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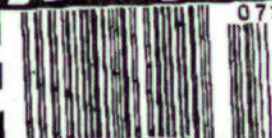
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SPECIAL REPORT

Hillary Supports Sex Trafficking

By Catherine Edwards

When a carefully worded transnational definition of sex trafficking is modified to outlaw only involuntary participation, the result is legalized prostitution by semantics.



She was filled with hope after accepting a job to work in a restaurant. She finally could leave behind the back-breaking labor of lemon harvesting. Her family in Mexico would be proud. But her happiness soon turned to unimaginable despair. When she met her new boss, he gave her tight clothes to wear and condoms to give customers. She was beaten, raped, locked into a trailer and forced to have sex with whomever walked through the door. It was every woman's worst nightmare.

Two million women and children each year are "trafficked" by criminals in this way for sexual purposes.

First Madam: Hillary takes sides with groups that see prostitution as a fair-labor right to hold down a job.

Half of them are in Asia, where Thailand and Burma are infamous for enslaving children and women into a lifetime of sexual prostitution.

But this trailer prison was not in Bangkok. This woman was in Florida. She is one of the 50,000 women brought into the United States every year to become sex slaves. Promised a better life and a respectable job, their lives become a living hell.

This literally is slavery. And an unlikely coalition of religious conservatives and feminists has developed to

fight it. But a small group of feminists has been trying through the back door to decriminalize sex trafficking. Led by the President's Interagency Council on Women, which is chaired by Hillary Rodham Clinton, these women actually have become advocates for the sex industry by trying to change the definition of prostitution in a way that critics fear may legalize it. That definition now is being negotiated in Vienna for the U. N. Convention on Transnational Organized Crime.

Religious critics and a powerful lobby of feminists led by Gloria Steinem and Patricia Ireland claim that the administration's position only can have the effect of legalizing prostitution. The dispute in Vienna is about defining the word "trafficking." The definition supported by the Hillary Clinton team speaking for the United States, the Netherlands and several other European countries would include only persons who are trafficked by force, fraud or deception. This differs from the current U.N. definition, which outlaws sex trafficking for any reason, be it voluntary or forced.

Proponents of the change contend that women should be guaranteed the right to sell their sexual favors as they please and be protected by labor laws and local government services. Opponents to changing the definition, fearful that the Vienna convention would be finalized in mid-January, fired off letters to the president and the first lady demanding to know why the administration was attempting to legalize prostitution by international agreement.

Former White House aide Chuck Colson, the Christian advocate who runs Prison Fellowship Ministries, and former Reagan secretary of education Bill Bennett, now codirector of Empower America, wrote a critical op-ed article that appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*. They called the Clinton position "hard to fathom," especially when the Clinton/Gore team purports to be pro-woman. "There can be no meaningful 'consent to one's own sexual exploitation,' they added, 'particularly when one lives in poverty and desperate circumstances.'"

Republican Rep. Joe Pitts of Pennsylvania and 32 other members of Congress sent a letter to the president in mid-January expressing concern about administration advocacy of legalized prostitution. The congressmen noted that by narrowing the definition of trafficking in the Vienna protocol to allow for the prosecution only of those who can be proved to have

used force, only a handful of sex traffickers ever would be prosecuted.

"Is prostitution forced upon a young woman whose family tells her they will starve if she does not sell her body?" the congressmen asked, expressing hope that they could work with the Clintons and Gore to reverse the course of action and to liberate, rather than legitimate, women and children in bondage to the sex trade worldwide.

Richard Land of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission was joined by other religious conservatives in a tersely worded letter sent to Hillary Rodham Clinton in early January questioning her commitment to combat sex trafficking. Soon President Clinton received a similar letter from the major feminist organizations, including Equality Now, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the National Organization for Women and the Feminist Majority.

The 1949 U.N. Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others calls for punishment of any person who exploits the prostitution of another person, even with their consent. Jessica Neuwirth, president of Equality Now and the other cosigners of the letter to the president expressed grave concern that the administration's position would undermine the long-standing U.S. commitment to this older convention and to fight prostitution, be it forced or voluntary.

The first lady, running for U.S. senator from New York, devoted a syndicated column to the issue, declaring her commitment to fight sex trafficking. Claiming that she has worked to raise awareness on this issue for the last five years, she paraded an attack on her detractors for accusing her of lobbying to weaken international laws or the laws of sovereign nations.

Soon a spokesman at Mrs. Clinton's office was saying she has not been involved in the Vienna negotiations, leaving the important work to her staff and nongovernment organizations, or NGOs, that support legalization of prostitution through this careful change in definition, say critics. Groups that support the change include Manhat-

tan-based Human Rights Watch and the Washington-based International Human Rights Law Group.

