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February 27, 1997

Peter G. Bourne, M.D.
Chairman of the Board
American Association for World Health
1825 K Street, NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Peter:

I am writing to add my support for the findings of the AAWH report on the Impact of the U.S. Embargo on Health and Nutrition in Cuba.

I regret that travel plans will prevent my attending the news conference on March 3.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

Julius B. Richmond/SAT

bourne.cuba

Former Surgeon General
Former Assistant Secretary for Health, HEW

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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CARL WARREN HALL
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-7300

February 28, 1997

Peter G. Bourne, M.D.
Chairman of the Board
American Association for World Health
1825 K Street, Suite 1208
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Dr. Bourne:

Thank you for sharing with me your report "The Impact of the U.S. Embargo on Health and Nutrition in Cuba." The report is objective, thorough and comprehensive. It clearly shows the devastating impact of the embargo.

I congratulate you on this effort and sincerely hope that President Clinton and the Congress will give serious consideration to the findings, showing the serious adverse impact of the embargo on both the public health and medical care systems in Cuba.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joyce C. Lashof".

Joyce C. Lashof, M.D.
Professor Emerita, Public Health

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary, HEW
Former President, American Public Health Assoc.
Chair, President Clinton's Commission on
Gulf War Syndrome



March 5, 1997

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
1100 GLENDON AVENUE, SUITE 711
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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095-6900
(310) 794-0176

Peter G. Bourne, MD
American Association for World Health
1825 K Street, NW, Suite 1208
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Peter,

Although it was not possible for me to attend the March 3rd news conference in Washington concerning the American Association for World Health study of the impact of the U.S. embargo on health care in Cuba, I do want strongly to support the study.

It documents the embargo's severe adverse effect on the health and nutrition of the Cuban people.

The U.S. Cuban embargo policy will certainly become known as one of the most shameful episodes in our country's foreign policy, and the longer it persists the greater the shame. I hope the American Association for World Health study will help reverse it.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lester Breslow", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lester Breslow, MD, MPH
Professor and Dean Emeritus
UCLA School of Public Health

LB/bd

ASPH

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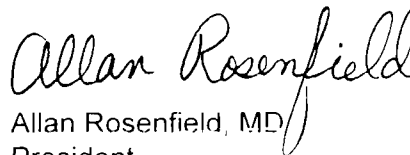
May 22, 1997

Peter Bourne, MD
Chairman of the Board
American Association for World Health
1825 K Street NW
Suite 1208
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Dr. Bourne:

My colleagues and I applaud your fine work in bringing to the attention of the American people the negative impact of the U.S. embargo has had on Cuba, particularly among its women and children. Its public health implications are clearly (and thoroughly) stated in your report "The Impact of the U.S. Embargo on Health and Nutrition in Cuba."

Sincerely,



Allan Rosenfield, MD
President

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June 17, 1997

Peter G. Bourne, M.D.
Chairman of the Board
American Association for World Health
1825 K Street, N.W.
Suite 1208
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Peter:

Just a note to let you know that your report related to the public health impact in Cuba of the U.S. embargo is receiving wide exposure within the APA. The APA's Committee on Abuse of Psychiatry and Psychiatrists received it and, believing that this is more of a medical issue than a purely psychiatric one, made the recommendation that the APA refer this to the American Medical Association through the AMA Section Council on Psychiatry with the request that the AMA look at these issues and consider taking a position. This request has successfully gone through the Council on International Affairs and the Joint Reference Committee and will be presented to the Board of Trustees in two weeks. The APA, therefore, has not taken a position on the embargo but has suggested that the AMA consider doing so.

I hope that this information is useful to you and I will let you know any decision of our Board of Trustees. In the meantime, I send you my best regards.

Sincerely,

Ellen Mercer
Director, Office of
International Affairs

FEB 28 1997 05:09PM SCHOOL OF NURSING

P.1



Columbia University School of Nursing

2/28/97

American Association for World Health
1825 K Street
Washington DC 20006

Dear Peter Bourne and Richard Wittenberg,

You have done an exceedingly important project in documenting how the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba interferes with the basic right to humanitarian goods for citizens of that country. This is not an easy task as an embargo is an indirect and distal contributor to untoward health outcomes. In warfare there is a 'smoking gun' to point at in order to reduce morbidity and mortality. The embargoes around the world present a far more complex situation but one which is no less important. Embargoes in the post-cold war environment seem to be replacing warfare as a means of pursuing hostile foreign policies. Unlike warfare, however, civilians are to date offered none of the protections ascribed in the Geneva conventions.

Studies like yours are essential to identifying ways to protect civilians and lessen the burden on civilians of embargoes. You have done a very good job at a very difficult task. The American Public Health Association is deeply concerned with this issue and will work with the findings to move appropriate legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Richard Garfield RN DrPH

Henrik H Bendixen Professor of International Clinical Nursing
Chair, International Human Rights Committee, APHA

Carnegie Corporation of New York

437 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022 • (212) 371-3200 • Telex: 6506377182 • Fax: (212) 223-9822

Patricia L. Rosenfield, Ph.D.
Program Chair
Strengthening Human Resources in Developing Countries

June 27, 1997

Peter G. Bourne, M.D.
Chairman of the Board
American Association for World Health
1825 K Street, NW, Suite 1208
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Peter,

Thank you so much for sharing with me the important report from the American Association for World Health on the impact of the U.S. embargo on health and nutrition in Cuba. The human impact of such embargoes is clearly and sadly documented in this report. I am pleased to have it, although I am sorry for the reason that prompted the report. At the moment, I cannot make use of the full report, but I am pleased to know it is available and will certainly let you know if I can put the full report to good use.

Congratulations to you and your colleagues for the courageous and carefully documented work.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely,



PLR/sg



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Brussels, July 1 1997

To Dr. PETER BOURNE
 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR WORLD HEALTH

Subject: AAWH Report "Denial of Food and Medecine" - Cuba

Dear Mister Bourne,

Oxfam-Solidarity is a Belgian non-governmental organization for North-South cooperation. After a discussion I recently had with Cathy Donahue of the International Policy Center in Washington, we decided to translate into French and Dutch the report from the American Association for World Health "Denial of food and medecine: the impact of the US-embargo on health and nutrition in Cuba" (March 1997)

We try to inform a large public on the current situation in Cuba and we found the AAWH-report very accurate and interesting.

(Can you, please, let us know the conditions for an authorized and exhaustive publication of this report in French and Dutch?)

It could be interesting also to have some copies of this report at our office in Brussels, to distribute it among the members of the European Parliament. Can you, please, let us know the prize for 100 copies of the report?

