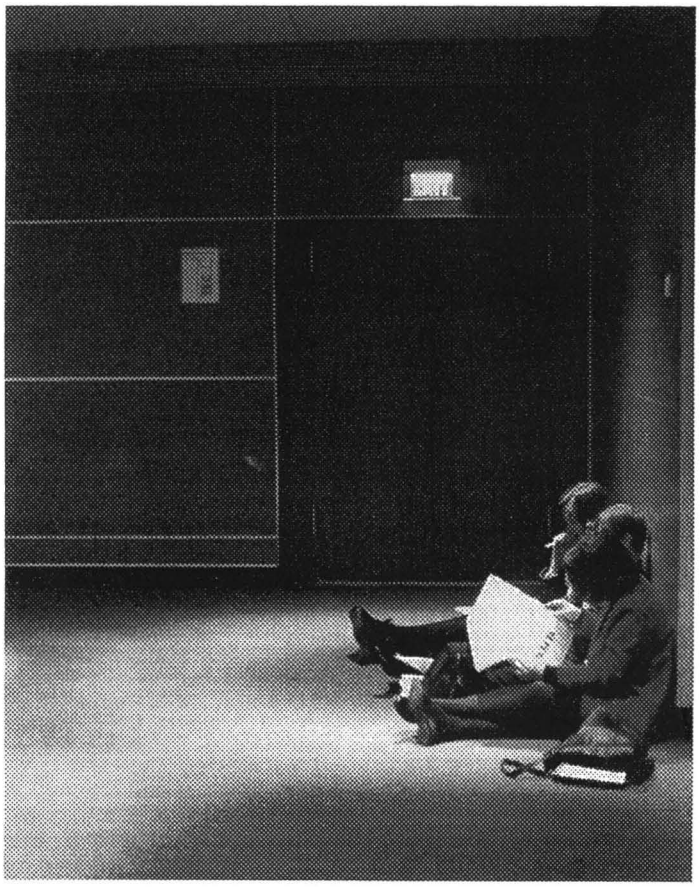
Los resultados del Foro de la Haya serán presentados por la Comisión de población y desarrollo en la próxima reunion que se realizará en marzo, en Nueva York.

Chasser le temps

Comme vous pouvez savoir, aujourd'hui les délégués des gouvernements commencent à négocier au Forum de Lahaye à NCC. On sait bien que c'est une opportunité pour nous les rencontrer et de parler de nos points. Il y en a qui appelle cela faire lobby et dans le langage politique c'est 'advocacy'. Pour ensurer que personne ne perde de temps, Watchdog est allé à une spécialiste pour des avis sur comment persuader nos objectifs. C'est notre Delia Barcelona, l'officier technique d' FNUAP et elle nous a permit d'employer nos propres mots.
Avant tout, n'ayez pas des préjugés sur la façon des délégués de traiter de jeunesse. Les problèmes de jeunesse augmentent dans l'agenda politique. Aux Forums comme ceci, ils vont vous écouter et payer attention à ce que vous dites. Mme Barcelona dit quand-même que: "les adultes doivent voir la jeunesse comme de vrais parteners et égaux. Voilà une chose qui ne semble pas chouette mais c'est à la fin. Mme Barcelona a dit que vous devez écouter attentivement les présentations de vos délégués et puis exprimer vos problèmes et partager les recommendations de Forum de Jeunesse. Wachtdog a pensé à une autre raison: vous pouvez prendre des promesses d'eux que vous leur ferrez rappeler au futur. Une fois que vous établissez ce contact vous pouvez continuer cette relation de promesse à la rentrée.
Une des choses la plus importante, c'est le contact face à face.
Cherchez vos délégués pendant le déjeuner, essayez d'être invité ou les attraper aux réceptions, ou même les chasser dans les lobbies des hotels. Mme. Barcelona a proposé, pour échange, de les inviter à l'auberge de jeunesse.
Cherchez toutes les possibilités.

Tiempo de cacería!

Como ya todos sabrán, hoy los delegados de los gobiernos levantarán vuelo y comenzarán con las negociaciones en el Foro de La Haya.
La cita tendrá lugar en el NCC, ese monstruoso edificio en el que nos habremos perdido tantas veces, no es cierto amigos?
Hablando en serio, esta será la oportunidad para mostrar nuestros proyectos ante los distintos delegados (algunos llamarán lobby a esta actividad).
Sólo para asegurarnos de que no se derroche tiempo, Watchdog consultó a una especialista para que nos asesore en esto de convencer a los adultos. Ella es, nada más ni nada menos que Delia Barcelona, de la UNFPA, quien nos dejó escribir sus consejos con nuestras propias palabras.
Primero de todo, no hay que prejuzgar acerca del trato que recibiremos por parte de los delegados, por el sólo hecho de ser jovenes.
Los temas relacionados con la juventud son tenidos muy en cuenta ultimamente por los politicos. En foros como estos, ellos estarán interesados en escucharnos y prestarle atención a lo que decimos.
Delia Barcelona cree que "los adultos deben ver a los jovenes como pares y equivalentes".
Aquí va una cosa que quizas no suene muy divertida, pero finalmente será provechosa. La señora Barcelona dijo que es importante escuchar atentamente a las presentaciones que hagan los delegados, para asi luego poder expresarles nuestras opiniones, criticas, y poder enseñarles las recomendaciones a las que arribamos en el foro de jovenes. Watchdog considera una segunda interpretación: es recomendable oir sus promesas para poder recordarselas en un futuro.
Una vez que hayamos establecido los contactos, podemos continuar esta "prometedora" relación cuando regresemos a nuestros respectivos paises.
Una de las cosas más importantes que debemos tener en cuenta es que nuestro objetivo es poder platicar cara a cara con los delegados. Búscalos en los almuerzos, trata de que te inviten a las recepciones (o entrometete por la parte trasera), y por que no, persiguelos en los lobbies de sus hoteles. La señora Barcelona sugirió que sería lindo si los invitamos a nuestro hotel.
Explora todas las posibilidades que se te ocurran (si tienes alguna idea original no dudes en pasarmela!).



Break time at the Congresgebouw

Para rebeldes con causa...

CATALINA MONTENEGRO GRANADOS

Si quieres dejar pasar al otro hay que moverse...
No irse, ni caerse... moverse.
Hoy podemos decir que somos muchos, iguales y diferentes.
Todavia no tenemos idea de las implicaciones de este foro en nuestras vidas, en las vidas de nuestras comunidades...
Es una maravilla haber descubierto el placer de compartir experiencias y sentir por primera vez que no estamos solos en el trabajo desde, por, para y con los jovenes.

Y que igual somos jovenes, y además de enfrentarnos a las demandas y responsabilidades, estamos conscientes de la importancia en la lucha por nuestros derechos, los que hace muy poco en la mayoria de los paises tienen nombre.
Cómo se llaman nuestros derechos...?
Derechos de los niños...? Derechos humanos...?
Para que los jovenes empecemos a participar en la toma de deciciones en las ONGs, los adultos deben entender y respetar los espacios.
En algunos casos, implicará la renuncia a privilegios, en otros el duro trabajo en conjunto para la creación de una relación amorosa entre generaciones.
Para que el tema de juventud se convierta en prioridad para los gobiernos, las ONGs y la sociedad civil deben trabajar en la incidencia politica y el fortalecimiento a la demanda social, quiere decir, permitir y contribuir a que cada vez más gente este consciente de las necesidades y particularidades de nuestra población.
Esto no debe ser lo último que ponemos, sino lo primero que decimos...
Los jovenes no somos solamente el futuro, es facil olvidar entre tanto discurso adulto, que somos el presente, que es hoy que importamos...
Existe una diferencia entre sentirnos representados y sentiernos tomados en cuenta...
Es dificil representar la furia, la fuerza y la vitalidad y lo distinto de nuestras identidades es lo que nos caracteriza.
Sin embargo, es posible tomarnos en cuenta y son divertidos algunos de los derechos que sólo son nuestros, por ejemplo el derecho a equivocarnos, el derecho a recrearnos y a tener tiempo para decidir qué queremos hacer con nuetras vida, el derecho a ser adolescentes y que no nos sumerjan en la juventud, porque somos distintos a los demás jovenes.
No estamos aquí porque han sido tan buenos que nos invitaron...
Más bien es un poco extraño que sea la primera vez que se haga...
Hemos quedado bien... este foro estuvo organizado principalmente por jovenes, desde la toma de deciciones, la metodología, la conducción.
Los jovenes no somos un grupo minoritario.
Tenemos claro los aportes que estamos haciendo al Foro de ONG's podríamos darle una lección maestra de metodología...
Estamos descubriendo nuevas formas de estar juntos, un estilo de fin de milenio para construir la esperanza...
Ninguno de nuestros derechos puede prescindir de otro para existir, no sólo queremos educación, salud, espacios de participación , necesitamos seguridad, confianza, inversión, amor, queremos ser reconocidos y por eso estamos aqui...
Comida, no guerra, futuro, para poder vivir el presente.

What's on tonight?

The Blue Sweatshirts

Enter the interpreters. This is an additional responsibility that the Sweatshirts undertook: translating English to French and Spanish and vice-versa. The Congress Center was unable to call in as many as were needed for the deliberations of the 16 working groups.

Nynke Jager and her Sweatshirt Gang, however, are still going strong. The workload has plateaued and they are tired for new reasons. If people missed Peter yesterday, it was because he was recovering from a jumbo hangover. When last seen (at around 3.30 a.m.) on Saturday he was passionately discussing the facts of life at the youth hostel reception.

The Dutch folklore dance group was a hit, contrary to the Sweatshirts' fears and they even admit that they enjoyed it. The dancing and songs were not all that dated because of the sequence of *Zeg ken jij de Mosselman?* (a song that Dutch children pick up at school), which is the mother of Gabber: reportedly the latest dance craze in Dutch discotheques.

The body ache after the dancing made them vow that they'd be grumpy all of Sunday. Only Nynke managed to hold on to the resolution. The others could be heard conducting an impromptu singing session in the bus to the Congress Center. Something about moving to the left, right, back and forth. According to Karin Bode: "It helps blood rush to the brain." After all-night carousing it seems to be an effective wake-up device. Maybe everybody needs to try it out. Contact Olaf for details.

The sweatshirts have been pushed around quite a bit, especially as the work of the Forum got more intense and the stress levels rose. However, they always kept smiles on their faces!

Watch out for fakes. The ones sitting at the NGO Forum help desk with the red badges have been hired and are not to be confused with those slogging it out for the youth forum.

What's On, Part 2

Ice-skating! As if it were not cold enough.... All visitors beware of the Dutch – they are known for their talent in skating. If you can keep your balance and stay off your butt, the place to be is the Youth Hostel at 14:00 on Tuesday.

Haven't left the conference to explore Holland? It's not too late. I have one word for you: Madurodam. You can explore the important landmarks of Holland in one hour. Madurodam is a small version of Holland, which includes buildings, trams, buses etc. It's intriguing to see how the Dutch managed to make them selves so small!

Tired of the cold? Are you ready for some sunshine and a little warmth? Would you like to go to the beach and not feel the treacherous wind against your face? Well, I've got the place for you: Panorama Mesdag! Picture this-- a view of the beach in the town of Scheveningen. The room containing this painting is round. If you stand in the middle of the room, it will seem as if you are at the beach. With the sand under your feet and water on the wall you are sure to feel the sun beaming on your face. It's just too bad the participants forgot their bathing suits and swimming trunks. I guess jeans and blue sweatshirts will have to do for now.