Upset about this stir, the first lady's Interagency Council on Women issued a "fact sheet" on the issue, attempting to debunk what they call "myths" that have been circulating about their position. They reiterated their commitment that the treaty would not undermine the current 1949 U.N. treaty. They went on to say, however, how closely they are working with Human Rights Watch and the International Human Rights Law Group and how their position enjoys broad support by many countries and activists.

But what about at home? Prostitution is illegal everywhere in the United States except in two counties of Nevada.

Reagan Ralph of Human Rights Watch asserts that getting the treaty passed is paramount and that making a concession to a country such as the

House Majority Leader Dick Armey issued a statement during the January recess and vowed that when Congress returns for the president's State of the Union address, "Congress will thoroughly review the U.S. position in these talks — and find out who is responsible for it."

New Jersey Republican Rep. Chris Smith and Democratic Rep. Sam Gejdenson of Connecticut have introduced the Freedom from Sexual Trafficking Act of 1999. The idea of this legislation is to punish those who knowingly engage in sex trafficking commensurate to conviction for rape. The Clinton/Gore administration has opposed parts of the bill. A memo leaked from the U.S. Information Agency says the State Department is opposed to Smith/Gejdenson and hopes to encourage a Democratic alternative.

Already the coalition that opposes the administration's position in Vienna has written to Rep. Ben Gilman of New York, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, to support Smith/Gejdenson.

But those who fear that legalization of allegedly consensual trafficking in prostitutes will be dragged into the back door of the United States by the Clintons using treaty law as justification are only beginning to pay attention. A favorite Clinton/Gore treaty, the U.N. Convention to Prevent All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, to which the United States is a signatory, already supports legalization of prostitution. The U.N. committee

assigned to oversee implementation has written to the People's Republic of China: "The Committee is concerned that prostitution, which is often a result of poverty and economic deprivation, is illegal in China."

Will such a U.N. mandate be imposed upon the United States? Might prostitution be legalized and regulated here as legitimate labor, as critics of the Vienna protocol fear? Voters are asking those questions of the first lady.

Meanwhile, the young Mexican woman whose story we told at the beginning of this article has been able to escape her captors. But will she be safe here? For now all she says is this: "I am trying hard to be the person I was before I came to the United States."

The Global Sex Trade

Of the women and children exploited, females under 18 years of age account for about 30 percent of the total. Males under 18 account for a small fraction of the trade, approximately 2 percent.

* (Estimates)

FROM LATIN AMERICA - 100,000

Sent to the U.S., Western Europe and Japan

FROM SOUTH EAST ASIA - 225,000

Sent to the U.S., Japan, Australia, Western Europe and the Middle East

FROM AFRICA - 50,000

Sent to Western Europe, the Middle East and S.E. Asia

FROM SOUTH ASIA - 150,000

Sent to Western Europe, the Middle East and Japan

FROM EASTERN EUROPE - 75,000

Sent to the U.S., Japan, the Middle East and S.E. Asia

FROM FORMER SOVIET UNION - 100,000

Sent to the U.S., Japan, Western Europe, Middle East, Africa and S.E. Asia

Netherlands, which has legal prostitution, is worthwhile if it enables the treaty to be approved. "But the United States is supposed to be a leader," responds Lisa Thompson, policy representative with the National Association of Evangelicals, one of the religious groups working hard to fight sex trafficking. "To agree to this language because some other European country wants it is ridiculous."

Finalization of the wording on the crime convention will be dragging on for at least another eight months. So it remains to be seen whether the scuffle over efforts to legalize the sex trade by treaty will turn into a donnybrook. It seems likely, however, that Mrs. Clinton's support for the redefinition will reverberate in her New York bid for the Senate.

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TRAFFICKING

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January 15, 2000, Saturday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A02

LENGTH: 1143 words

HEADLINE: Bitter Issue in Crime Treaty Debate: What Is Prostitution?

BYLINE: Hanna Rosin; Steven Mufson, Washington Post Staff Writers

BODY:

By now, prostitution should be as familiar as it is despised. Yet this week a dispute has erupted over its definition, with some feminists joining conservative religious leaders in an odd alliance against the Clinton administration and human rights groups.

The dispute arises over an international organized crime treaty, due to be debated in Vienna on Monday, that would outlaw "**trafficking**" of people across borders for "forced prostitution." The feminist and religious critics say that wording implies there are legitimate forms of prostitution and might allow predatory sex traffickers to duck the law by claiming their victims consented to be sent to brothels overseas.