Yours sincerely,

Xavier Declercq
 Oxfam Solidarity Belgium



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Minneapolis, Minnesota

March 24, 1997

Peter G. Bourne, M.D.
1825 K. Street, NW, Suite 1208
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Dr. Bourne:

I am forwarding to you a copy of the letter AAN sent to President Clinton in 1994. The letter summarizes the position the Academy took on this issue during the crisis that existed in Cuba at that time.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Viste (dx)

Kenneth Viste, M.D.
American Academy of Neurology

DMT/dx

cc: Jan Kolehmainen
Rich Hames



EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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cc: Dr. G. Roman

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The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN), an organization of over 13,000 neurologists and neuroscientists, urges your support of lifting the embargo on Cuba for necessary nutritional and medical supplies.

In the last several years there has been an epidemic of neurological disease in Cuba. This epidemic includes optic neuritis (visual loss), deafness, sensory neuropathy (loss of sensation in the hands and feet), and a spinal cord disorder (walking impairment) which are attributed to nutritional deficiencies similar to those that occurred in some prisoner of war camps during World War II.

These problems have developed as a consequence of economic circumstances in Cuba related to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the 30 year United States embargo on Cuba. The dietary deficiency appears to be due largely to a deficiency of vitamin B which is present in certain food groups.

The AAN, which takes a purely humanitarian position on this issue, seeks to find a solution for the serious neurological health problems in Cuba. I have enclosed Dr. Gustavo Roman's paper on this topic as additional background material for you.

I ask your support for lifting the embargo for nutritional and medical supplies.

Sincerely,


Jack P. Whisnant, M.D.
President

JW/DT/ajd



EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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KOJI KAKIZAWA
MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tokyo, 29 May 1997

Mr. Peter G. Bourne
Chairman of the Board
American Association for World Health
1825 K Street, NW, Suite 1208
Washington, DC 20006
USA

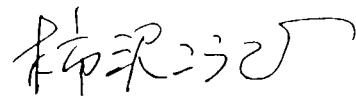
Dear Mr Bourne,

I would like to thank you for sending me the summary of your report concerning the humanitarian impact of the US embargo against Cuba. I read it with great interest and found it very useful.

Please, know that you have my entire support. I wish you a great success in defending your noble cause.

I look forward to meeting you again in the next future.

Yours sincerely,



Koji Kakizawa
Former Japanese Foreign Minister

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SIR KENNETH STUART
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FACP, FFPM, FFPHM, DTM

Hon. Medical & Scientific Adviser

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Peter G Bourne
Chairman of the Board
American Association for World Health
1825 K Street N.W.
Suite 1208
Washington DC 20006
USA

12 June 1997

Dear Peter,

Thanks very much for the elegantly presented executive summary of your report: "Denial of Food and Medicine: The Impact of the US embargo on Health and Nutrition in Cuba".

As I am sure you know, throughout the Caribbean there has been neighbourly sympathy with Cuba for the effects of the US embargo on the health and welfare of its people.

The press reports clearly reflect the wide interest the study has generated. I would be happy to receive the full report if this would be convenient for you. I would also welcome the opportunity to discuss it further with you next time we meet - particularly with a view to my helping to generate interest and support in the UK and the Caribbean.

Yes, the meetings at Lainston House did become a bit of a charade. I hope that by now some of the hot-heads have come to their senses!

Regards
Simon
Stuart

Kenneth Stuart

NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL, INC.

1625 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1604

Tel. (202) 887-0278



FAX: (202) 452-8160

May 28, 1997

Mr. Peter G. Bourne, M.D.
Chairman of the Board
American Association for World Health
1825 K Street, NW
Suite 1208
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Dr. Bourne:

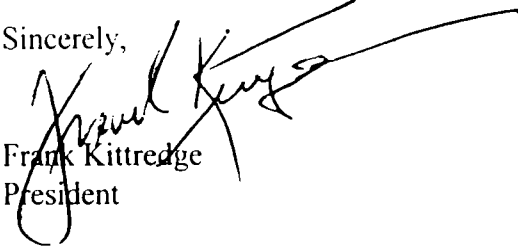
I am writing on behalf of USA*ENGAGE to request permission to reproduce on our website the Executive Summary of the American Association for World Health's study "Denial of Food and Medicine: The Impact of the U.S. Embargo on Health and Nutrition in Cuba."

Jane Cicala of Boeing, a coalition member, brought this important work to my attention and recommended that I contact you directly. I believe that the study's compelling illustration of the human consequences of sanctions is an invaluable contribution to the growing evidence against unilateral sanctions.

USA*ENGAGE is a broad-based coalition representing nearly 500 American businesses, agriculture groups and trade associations. The organization supports American engagement overseas as the best means to promote human rights, values and American interests. Coalition members are undertaking a sustained effort to support greater overseas involvement by the United States at all levels -- political, diplomatic, economic, charitable, religious, education and cultural -- and to seek alternatives to the use of unilateral sanctions. I have enclosed the material released at our initial launch on April 16th, 1997 for your further reference.

I hope that you will allow us to feature the study on our website, www.usaengage.org, and add the AAWH's voice to the chorus calling for an end to the accelerating use of an ineffective and harmful foreign policy tool.

Sincerely,


Frank Kittredge
President

CUBAN AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR PEACE

720 South Park Avenue
Linden, NJ 07036
U.S.A.

Phone (908) 925-9656
Fax (908) 925-3222

June 28, 1997

The Honorable Esteban E. Torres
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Torres,

I am writing you as president of the largest Cuban American organization in the United States, on behalf of the membership, to thank you for your co-sponsorship of the Cuban Humanitarian Trade Act of 1997. Our organization consists of Cuban Americans who still have members of their family living on the island. For too long, U.S.-Cuba policy has been dominated by a small wealthy elite in Miami who have a score to settle while ignoring the suffering of Cubans on the island, as well as Cuban Americans here.

The present embargo does not serve any purpose except to harm the Cuban people, most directly infants, children and the elderly. This was so clearly documented by the recent report by the American Association for World Health. Our organization is pleased to know that there are legislators like yourself who have the courage to put politics aside, and think what is in the best interests of the Cuban American community here as well as the people of Cuba.

Present policy does not promote democracy in Cuba. On the contrary it makes America appear like a big bully. Our organization thanks you for your courage and wants you to know that we will be sending a letter to every Congress person who as of yet not signed on as well as a copy of a summary of the American Association of World Health Report. You are truly a friend of the Cuban people as well as the Cuban American Community here in these great United States. Keep up the good work. You have our support, respect and admiration.

Gratefully,



Raymundo Del Toro, President
Cuban American Committee for Peace



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR WORLD HEALTH
1825 K Street, N.W. Suite 1208 • Washington, DC 20006 • Telephone 202-466-5883

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April 16, 1997

Susan J. Blumenthal, M.D., MPA
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health
Assistant Surgeon General
Office on Women's Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Room 730-B
Washington, D.C. 20201

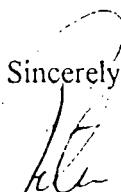
Dear Susan,

I am pleased to enclose a copy of the executive summary of our report "Denial of Food and Medicine: The Impact of the US Embargo on Health and Nutrition in Cuba." It is the result of a year long study conducted by AAWH. I would particularly like to draw your attention to the section on women's health. As someone concerned about the effect of breast cancer in women everywhere I know you will share our concern about the impact of US policy in impeding the efforts to screen for and treat that condition in Cuba. Women are dying unnecessarily in Cuba because of US policy, something we feel is unconscionable.