Do you want to explore true Dutch culture? Mark your calendar. There is a house party on Thursday, it's called Global House of Freedom, at *Het Paard*, Prinsengracht 12. You have not been to a house party until you've been to a Dutch house party. You have to be there to understand.... I was told that the dress code will be dress to impress! Rumour has it that the party was going to be cancelled until the Blue Sweatshirts came in and saved the day. So, go ahead and have some fun, Dutch fun! Warning: the party ends at 4:00, so if you have to wake up early the next day, the Sweatshirts urge you to party moderately.

Rumors say.....

- You may have noticed the UNFPA bar on the ground floor at the NCC. Rumors say, up until the very last minute, the sign for this establishment was going to read "UNFPA Coffee Shop." Right before it was hung, a kind Dutch source revealed the... different meaning of coffee shop in the Netherlands. So, despite some reluctance to use the term, BAR was deemed preferable to coffee shop.
- ...There is a committed contingent at the Youth Hostel that is ready to go on a hunger strike if the government delegates ignore their recommendations.
- ...The multicultural band Swingtime was hired to play in the UNFPA bar on Sunday. Unfortunately, they were asked to play at 5pm... just when First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was beginning her speech. Despite their rather skimpy audience, the lead singer of Swingtime said, "It's okay – we're having a ball here anyway."
- ...The condoms in a rather large basket in the toilets at the Youth Hostel were gone overnight. We wonder how they were used, since the housing is separated by sex at the hostel.
- ... Peter is the Blue Sweatshirt to go to for information on discos and bars. He says the thing to do when you're out, it's late and you're starved is to eat *patatje oorlog*. Literally this means "french fry war." These are french fries with a special Dutch topping. While there are six types of topping, the specialty in Den Haag is mayonnaise, curry sauce, and onions. Don't even think about kissing anyone after ingesting this particular Dutch treat.
- ... At the NCC diner, milk and coffee are free, so everyone is drinking lots. Water, for more health conscious diners, can be had for three guilders at the bar, but for free at the toilet. As unappetizing as this may sound, Dutch sources assure us that it is "pure and good".

Colofon

The Youth Forum watchdog is a special newsletter written by people under 25 during the NGO Y outh Forum, The Hague 5-7 February, 1999

Today's issue is made by
Dennis Brooks
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With special thanks to:
Marc van Lien

Saskia requests all reporters and photographers to contact her on her cellular phone and give her their addresses.

"I won't grow up"

In *Peter Pan* 'The Lost Boys' sing their theme song "I won't grow up." Some participants at The Hague NGO Forum wish they didn't have to either.

TENNESSEE WATSON

The reason: media have been told by an NGO Forum spokesperson that an "an honest discussion" would take place. Instead, some participants feel that they are sitting through redundant plenary sessions. However, just down the hall in "Never Never Land," the Youth NGO Forum is making progress and holding open discussions. Paul Peters, a facilitator for a working group on violence said that his working group was "great and had a very good conversation." The Youth Forum may actually be having too much discussion, since the organizers had to push back their afternoon plenary session to Sunday morning.
Veronica Valdes, a Chilean delegate to the NGO Forum, laughed when she confessed, "I wish I was a youth." She said the Youth Forum has a better chance to be productive than the NGO where "people have no space to express concerns." Valdes noted good discussion was lacking because the forum was "so badly organized."
Zulema Palma, an Argentinian delegate from a women's health network, questioned, "If you can't [have] discussion, what kind of forum is it?" Palma says "the dynamics are not dynamic and the presentations are not at [the] level they should [be]."
However, Kate McCarthy, a field director for Choice USA didn't see the Youth Forum as better or worse than the NGO forum, but just "different." "The discussion in the NGO Forum is much more detailed," whereas the "Youth Forum is more general, but visionary as well."
The Youth Forum's concerns are focused, but the fresh minds of the participants prevent them from getting caught up on details. Details similar to the ones that fuel the NGO Forum's struggle with the "power they have" and how to maintain the forum as "more than just a talking show," says McCarthy. "The Magic Dust" of being the first UN stand-alone Youth Forum participants may be helping them to fly through details and focus on broader discussion.

Devouring the Watchdog

For rebels with a cause

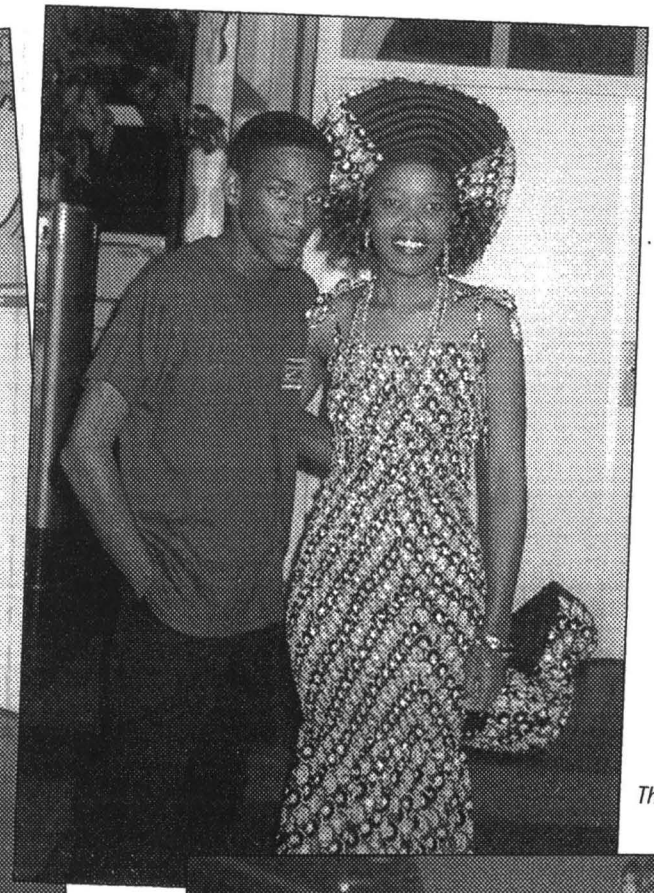
CATALINA MONTENEGRO GRANADOS

If you want to give pass to the one behind you, it is necessary to move. Not to go away, nor to fall ... to move.
Today we can say that we are a lot of young people, equal and different. We still haven't realized about the implications of this forum in our lives, in the lives of our communities.
It's wonderful to have discovered the pleasure of sharing experiences and to feel, for the first time, that we are not alone in our work as youth, for youth, and with youth.

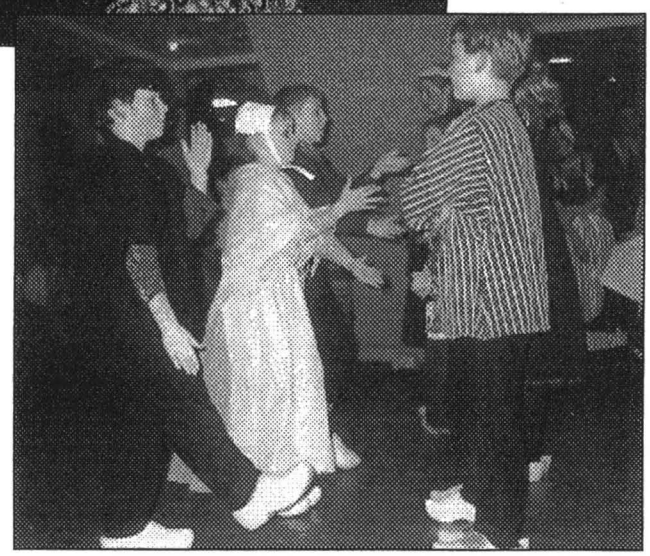
Because we're young, and besides facing the demands and responsibilities of the society, we are conscious of the importance of fighting for our rights, those that recently have a name.
But, how are they called?
Children's rights? Human rights?
Adults must understand and respect our spaces, so we will be able to participate in taking decisions on our NGOs. In some cases, this will imply giving up of privileges; in others, the hard work that we do together for the creation of a warm relationship between generations.
The NGOs and society must work on political issues, and make social demands stronger. This means to make people conscious about the particular demands of our population.
This doesn't have to be the last issue, it must be the first and the most important.
Youth are not only the future, it's easy to forget that we're important today with all the repeated speeches of the adults that we hear always.
There's a big difference between feeling represented and feeling taken in account.
It's difficult to represent the fury, the force, the vitality and the different things from our identities that characterize us.
Nevertheless, it's possible to take us into account. Some rights that are only for us sound a little bit funny, for example the right to make mistakes, the right to recreate, to being teenagers, only because we're different from other young people.
We are not here because they have been so good that they invited us. In fact, it's a little bit strange that it is the first time that this forum is done. We gave a good impression, this forum was organized mainly by young people, from the decision taken, to the methodology or execution.
The youth is not a minority group. We know clearly the contributions that we are making, we can even give a lesson of methodology to the NGO forum. We are discovering new forms of being together, and hopes for the next millennium.
Any of our rights could exist alone by itself. Not only do we want education, health, room for participation; we need security, confidence, trust and love. We want to be recognized, and that is why we are here.
Food, no wars, future, being able to live the present.

A Traditional Night at the Youth Hostel

Shields



The Happy Couple



The Youth Forum: Dutch Contingent

Late Night Intruder

Sunday night the Youth Hostel had a visitor in the form of a Syrian journalist who attempted to sow discord among the delegates regarding their recommendations. Finally, after days of work, the delegates were celebrating their achievements with a party despite their exhaustion. Suggesting to the Arab State delegates that references to "freedom of sexual expression and orientation" tolerated sex outside of marriage and homosexuality, he ruined their repose by trying to stir a rebellion.
The Arab delegates had already raised their objections during the final plenary, but were overruled by the majority of the Forum. However, the journalist managed to raise their concerns, for they felt their objections based on religion and culture would not be reflected in the final document. At an emergency meeting everybody's mind was set at ease again.
It was agreed upon that a reference to the rules regarding majority approval of recommendations would be reiterated in the introduction to the official Youth Forum document.

And the Syrian journalist? He has been expelled from the Youth Hostel and got a warning, that if he ever showed up again at the Youth Hostel the police would be called.

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THE EARTH Times

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HILARY BURKE / THE EARTH TIMES

In support of grassroots activists: US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at the closing session of NGO and Youth Forums on Sunday evening.

Mrs. Clinton praises NGOs for their commitment to Cairo plan

Forum announces open-door policy

ANALYSIS

Inviting proposals for Gates' gift

BY ROBERT L. SCHIFFER

The news that Bill Gates and his wife Melinda were donating $2.2 billion to be used largely for population and health-related projects worldwide electrified what, for all their importance, had up to then been a fairly pedestrian series of advance meetings leading up to Monday's opening of The Hague International Forum. It was the perfect prelude to the appearance of Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The excitement generated is not likely to wear off before the Forum's central concern: the Special Session of the UN General Assembly, scheduled for June, devoted to what has happened in the five years since the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. With his donation, believed to be the largest of its kind ever made by a living philanthropist, the Microsoft chairman and pioneer in computer software and operating systems, moves into a class by himself. His public spirited gesture

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

'Interview with Hillary? *Exclusive,* you say?'

LOUIS SILVERSTEIN / THE EARTH TIMES

'Meetings will be very transparent'

BY JACK FREEMAN

On the eve of opening day of The Hague International Forum it was disclosed that the sessions of the forum's Main Committee will not be conducted behind closed doors, as announced earlier by forum officials, but will be open to the press and others. "We'll make it a very transparent and participatory process," The Earth Times was told by Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Permanent

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Tight security for US First Lady address

BY VIR SINGH

US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton praised nongovernmental organizations on Sunday for helping to implement the goals of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and thus transforming the lives of millions of men and women around the world.