The Clinton administration and human rights groups, on the other hand, support the treaty as drafted. They say it would focus international efforts on stopping the traffickers who buy and sell women, rather than on trying to stop prostitution, a historically elusive goal that has led police in many countries to raid brothels and jail prostitutes while allowing traffickers to go free.

Conservatives and religious opponents have focused their criticism on Hillary Clinton, honorary chairwoman of the President's Interagency Council on Women, the body that along with the State Department shapes the administration's position.

A letter signed by Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention, Chuck Colson of Prison Fellowship Ministries and four others accused the administration of assuming " 'voluntary' prostitution is a legitimate career option for women." And an op-ed piece in the Jan. 10 Wall Street Journal by Colson and William Bennett, former education secretary and drug control policy director, highlighted Hillary Clinton's role.

Among the critics are some of the administration's natural allies. Last week, 10 leading feminists--including Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women, Gloria Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood, and Gloria Steinem--signed a letter opposing the administration's line.

"The position taken by the administration suggests you do not consider prostitution of others to be a form of sexual exploitation," they wrote. "The definition would not only fail to protect a substantial number of **trafficking** victims, it would also shield many traffickers in the global sex trade from prosecution."

But the group organizing the feminist opposition, Equality Now, made clear in a follow-up letter last week that its members are not attacking Hillary Clinton. The Bennett-Colson column, they said, was "an outrageous, cynical exploitation of the serious issue of sex **trafficking**, and an attempted manipulation

of feminist leaders as a political ploy to attack Hillary Clinton." Their disagreement, they specified, is with the "State Department and some in the human rights community"--not the first lady.

For her part, Hillary Clinton denies any intent to legitimize prostitution.

"It should be clear that we condemn prostitution and want to hold the perpetrators accountable," said Clinton spokeswoman Melanne Vermeer. "It is not our intention to undermine the definition of prostitution in any way." A senior State Department official added that nothing in the treaty would undermine existing laws against prostitution or an earlier 1949 international treaty outlawing prostitution.

Activists estimate that 2 million women and children are sent across borders into some form of prostitution each year, and the State Department believes that approximately 50,000 could be in the United States. Generally, middlemen force them into a form of indentured servitude, taking away their passports to restrict their movements and telling them they must work as prostitutes to pay off an exorbitant debt--often \$ 25,000 or more--to the trafficker.

Since January 1999, representatives of 102 countries have taken part in negotiations over the treaty on transnational organized crime. Other parts of the treaty deal with migrants and firearms.

The State Department-led U.S. negotiators are seeking the toughest sanctions against traffickers and trying to marshal the broadest possible support. Officials said that if the United States rejected the term "forced" prostitution, it would alienate countries that allow regulated prostitution, such as the Netherlands and Turkey, and risk derailing the treaty.

"The larger number of countries participating, the more effective it will be," said Frank E. Loy, undersecretary of state for global affairs.

"Our problem is not with a strong statement against prostitution. We would be willing to do that. Our problem is coming up with an agreement that deals with the problem of **trafficking**," Loy said. "It's very important to keep our eye on the ball."

Some feminist leaders oppose the treaty language on the practical grounds that it would create a loophole. "If you sign a consent form, the person who takes you and ships you away has a consent defense," said Jessica Neuwirth, president of Equality Now.

For the religious leaders, the issue is also a moral one: They oppose all forms of prostitution. Their allies in this view are, ironically, the most left-leaning of the feminist groups, which see prostitution as inherently coerced.

"There's no such thing as unforced prostitution," said Robin Morgan of the Sisterhood Is Global Institute, who declares herself profoundly uncomfortable with "ultra-right" allies. "No woman or man willingly goes into this. Dire economic need is a form of coercion. To say it can be unforced is a middle class analysis."

But Ann Jordan, who has represented the International Human Rights Law Group at the talks, argues that even if economic circumstances are to blame, "who are you going to criminalize? People are forced by circumstances to do all sorts of work that is bad for them."

The administration's position is supported by several human rights groups, including the International Human Rights Law Group, based in Washington, and Human Rights Watch, based in New York. Philosophically, they oppose all **trafficking** in human beings, whether for prostitution, construction work or sweatshop labor.

And as a practical matter, making a concession to countries such as the Netherlands is worthwhile if it allows the treaty to pass, said Regan Ralph of Human Rights Watch.

Moreover, she said, the term "forced prostitution" refers to such practices as taking away women's passports, holding them in debt bondage, restricting their movements, and beating or raping them--a definition that does not leave much of a loophole for traffickers.