Should you be interested in the full 300 page report we would be happy to provide it to you. I hope also that you might be willing to convey to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright concern that the involvement of the United States in inflicting this unnecessary suffering on women be ended.

With personal regards.

Sincerely


Peter G. Bourne, M.D.
Chairman of the Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Support HR1951, the CUBAN HUMANITARIAN TRADE ACT to correct the unforeseen suffering caused by short-sighted foreign policy.

U. S. physicians, Elizabeth Ruman D.C. and Steven Sholem M.D., embarked on a medical mission to Cuba, April 1997. **They witnessed conditions to be worse than the AAWH report** (see below). The infection rate from surgery was found to be higher and Cuban Intensive Care Unit doctors cited a **30% death rate of patients with infections because of a lack of antibiotics**. Protein rationing was observed to be more severe than reported, the immune system compromised, leading to outbreaks of disease

The doctors co-authored an **emergency measure** to help correct this situation. The **Unitarian Universalists Action of Immediate Witness** was adopted by the **U.U. General Assembly in Phoenix, June 19-24, 1997**. Where over a two-thirds majority of Unitarian Universalist delegates from all over the United States and the world voted to support the **Exemption of Food, Medicine, and Medical Supplies From the United States Embargo Against Cuba**.

The American Association of World Health's (AAWH) March 1997, 300 page publication, "Denial of Food and Medicine - **The Impact of the U.S. Embargo on Health and Nutrition in Cuba**," is a valuable source of facts. Such as the absence of available medicines that would prevent children from vomiting **25-30 times per day, while undergoing chemotherapy**. Foreign countries fear the severe U.S. penalties from the Helms Burton Act and refuse Cuba **50% of available drugs (those under U.S. patent)**. This includes denial of purification chemicals and equipment, leading to epidemics, such as Hepatitis.

The United States' medical legacy in Cuba has become the catalyst of a severe shortage of life-saving treatments. This is a nightmare of political intervention causing deprivation and illness which cruelly and unnecessarily injures the Cuban people. The U.S. policy has strictly limited health care administration in ways that were unforeseen by policy makers.

The passage of this Resolution of Immediate Witness means over 1,000 Unitarian Universalist Congregations can be mobilized. We support The Cuban Humanitarian Trade Act of 1997, HR 1951.

CONTACTS: U.S. Representative Esteban E. Torres (D-CA), (202)225-9711
U.S. Representative James A. Leach (R-IA), (202)225-5258
FAX: Dr. Ruman for Esteban Torres' letter to Colleague (602) 957-9350
AAWH: (202)466-5883

Children die in agony as US trade ban stifles Cuba

Victoria Brittain

THE United States trade embargo against Cuba has led to needless deaths, left hospitalised children lying in agony as essential drugs are denied them, and forced doctors to work with medical equipment at less than half efficiency because they have no spare parts for their machinery, according to an American study.

Health and nutrition standards have been devastated by the recent tightening of the 37-year-old US embargo, which includes food imports, a team of American doctors, research scientists and lawyers said after a year-long study of the country.

Cubans' daily intake of calories dropped by a third between 1989 and 1993, the American Association for World Health reports. There is widespread suffering and many needless deaths.

A humanitarian catastrophe has been averted, the report says, only by the high priority the Cuban government has given to health spending, despite a steadily worsening economic environment. Defence, culture, arts and administration have taken budget cuts to allow extra spending on health.

Dr Peter Bourne, who headed the American team, was the health adviser to President Carter. Speaking at the report's British publication yesterday, he revealed that the White House had been on the verge of lifting the embargo in 1977, but drew back when Havana sent a military force to aid the new revolutionary government in Ethiopia. "But the situation now is incomparably worse — then they could still get supplies from eastern Europe and from US subsidiaries," Dr Bourne said.

Since the embargo was tightened under the Bush administration in 1992, every aspect of preventative health care, from water purification to books for the country's 28 medical schools, or extra food for the old and for children, "has come near to collapse".

Cuba's isolation has been made worse since last year by the US government's Helms-Burton Act, which deters foreign investment at a time

when the situation in the country is already "beyond description", Dr Bourne said.

Child cancer sufferers are some of the most distressing victims of the embargo, which bans Cuba from buying nearly half of the new world class drugs in a market dominated by US manufacturers.

The team visited a paediatric ward which had been without the nausea preventing drug, metoprolamide HCl, for 22 days. It found that 35 children undergoing chemotherapy were vomiting on average 28 to 30 times a day.

Another girl, aged five, in a cancer ward lacking Implanon for chemotherapy, was being treated through her jugular vein because all her other veins had collapsed. She was in excruciating pain.

Surgical operations have dropped by a third in the last five years because of the lack of hospital resources. There are chronic shortages of all supplies, from drugs to instruments.

Aids patients are also suffering badly. Mergers of European drug suppliers with US companies have suddenly cut off alternative supplies. Cuba's own pharmaceutical industry is increasingly hampered as Washington prevents European subsidiaries of US companies from selling materials.

Forty-eight per cent of the 215 new drugs being tested in the US are specifically for treatment of breast cancer. The embargo denies them to Cuban women.

"Only the pre-existing excellence of the system and the extraordinary dedication of the Cuban medical community have prevented infinitely greater loss of life and suffering," the report says.

Despite the difficulties, the country's infant mortality rate is still only half that of Washington DC, and in access to health services, immunisations and life expectancy Cuba compares with Europe.

In response to growing realisation in the US that the embargo violates the United Nations charter and the Geneva Conventions, and threatens the future of the World Trade Organisation, a bipartisan congressional group is to introduce legislation within the next two weeks to lift the ban on food and drugs.

Stephen S. Rosenfeld

Cuba, Food, Medicine

America should not be in the business of inflicting pain.

Off hand, it is hard to think of any single foreign policy act by the United States that is meaner, more demeaning and altogether less defensible than the American embargo on medicine, medical supplies and food to Cuba. Added in 1964 to the broader anti-Castro embargo begun in 1960, the ban on foods and medicines is now a largely unnoted fixture of the hemispheric landscape.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unnoted but not ineffective. The ban is in fact continually cutting deeper, making the United States a party—to a degree that needs some sorting out—to the infliction of pain and suffering on an unoffending civilian population. The toll is newly documented by a report a year in the making by nine experts organized by the American Association for World Health (1826 K St. NW, Washington 20006). Its honorary chairman is Jimmy Carter.

The end of Soviet subsidies and the passage of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the Helms-Burton Act of 1996, the report states, have done heavy damage that the island nation's world-hailed primary health care system has been able to limit only in part. Malnutrition, deterioration of water quality and sometimes fatal deficits in medicines, equipment and medical information are the results. It is detailed and dramatic stuff.