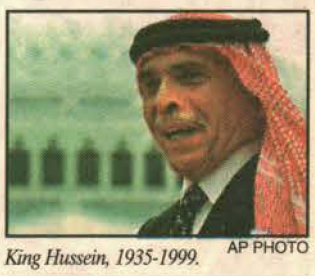
"You are the vanguard of Cairo, the ones who are making the ICPD Programme

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

PERSONAL

Remembering Hussein

BY PRANAY GUPTE



King Hussein, 1935-1999. AP PHOTO

King Hussein of Jordan, who died of cancer in Amman yesterday at the age of 63, was a man of such humility that when we first met I did not recognize him. Back in 1980, as a young foreign correspondent for The New York Times, I was covering a flare-up between Jordan and its belligerent neighbor, Syria. I was granted an interview with the king and told to report at the Royal Palace campus, where I was led into a small

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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ICPD +5 Watch

The Hague | A Publication of the Women's Feature Service | Monday, February 8, 1999

Sex Talk Without Giggles, But the Progress is Slow

By Dan Shepard

Substantial progress has been made in improving the lives of women, men and children since the Cairo ICPD, Hillary Rodham Clinton told the concluding session of the NGO and Youth Forums, but that progress, she conceded, might seem "glacial" to young people.

"We have come a very long way," she said, in an up-beat address that saluted the efforts of NGOs during the entire Cairo process. "Everyone here has in some way contributed."

She recalled that at the Cairo conference, when talks were at a standstill, it was the efforts of NGOs who "came down from the balconies" that helped craft compromises.

After plane trouble delayed her take-off from Washington, and weather problems delayed her landing at Schiphol Airport, Clinton arrived at the Netherlands Congress Center just in time to praise the NGOs for their efforts in bringing Cairo's goals "into reality in women and men's lives."

She acknowledged that there is "still a long way to go," and that there are still many governments that "stifle" the work of NGOs. She nevertheless challenged the audience of youth representatives and NGOs to form strong links, to share experiences, to reach out to young people, and to men, who she said must be "willing and full partners in this process."

There is also a need for democracy. Clinton said that after a Senegalese community learned about democracy, it voted to ban female genital mutilation. Inspired, leaders of the community brought the news of its decision to other communities, which ultimately led to the decision by Senegal this year to ban female genital mutilation.

Following a standing ovation for Clinton, IPPF President Attiya Inayatullah thanked the Clinton administration for its "unwavering support for international population and family planning programs which has been sustained and is firm in the face of Congressional opposition stoked up by extremist ultra-right elements."

Clinton's address capped an afternoon of reflection on the importance of Cairo, and for recommendations from the Youth Forum and the NGO Forum for reinvigorating the implementa-

Continued on page 6

Delegates at the close of the forum pondered an upbeat speech by the US First Lady. Photo: Amarjit Sidhu

Post Cairo, What's Working, What Needs to Be Done

By Anita Anand

It isn't every day that men and women working on issues of population and development come together to review what has been done, especially since Cairo. If you look around and add up the years of our collective experience, it would be a staggering figure. It is wonderful to look on and see campaigners, advocates, researchers and trainers, UN staff, all working towards a concern to achieve the best.

Cairo has been called a watershed, a process, and other things but think of it as a movement, and the Program of Action adopted at Cairo by 179 nations, a revolutionary document. Since Cairo, nations have changed policies, innovative programs and projects have been recognized and hailed, and people are at the center of the population debate and dialogue.

The ICPD Program of Action underscores the integral and mutually reinforcing linkages between population and development and endorses a new rights-based strategy focused on meeting the needs of individual women and men rather than on achieving demographic targets.

It sets out a number of time-bound population and development goals for a 20-year period, from 1995 to 2015, including the provision of universal access to reproductive health services; including family planning and sexual health; a reduction in infant, child and maternal mortality; and the provision of universal access to education, especially for girls. It stresses the empowerment of women both as a highly important end in itself and as a key to improving the quality of life for everyone.

The language adopted at Cairo and its coined term, reproductive heath (RH), is confusing to many. People understand condoms, sterilization, abortions, birth control pills, IUDs and the methods and systems that stop unplanned babies from being conceived and born.

But what is reproductive health? According to the Cairo conference, it is a holistic life cycle (birth to death) approach to issues that will ensure health and the well being of people in a community with a focus on the empowerment of women.

The concepts and language were formed after looking at the experiences of organizations working in the field level. Much of it came as dissatisfaction with what wasn't working. And as a result, that which could work was devised. Reproductive health is a complex concept and will take time for people to accept and understand it. No single term for it will suffice.

The Cairo Program of Action will take time to be implemented. But those committed to it have been active, devising quantitative methods to measure and record progress, share it, refine it, and get on with it. And many of those people are here, and their experiences are in the document – the background paper prepared by UNFPA for the Hague Forum. It is a five-year review of progress towards the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action.

It focuses on key issues emerging from country level operations and programs and hopes to provide these as operational perspectives to the Commission on Population and Development (CSD) which meets in New York

Continued on page 6

Nafis Sadik: Policy Jumps Forward, Reality Stays Back

by Gretchen Sidhu

The ICPD program looked far into the future - farther than most countries have been willing or able to go in the last five years. But the majority have at least begun to take its recommendations seriously, according to UNFPA director Nafis Sadik. Many have made great changes to health care, development and population policies along the way.

"There has been significant progress since Cairo," Sadik said at a recent press conference to review the ICPD accords. "We can say that there is more free choice and more quality care than ever before."

Not long ago, only a few countries allowed family planning. Now, all do, she pointed out. And while in 1969 the contraceptive prevalence was a mere 6 percent, today it tops 60%. Growth rates are steadily declining, causing UNFPA to reduce its population projections last year.

Sadik said that governments have made great strides on policy in particular since 1994, setting forth a slew of new documents on reproductive health issues in their countries. She also maintained that many nations have moved forward with the notion of reproductive health enshrined in the ICPD program. This calls for making reproductive care an integral part of all health services, rather than a separate program.

But two predictable constraints still dog full implementation. One is that in many cases commitments have been made, but reality lags behind. A second is resources, both from donors and within developing countries themselves.

"Developing countries have to look at their priorities," Sadik said, pointing out that Asian countries who have historically spent high percentages of domestic budgets on education and health will better weather the economic crisis shaking their region.

Overall, developing countries have increased their reproductive health funds since Cairo. But structural adjustment continues to cut deep into social spending in general, including for health

Continued on page 6

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68TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The San Francisco Chronicle

FEBRUARY 17, 1999, WEDNESDAY, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: EDITORIAL; Pg. A18; EDITORIALS

LENGTH: 345 words

HEADLINE: A Star Senator for New York?

BODY:
WITHOUT QUESTION, Hillary Rodham Clinton is as bright and capable as just about anyone in the U.S. Senate. Combine that with her ability to generate voter excitement -- and raise campaign donations -- and the speculation about her senatorial potential makes perfect sense.

Her performance on the stump last fall and her current celestial approval ratings show the breadth of her appeal. The trouble is, a senator only gets to represent one state -- and the first lady has spent the last six years residing in the one patch of territory in the nation that does not have a representative in the Senate chamber. As for her adopted state, Arkansas, its politics may be a bit too rough-and-tumble and conservative for a candidate of her stature and ideology.

So the Hillary-for-Senate speculation has centered on New York, where Robert Kennedy showed in 1964 that star quality can more than compensate for the carpetbagger label. Hillary Clinton would merely need to rent or purchase a home by election day to meet the residency requirement. For New York Democrats looking at the daunting task of taking on New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani in 2000, the import-Hillary option seems irresistible.

Will it happen? Probably not. The forces of reality should quickly bring this scenario down to earth. The contrast in influence between first lady and junior senator from New York is pretty striking -- and no one knows that better than she.

Also, as a candidate and an elected official, Hillary Clinton would be subjected to renewed scrutiny of her role in Whitewater, Filegate, Travelgate and a cattle-futures deal that magically turned a $1,000 investment into $100,000.

The prospect of a Senator Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., could lose its luster real fast if she stumbles on the campaign trail when asked what she will do for a provincial cause in the boroughs or to help Broome County cope with the closure of an Air Force base.

Just in case anyone thinks of asking, all of those drawbacks would also apply to a Hillary-for-Senate campaign in California.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO

LOAD-DATE: February 17, 1999

2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Agence France Presse
Agence France Presse

February 17, 1999 US-Clinton-Hillary sched 18:03 GMT

SECTION: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

LENGTH: 539 words

HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton Senate run would face many hurdles

BYLINE: Frederic Bichon

DATELINE: NEW YORK, Feb 17

BODY:

New Yorkers would likely welcome a Senate run by Hillary Clinton, but the first lady would face numerous obstacles in what would be a difficult race for a six-year term.

The 51-year-old wife of the US president has been testing the waters, saying: "I will give careful thought to a potential candidacy in order to reach a decision later this year" in a statement released Tuesday in Washington.

Even before she throws her hat in the ring, polls have declared her the winner in the contest to determine a successor to Democratic Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who will not seek re-election in 2000.

The most recent survey, done in January, showed her beating New York City's Republican Mayor Rudolph Giuliani 52.5 percent to 42 percent, and trouncing former Republican senator Alfonse D'Amato 57.2 percent to 37.7 percent.

But some of her most ardent supporters warn that she has not won yet and stress that delaying her announcement would handicap other potential Democratic candidates.

"If she waits too long, the delay would paralyze other Democratic candidates who need the time to raise the 10 billion to 20 million required for the race," said The New York Times.

Representative Nita Lowey, who said she would await Clinton's decision before announcing her own run, said she was "talking to potential contributors, to leaders, to activists to prepare for this race."

But Lowey's Senate bid would only come "should she (Clinton) decide not to run."

And Democratic Senator Charles Schumer, who beat D'Amato in November 1998 elections, warned that "favorites don't always win."

Still, her election could bolster the Democratic Party in New York City, where it was unable to muster a strong challenger to Giuliani's reelection.

Neither D'Amato nor Giuliani have as yet announced that they will run, and many observers are skeptical that the mayor wants the job.

"I think she would be a very formidable candidate," D'Amato said Tuesday, adding that his candidacy "is an option."

But Giuliani spokeswoman Colleen Roche stressed that Clinton's "candidacy would be the singular biggest unifying force in the Republican party."

Clinton would only need to have a home in New York on the day of the vote to meet the residency requirement for the seat, which earned symbolic importance for Democrats when Robert Kennedy won it in 1964 after his brother, the late president John Kennedy, was assassinated.

New York media on Wednesday stressed that another obstacle was the nearly three million dollars the Clintons' owe their attorneys. Senators are paid 136,000 dollars annually, but are restricted from earning outside income.

And the first lady might not want to run the gauntlet of a "particularly combative" New York press, which would not likely shy away from revisiting the various scandals that have dogged her husband. She also has sought to shield her daughter Chelsea from publicity.

And in New York City itself, Clinton sparks mixed emotions among the large Jewish community, whose vast influence stems from its higher-than-average voter turnout.

While mostly Democratic, the community was angered by the first lady's comments favoring the creation of a Palestinian state.

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LOAD-DATE: February 17, 1999

69TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Times Publishing Company
St. Petersburg Times

February 17, 1999, Wednesday021999

SECTION: EDITORIAL; Pg. 12A

LENGTH: 499 words

HEADLINE: What stands in Hillary's way

BYLINE: PHILIP GAILEY

BODY:

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

With her husband's impeachment trial behind her, the word is that first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is giving serious consideration to running for the U.S. Senate in New York next year. President Clinton says it is her decision to make, but added he thought she would be a "terrific" senator. That, of course, is something for New York voters to decide and for political junkies to anticipate.