"You can't consent to human rights abuses," said Ralph. "Even if a woman says she consented, if once she got there she was in debt bondage, and lost control over her working conditions, and is physically confined, she's suffered a human rights abuse."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 15, 2000

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WASH TIMES
1/21/00

Defining prostitution

The horror stories of young girls lured or sold by their parents into a life of forced prostitution through businessmen in Thailand or criminal mafias in Russia are repelling enough. But the State Department estimates that 50,000 of the 2 million women and children said by activists to be trafficked internationally every year into prostitution could be in the United States. And the Clinton administration, not wanting to step on any prostitution-friendly countries' toes, just can't bring itself to support making *all* prostitution illegal. Interestingly, leading the effort for lending legitimacy to some forms of prostitution is the president's Interagency Council on Women, with Hillary Rodham Clinton as the honorary chair.

This new low for the Clinton administration is enough to get even the feminists up in arms. So much so that Patricia Ireland of the National Organization for Women, Gloria Feldt of Planned Parenthood and Gloria Steinem, among others, wrote President Clinton declaring their disapproval. In this they have joined forces with conservative and Christian organizations who are likewise appalled.

Apparently the pressure is working. A U.N. subcommittee working on the sex trafficking protocol to the U.N. Convention on Transnational Organized Crime was originally scheduled to vote on the protocol in Vienna Jan. 17, the Wall Street Journal reported. But the date came and went with no news out of Vienna. On Thursday, the United Nations told The Washington Times: "The Convention and its Protocols are still under negotiations. The Ad Hoc Committee charged with these negotiations has been asked by the General Assembly to complete its work by the end of 2000."

The end of 2000? This will not be the quick and easy vote the administration had hoped for. The administration makes the new sex trafficking language, which talks about "forced prostitution," sound

harmless. This would just "focus" the scope of crime prevention, it argues. But the new language would actually open the door for more crime.

"Right now if you traffic across international borders women and girls for the purpose of prostitution you're an international criminal," Richard Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission told The Washington Times. "If the Clinton administration has its way, the trafficking only becomes a crime if the trafficking is done against the women's will."

This would shift the focus from the traffickers to the victims, and courts would have to decide whether the woman was under duress to sign consent forms to partake in the prostitution. This process would assume that some forms of prostitution do not objectify women, essentially making the practice legal. It would also allow traffickers to continue their business while courts go through the motions of analyzing the women's motives.

"There's a reason why virtually all the G-77 [a coalition that acts in the name of developing countries for the United Nations] countries opposed this change," said Mr. Land, who along with Chuck Colson of Prison Fellowship Ministries, wrote Mrs. Clinton expressing his concern for the administration's position. "The reason is, they understand it is their women and their girls who will be trafficked across international borders for the purposes of prostitution. What we're talking about here is sexual imperialism and sexual colonialism on the part of developed nations of world in using the women and girls of the second and third world for their sexual gratification."

The Clinton administration's proposal would make a practice associated with abuse, coercion and denigration of women a mere voluntary career choice. It would make what has been considered internationally to be a crime perfectly legal.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

U.S. Delegation Opening Statement

United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish
Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against
Transnational Organized Crime

January 18, 2000

Vienna, Austria

Thank you Madam Chair.

As we begin our negotiating session here in Vienna on the U.N. Protocol Against trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children associated with the U.N. Convention Against Transnational Crime, the United States wants to reaffirm its unwavering commitment to combating trafficking, a modern day form of slavery.

With this protocol we are addressing a terrible problem that our countries share - modern-day slavery that manifests itself as trafficking in persons, especially women and children. We believe that we have an historic opportunity now to agree upon an unprecedented instrument of international cooperation that will give us the tools we need to be tough on traffickers and protect trafficking victims.

This organized crime agreement targets the full range of severe forms of trafficking in persons - those which are coercive - whether they arise in the sex industry or in any other form, including domestic servitude, bonded sweatshops and other forced labor. If we can reach agreement to stand united to fight together against this broad scope of trafficking - truly among the most heinous crimes that human beings inflict upon one another - it will be a remarkable achievement. What we are trying to do here has never been done before. We must not lose this opportunity.