When the report came out last month, the Albright State Department was ready with a rejection of "any allegation that the United States government is responsible for the deplorable state of health care in Cuba." Of its \$2 billion in foreign-exchange purchases, Cuba spent only \$6 million on medicine, said the spokesman, observing that the embargo allows humanitarian shipments to Cuba and that "the United States" remains the largest donor. Fidel Castro chooses to spend not on his own people but on the "little toys" of his military and a nuclear power plant, he jeered.

Look closely here: The United States determinedly squeezes the medical sector and the whole Cuban economy, harasses the Cubans for trying to compensate and then blames *Havana* for failing to lighten the impact. The American government then boasts of opening the very humanitarian loophole it strives in practice to narrow. In fact, the fount of charity is not "the United States" but private donors who must conquer the obstacles their government has strewn in their path.

Note that at the United Nations the Clinton administration has just gotten Saddam Hussein to use the humanitarian loophole written into the

sanctions constricting Iraq. It is a loophole substantially more generous and more accessible than the one affecting Cuba. Its use serves the people of Iraq and makes the other sanctions pressing on the Iraqi economy politically more sustainable. The same could be made true in Cuba.

From the feel of things, the group that has done this new study is sympathetic to the Castro government's campaign against the whole American embargo. The group's evident liberal leanings can be pounced upon by those who believe that against Castro anything goes.

My own view is that at this late date the general embargo has a modest but lingering utility as a card to play in a negotiated windup of the Communist regime. But the medical embargo is different. It mocks the notion that the purpose of medicine is to heal. It employs a technique of war against civilians. It separates Americans from the practice and belief of our closest friends. If it is an increment in the power equation, it is a dubious one, less the source of leverage than shame.

In the Cold War, we might have asserted a higher priority, the survival of our civilization. Does someone still need to be reminded that the Cold War is over? That Castro's days as a threat to our security and global poise are gone? No doubt he would try to profit if the medical embargo were lifted. But this is not going to be the measure by which he and his police state survive.

The question spins on as to whether engagement or isolation best erodes the mischief and the power of revolutionary regimes. We need not be the slaves of a foolish consistency. But if we have decided that engagement suits China and isolation suits Cuba, we are obliged to ask why.

One reason for the inconsistency arises from Cuba's visible presence in the neighborhood and from the seeming feasibility of engineering change in a small close-by place. A second reason is the startling readiness of the hard-line Miami Cubans to inflict pain upon their kin. Another is a historical rage at what some Americans perceive as Castro's insolence in maintaining his power over our teeth-gnashing. But none of these considerations can possibly rise to a level justifying the denial of American medicines to Cuban children.

Target Castro, Not Cuba's People

By MALCOLM WALLOP

Someday historians will be perplexed by the decline of American statecraft after the Cold War. Today's foreign-policy makers claim morality, consistency and national interest as their guiding principles. But I defy anyone looking at our current patchwork of embargoes, drug-war certifications, most-favored-nation trading status and passion for human rights to find a common thread in U.S. foreign policy.

One of the obstacles to a truly consistent policy is the overreaction to symbols. Symbols are marvelous tools for the thoughtless, because they relieve policy makers of the necessity to reason. Fidel Castro is just such a symbol. He is undeniably bad. He abuses human rights, and so our natural impulse is to punish him: Whatever it takes, just to do it. Pay no mind if we hit the innocent and miss him—he is bad enough to excuse mistakes. This is a funny way for a great nation to behave, but it is just what we are doing by choosing medicine and basic food as weapons in our war on the “the threat to our national security” called Cuba.

It's hard enough to understand how an island of 11 million people, now without its Soviet protectors, threatens the world's last superpower. That worry alone tells you how far our military has declined during the Clinton years. Yet even if we accept this argument, how can a great nation like the U.S. target Cuba's civilians, including women and children, by denying them necessary medicine? This has never been our policy toward such world evils as Iraq, Libya and Iran. Even in our darkest struggles with the Soviet Union, we never depended on food and medicine as a weapon.

How is it we are now contemplating permitting trade with and providing airlifts of food to North Korea—whose missiles threaten us and our allies, whose troops threaten U.S. troops, which has an active nuclear, as well as chemical and biological, weapons program and whose abuse of hu-

man rights is the worst in the region? For Pyongyang we offer nuclear technology, heating oil, foodstuffs and cash assistance, and encourage the world to give more of the same. How is it that we can engage China, the quintessential violator of human rights, and permit weapons technology transfers to Beijing, but we dare not provide breast-cancer screening technology to Cuba? How is it that Iraq, which threatens not only us but our European and Persian Gulf allies, has our permission to sell oil to buy basic food and medicine, while we are so threatened by Mr. Castro that we cannot allow Cuban children access to life-prolonging leukemia drugs?

The American Association for World Health's report on the Impact of the U.S. Embargo on Health and Nutrition in Cuba makes clear the shameful effects our policy is having. Waterborne diseases are increasing in Cuba, for instance, because we won't allow repairs to U.S.-made water treatment facilities. I readily concede that Mr. Castro and his government violate their citizens' human rights, but for America to break its treaty obligations under

the Organization of American States, the North American Free Trade Agreement, the United Nations and the Geneva Conventions in order to fight human-rights violations with those of our own is just plain wrong.

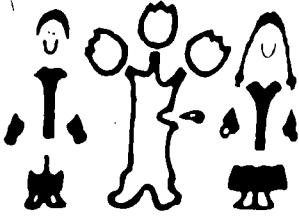
Our passion for seriousness led the Commerce Department in 1994 to deny an export license for a shipment of replacement parts, which had 27% U.S. content and a total value of less than \$175, for 20-year-old X-ray machines in maternity, pediatric and rural hospitals in Cuba. Despite the fact that Picker International had received licenses for similar replacement parts two years earlier, Commerce ruled that the parts did not “meet basic human needs” and that their export to Cuba would be “detrimental to United States foreign policy.”

Perhaps President Clinton, who has focused on women's health and children's issues, does not know the lengths to which his administration will go to deny medicine and food. This president likes to proclaim that at long last no American child now goes to bed with a Russian missile aimed his way. Mr. Clinton now has an opportunity to make sure that Cuban children not go to bed denied basic food and essential medicine by the U.S.

This is not about forgiving Mr. Castro his sins, for I do not. Instead, my plea is that America not commit its own grievous sins by way of confronting him. There is plenty for us to do to pursue our interests, but we could start by setting an example of decency. Amending Helms-Burton to allow trade in food, medicine and medical technology would be no concession to Fidel Castro, but rather an acceptance of our own good nature.

Mr. Wallop, a former Republican senator from Wyoming, is chairman of the Frontiers of Freedom Institute in Arlington, Va. His private consulting clients include Sherritt International, a Toronto-based company with mining interests in Cuba.

payed 4/23/97



SECRETARIA DE BIENESTAR SOCIAL
HOSPITAL DEL NIÑO MORELENSE
DIRECCION

D.D.
FAY to Peter
R. in

March 31, 1997.