Sen. Rodham? Sen. Clinton? Whichever, it would be richly ironic if Hillary Clinton wound up in the upper chamber, where members really do occasionally convict and remove someone from office, usually impeached federal judges. If she runs for the Senate and is elected, she will owe it largely to her unfaithful husband's scandalous behavior with a former White House intern.

Hillary Clinton may be the only winner in the Monica scandal. For some reason, the public sees her as the primary victim in this sordid saga, the injured spouse who stood by and fought for her man. As the administration's chief advocate for health care early on, her approval ratings plummeted; as Tammy Wynette, her popularity has soared. Go figure that.

The first lady plans to seek the political advice of those Democrats who are beating the drums for her candidacy. They will make it sound easy. They will assure her that the Democratic nomination can be hers without primary opposition. They will tell her she is the only Democrat who could beat the pants off New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, a street-fighter who is expected to be the Republican nominee for the Senate seat being vacated by Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

They may be right, but the hard part, if she decides to run, will be arranging her public and personal affairs in the White House for the remaining two years of her husband's term. Running for the Senate while still serving in the role of first lady would be both politically and personally awkward.

For one thing, there's the problem of candidate Hillary Clinton shuttling to and from New York in an Air Force jet and driving to campaign appearances in a Secret Service limousine - all at taxpayers expense. At the very least, these White House trappings would give her an unfair advantage, politically and financially, over other candidates. Even federal election law experts are unsure whether her campaign would have to defray part of the cost of government planes and cars. It's all uncharted territory, as is just about everything else about

the prospect of a sitting first lady running for elected office.

There's one other consideration, a personal one. Although her biggest boosters are probably too polite to broach this delicate subject, there is the question of leaving the president home alone in the White House. Hillary Clinton knows better than anyone that this president, who has shown breathtaking recklessness in his personal behavior, needs adult supervision.

Enough said.

Philip Gailey is editor of editorials and vice president of the Times.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 17, 1999

109TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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February 16, 1999, Tuesday, PM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 209 words

HEADLINE: Buffalo mayor urges Hillary Rodham Clinton to seek Senate seat

DATELINE: BUFFALO, N.Y.

BODY:

Mayor Anthony Masiello agrees with President Clinton that Hillary Rodham Clinton would make a great senator.

The mayor has sent a letter to Mrs. Clinton urging her to make a Senate run in New York.

On Sunday, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, whose retirement next year will create the vacancy, said New York could use some of Mrs. Clinton's "magnificent, young, bright, able, Illinois-Arkansas enthusiasm."

"She'd be welcome and she'd win," Moynihan said.

President Clinton, when asked about his wife's plans in Mexico Sunday, said "I think she would be terrific in the Senate. But that's a decision that she'll have to make."

Mrs. Clinton has not said much about the possibility, only that she hasn't had time to think about it.

The Clintons and Vice President and Tipper Gore were cheered by 22,000 people during a visit to Buffalo Jan. 20.

"Along with that crowd of inspired and exhilarated Buffalonians," Masiello wrote, "I urge you to consider their needs and choose to represent them in the United States Senate."

Masiello said he wrote the letter to show Mrs. Clinton the strong groundswell of support for her candidacy across the state.

"The residents of New York will be proud and fortunate to call you Senator Clinton," he wrote.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 16, 1999

103RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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February 16, 1999, Tuesday, AM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 667 words

HEADLINE: Polls good, but Schumer notes favorites don't always win

BYLINE: By MARC HUMBERT, AP Political Writer

DATELINE: ALBANY, N.Y.

BODY:

While polls show Hillary Rodham Clinton would make a strong Democratic Senate candidate in New York, the man elected to the state's other Senate seat three months ago warned Tuesday she is not a shoo-in.

"I think she would be an extremely formidable candidate. I guess she'd have to be the favorite, but favorites don't always win," Democrat Charles Schumer, who turned back Republican Alfonse D'Amato's bid for a fourth Senate term in November, told an Albany news conference.

Schumer's note of caution came just a few hours before Mrs. Clinton made it official - she is considering running for the New York Senate seat being vacated next year by fellow Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan. The first lady issued a two-sentence statement saying she would "give careful thought to a potential candidacy in order to reach a decision later this year."

While Schumer said Mrs. Clinton would be "far and away the strongest" of the party's potential candidates, he also said: "I never make flat-out predictions until we see who's in the race."

In fact, waiting in the wings on the Republican side is New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. He has said he will consider running for the Senate seat. Spokeswoman Colleen Roche said Tuesday night that a run by Mrs. Clinton could serve as a major unifying force to energize Republicans and actually encourage the mayor to run.

A poll out early this month from Quinnipiac College's Polling Institute had Mrs. Clinton favored by 51 percent of registered voters statewide to 42 percent for the Republican mayor. A week earlier, a poll from Marist College's Institute for Public Opinion reported Mrs. Clinton leading Giuliani, 53 percent to 42 percent.

While those numbers could be encouraging to the first lady, Schumer warned Tuesday that she must "look deep into your heart and say, 'Do I really want to do this?' Don't take a poll."

He called a possible race between Mrs. Clinton and Giuliani "a battle of the titans." Schumer said he would give the edge to Mrs. Clinton.

On the plus side for Mrs. Clinton are polls that show her and her husband extremely popular in New York. She could raise money quickly and has access to some of the top political consultants in the nation. Money and organization shouldn't be a problem. U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel, a New York Democrat and major booster of a run by Mrs. Clinton, has also promised that she would face no primary challenge.

But there are some potential negatives. Her support for a Palestinian state could cause problems among New York's politically crucial Jewish community and she is certain to face questions about her past business dealings as an Arkansas lawyer and investor and her influence over White House operations.

"When you run for the Senate, everything is a fair question - every single thing - and anyone who runs for the Senate has to realize that," Schumer said.

Also, Giuliani remains popular in New York City, a traditional Democratic stronghold, and has run repeatedly with the backing of the state's Liberal Party. Liberal Party boss Raymond Harding is a Giuliani confidant. As Harding is fond of noting, no statewide Democratic candidate has won in New York without Liberal Party backing since the party was founded more than 50 years ago.

And there is the carpetbagger issue. Mrs. Clinton is still an official resident of Arkansas and has never lived in New York.

Nonetheless, she can be a legal candidate in New York as long as she has established residency by Election Day of 2000. And, the fact that the late Robert F. Kennedy lived in Massachusetts and Virginia didn't stop him from getting elected to the Senate seat from New York now held by Moynihan.

The Quinnipiac College poll found that 46 percent of voters said they would be less likely to vote for a non-New Yorker while 49 percent said that wouldn't make a difference. Three percent of New York voters actually said they would be more likely to vote for a Senate candidate who didn't live in the state.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 16, 1999

65TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Phoenix Newspapers, Inc.
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

February 28, 1999 Sunday, Final Chaser

SECTION: OPINIONS; Pg. B6

LENGTH: 701 words

HEADLINE: 5 REASONS TO DISSUADE HILLARY FROM BID FOR N.Y. SENATOR

BYLINE: KEVEN ANN WILLEY, Editorial Page Editor

BODY:

Everybody has an opinion about Hillary Clinton. Talk radio hosts either love her or hate her. I have friends who respect her and friends who trash her. Some letter writers think she's bold and bright; others think she's cruel and conniving.

I think she's smart, savvy and articulate. But she shouldn't run for the U.S. Senate from New York. Here's why:

1. Hillary Clinton isn't from New York. Never has been.

It's a quaint idea - that elected leaders should actually be familiar with the constituents who elect them. Maybe Tiger Woods should run, too. Or Garth Brooks. It makes about as much sense.

You don't just parachute into Manhattan or Monroe County one day and say: "I'm married to the president so you all know my name. (And my pain.) Please, Mr. Whoever You Are, trust me to represent you."

2. If Hillary Clinton thinks the press scrutiny has been tough as first lady, she's daffier than Daphne on Frasier.

Her marriage has been subjected to intense and embarrassing examination, but it's examination generated largely by the actions of her husband. It's enabled her transformation from the Wicked Witch of the 1994 Health Care Debacle to Our Lady of Supreme Sympathy.

As first lady, Clinton can duck uncomfortable media queries, insulating herself against difficult questions from unpleasant questioners. But as a Senate candidate, she can't.

Former White House aide George Stephanopoulos gets this. In this week's Newsweek he advises: "Whitewater billing records, cattle futures, the travel office and Castle Grande will all be back. Do you really want to spend your last year in the White House reliving the most painful episodes of your tenure?"

3. Running for Senate from New York will only enhance the Clintons' image as shameless opportunists.

We already know Bill Clinton is an opportunist extraordinaire. But so is Hillary. She first rose to power and prestige on her husband's coattails - a practice that feminists used to sniff at. Now, she's seeking to capitalize on

her fame as first lady by seeking election to an office in another state.

From coattails to carpet bag. This is progress?

4. Salvaging a marriage isn't a reason to run for public office.

This is actually one of the rationales a glowing Newsweek cover story cites as reason to run: "Running for office is what the Clintons do together - 10 campaigns since 1974. With the exception of raising Chelsea, politics has always been their favorite shared pastime."

Noted author and social scientist Gail Sheehy fuels such marriage analysis. Speaking at Arizona State University last week as part of the "Unique Lives" lecture series, Sheehy described Bill and Hillary as quintessential co-dependents. She predicted that if Hillary chooses to run, Bill will be her biggest supporter because he knows he "owes her" for the support and guidance she has provided over the years - not to mention the humiliation she has endured.

This may be so. But personal payback is hardly the stuff on which to base a run for national office.

5. New York has plenty of potential candidates. It doesn't need Clinton to fill any sort of vacuum.

The most discussed candidate, of course, is New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. And he's fired up. He's already attacked Hillary Clinton for letting slip that she favors Palestinian statehood.

Noted a New York Times editorial last week: "The mayor was saying, with typical subtlety: We'd love to have you play tennis with us. Here's how hard we hit the ball - when we're warming up."

Other potential rivals include former GOP Sen. Alfonse D'Amato and New York moderate Reps. Jack Quinn and Rick Lazio. The election is still nearly two years away. There will be more.

I actually find myself in agreement with Dick Morris (there's a frightening thought!) and Geraldine Ferraro. They're urging Clinton to wait for the Illinois race in 2004.

As a voter who believes that competition is what will get us better elected officials, I generally support new entrants into races. And as a woman, I am eager to see bold, principled, reasoned women pursue and attain more positions of leadership.

But the emphasis is on bold, principled and reasoned. One out of three isn't enough.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 2, 1999

77TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Daily News, L.P.
Daily News (New York)

February 28, 1999, Sunday

SECTION: News; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 517 words

HEADLINE: FIRST FAMILY IN UTAH
BIRTHDAY BASH FOR CHELSEA

BYLINE: By MIKE CLAFFEY and PAUL SCHWARTZMAN

BODY:

PARK CITY, Utah After speeches and fund-raising on the West Coast, President Clinton arrived in Utah last night to toast daughter, Chelsea's 19th birthday.

The First Family was to hold a hush-hush celebration at Hollywood executive Jeffrey Katzenberg's mountaintop mansion, which features backyard ski runs and scenic seclusion.

Clinton told reporters en route from Los Angeles that he plans to stay in and read while his wife and daughter, who had arrived earlier, hit the slopes at the exclusive Deer Valley resort.

Hillary Rodham Clinton was spotted on the slopes yesterday, skiing with Secret Service agents and a host from the resort. Chelsea was said to be snowboarding at another site. The Clintons also visited Deer Valley and Katzenberg's home last year.