The United States continues to support and enforce laws and policies to end prostitution in all of its forms. The exploitation of the prostitution of others is an offense against human dignity. At an appropriate time we will propose language to be included in the text of the Protocol, calling on States to take appropriate measures to discourage prostitution, including efforts aimed at combating the root causes of prostitution such as poverty, and encouraging them to provide women with economic alternatives so that they do not return to prostitution as a result of poverty. In addition, we support, as do the vast majority of delegations, including in this Protocol a savings clause that makes it clear that nothing in the Protocol affects the rights, obligations, and responsibilities of States and individuals under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Right now, we have an unique opportunity to demonstrate to traffickers that the nations of the world are united against trafficking. We must not lose this opportunity.

We are interested in hearing the views of other delegations as the negotiations proceed. We intend to offer additional language at an appropriate time reflecting the views we have expressed.

TRAFFICKING



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TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2000, AND THEREAFTER

Every day, in countries around the world, women and girls, desperate for economic opportunity, and seeking to follow their dreams of a better life, are lured from home by the promises of jobs and security. Sadly, though, they too often find themselves trapped in a nightmare, imprisoned by employers, mistreated, abused and often never seen nor heard from again. Since the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, I have been working to raise awareness of the heinous practice of buying and selling women and children like commodities. This week, representatives of over 100 countries, including the United States, are meeting in Vienna to continue negotiating a United Nations treaty that would protect these victims of trafficking and punish the perpetrators. There are some who charge that international efforts to deal with trafficking will somehow undermine laws designed to eliminate prostitution. This is certainly not true. The U.S. government has made it absolutely clear that our country will continue to support and enforce its laws and policies aimed at ending prostitution in all its forms. As the delegates debate the language of this vitally important treaty, it is critical that we keep our eye on the real issue -- trafficking. Every year, approximately 1 million women and girls are trafficked and sold into a modern form of slavery. The State Department believes that 50,000 of them, primarily from the former Soviet Union, Southeast Asia and Latin America, end up right here in our own country. Here are just a few examples of trafficking cases that have been prosecuted in American courts: Teenage Mexican girls, promised jobs in restaurants, child care and landscaping, enslaved and forced into prostitution in Florida and the Carolinas; Thai women held captive and forced to work in sweatshops in California; and hearing-impaired men and women from Mexico -- enslaved, beaten and forced to peddle trinkets on the streets of New York and other cities. No country is doing more than the United States to bring the worldwide trafficking of women and girls out of the shadows and into the glare of public attention. In the summer of 1997, I met with women leaders from Eastern and Central Europe as well as victims' family members who, with tears in their eyes, pleaded with me for help in dealing with this growing problem. Later that year, in Lviv, Ukraine, I launched a new information campaign designed to warn young women about the dangers posed by traffickers. In March of 1998, I joined the President, Secretary of State Albright, Attorney General Reno, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and a high-ranking member of the Thai government for a White House announcement of a presidential directive to prevent and deter trafficking and protect its victims. Last Fall, in Istanbul, Turkey, at the meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, I announced a \$1 million U.S. commitment to combat trafficking, and called for greater economic opportunities to prevent young women from being driven into the hands of traffickers. Our State Department is working in partnership with several foreign governments. The Attorney General and the Secretary of Labor have established a Worker Exploitation Task Force, which is actively investigating and prosecuting trafficking cases in the United States. And the administration is

working with Congress to craft bipartisan legislation to end trafficking by providing effective punishments for perpetrators and protections for victims. Passing this legislation is critical if we are to continue to make progress in fighting trafficking. The draft U.N. treaty being debated in Vienna this week offers a unique opportunity to bring the power of international consensus, backed by punishment of the criminals and much-needed assistance for the victims, to the issue of trafficking.

In no way will it, as critics claim, weaken existing international law or the laws of any individual nation. In fact, it will punish those who profit from buying and selling human beings, and encourage countries to offer truly unprecedented protections to the victims -- including the possibility of lawful resident status, health care, shelter, restitution, and other tools to rebuild their lives. Every day, more women and girls are being sold into the sex industry, domestic servitude, sweatshop labor, debt bondage and other forms of modern-day slavery. These crimes are violations of human dignity, and the United States will not rest until they are stopped.

We must not allow those who would distort the truth about this treaty derail the process. If they do, the only winners will be the international criminals who prey on desperate women and girls. The losers will be the victims of trafficking who, unless we take steps to protect them now, will continue to suffer unspeakable harm. They need our help. We must not let them down.

To find out more about Hillary Rodham Clinton and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2000 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



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FACT SHEET: HOW HAS THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION TAKEN STEPS TO STOP THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN?

In his 1998 Presidential Directive on Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and Trafficking in Women and Girls, the first presidential directive ever issued on the subject, President Clinton called trafficking in women and girls a "fundamental human rights violation". The Administration is committed to taking decisive action toward combating the trafficking of human beings, in a global effort. To that end, the United States has adopted a three-tiered strategy: prevention, protection, and prosecution.

PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

- The U.S. has increased its emphasis on economic opportunity and social development programs for women in source countries to provide economic alternatives to the lure of leaving their home countries or communities for employment. For example, USAID is sponsoring a consortium of NGOs in the Ukraine to provide job skills training, small business development skills, and mentoring for women.
- The U.S. funds public awareness campaigns throughout source countries of the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe, warning potential victims of methods used by traffickers.
- The U.S. developed a brochure entitled "Be Smart, Be Safe" that is targeted to potential victims describes the tactics that criminals use to traffic women, the risks of trafficking, and what women can do to protect themselves.

PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

- The U.S. has allocated funds to the Mekong Region (which includes Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos) in order to provide return and reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking.
- The U.S. has allocated funds to return trafficked migrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project will put in place mechanisms and procedures for the orderly and safe return of trafficked victims in order to break the cycle of trafficking and re-trafficking of women who have been entrapped in the sex industry.
- The Department of Justice is funding a pilot project through a network of community-based organizations to provide services, such as mental health counseling, emergency shelter, and referrals for medical care, to Asian victims of trafficking in the Los Angeles area and also is planning regional meetings with service providers from across the country.

PROSECUTION OF/AND ENFORCEMENT AGAINST TRAFFICKERS

- The Attorney General created a Department of Justice Working Group to address this issue and, with the Department of Labor, created a Worker Exploitation Task Force that is investigating and prosecuting trafficking cases.
- In July 1999, the U.S., together with Japanese officials and the International Organization for Migration, conducted a two-week training program on illegal migration and trafficking in women and children at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok.
- The Gore-Kuchma Commission established a law enforcement working group, which is cooperating on combating organized crime, including trafficking of women. This cooperative effort will include training programs for Ukrainian law enforcement officials.

MULTILATERAL/BILATERAL PROGRAMS:

- The United States and the Philippines will co-host the Asian Regional Initiative to Combat the Trafficking of Women and Children (ARIAT) in March of 2000. Twenty-three Asian and Pacific nations will discuss national action plans and develop a regional strategy to prevent trafficking, protect victims, reintegrate trafficking victims into society, and prosecute traffickers.
- The United States and the Italian Government continue to cooperate on a bilateral initiative to combat trafficking in women and children signed by President Clinton in 1998. The joint campaign targets data collection, the protection of the rights of victims, and training for law enforcement.
- At the November 1999 OSCE summit, the United States stressed the relevance of trafficking in the OSCE region and joined other summit participants in calling for the implementation of the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking by all OSCE member states.
- Since 1998, the U.S. Mission in Nepal has carried out a program to combat trafficking. Six U.S. government agencies cooperate with the government of Nepal to help prevent trafficking, protect the victims, and prosecute traffickers. Programs in Nepal strike at the sources of trafficking through poverty alleviation and rural income generation. Department of State funds strengthen units of the Nepal police focused on crimes against women and children. The Department has also sponsored seminars to draft legislation on trafficking.

UN TRAFFICKING TREATY: MYTHS - FACTS

As you may know, the United States is currently negotiating a UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. One of its main objectives is to reach consensus on a protocol for the trafficking of human beings. By requiring participating countries to punish the perpetrators and help the victims, this treaty represents another historic step forward in our global efforts to help the one million women and girls who, every year, are being shipped across national lines and sold into modern slavery.

Although this treaty is being negotiated in Vienna with the strong support of governments and NGOs, unfortunately, over the past week some have waged a misinformation campaign against it. Many of their claims are misleading. Some are blatantly false.

As this debate moves forward, it is important to separate the myths from the facts.

MYTH: The Protocol will legalize prostitution. *Nothing in this treaty will undermine those laws -*

FACT: The Administration opposes prostitution in all its forms. The United States has perhaps the most far reaching prostitution laws in the world. There are international human rights and humanitarian laws that fight exploitation and prostitution. We will not agree to a treaty that weakens existing prostitution laws here or around the world. In fact, the draft treaty clearly states that these international treaties - and the obligations they impose on participating countries - must remain unchanged. Despite what some have claimed, this treaty will not, in any way, undermine the 1949 UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

MYTH: The Administration opposes trafficking legislation.

FACT: The Administration has been working with Congress to craft the strongest possible legislation to stop trafficking. We want a law that will provide effective punishments for the perpetrators and protections for the victims - from medical treatment to shelter to the opportunity to become a legal resident. This assistance will not only give victims safety and security, but it will also help them assist in the prosecution of traffickers. If we are going to continue our progress in fighting trafficking, passing legislation is a critical next step. We remain committed to working closely with Congress this year to reach consensus and enact meaningful legislation.