Peter G. Bourne, MD
Chairman of the Board
AAWH
1129 20th St. NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036

sister of
Bill Richardson

Dear Dr. Bourne :

I would like to thank you for mailing me the study of the impact of the U.S. embargo on health care in Cuba.

I will read it carefully, and encourage Bill's support for a change in policy, although I know he is already convinced it is badly needed.

Sincerely,

Vesta Richardson, MD.

Acc. #945-241-057
9051-C Siempre Viva Rd.
Suite MX21-14
San Diego, CA 92173



Cruel squeeze on Cuba

by James M. Wall

IT IS HARD to think of any single foreign policy act by the United States that is meaner, more demeaning and altogether less defensible than the American embargo on medicine, medical supplies and food to Cuba." That stinging rebuke was delivered by Stephen S. Rosenfeld in the *Washington Post*. The embargo, first put in place in 1961 in an effort to topple Fidel Castro, is not only mean and demeaning; it is also a complete failure. Castro is still in power. In addition, by including medicine and food in the embargo, the U.S. is violating international

human rights conventions which call for the free movement of food and medicine, even in wartime, to civilian populations.

Seventeen years ago I spoke to a small Southern Baptist congregation in Havana. During the social hour a woman told me of her daughter's need for a medication. At that time she could get drugs from Eastern Europe, but the particular drug she needed was available only from a U.S. company. Did I think, she asked, that after the upcoming presidential election her fellow Southern Baptist, Jimmy Carter, would lift the embargo on food and medicine? I told her that I had good reason to believe that Carter, if re-elected, would indeed lift that part of the ban. Three weeks later, Carter lost the presidency to Ronald Reagan.

The embargo is not only still in place; it has been tightened. In 1992 George Bush signed the Cuban Democracy Act during a campaign stop in Florida, and in 1996 President Clinton signed the Helms-Burton Act during his re-election campaign.

It is the Helms-Burton Act which is so stringent that it prevents foreign companies from doing business in the U.S. if they "traffic" with Cuban companies that hold properties that Castro nationalized in 1960. The U.S., which in recent years has turned to the United Nations to sanction its military actions in Iraq and in the former

Yugoslavia, has ignored UN resolutions that condemn the Cuba embargo and which call for the U.S. to rescind provisions of the embargo that violate both the UN Charter and international law.

The damage inflicted on the Cuban people by the ban on food and medicine has been documented in a recent year-long study conducted by the American Association for World Health. The medical investigators, directed by physician Peter Bourne, chair of the AAWH board and a former official in the Carter administration, interviewed medical professionals and government officials, surveyed 12 American medical and pharmaceutical companies, and documented the experience of Cuban import firms.

AAWH concluded that the U.S. embargo is "taking a tragic human toll" on the Cuban people. Indeed, "the embargo has closed so many windows that in some instances Cuban physicians have found it impossible to obtain lifesaving machines from any source, under any circumstances. Patients have died."

According to the report, until 1990 all Cuban women over the age of 35 received mammograms on a regular basis at no cost. Today, without adequate equipment, mammo-

grams are no longer employed as a routine preventive procedure; they are used only for high-risk patients. In 1994 and 1995, the lack of X-ray film halted all mammograms in Havana institutions and in 15 mobile units.

The AAWH found that "the embargo prevents the Eastman Kodak company or any subsidiary from selling the U.S.-produced Kodak Mini-R film—a product specifically recommended by the World Health Organization because it exposes women to less radiation." During the 1980s, as many as 15 mastectomies were performed daily; now, because of the lack of surgical supplies, the number has dropped to two or three a day.

Cuba tried to buy X-ray film from third-party trading companies, but ran into two problems: markups priced the film out of the government's reach, and these third-party intermediaries were reluctant to purchase sufficient quantities to sell to Cuba even at inflated prices because large purchases would call U.S. attention to sales that would be illegal under U.S. law.

The AAWH team also reported that since 1992 Cuba has been unable to purchase parts for the chlorination system that treats 70 percent of the country's drinking water. Morbidity rates from water-borne diseases have doubled since 1989.

A shortage of anesthetics and related equipment and of antibiotics has forced a drop in the number of surgeries from 885,790 in 1990 to 536,547 in 1995. When the AAWH team visited one pediatric ward, it found that 35 children were vomiting 28 to 30 times a day from their chemotherapy treatment, a reaction that is normally minimized with a drug readily available in the U.S. New drugs for breast cancer and children's leukemia are denied to women and children in Cuba.

The political logic behind a policy of deliberately blocking Cuba from access to medical supplies and drugs

Health experts have now documented the "tragic human toll" exacted by the U.S. embargo.

is quite simple: some U.S. politicians and their financial backers, most notably Cuban-Americans who live in South Florida and New Jersey dream of one day returning to Cuba, like Fidel Castro. Neither did Dwight Eisenhower, who began the embargo in 1961 at the height of the cold war when Castro nationalized the U.S. corporations in Cuba and declared his Marxist sympathies. That move brought him decades of financial support from the Soviet Union, but it also launched the U.S. embargo. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1989, its financial backing for Cuba ended. The U.S. embargo continues.

Following the release of the AAWH report, the U.S. State Department quickly rejected "any allegation that the United States government is responsible for the deplorable state of health care in Cuba." A spokesman for Secretary of State Madeleine Albright maintained that a "loophole" in the embargo allows for U.S. humanitarian shipments to Cuba from nongovernmental agencies.

According to AAWH, however, "donations from U.S. NGOs, international agencies and third countries do not compensate to any major degree for the hardships inflicted by the embargo on the health care system and the health of the Cuban people. Restrictions placed on charitable donations from the U.S. which are similar to those imposed on commercial trade have the same discouraging impact, severely limiting what might otherwise be contributed."

The AAWH's conclusions are supported by statistics and extensive interviews with medical professionals in Cuba and the U.S. But individual cases tell an even more powerful story. "In one instance," the AAWH reports, "Cuban cardiologists diagnosed a heart attack patient with a ventricular arrhythmia. He required an implantable defibrillator to survive. Though the U.S. firm CPI, which then held a virtual monopoly on the device, expressed a willingness to make the sale, the U.S. government denied a license for it. Two months later the patient died."

A THEOLOGICAL INQUIRY

Questioning Chavis Muhammad

by Linda A. Mercadante

THE BOW-TIED Fruit of Islam guards, the Nation of Islam's elite security corps, stood conspicuously in the parking lot, doorways and rooms of Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. They were there to protect Benjamin Chavis Muhammad, formerly a United Church of Christ minister, executive director of the NAACP, in February converted to the Nation of Islam. Chavis Muhammad been invited to a press conference a dialogue with a panel of and ministers about his that one can be a Christian and a Nation of Islam minister simultaneously. (The Eastern North Carolina Association of the UCC later rejected that claim and on April 24 to terminate Chavis Muhammad ministerial

With his national prominence, reputation as a civil rights leader, long tenure in professional circles the church and his facility with Christian concepts, Chavis Muhammad obviously a very valuable convert the Nation. At both the press conference and the panel, the Fruit of Islam guards maintained a watchful posture over Chavis Muhammad and his scrutinizing visitors, periodically rotating their positions. It was that after only two months as a Muslim, Chavis had already been designated a minister and a spokesman, and was permitted to retain his Christian surname (called "slave name" in Nation simply adding

The April 18-19 visit to Trinity initiated by Carl Upchurch, a at Trinity who had previously with Chavis on the 1993 Gang Summit in Kansas City and on the Man March of 1995. He Chavis's conversion subjected to public theological scrutiny because, said, "Ben Chavis is attempting something that threatens the

spiritual reconnection of the African-American community with the church."