Katzenberg has an estate in the gated community of Bald Eagle, where homes cost $ 3 million to $ 7 million.

"One of the reasons they come here is that the community respects the fact that they're on vacation," said Christa Thompson, a spokeswoman for the Deer Valley resort, 25 miles east of Salt Lake City.

Resort workers were buzzing about the First Family's three-day visit, but apparently not everyone was pleased.

"Clinton to Find Utahans Frosty?" was the headline in yesterday's Deseret News, the local newspaper.

About a dozen protesters greeted Clinton's plane when it landed at 5 p.m. local time at the nearby Utah Air National Guard base, waving signs that read, "Rapist Resign Now!" and "America Deserves Better!"

"The President has lost all moral authority to lead our nation, and we won't stand idly by anymore," Deborah Gardner, the head of the newly formed Utah Women Against Sexual Assault, said before Clinton's arrival.

The President and his entourage arrived at 6:30 p.m. at Deer Valley, where some skiers agreed with the protesters.

"I hope he breaks a leg or some other appendage," said Elaine Christensen, 50, a homemaker from Sandy, Utah. "I don't care if he comes to Utah. I just wish he wasn't our President."

Californian Phyllis Hoffman, 71, said she doesn't like Clinton, but, "I'm happy Chelsea gets to come out here and enjoy the snow. . . . I think she's the biggest victim in all this. I hope she has a good time."

But Linda Gahler, 58, a retiree from Rye Brook, in Westchester, said, "I think the protesters are ridiculous. . . . Chelsea should be allowed to have a nice birthday."

Clinton's six-day trip has been far from a lovefest, as demonstrators have descended on each of his stops in Tucson, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

"Resign in '99," a sign read in San Francisco.

Many signs branded Clinton a rapist, referring to Arkansas businesswoman Juanita Broaddrick's accusation that Clinton sexually assaulted her in 1978. Clinton's attorney has called the charge untrue.

Nevertheless, after a year of scandal, the President's spirits seem to have soared since he was acquitted in his Senate impeachment trial Feb. 12.

"We've come a long way in the last six years. We've had a good time," Clinton told supporters in LA late Friday.

GRAPHIC: AP PRESIDENT is met by Utah Gov. Michael Leavitt (c.), his wife, Jacalyn, and their kids Westin, 9, and Mike Jr. (l.)

LOAD-DATE: March 01, 1999

83RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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THE KANSAS CITY STAR

February 28, 1999 Sunday METROPOLITAN EDITION

SECTION: METROPOLITAN; Pg. B2; STEVE KRASKE

LENGTH: 674 words

HEADLINE: Celebrity can't carry first lady

BYLINE: STEVE KRASKE

BODY:

The news media have already crowned Hillary Rodham Clinton the next senator from New York.

She has made the cover of Time and Newsweek. She is being glorified as the spurned wife who took it well. Her poll numbers shoot ever skyward.

She is, in essence, being touted as the next Bobby Kennedy, a man who served as a senator from New York in the 1960s even though he really wasn't from New York.

He was, critics said back then, a carpetbagger. And Clinton would be one, too.

If she runs, that is.

Whether Clinton ultimately jumps in or opts for a post-White House career as ambassador to the world is a decision that only the first lady can make.

Before she makes her call, though, Clinton ought to consider two words:

Geraldine Ferraro.

Remember Ferraro, the first woman to hop aboard a major-party presidential ticket, in 1984 with Walter Mondale? What you may not recall is Ferraro ran for the Senate just last year.

Not just any Senate seat. It was one from New York held by Republican Alfonse D'Amato.

But Ferraro, a Democrat, wasn't the one who took out the wily D'Amato last November. That job fell to Charles Schumer, who in the Democratic primary defeated - "trounced" is actually the better word - Ferraro by 51 percent to 26 percent in a four-candidate field.

Because of all the obvious similarities, the story of Ferraro's run is required reading for the first lady.

Largely because of her celebrity, Ferraro also was crowned by the media as the certain next senator from New York even before she entered the race. Something happened along the way, however. Ferraro stumbled badly. New York politics chewed her up.

This is what fellow Democrats were saying about Ferraro's candidacy even before the September primary:

"There is no message. " "She has suffered big setbacks."

"Poor fund-raising. " "A problematic campaign."

Here's the clincher: "The campaign itself has failed to meet its publicly stated expected goals," said Robert Abrams, the 1992 Democratic nominee for the Senate from New York.

In other words, expectations were sky-high for Ferraro. And she didn't live up to them. Hear that, Hillary?

The message here is not that Clinton should not run. It is not that she cannot win.

Rather, if she does run, the first lady must be prepared to campaign not as a celebrity, as Ferraro did. Instead, she must come across as a legitimate, 100 percent genuine candidate complete with a detailed agenda and a vigorous fund-raising machine. There will be no shortcuts allowed.

With a candidate as formidable as Republican Rudy Giuliani, the New York mayor, waiting to strike, Clinton will be in for the run of her life.

Last week I witnessed Elizabeth Dole's first trip to Iowa since she resigned from the American Red Cross. The reception she received at Iowa State University was off the charts.

She filled a large auditorium. Flashbulbs exploded as she stepped on stage. Even some Democrats in the crowd said they might switch parties to vote for Dole.

In interviews, however, many of them said something had to happen first. Dole, they said, must lay out her stands on the issues. She must offer a concise agenda for the nation.

The good news for Dole is that she has people's attention. But that's only half the battle.

Novelty and celebrity will only get you so far - even if you are Hillary Rodham Clinton.

54: Percent of Americans who said in a recent poll that President Clinton would commit adultery again if he knew he could get away with it.

To reach Steve Kraske, political correspondent for The Star, call (816) 234-4312 or send e-mail to skraske@kcstar.com

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Copyright 1999 Daily News, L.P.
Daily News (New York)

February 27, 1999, Saturday

SECTION: News; Pg. 8

LENGTH: 361 words

HEADLINE: POLS HOP D.C.-APPLE SHUTTLE

BYLINE: By TIMOTHY J. BURGER Daily News Washington Bureau

BODY:

WASHINGTON The Clinton-Gore political machine will blitz the tri-state next week, poaching on Rudy Giuliani's turf as the mayor crosses their path on a trip to the nation's capital.

Hillary Rodham Clinton will hit the Big Apple on Wednesday for a two-day visit that will feature a speech to female Democratic activists at The Plaza.

Allies say the First Lady wants to lie low while flirting with a bid to succeed retiring Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.) in 2000.

But her luncheon speech to the Democratic Women's Leadership Forum will fall on the day ABC airs Monica Lewinsky's soul-baring sitdown with Barbara Walters, which is likely to fuel the clamor.

The First Lady will begin the day with an arts-and-education talk at a Queens public school. She will finish at a private dinner with corporate moguls at the Manhattan home of ex-Clinton Treasury Department official Roger Altman.

If she takes the Senate plunge, Altman has been enlisted to shake the money tree represented by many of those on his guest list, her aides said.

The same day, President Clinton will be across the Hudson, headlining a $ 1 million fund-raiser for Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.) at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

Torricelli was a stalwart presidential supporter during the impeachment crisis and is pushing hard to persuade Hillary Clinton to run for the Senate.

Giuliani, meanwhile, will spend Wednesday in Washington, touting his crimebusting success at a House committee hearing chaired by Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.), a card-carrying Clinton basher.

The First Lady will continue her New York visit on Thursday with a speech at the United Nations about International Women's Day.

That afternoon, she'll talk about women in sports at another city public school. She will be joined by top female athletes at the event pegged to an HBO documentary on women in sports that will be screened for the First Couple in the East Room of the White House on Thursday night.

Daily News (New York) February 27, 1999, Saturday

Not to be outdone, Vice President Gore will be in Manhattan on Thursday evening to attend buck-raking events for his fledgling 2000 presidential campaign.

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Copyright 1999 The National Journal, Inc.
The National Journal

February 27, 1999

SECTION: ISSUES & IDEAS; Vol. 31, No. 9

LENGTH: 1679 words

HEADLINE: Hillary vs. Rudy vs. the Killjoys

BYLINE: William Powers

BODY:

Puritanism--the haunting fear that someone, somewhere, may be happy.

--H.L. Mencken

It's been a few weeks now since the media's phantom skywriter sprayed ''Hillary For Senate?'' in the empty air over post-impeachment America, and most of us have been having a ball: reading and writing and chattering about it, howling in joy or derision, doing a little dance at the thought of Rodham vs. Giuliani. It's been a long time since politics seemed fun. And after the ugly year we've all just lived through, who would deny us this dumb little frolic?

Oh, lots of people. ''Is the media going overboard with Hillary Clinton's Senate speculation?'' asked CNN's Robert Novak, as he closed his Saturday show and segued to a show called Reliable Sources. Bernard Kalb, who hosts the latter, answered Novak's question in the aggrieved affirmative: ''If you read the media reports on this great tease taking place, the media has virtually elected her, but the election itself seems to be superfluous,'' grumbled Kalb.

The next day, several leading papers spanked the media for this new naughtiness. The Washington Post headlined that the story had gone ''from hypothetical to hype.'' Howard Rosenberg of the Los Angeles Times called the Senator Hillary story ''a runaway media bandwagon,'' and held his nose at the speculative questions journalists are asking, such as, ''Won't reporters ask her about Gennifer Flowers and Paula Jones and Lewinsky and Whitewater and Travelgate and all the other 'gates' she doesn't want to talk about? And if they do, will she blow her top?'' It is not uninteresting to wonder such things, it seems to me, especially since the White House had given rather blatant credence to the possiblity of a Hillary run. But Rosenberg would have none of it. ''No one knows the answers to these 'what-if' questions that pollute endlessly,'' he sniffed.

One wondered what exactly is being polluted, other than the countless news shows that no one, except a few media critics like Rosenberg, is required to watch. But pay close attention as

the media rise up to denounce the story they simultaneously sell (just as they did with Clinton-Lewinsky), and you'll begin to notice that there's something quasi-theological going on here. Commandments are being broken, you see, and the whole culture's on the road to damnation. We're all sinners in the hands of a corrupt media, and what's being polluted are our souls--or so say the media's own preachers.

Caryn James of The New York Times peered down from her pulpit and saw in the Hillary story the epitome of the wicked, wicked Information Age in which we are unlucky enough to live: ''The possibility of a Hillary Clinton campaign would have been a story even in the pre-cable era, but it would not have turned into such a gigantic snowball, quickly filling the post-impeachment void,'' wrote James. ''It was a media-made event that fed on itself.'' Indeed, James went on, we may be heading for a fork in the road, ''where the high and the low roads diverge.'' To demonstrate, James looked closely at the Sunday chat shows of Feb. 21, in an analysis worth quoting at length:

''The Sunday talk shows covered more substantive issues. On Meet the Press, a panel of Governors discussed Social Security, taxes, and education. ABC's This Week was defiantly nonglitzy as it introduced a new regular segment, 'On the Campaign Trail.' In a taped interview, George Will, never their most dynamic commentator, talked to John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO. The pablum questions and nonanswers about the need to save Social Security provided exactly the kind of drone that will send even serious viewers fleeing.

''But if those shows feel too proud of their high-minded stances, it is worth noting that only CNN's Late Edition devoted a segment to the Kosovo talks, in a live interview with Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright. Kosovo may be the most dangerous and immediate issue at hand, but it is even less sexy than the 2000 election. More telling, none of the Sunday talk shows resisted 'Will Hillary Run?' ''

Take this passage apart, and you can see the theology at the heart of all the sermonizing about this story. James lets us know that her ideal for television news (the high road) is material that is ''more substantive.'' Sounds swell, but what does she mean? If we read on, she tells us: ''nonglitzy,'' undynamic, boring: the ABC show was so boring that ''even serious viewers'' would have fled. But this ''high-minded'' stance, this ''pablum'' so boring it couldn't even hold a serious viewer, is also something to be proud of, in James' odd view--and the better class of journalists must not stray from it. But, of course, they did stray, right down that low road: the Hillary story.