MYTH: There is a groundswell of opposition to the protocol.

FACT: Most of the vocal opponents are those who are trying to score political points by misrepresenting the protocol and dividing and conquering its supporters. The truth is, our approach enjoys broad support among countries and activists. The United States policy is the product of extensive work by experts across the government. And it is supported by many international and U.S. NGOs with experience working with trafficking victims - from Charlotte Bunch of the Center for Women's Global Leadership, to Gay McDougal of International Human Rights Law Group, to Reagan Ralph of Human Rights Watch.

MYTH: The protocol's definition of trafficking will be finalized in the next few weeks.

FACT: The language of the protocol is still being negotiated. The United States has entered into no final agreements. Agreement on the final text is at least 8 months away. In the interim, the U.S. delegation will be listening to the debate and making our voices heard.

MYTH: This protocol should focus only on the commercial sex industry.

FACT: This debate is about much more than the sex industry. Every day, women and girls are being sold not only into prostitution, but also domestic servitude, sweatshop labor, debt bondage, and other forms of modern-day slavery. Often lured with promises of jobs as waitresses or hairdressers, they may be held captive, and forced to work in inhumane conditions. They may be raped or beaten continuously.

These crimes are violations of human dignity. The US will not rest until all forms of trafficking are stopped. The draft protocol addresses trafficking - in the sex industry and elsewhere - that involves force, deception, fraud, and coercion. It would help punish those who profit from buying and selling women and girls. And it would encourage countries to offer truly unprecedented protections and assistance to the victims. In appropriate cases, women and girls who have suffered unspeakable harm would be offered the possibility of lawful resident status, health care, shelter, restitution and other tools they need to rebuild their lives.

Conversely, switching the focus of the protocol entirely to the sex industry would move us backward in two fundamental ways. First, it fails to adequately address all the ways in which women and children are harmed by traffickers - from domestic servitude to bonded sweatshop labor. Second, many countries would withdraw their support. If this happens and the treaty is derailed, the only winners will be those who profit from buying and selling women and girls.

MYTH: The Administration has turned its back on trafficking.

FACT: No Administration has done more to combat the trafficking of women and girls here and around the world [see fact sheet]. Today, trafficking is finally out of the shadows in large part because of the leadership of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State Albright and Attorney General Reno. The U.S. is a world leader on this issue. We have mobilized the entire government to prevent trafficking, to protect its victims, and punish its perpetrators. We are working with Congress to enact the strongest possible legislation. We have established a taskforce that is prosecuting traffickers in the United States. We have engaged in anti-trafficking campaigns with many other countries - from the former Soviet Union to South East Asia. And we are actively leading international efforts, including those developed at the OSCE and the United Nations, to stop trafficking in every corner of the world.

UN TRAFFICKING TREATY: MYTHS - FACTS

As you may know, the United States is currently negotiating a UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. One of its main objectives is to reach consensus on a protocol for the trafficking of human beings. By requiring participating countries to punish the perpetrators and help the victims, this treaty represents another historic step forward in our global efforts to help the one million women and girls who, every year, are being shipped across national lines and sold into modern slavery.

Although this treaty is being negotiated in Vienna with the strong support of governments and NGOs, unfortunately, over the past week some have waged a misinformation campaign against it. Many of their claims are misleading. Some are blatantly false.

As this debate moves forward, it is important to separate the myths from the facts.

MYTH: The Protocol will legalize prostitution.

FACT: The Administration opposes prostitution in all its forms. The United States has perhaps the most far reaching prostitution laws in the world. There are international human rights and humanitarian laws that fight exploitation and prostitution. We will not agree to a treaty that weakens existing prostitution laws here or around the world. In fact, the draft treaty clearly states that these international treaties - and the obligations they impose on participating countries - must remain unchanged. Despite what some have claimed, this treaty will not, in any way, undermine the 1949 UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

MYTH: The Administration opposes trafficking legislation.

FACT: The Administration has been working with Congress to craft the strongest possible legislation to stop trafficking. We want a law that will provide effective punishments for the perpetrators and protections for the victims - from medical treatment to shelter to the opportunity to become a legal resident. This assistance will not only give victims safety and security, but it will also help them assist in the prosecution of traffickers. If we are going to continue our progress in fighting trafficking, passing legislation is a critical next step. We remain committed to working closely with Congress this year to reach consensus and enact meaningful legislation.