The event was not sponsored by the seminary. Funds for it were raised by Upchurch through a private donor. When that donor pulled out because of concerns about the "anti-Semitic and antiwhite" attitudes of the Nation, Upchurch reported, he covered the \$5,000 fee that Chavis Muhammad received for his appearance at Trinity and at two other church-related events in Columbus. Upchurch is an ex-convict who has told his life story in the 1996 book *Convicted in the Womb: One Man's Journey from Prisoner to Peacemaker*.

Trinity's dean, James Childs, stressed that the school did not seek out the meeting. "But when it was offered to us we felt it was worth doing. We provided a venue, because we have a share of concern and solidarity with the social witness of the African-American church. If it's important to them, it's important to us."

I was one of eight people asked to participate on the panel, which was composed equally of white and black members, representing various denominations and theological disciplines. We were each to prepare a set of questions and were to be given equal time to present them and hear responses. Chavis Muhammad opened the dialogue by calling for mutual confession of one God, cooperation and tolerance. This put the panelists in an awkward position. All of us were Christian clergy and had serious theological questions about Chavis Muhammad's desire to keep a foot in each religious world. Yet we wanted very much to affirm our mutual social concerns, to dialogue honestly, and to

Linda A. Mercadante is professor of theology at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio in Delaware, Ohio

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POLICY REFORM

Agricultural policy at the national, European Union and international levels is the general theme of this issue.

The international trade in agricultural products features in three articles in this issue. Jur Schuurman of PFS reports (p7) on a proposal by the Dutch Trade Minister to abolish import duties on agricultural (and other) products from the 48 Least Developed Countries.

Penny Fowler of CIIR discusses (p8/12) the future of the preferential trade arrangements between the EU and 70 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries under the Lomé Convention in the light of WTO regulations: can these arrangements survive? Does the EU have the political will to ensure that they do?

Michelle Harrison explains how the imminent renegotiation of the Lomé Convention bodes ill for the sugar industry in Jamaica (p9).

Pippa Woods (p11) of the Family Farmers' Association argues the case for CAP policy reform measures to protect family farms. Fabien Colpaert of CEIPAL offers an overview (p10) of a simulation study by INRA on the possible effects of capping farm subsidies in France, and Andy Welford reviews a proposal by French farmer André Pochon on CAP reform (p6).

The US embargo on the export of food to Cuba violates international human rights. Peter G Bourne M.D. reports (p4) on the hardships suffered by the Cuban population. The "right to food" is a human right says Sigrun Skogly of FIAN, who are launching a UK branch (p5).

Nestlé come under renewed attack (p3) from their critics. Aidan Harrison casts a caustic eye over the late and unlamented Tory government's record on tax and investment in UK agriculture (p2).

And finally Chris Emerson reviews a book on agricultural biotechnology (p12).

Martin Wallis ■



Farmers in the market place: What future under a liberalised regime?

Photo: Odhiambo Ngesa, AGROSPHERE

FWN will be at the forthcoming events!

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County Show
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6 August . . . North Devon
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7 August . . . Honiton Show
12 August . . Taunton Show
14 August . . . Okehampton
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28 August . Melplash Show
West Dorset
6 September . . Dorchester
Show

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GHANA

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Autumn 1997

Cost: about £1,000.
Contact: Sue Rabbich on
01203 696969 ext 338

CHINA

Exchange Visit
Chinese Agriculturalists to
visit Autumn 97; UK return
visit Spring 1998

Cost about £1,000
Contact: Sue Rabbich on
01203 696969 ext 338

THE US EMBARGO AND NUTRITION IN CUBA

The US embargo on exports of food and medicine to Cuba, in force for over 30 years, has caused untold hardship to ordinary men, women and children in Cuba. The embargo also violates international human rights conventions. Peter G. Bourne M.D. of AAWH¹ explains below.

In 1961 the United States imposed a "total embargo upon all trade between Cuba and the US". Food and medicine, originally exempted on humanitarian grounds, were included in 1964. In the early years, support from the Soviet Union and access to European companies, including US subsidiaries, meant that Cuba could obtain most of the food and medical supplies it needed.

In the mid-eighties with the collapse of the socialist *bloc* this all changed. In addition, in 1992 the so-called Cuban Emergency Act was passed which, among other things, prohibited trade with Cuba by US subsidiaries based in third countries.

In addition, boats which docked in Cuba were denied the right to unload cargo in the US for six months. Suddenly there was an acute food shortage in Cuba (as well as termination of access to much of the medicine and medical equipment on which the country depended).

In 1996, the American Association for World Health conducted a year long study resulting in a report *"Denial of Food and Medicine: the Impact of the US Embargo on Health and Nutrition in Cuba"*. It looked in detail at the human suffering and even death that had resulted from the US policy.

Apart from the damage to the medical system and health of the Cuban people caused by the American denial of crucial drugs and equipment, the study found that the embargo directly threatens the food security of the Cuban people.

"The shortage of food created by the embargo particularly affects the newborn"

Between 1985 and 1989, calorie intake in Cuba exceeded 2,800 per day, with protein levels at 76 grams per day. By 1993 nutritional deficiencies began to emerge in the general population: the median weight of males and females dropped, with adolescents registering weight loss of at least 2 kilograms compared to 1982; and men and women aged 20 to 60 registered a marked weight loss. Cuba also began to register deficient nutritional status in women at the beginning of their pregnancies.

The shortage of food created by the embargo particularly affects the newborn. In 1993, Cuba experienced a 23 per cent increase in low birth weight babies. Being born at less than normal weight threatens not only the physical and mental development but even the very survival of many such infants.

Since 1992 more than 50,000 Cubans have been affected by optic nerve neuropathy - a condition caused by malnutrition resulting in impaired vision. Anaemia caused by inadequate dietary intake has been found in more than 50 per cent of pregnant women and infants aged 6 to 12 months. The situation has improved somewhat as Cuba has established new suppliers, but under-nutrition remains a serious problem.

The entire impact of the embargo would have been truly catastrophic had it not been for the extraordinary dedication and ingenuity of the Cuban physicians and the willingness of the government to increase the percentage of the national budget allocated for healthcare.

How this nutritional damage was inflicted on the Cuban people is easy to see. The tightening of the embargo in 1992, banning trade with US subsidiaries, forced suppliers to cancel contracts with Cuba that included purchases of baby food from H.J. Heinz of Canada and \$100 million in wheat, soy, beans, peas and lentils from the Argentine subsidiary of Continental Grain (New York) and from Cargill (Minneapolis).