What do the killjoy media regulators hate about a story like this? What makes it, in their eyes, so low and sinful that they think we should resist it? The reason they tend to give is that it's a manufactured story--manufactured by the media, at least, and maybe also by a White House trying to divert attention

from more damaging stories. Also, it's speculative, and therefore not real.

These are legitimate concerns, the sort of dangers we should watch for in any story. But they do not fully explain the fury that now greets any story that seems to capture the public imagination and is seized on by MSNBC and its brethren outlets. After all, most pieces about the putatively serious, substantive issues--social security, taxes, education, and health care--are both deeply speculative and consciously manufactured. Many are wholly the creation of the media, the White House, or an interest group, though this is often artfully hidden from the viewer or reader. The same goes for journalism about foreign policy and economics, which is held in extremely high esteem even though much of it (especially the economics coverage) is utter speculation dolled up with jargon.

No, what the critics really hate about the Hillary story is that it's intrinsically, effortlessly interesting. In the doctrine of the serious-media church, a kind of Puritanism for press hacks, there's no room for effortlessly interesting journalism or, God forbid, fun. More specifically, this story is about pure politics, as opposed to policy, and among media critics today, pure politics has a terribly bad name. This is sad, because pure politics is one of the most natural and worthwhile (not to mention amusing) human activities, a game we've been playing since we stood up on two legs, and probably before. It has all of the richest ingredients--ego, ambition, passion, personality--and tells us an enormous amount about who we are.

But because it doesn't directly involve shaping public policy, which is what every self-respecting Columbia-trained reporter wants to shape, it's suspect, dismissed as ''horse race journalism.'' In his 1996 book, Breaking the News: How the Media Undermine American Democracy, James Fallows offered an unusually pure example of this view. He noted that when Bill Bradley announced his departure from the Senate in 1995, he tried to use the occasion to talk about the policy problems facing the nation, but what reporters wanted to ask him was whether this meant he was going to run for President. Of course, whether or not Bradley was going to run for President was the single most natural, interesting, and revealing question you could have asked him at that moment, but Fallows had only disdain for it.

So it goes with the Hillary story. It's not particularly momentous, but neither is it meaningless. Since no First Lady has ever run for public office, once Hillary gave the signal that she was truly thinking about it, news outlets were right to make some noise. True, some of those outlets, especially Time and Newsweek, embarrassed themselves with the hilariously excessive kiss-kiss tone of their cover stories. (Newsweek's cover said, ''Her Turn,'' while Time quoted Robert F. Kennedy quoting Alfred, Lord Tennyson--''Come my friends,/'Tis not too late to seek a better world''--and observed: ''That sort of belief in the possibilities

of American politics no longer exists. Hillary's run might just be a step toward restoring it.'') But as with the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal, the fact that some outlets cover a story poorly or irresponsibly or laughably has nothing to do with whether or not it's a legitimate story.

Plus, the public is justifiably fascinated with Hillary Clinton--as half of an unfathomable marriage, as a feminist who has long wielded power through her husband, as a political figure who is either selfless and idealistic or ruthless and vindictive, depending on whom you ask. So there's a sense that if she stepped out on her own, we might finally get to the bottom of a nagging enigma.

Finally, there's the fact that, as far as news stories go, we could do much worse than blathering on about Hillary and Rudy. And we do. The day that several leading papers published their critiques of this story, I tuned into MSNBC's InterNight, a leading purveyor of whatever is the current obsession, to see if the chatterers were still nattering about Hillary, or if the criticism had, perhaps, shamed them into dropping it. They had indeed dropped it for the moment, but I'm not sure that shame had much to do with it. At 8:50 p.m. (prime time, when I last checked), a panel of experts was gathered for a proper policy discussion. The subject? A law banning the sale of certain sexual toys, or as one guest put it, ''artificial penises and vaginas and whatnot.'' Thankfully, no one explained what an artificial whatnot is.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 01, 1999

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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The National Journal

February 27, 1999

SECTION: POLITICS; Vol. 31, No. 9

LENGTH: 215 words

HEADLINE: Campaign Circuit

BYLINE: James A. Barnes and Peter H. Stone

BODY:

Ickes on Hillary

Don't expect a quick decision from Hillary Rodham Clinton on whether she will seek a Senate seat from New York in 2000. ''I think this is going to go much slower than anyone envisioned,'' said Harold M. Ickes, a veteran of Empire State Democratic campaigns who is advising the first lady. While Mrs. Clinton knows that she's obliged to make a decision as quickly as possible, ''she is not going to be stampeded into this,'' said Ickes, who estimated that the decision-making process could take another two months.

Ickes said that it would be ''unbelievably presumptuous'' of Mrs. Clinton, as an outsider, to make her decision before consulting the broad range of New York's Democratic leaders. ''I think it would really turn people off just saying, 'Here I am, I'm running,' '' said Ickes.

The irascible former deputy chief of staff to President Clinton also had a few choice words for journalists hyping the story: ''Breathless, overwrought assholes who are now creating news instead of reporting news.'' Indeed, some Clinton-for-Senate backers worry that the intensity of the coverage will increase Mrs. Clinton's concerns about subjecting herself to the red-hot attention of an actual race.

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The National Journal

February 27, 1999

SECTION: POLITICS; Vol. 31, No. 9

LENGTH: 1416 words

HEADLINE: Hillary, Big Bucks, And Fading Fortunes

BYLINE: Charlie Cook

BODY:

National Republican Senatorial Committee Chairman Mitch McConnell of Kentucky seemed absolutely ecstatic on NBC's Meet the Press on Sunday when the talk turned to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's possible candidacy for the U.S. Senate in New York. It wasn't that McConnell necessarily thought that the first lady would be a pushover in the fight to replace Democratic icon Daniel Patrick Moynihan. In fact, if she runs--and it looks something like a 50-50 proposition that she will--Clinton might be a slight favorite to win. No, what McConnell knows is that Hillary Clinton, in her own, unique way, would become the top fund-raiser for the GOP's Senate campaign committee.

While besieged House Republicans are feverishly fighting to hold on to their razor-thin six-seat majority, Senate Republicans now have an excellent opportunity to build on their current 55-45 advantage in 2000. Most clear-eyed observers have always seen the chances of Democrats retaking the Senate to be slim, even in the best of environments. Democrats look unlikely to find sufficiently strong challengers to potentially vulnerable GOP incumbents to win the seats (five or six, depending upon which party wins the presidency) that would give them control. Now, such hopes are gone.

Moynihan's retirement announcement last year, coupled with the more recent announcements that New Jersey's Frank R. Lautenberg and Nevada's Richard H. Bryan will also retire, creates big problems for Senate Democrats. Moynihan, Lautenberg, and Bryan were all heavily favored to win re-election. But now it's 50-50 whether Democrats can hold on to Bryan's seat. The Republican standard-bearer will be either former Rep. John Ensign, who nearly unseated Democratic Sen. Harry M. Reid last year; or two-term Rep. Jim Gibbons. The Democratic candidate is likely to be either former Gov. Robert J. Miller or Las Vegas Mayor Jan Laverty Jones, who just lost her bid to become Governor. In New Jersey, the GOP begins as the favorite to pick up the open seat. Gov. Christine Todd Whitman is very likely to carry the Republican torch; the Democratic nomination appears up for grabs, with former Gov. James J. Florio, Cherry Hill Mayor

Susan Bass Levin, and Reps. Robert Menendez, Frank Pallone Jr., and Robert E. Andrews among the possibilities.

In New York, the first lady would be a slight favorite over New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani--or a strong favorite over GOP Rep. Rick A. Lazio if Giuliani backs off or if Lazio prevails in the Republican primary. If Clinton doesn't run, Giuliani would be a big favorite over Democratic Rep. Nita M. Lowey. In the unlikely event that both Clinton and Giuliani didn't run, a Lowey-Lazio race would be close. Of course, none of these possible matchups takes into account the Liberal, Conservative and Right-to-Life parties and which candidates they might field--or endorse.

In sum, three races in which Democrats had a 70 percent to 95 percent chance of winning have now been reduced to 40 percent to 55 percent propositions.

Each party already has one highly endangered incumbent who faces tough opposition. In Virginia, Democratic incumbent Charles S. Robb will face former GOP Gov. George F. Allen, while in Missouri, GOP Sen. John D. Ashcroft is being challenged by Democratic Gov. Mel Carnahan. A number of other Republican incumbents are in danger only if strong Democrats decide to run against them. Thus, Democrats have more seats in immediate jeopardy than Republicans do. With this current state of play, money is absolutely critical.

A Clinton Senate candidacy would have an enormous financial ripple effect across the country. When McConnell took over the NRSC, just over two years ago, he inherited a committee that had a reputation for raising huge sums of money. But, in reality, the NRSC had seen declines in ''hard'' money, the donations that can be funneled to specific candidates, in four consecutive election cycles and in five of the last six. During the past decade, the three other federal campaign committees (the National Republican Congressional Committee, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee) have made caucus-wide efforts of raising funds to retain or to capture majorities.

The enormity of the task of raising money makes it impossible for any chairman or staff to do it alone. Party committees need to raise enough hard money to contribute as much as federal law allows to individual candidates, as well as sufficient ''soft,'' unregulated, money to finance issue-advocacy and independent-expenditure efforts that weren't allowed a decade ago.

McConnell tried in the 1998 cycle to get GOP Senators not up for re-election involved in fund raising, but had only limited success. Some Senators responded with strong support, while others hardly lifted a finger to retain or build their party's majority. It's unclear whether Republicans could have done better in Senate races had they been able to ''max out'' in states such

as California, where incumbent Democrat Barbara Boxer won re-election. But failing to raise enough money to contribute the legal maximum clearly didn't help.

Conversely, on the House side, while there were some House Republicans who did nothing to help the GOP hold their majority, most responded in an extraordinary and unprecedented manner. Several House members transferred sums in excess of $500,000 from their re-election accounts to the NRCC.

It remains to be seen whether Republican Senators will play more of a role in fund raising for the 2000 election cycle, rather than leaving the task to McConnell. A Hillary Clinton candidacy, while giving Democrats their strongest candidate to hold onto the Moynihan seat, also creates a demon for GOP fund-raisers that is a guaranteed boost for direct-mail and telemarketing solicitations. Republicans have raised untold millions over the years using Democrats such as Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and former Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern of South Dakota as foils. Similarly, Democrats have used such Republicans as Sen. Jesse A. Helms of North Carolina and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia to raise more money.

The fund-raising challenge for Republicans is real. The party's conservative base is disillusioned because President Clinton (with the help of some Republican Senators) escaped its efforts to drive him from office. Many other Republicans are dismayed with their party's efforts to force the President from office and with what they perceive as the mean-spirited, intolerant face that has been put on the GOP in recent years. The departure of Gingrich, the party's top fund-raiser in recent years, is another problem.

A Hillary Clinton candidacy would make millions for the NRSC. The money would be raised ostensibly to beat her, but in reality it would be spent not just in New York, but also in open-seat Senate races in New Jersey and Nevada. The money would also fund the effort to oust Robb in Virginia, save Ashcroft in Missouri, and shore up such potentially vulnerable incumbents as Rodney D. Grams in Minnesota, Rick Santorum in Pennsylvania, Spencer Abraham in Michigan, and (if Democratic Gov. Thomas R. Carper runs) William V. Roth Jr. in Delaware.