MYTH: There is a groundswell of opposition to the protocol.

FACT: Most of the vocal opponents are those who are trying to score political points by misrepresenting the protocol and dividing and conquering its supporters. The truth is, our approach enjoys broad support among countries and activists. The United States policy is the product of extensive work by experts across the government. And it is supported by many international and U.S. NGOs with experience working with trafficking victims - from Charlotte Bunch of the Center for Women's Global Leadership, to Gay McDougal of International Human Rights Law Group, to Reagan Ralph of Human Rights Watch.

MYTH: The protocol's definition of trafficking will be finalized in the next few weeks.

FACT: The language of the protocol is still being negotiated. The United States has entered into no final agreements. Agreement on the final text is at least 8 months away. In the interim, the U.S. delegation will be listening to the debate and making our voices heard.

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FACT SHEET: HOW HAS THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION TAKEN STEPS TO STOP THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN?

In his 1998 Presidential Directive on Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and Trafficking in Women and Girls, the first presidential directive ever issued on the subject, President Clinton called trafficking in women and girls a "fundamental human rights violation". The Administration is committed to taking decisive action toward combating the trafficking of human beings, in a global effort. To that end, the United States has adopted a three-tiered strategy: prevention, protection, and prosecution.

PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

- The U.S. has increased its emphasis on economic opportunity and social development programs for women in source countries to provide economic alternatives to the lure of leaving their home countries or communities for employment. For example, USAID is sponsoring a consortium of NGOs in Ukraine to provide job skills training, small business development skills, and mentoring for women.
- The U.S. funds public awareness campaigns throughout source countries of the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe, warning potential victims of methods used by traffickers.
- The U.S. developed a brochure entitled "Be Smart, Be Safe" that is targeted to potential victims describes the tactics that criminals use to traffic women, the risks of trafficking, and what women can do to protect themselves.

PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

- The U.S. has allocated funds to the Mekong Region (which includes Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos) in order to provide return and reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking.
- The U.S. has allocated funds to return trafficked migrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project will put in place mechanisms and procedures for the orderly and safe return of trafficked victims in order to break the cycle of trafficking and re-trafficking of women who have been entrapped in the sex industry.
- The Department of Justice is funding a pilot project through a network of community-based organizations to provide services, such as mental health counseling, emergency shelter, and referrals for medical care, to Asian victims of trafficking in the Los Angeles area and also is planning regional meetings with service providers from across the country.

PROSECUTION OF/AND ENFORCEMENT AGAINST TRAFFICKERS

- The Attorney General created a Department of Justice Working Group to address this issue and, with the Department of Labor, created a Worker Exploitation Task Force that is investigating and prosecuting trafficking cases.
- In July 1999, the U.S., together with Japanese officials and the International Organization for Migration, conducted a two-week training program on illegal migration and trafficking in women and children at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok.
- The Gore-Kuchma Commission established a law enforcement working group, which is cooperating on combating organized crime, including trafficking of women. This cooperative effort will include training programs for Ukrainian law enforcement officials.

MULTILATERAL/BILATERAL PROGRAMS:

- The United States and the Philippines will co-host the Asian Regional Initiative to Combat the Trafficking of Women and Children (ARIAT) in March of 2000. Twenty-three Asian and Pacific nations will discuss national action plans and develop a regional strategy to prevent trafficking, protect victims, reintegrate trafficking victims into society, and prosecute traffickers.
- The United States and the Italian Government continue to cooperate on a bilateral initiative to combat trafficking in women and children signed by President Clinton in 1998. The joint campaign targets data collection, the protection of the rights of victims, and training for law enforcement.
- At the November 1999 OSCE summit, the United States stressed the relevance of trafficking in the OSCE region and joined other summit participants in calling for the implementation of the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking by all OSCE member states.
- Since 1998, the U.S. Mission in Nepal has carried out a program to combat trafficking. Six U.S. government agencies cooperate with the government of Nepal to help prevent trafficking, protect the victims, and prosecute traffickers. Programs in Nepal strike at the sources of trafficking through poverty alleviation and rural income generation. Department of State funds strengthen units of the Nepal police focused on crimes against women and children. The Department has also sponsored seminars to draft legislation on trafficking.

opening statement to
audience

Press

Crazy to say that this will undermine laws.
That is patently false.

It should be clear that we condemn
We have strong laws - we want to enforce
those laws.

We do support legislation

Refer to Vicana opening statement -
not some press packet

Not just "forced" - goes ways beyond
coerced, deceive

202-529-2484 - fax Katherine Edwards