A New Zealand milk producer cancelled a long-standing contract to sell Cuba 1,500 metric tons of powdered milk because, under the new restriction, they could find no shipper willing to carry it to Cuba. An Italian supplier could not find a tanker for some 9,000 metric tons of soy cooking oil. Some 17,000 metric tons of rice sat at sea while the Chinese supplier argued for higher freight charges.

If food could be sent from the United States, Cuba would save \$215,800 for each ship replacing a European freighter, and \$516,700 for each replacing an Asian freighter. Cuba paid an additional \$35,881,896 to non-US suppliers and shippers for deliveries of wheat flour, soy flour, corn, soy beans, chicken and milk.

In addition, the ban on exports from the US of fertilisers, pesticides, animal feed and fuel has seriously damaged production and crop yields. In addition, denial of crucial supplies and equipment has severely hampered applied agricultural research, especially biotechnology studies.

The inclusion of food and medicine in a trade embargo is a clear violation of international human rights conventions, most notably Article IV of the Geneva Convention, which require the free flow of food and medicines, even in wartime, to serve the basic needs of civilian populations. Food and medicine were not included in the embargos against South Africa, Libya, Iran or even Iraq.

In four consecutive sessions the United Nations General Assembly has overwhelmingly passed resolutions condemning the embargo and calling on the US to rescind those aspects that violate principles of international law. The world community has a special responsibility to bring sufficient public pressure to bear to end these efforts to starve the people of Cuba.

Peter G Bourne, M.D. ■
Chairman of the Board, AAWH

¹ AAWH is an independent non-governmental organisation, one of the leading disease prevention/health promotion organisations in the US. Further information tel: 0171 828 5961

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1997

Cuba: Lift This Harsh Embargo on Medicines

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld

WASHINGTON — Off-hand, it is hard to think of any single foreign policy act by the United States that is meaner, more demeaning and altogether less defensible than the American embargo on medicines, medical supplies and food to Cuba. The ban was added in 1964 to the broader anti-Castro embargo begun in 1960.

It is continually cutting deeper, making the United States a party to the infliction of suffering on an unoffending civilian population. The toll is newly documented by a report, a year in the making, by nine experts organized by the American Association for World Health.

The end of Soviet subsidies and the passage of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the

Helms-Burton Act of 1996, the report states, have done heavy damage that the island nation's world-hailed primary health care system has been able to limit only in part. Malnutrition, deterioration of water quality and sometimes fatal deficits in medicines, equipment and medical information are the results.

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Of its \$2 billion in foreign exchange purchases, Cuba spent only \$6 million on medicine, said the spokesman, observing

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Look closely here: The United States determinedly squeezes the medical sector and the whole Cuban economy, harasses the Cubans for trying to compensate and then blames Havana for failing to lighten the impact. The American government then boasts of opening the very humanitarian loophole that it strives in practice to narrow.

In fact, the fount of charity is not "the United States" but private donors.

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It employs a technique of war against civilians. It separates Americans from the practice and belief of our closest friends. If it is an increment in the power equation, it is a dubious one, less the source of leverage than of shame.

In the Cold War, we might have asserted a higher priority, the survival of our civilization. Does someone still need to be reminded that the Cold War is over? That Mr. Castro's days as a threat to U.S. security and global poise are gone?

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One reason for the inconsistency arises from Cuba's visible presence in the neighborhood and from the seeming feasibility of engineering change in a small close-by place. A second is the startling readiness of hard-line Miami Cubans to inflict pain upon their kin. Another is a historical rage at what some Americans perceive as Mr. Castro's insolence in maintaining his power over our teeth-gnashing.

None of these considerations can possibly rise to a level justifying the denial of American medicines to Cuban children.

The Washington Post

U.S. embargo drastically affecting health of Cubans, study concludes

By JACK NELSON
Los Angeles Times Service

WASHINGTON — The stringent U.S. embargo against Cuba that prohibits the sale of food and severely restricts the sale of medicine has significantly increased suffering and death on the island, according to a yearlong study for the American Association for World Health.

Since the embargo was tightened by the 1992 Cuban Democracy Act, the health association reports, the number of unmet medical needs — patients going without essential drugs or doctors performing medical procedures without adequate equipment — has sharply accelerated.

"The declining availability of foodstuffs, medicines and such basic medical supplies as replacement parts for 30-year-old X-ray machines is taking a tragic human toll," the medical experts report. "The embargo has closed so many windows that in some instances Cuban physicians have found it impossible to obtain life-saving machines from any source, under any circumstances. Patients have died."

The findings will be released at a news conference today by the association, a nongovernmental, educational arm of the World Health Organization. A copy of the document was obtained by the Los Angeles Times.

The health situation in Cuba has been aggravated in recent months by the effects of the Helms-Burton Act passed by Congress in 1996, the association said. Helms-Burton seeks to discourage investment by permitting lawsuits to be filed in U.S. courts against foreign investors who use U.S. assets expropriated by Cuba.

President Clinton announced in January that he was delaying implementing the law for at least six months. But the report says the prospect of enforcement has had a "chilling effect" on health-care providers who might contemplate trade with Cuba.

Although the health association makes no specific policy proposals in its 300-page report, it emphasizes that it would be "only reasonable" for the United States to exempt food and medicine from its embargo. International human rights conventions call for the free flow of food and medicine even during wartime.

The report concluded that human effects of the embargo have been "dangerously exacerbated" by four factors stemming from the 1992 act:

- A ban on trade by foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies, which has severely constrained Cuba's ability to import medicines and medical supplies from third countries. Recent buyouts and mergers

'The declining availability of foodstuffs, medicines and such basic medical supplies as replacement parts for 30-year-old X-ray machines is taking a tragic human toll.'

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR WORLD HEALTH

between major U.S. and European pharmaceutical companies further reduced the number of companies permitted to trade with Cuba.

- Provisions to license the individual sale of medicines and medical supplies — ostensibly to mitigate the embargo's impact on health-care delivery — that in practice are so restrictive that they actively discourage medical commerce. Numerous licenses for medicines and medical equipment have been denied on the grounds that these exports "would be detrimental to U.S. foreign policy interests."

- A provision discouraging shippers from delivering medical supplies to Cuba by barring ships from loading or unloading cargo in U.S. ports for 180 days after delivering cargo to Cuba.

- Long delays in licensing and other restrictions that have discouraged charitable contributions from the United States.

Cuba has managed to avert a "humanitarian catastrophe" only because the Cuban government has maintained a high level of budgetary support for a system designed to deliver health care to all of its citizens, according to the report, which notes that Cuba still has an infant mortality rate half that of Washington, D.C.

The study team, made up of nine medical experts and headed by Dr. Peter G. Bourne, the health association's board chairman, evaluated research based on visits to 28 patient-care facilities and 15 nongovernmental and international organizations, as well as interviews with 160 professionals and "innumerable" patients and families.