Hillary Clinton would reinvigorate Democratic donors as well. With a ''double-open'' Presidential race (no incumbent in either party) and the fight over control of the House the most intense in two generations, the Senate was looking destined to take the back seat in terms of news coverage and money. With Clinton running, Democrats could probably raise huge amounts, ''to help Hillary win.'' The bounty would far exceed what they could legally and realistically spend in New York, leaving a surplus for less publicized but equally important contests in other states.

The National Journal, February 27, 1999

One logical question is what difference a Clinton candidacy would make, if it led to both parties' raising more money. The answer is that her candidacy would make a huge difference for the party that figured out how best to exploit it.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 01, 1999

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The New York Post

February 27, 1999, Saturday

SECTION: All Editions; Pg. 015

LENGTH: 372 words

HEADLINE: HILLARY FOR SENATOR:WHY JUST NEW YORK?

BYLINE: STEVENL UBET

BODY:

EVERYONE knows that Hillary Rodham Clinton may run for the Senate seat soon to be vacated by Daniel Patrick Moynihan. The First Lady has already announced that she is giving the idea "serious consideration," a sure sign that she's dying to do it - but only if she thinks she can win. In the meantime, New Jersey's senior senator, Frank Lautenberg, just announced that he won't run for re-election in 2000. Am I the only one who sees the opportunity here?

Hillary can double her chances of success by running for the Senate in both New York and New Jersey. It's a natural. Two campaigns for the price of one, especially since the New York media market covers about half of the Garden State anyhow.

The line between New York and New Jersey has been growing blurrier and blurrier for years - ever since the Giants moved across the river to start playing football in the Meadowlands. Where's Ellis Island? After about a century of everyone believing it was in New York, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last term that it had been in New Jersey all along.

Of course, the wild card in this strategy is that she might actually win both elections. But I looked it up in the Constitution and there is no prohibition against one person representing two states at the same time. True, there is a requirement that you have to live in the state on election day - but it doesn't say for how many hours.

There's nothing to keep Hillary from waking up in Manhattan on November 7, 2000, and going to bed before midnight in, say, Saddle River. Lots of people make longer commutes than that every day. And she could keep it up after the election, too. Maybe a modest suburban ranch house in Bergen County and a pied a terre on the West Side, or how about a loft in Hoboken and a summer place in the Hamptons?

A senator for both states - sort of like the Port Authority.

When you think of it, the advantages are terrific. Consider the savings to the public. She could operate with one staff, give up one salary, and cut way back on the per diem.

Best of all, she could vote twice on every issue. Hey, Hillary's a Democrat and she's originally from Chicago. Need I say more?

Steven Lubet teaches law at Northwestern University.

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The Washington Times

February 27, 1999, Saturday, Final Edition

SECTION: PART D; COMMENTARY; Pg. D8

LENGTH: 683 words

HEADLINE: Don't change the subject

BYLINE: Joseph Sobran

BODY:

Will Hillary Clinton run for New York's open Senate seat next year? Probably not. She would have to face too many questions about her own past. And what would her campaign slogan be? "Buy one, get one free"?

Her non-candidacy is just part of the Clintons' post-impeachment snow flurry to Change the Subject. Bill Clinton only thinks about bombing foreign countries when he's in trouble at home. He's not only still in trouble; he will remain so as long as there are other shoes yet to drop.

A big shoe dropped the other day - a Bruno Magli shoe, so to speak - when the Wall Street Journal ran an interview with a woman named Juanita Broaddrick who says Mr. Clinton raped her in 1978, when he was attorney general in Arkansas. NBC has been sitting on her story for several weeks. But it's out anyway, and Rep. Christopher Shays, a Connecticut Republican who voted against impeachment, says Mr. Clinton should resign if Mrs. Broaddrick's account is true.

Why didn't she report the crime at the time it happened? Well, it's obviously awkward to bring a charge of rape against the state official who is supposed to be punishing rapists. ("You are now entering Arkansas. Beware of attorney general.") Besides, Mrs. Broaddrick admits she was herself engaged in an adulterous affair at the time, making her situation all the more awkward.

Mr. Clinton's lawyer David Kendall calls the rape charge "absolutely false." As further details emerge, look for a three-pronged defense:

(1) If it happened at all, it was consensual.

(2) Rape, though reprehensible, doesn't rise to the level of an impeachable offense.

(3) And many presidents have been rapists.

Besides, even Mrs. Broaddrick admits Mr. Clinton has apologized. In fact that's the most Clintonian detail in her story. The Washington Post quotes her as saying he approached her in 1991: "It was unreal. . . . He kept trying to hold my hand. I can still remember his words: 'Can you ever forgive me? I'm not the same man I used to be.' . . . I told him, 'You just go to hell.' And I walked away. I was shaking."

Those nine words she ascribes to him are as good as a DNA sample: "I'm not the same man I used to be." That's our boy: the same contrite man he used to

be.

We saw his contrition about having "caused pain in my marriage" in 1992, when he assured the voters he was no longer the same man he used to be. And last year he turned over yet another new leaf, when he regretted that "what began as a friendship with Monica Lewinsky came to include this conduct." By "this conduct" he alluded delicately to the oral sex which, by Miss Lewinsky's estimate, occurred only 10 minutes after the friendship began. (He couldn't remember her name until the friendship had continued for a while.)

Does it really matter anymore that Mr. Clinton is a liar and a criminal? It matters every minute. U.S. planes may soon be killing people and U.S. troops may be stationed in Kosovo because of Mr. Clinton's endless need to Change the Subject.

Others are giving lofty reasons for U.S. military intervention in a remote corner of Europe. The columnist George Will likens this country to the Roman Empire and says it has "a complex fiduciary responsibility for the universal values it embodies." If that's not an impressive reason for sending your boy to Kosovo, I don't know what would be. But please don't send mine.

Ask yourself a simple question: When has any country, anywhere, ever suffered by avoiding war? If Bill Clinton can be said to have a virtue, it's that he is reluctant to kill people except when he thinks his own personal interests require it -for example, when impeachment looms.

After resisting the counselors of war for five years, Mr. Clinton resorted to military distractions several times in 1998, the Year of That Woman. If he faces recurrent scandals until he leaves office in early 2001, we must assume his gravest decisions will be guided, as always, by his own self-interest, rather than complex fiduciary whatever.

Joseph Sobran is a nationally syndicated columnist.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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February 27, 1999 Saturday, NORTH SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 3; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 964 words

HEADLINE: MORE WOMEN ARE GOING HIGH-PROFILE IN POLITICS;
AS CLINTON AND DOLE TAKE CENTER STAGE, ARIZONA STANDS OUT WITH FEMALES OWNING ALL OF ITS TOP OFFICES.

BYLINE: By V. Dion Haynes, Tribune Staff Writer.

DATELINE: PHOENIX

BODY:

Speculation over potential candidacies of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Elizabeth Dole has raised the profile of women in politics and focused national attention here, where women hold the five top elected offices.

Arizona is the first state where its governor, secretary of state, treasurer, schools superintendent and attorney general all are women.

The women, who didn't campaign together as a slate, downplay their feat. But coming six years after the so-called year of the woman in American politics, the all-female lineup here takes on added significance in light of other inroads.

Since 1993, the number of women in the U.S. Senate has tripled; in California and Maine, both senators are women. Women occupy more than 22 percent of the seats in state legislature. And women serve as governors in Arizona, New Jersey and New Hampshire.

Over the last 30 years, the number of women officeholders in the U.S. has grown fivefold. After years of serving in the trenches, learning the game and working their way up through the ranks, women are poised for high-profile positions in states and on the national stage, according to experts.

The Arizona milestone is significant because "polls show the public sees men and women candidates differently," said Anita Perez Ferguson, president of the National Women's Political Caucus, a Washington-based bipartisan group that advises women candidates. "They see women as honest, consensus builders and people who are in touch with the local community. But things like leadership, strength, determination--those type of characteristics are still used more frequently to describe male candidates.

"As a result, women are more often clustered in jobs (in the legislature) where they work in groups on a committee or in a chamber," Perez Ferguson said. By contrast, she added, only seven women have ever served as governors. The Arizona election "shows the perception is changing and women are being seen as executives."

Chicago Tribune, February 27, 1999

Women account for nearly 28 percent of the governors, lieutenant governors, secretaries of state, attorneys general, treasurers and other elected state positions, up from 18 percent in 1991, according to the Center for American Woman and Politics at Rutgers University in New Jersey. And women account for 12 percent of the seats in the U.S. House, up from 6 percent in 1991.

In Arizona, women hold about one-third of the seats in the state legislature. Women also hold the same or slightly larger proportions of the legislative seats in Nevada, Washington, Kansas and Colorado.

Arizona, which joined the union in 1912, elected its first woman to a state office--Elsie Toles as superintendent of public instruction--in 1921. State voters also elected women to positions such as auditor and corporation commissioner decades before women politicians became accepted.

Arizona's all-women lineup consists of Gov. Jane Dee Hull, Secretary of State Betsey Bayless, Treasurer Carol Springer, Schools Supt. Lisa Graham Keegan and Atty. Gen. Janet Napolitano.

The Arizona executives, all of whom are Republicans except for Napolitano, didn't attempt to make history and didn't play up gender in their campaigns. Bayless said she believes Arizonans saw them as the most qualified candidates, not the most qualified women candidates.

"I feel an acceptance on the part of voters to women," Bayless said. "Maybe somebody didn't like me or didn't vote for me, but it wasn't because I'm a woman."

As secretary of state, Bayless is second in command, as Arizona has no lieutenant governor. Bayless, who previously served as head of the state's Department of Administration and Department of Revenue and on the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, added: "I think the country is ready for a woman president. Women are now prepared and qualified."

Hull, formerly speaker of the House and secretary of state, served out Gov. Fife Symington's final year in office after a federal jury in September 1997 convicted him of seven felony counts of bank fraud. Though another woman secretary of state had replaced former Gov. Evan Meacham after his impeachment in 1988, Hull is the state's first elected woman governor.

Political observers say Hull's style is a marked contrast to that of Symington, who was regarded as confrontational in helping Republicans win a majority in both houses and pushing his tax cut plans.

Under Hull, politics has been "more amenable to discussion and mediation--not as strident as was the case with Fife Symington," said Bruce Merrill, a professor of mass communications and director of the Walter Cronkite research program at Arizona State University. Hull has made children her first priority, backing a school construction program and a health program for children of the working poor.

"The other significant difference is that Hull is not as ingrained in party politics as Symington was," Merrill added. "Arizona has a good-size surplus and (other) Republicans want the money given back in tax cuts. She has offended (Republican leaders) in demanding that the money be used for children's

programs."

Meanwhile, several women's groups say they hope the Arizona lineup portends a widespread acceptance for women in national elections in 2000. The Woman's Campaign Fund, National Women's Political Caucus and other groups are raising money to run women candidates in anticipation of the 2000 redistricting, which is expected to open many new congressional seats.

Moreover, The White House Project, a New York-based organization, is promoting the idea of a woman president. Seventy-six percent of those surveyed by the group in a recent poll indicated that they are ready for a woman president, selecting Clinton, Dole and Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) as their top three choices.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO GRAPHICPHOTO: U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (left) administered the oath of office for Arizona's top elected positions last month in Phoenix. The state's top five offices are held by women. AP photo.; GRAPHIC: Women in politics.; Statewide elected executive positions.; Source: Center for the American Woman and Politics.; Chicago Tribune.; - See microfilm for complete graphic.

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THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

February 26, 1999 Friday, Final Chaser

SECTION: FRONT; Pg. A9

LENGTH: 315 words

HEADLINE: TO 1ST LADY: GO SLOW ON SENATE BID

BYLINE: Hearst Newspapers

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said Thursday that first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton should take her time in deciding whether to run for the U.S. Senate next year.

Clinton is "at the beginning" - rather than at the end - of the decision-making process on whether to seek the seat being vacated by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, he said.

Schumer, who met privately at the White House with Clinton on Wednesday, said he advised her to take her time about deciding whether to run.

"It's two weeks after the impeachment. She hasn't even come back to the ground yet on that issue. She needs space. She needs time," Schumer said.

"It would be bad for her, bad for New York, bad for America to make a decision, whichever way it came out, in the next couple of weeks," he added.

"I told her take some time, think it through thoroughly," Schumer told reporters. He said he spent nearly five months making his decision to run for the Senate last year.

"I don't think we can put a timetable or deadline on this at this point," said Schumer, New York's junior senator.

The meeting was requested by Clinton, said Schumer, who steered clear of detailing the specifics of the 90-minute session. He described their meeting as "a pretty heart-felt conversation about all sorts of things."

Clinton has made no secret about her interest in running for the Senate. She recently met with Moynihan to discuss her prospects.

She also has consulted with Harold Ickes, the former White House deputy chief of staff and veteran New York political figure, and with New York Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, the state Legislature's top Democrat.

New Yorkers are supportive of her undeclared candidacy. In a statewide poll from Quinnipiac College's Polling Institute released Tuesday, Clinton was favored over New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in a possible Senate race by 54 percent to 36 percent.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC, February 26, 1999

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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February 26, 1999, Friday, PM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 545 words

HEADLINE: Democrats: Hillary may not decide until summer or fall

BYLINE: By MARC HUMBERT, AP Political Writer

DATELINE: ALBANY, N.Y.

BODY:

A decision by Hillary Rodham Clinton on running for the Senate seat from New York probably won't come until this summer, and may even have to wait until the fall, according to some well-connected Democrats.

"It's going to be a slow process," one Democrat, who has spoken regularly to Mrs. Clinton and requested anonymity, said Thursday.

Meanwhile, one of the state's top Democrats who is advising Mrs. Clinton about her possible Senate campaign says he thinks, in part because of her lengthy deliberations, that she will run.

"I think she wants to do it ... My prediction as of this time would be that she's running," state Comptroller H. Carl McCall told Albany's WAMC-FM radio in an interview broadcast Wednesday night.

"This is somebody who has had to be No. 2. She has had to be the supporting actress in this whole drama with her husband," McCall added. "Now, she can be out front. She can be on her own. I think that's what is ultimately driving her."

One adviser to a prominent New York Democrat who has met with Mrs. Clinton in recent days said, on condition of anonymity, that "the decision may not come until the summer or even the fall. Those are the vibes we are getting."

Another well-connected New York Democrat, also requesting that he not be identified, said the expectation was that the first lady wouldn't make a decision until this summer, at the earliest, about running for the seat being vacated by Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

While the politicians played guessing games, an answer from Mrs. Clinton did not appear imminent. Spokeswoman Marsha Berry said the first lady is still "far away" from any decision.

All Mrs. Clinton has said is that her decision will come "later this year."

Newly elected New York Sen. Charles Schumer, a fellow Democrat who met with Mrs. Clinton on Wednesday, said he had advised her "to take some time" before making her decision. He refused Thursday to discuss a possible timetable for a decision.

While McCall professed no inside knowledge about the first lady's plans, he said her series of meetings with New York Democrats and others about the race, and her apparent decision not to act quickly, led him to conclude she would run.

"You only delay the decision when you're going to do it," the veteran New York politician said. "If you're not going to do it, you say so up front, like I did."

McCall is one of several prominent New York Democrats who decided not to run for the Senate seat.

The comptroller said he will meet next week with Mrs. Clinton to discuss her possible entry into the race. She met last week with Moynihan and on Wednesday with Schumer and U.S. Rep. Nita Lowey of Westchester County, a potential Senate candidate if Mrs. Clinton doesn't run.

While McCall and other Democrats have said Lowey's candidacy could be hurt if Mrs. Clinton drags out the decision process and then doesn't run, the New York congresswoman said she isn't worried about that. Lowey has been traveling around the state and says her fund raising is going well.

McCall said that if the first lady does enter the race, and faces New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, a Republican, "it'll be a rough, nasty campaign, but she survives."

Giuliani is also considering running for the Senate seat.

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The Boston Globe

February 26, 1999, Friday ,City Edition

SECTION: OP-ED; Pg. A19

LENGTH: 857 words

HEADLINE: The perfect state for Hillary;
DAVID NYHAN

BYLINE: By David Nyhan, Globe Staff

BODY:

Memo to H.R. Clinton: Go for it, Hillary.

You can win. It's worth winning. Being a US senator for New York State, even if you aren't from New York State, is a big deal. You can advance your agenda - which is generally popular in the Northeast. You can humble your enemies every day for the next six years, and that ain't bad.

You can own the news media for six years on top of the eight you'll have logged in the White House. Your issues, your voice, your political hand on the joystick. A political life of your own, your personal political affirmation, never mind whatever Whatsisname gets up to.

Your sang-froid, the way you've borne up under the most relentless political and personal assault in the squalid annals of the 20th century, have hardened your carapace, toughened your core, simplified your options. Your enemies will never let up, so don't turn your back on them - turn and face them. Can't you see yourself marching daily onto the floor of the US Senate after those Republican senators voted to destroy your husband?

Don't you smile inwardly at the prospect of forcing Trent Lott and Jesse Helms and their ilk to bow daily with that oily Southern sanctimony? How many hundreds of hours will C-Span devote to your cut-and-thrust debates with your foes on health care, schooling, child-care tax credits? You'll bury them.

Sure, that 54-36 polling lead over Mayor Rudy Giuliani won't hold up. But among women voters you lead the strongest Republican by a phenomenal 62-27. That implies a butt-kicking from which there is no recovery. A campaign, even in that tinsely tabloid town that devours celebrities, should hold no terrors for you. You've already endured the worst conceivable coverage. Your immune system leaves you thoroughly innoculated.

And as the FFL (Former First Lady) you're entitled to your own Secret Service detail, which should prove a huge advantage for one forced to reside periodically in the Big Apple, to wit:

- Free parking for the Secret Service limo and the War Wagon at the curb outside LaGuardia's air shuttle, at any restaurant you choose, out front of

your coop apartment.

- Twenty-four hour security, in the person of a dozen armed and dangerous trained professional agents of the Secret Service, which should guarantee you . . .

- A bulwark against the intrusive, obnoxious, and pesty paparazzi who shout ruderies at celebrities in hopes of getting a panic reaction shot that they can then flog to Rupert Murdoch's New York Post.

- A government-paid team that will prove of inestimable value in protecting you from kidnap or harm, shoo away the nitwits and street people who'll have to accost the less-well unprotected, and whisk you to the airport or speech on time.

You're buried with advice about what to do with the rest of your life. I don't deny that those who counsel you against running for the seat of retiring Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan may well have your best interest at heart. I just don't buy it.

Ditto for the rationale that running will destroy what tattered threads remain of your family's privacy. That's already gone, forever. Ken Starr, The Wall Street Journal, trash-talk radio, Jay Leno - they tommy-gunned your personal life for good. You survived your enemies in D.C.; you can survive the craziness of public life in New York. What more can they do to you and yours?

The public at large admires and respects your dignity and seriousness. You are one tough cookie. New York loves a scrapper; "If I can make it there, etc." But New York tosses on the scrapheap those scrappers who've worn out their welcome. I give you Al D'Amato, Mike Tyson, and, maybe, Rudy Giuliani. The mayor may have a glass jaw, as some in your circle whisper. He gets whacked all the time, and he whacks back, and he may be a little too whacky for the Senate. Rudy's like one of those cabdrivers with throbbing veins, liable to erupt at the least provocation, a man never far away from a rant. But he's right when he says that in New York every candidate gets hit with the kitchen sink, that "everything will be thrown at everybody." Hillary, they can't do anything more to you than they've already tried.

Here's our little secret, Madame First Lady: New York is really a very small town at its core, a parochial, inward-dwelling state of mind as well as a State of Empire. New York is hung up on itself. Living conditions can be so crowded, noisy, chaotic, threatening, or dysfunctional that the denizens actually think they are a different brand of human being than the rest of us in the other 49. So they crave not just a regular senator but a super senator. Everything needs to be bigger for them; gloating is essential.

So go for it, gal. It takes a Greenwich Village to raise a Rodham candidacy. You are already America's Evita, the most potent female populist political figure since Eleanor Roosevelt. Your root cause is poor children? New York is stuffed to the gills with desperately needy kids. You want a cause badly in need of championing, look no further. Hillary - there's nowhere to hide for you anymore. But there is somewhere to run.

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The Buffalo News

February 26, 1999, Friday, CITY EDITION

SECTION: VIEWPOINTS, Pg. 3C

LENGTH: 551 words

HEADLINE: HILLARY WILL WIN, IF SHE DECIDES TO RUN

BYLINE: Carl Rowan

BODY:

It's amusing to watch the Republicans whistle through a political graveyard as they try to hide their fear that Hillary Clinton will run for the Senate in New York.

The Big Apple's contentious mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, claims that he's salivating to run against the first lady. Recently defeated Alfonse D'Amato says he might try a comeback if he could get Hillary as his opponent. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., chairman of the GOP's Senatorial Campaign Committee, boasts that if Mrs. Clinton runs in New York, it will "energize" and help Republican campaigns everywhere.

All this Republican smoke-blowing comes in the wake of a Time-CNN poll showing that if the election were held now, Mrs. Clinton would defeat Giuliani by 52 percent to 43 percent. She would clobber D'Amato.

Now, I'm not remotely sure that Hillary Clinton wants a seat in the Senate -- or any job in public life -- since she has seen how far the nation's haters will go to try to bring down her husband and her. But if she runs in New York, nobody will beat her because:

She will get 60 percent of the women's vote, partly from sympathy, but mostly because women admire her independence, her strength and her obvious intelligence.

She will get 90 percent of the black vote, partly because many New York blacks despise Giuliani, but mostly because blacks everywhere see her as a champion of the oppressed and cheated, as in her long campaign to make good medical care available to the masses.

For the reasons cited above, she will get 80 percent of the Puerto Rican vote.

She will get 60 percent of the Jewish vote, despite a stupid Republican campaign, already begun, to make something sinister out of her remark that "it is in the long-term interest of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state." A large majority of Americans know that she bravely spoke the truth, and a majority of American Jews probably feel the same.

She probably would win only 45 percent of the white male vote -- losing mostly those men who feel threatened by her for reasons they may not even understand. And Giuliani probably would win a majority of the Catholic vote.

But in the case of both groups, his margins would be limited sharply by the broad support Mrs. Clinton has for her stances on education and health care. These are issues that broaden her support beyond "New York City liberals" to the people of upstate New York and elsewhere who care deeply about our schools and the availability and cost of decent health care.

Mrs. Clinton may be reluctant to run because, as McConnell has said already, the GOP will try to portray her as a "dangerous liberal" and will try to tar her with scandal. But she has an advantage over most political candidates: Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr already has investigated her more than any woman ever to run for anything in America, so there aren't likely to be any nasty surprises. Furthermore, she's shown that she is tough enough to take the dirty campaigning.

Still, Hillary Clinton can be excused if she feels that she has given more than enough of her life to public service and just wants to make a lot of money and enjoy the rest of her life. But the better part of me sure wishes that she would call the bluff of those Republican graveyard-whistlers. North America Syndicate

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