They also found that Cuban patients are deprived of any drug internationally patented by U.S. manufacturers since 1982. Since the United States boasts the world's leading pharmaceutical research and production capability, the embargo effectively bans Cuba from buying nearly half of new world-class drugs on the market.

MH 3/3/97

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Bananas continued from page 1

spirits, the EC and the Council of Ministers also stated that ACP rum exports to the EU would "retain the terms of access laid down in the Lomé Convention".

The Council and the Commission stated that the impact of the EU-US agreement on ACP rum exports to the EU would be "taken fully into account in any future negotiations and arrangements" relating to rum exports after the expiry of the convention in 2000.

The anxieties over trade are likely to surface next month at the planned meeting in Barbados between US President Bill Clinton and Caribbean Community (Caricom) heads of government. The meeting, scheduled for May 19, will also discuss the anti-drug effort and security issues.

Prime Minister Owen Arthur of Barbados chaired a Caricom strategy meeting on March 25, on the eve of a meeting with President Clinton's senior director for global affairs on the National Security Council, Richard Clarke. The marked decline in US economic aid to the Caribbean and the impact of Mexican trade advantages under the North Amer-

ican Free Trade Agreement are likely to be on the May agenda.

In the drug arena, the US "decertified" Belize on February 28, complaining that its government had not yet signed treaties on mutual legal assistance and extradition, or agreed to an oversight amendment to its existing maritime co-operation ("shiprider") agreement.

The White House said: "Corruption at the highest levels of government continues to be a notable problem. As a result, investigations and arrests were stymied and drug trafficking was facilitated." The statement cited the acquittal, due to "mismanaged investigations and destroyed files", of the son of Home Affairs Minister Elito Urbina on drug-related charges (see January 1997 *Insight*).

However, the US granted Belize a "vital national interest" waiver from decertification sanctions. The Belize government denied the corruption allegations. Meanwhile, the Jamaican Foreign Ministry said on March 11 that differences with the US over a proposed shiprider agreement had not yet been resolved; another meeting had been scheduled for early April.

BRIEFING

US doctors accuse government over Cuban embargo

The report of a year's study by United States doctors, scientists and lawyers into the health effects of the US trade embargo, published last month in Washington and London, stated that its impact on the health of the population had been "devastating".

The study team, headed by Peter Bourne, former health adviser to US ex-president Jimmy Carter, found that the embargo, which explicitly bans exports of food and medical supplies to Cuba, was limiting the supply of medicines, drugs, surgical equipment, x-ray film, anaesthetics and a wide range of other items.

The study, organised by the American Association for World Health, said that the shortages had increased since the embargo was tightened in 1992 by the Torricelli Act (see November 1992 *Insight*). The report described the ban on food and medicine as a violation of human rights conventions; such a measure had not been included in other US embargoes on countries such as Iran.

Among other effects, the team reported that surgical operations performed in 1995 numbered only 536,517, compared with 885,790 in 1990, while doctors had regular access to 889 medicines, against 1,297 in 1991. New drugs and equipment manufactured by US subsidiaries overseas were now in-

cluded in the embargo.

Dr Bourne, who chairs the AAWH, said in addressing the report's London launch that the embargo had produced a "human tragedy" involving unnecessary death and suffering. Water-borne diseases and malnutrition had increased, with particularly serious effects on children and old people.

While not solely responsible for problems in the health sector, Dr Bourne said, the embargo had exacerbated shortages resulting from the economic downturn following the collapse of the Soviet Union. However, the high priority given to health care and the "extraordinary dedication of the Cuban medical community" had prevented "infinitely greater loss of life and suffering", the report said.

It was reported that a bipartisan group in the US Congress was planning to introduce legislation to remove food and medicines from the embargo.

Meanwhile, Cuban citizens throughout the country have been holding public hearings against US plans for a "democratic transition", presented by US President Bill Clinton under the Helms-Burton legislation, which claim that between US\$4bn and US\$8bn would be made available under such a "transition".

The president of the National Assembly, Ricardo Alarcón, has been addressing meetings analysing the transition plan, implementation of which would, in the Cuban view, return the country to its pre-1959 status as a US neo-colony.

Starting with members of the armed forces, Cubans have been

signing a declaration of loyalty to "the revolution, socialism, Fidel and Raúl". The declaration is entitled "The Mambes of the 20th Century", a reference to the 19th-century Mambes independence fighters who had virtually defeated the Spanish forces when the US intervened in 1898 to bring Cuba under its tutelage.

The Cuban military have found particularly offensive a statement in the "transition plan" that the armed forces would have a role in a post-revolutionary government.

The Cuban government last month rejected a US State Department claim that Cuban officials had opened a diplomatic pouch bound for the US Interests Section in Havana aboard a commercial aircraft.

Cuba replied that the pouch was already open when it arrived in Havana on February 18. The Cuban statement complained that the pouch contained a large number of copies of a booklet entitled *Support for a Democratic Transition in Cuba*, which contravened the Law of Reaffirmation of Cuban Dignity and Sovereignty, passed in December (see February *Insight*).

The US administration stated in late February that it would not take part in the hearings of the World Trade Organisation panel on its dispute with the European Union over the Helms-Burton Law (see March *Insight*). The panel is chaired by Arthur Dunkel (Switzerland), the former director general of GATT; its other two members are Tommy Koh (Singapore) and Edward Woodfield (New Zealand).

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Cubans suffering, study says

SUMMARY: A new survey by an American group says the U.S. trade embargo is creating serious health care problems for children and adults in Cuba.

By **DANIEL BERGER**
of The Tampa Tribune

Severe shortages of medicine, medical and public health equipment created by the U.S. trade embargo are destroying Cuba's health care system, says a study just released by the American Association of World Health.

"It is our expert medical opinion that the U.S. embargo has caused a significant rise in suffering — and even death — in Cuba," said the Washington-based nonprofit research group.

The study finds the 37-year-old embargo lowered the average birth weights of babies, raised infant mortality and contributed, through worsening nutrition, to an epidemic of neurological problems sickening 50,000 people.

Cuban doctors cannot adequately screen women for breast cancer, the public water supply is infested, and children with treatable cancers are denied access to breakthrough drugs made by U.S. companies, the doctors who wrote the study said Monday.

"THE CUPBOARDS are bare," said Robert J. White of Case Western Reserve University medical school, a member of the research team. "Ad-

vanced lifesaving drugs that we manufacture in our country are simply not available."

Alfred W. Brann, a pediatrics professor at Emory University medical school, said the "unintended consequences" of the embargo's effects against women, children and the elderly have made it tougher than any U.S. trade action against Iran, Iraq or South Africa.

Researchers, for instance, visited a pediatric ward on its 22nd day without a cancer drug used to fight nausea during chemotherapy.

"The 35 children in the ward were vomiting ... 28 to 30 times a day," the study said.

The world health association is led by Peter Bourne, who advised former President Carter on international health and who later served as assistant secretary-general to the United Nations. Its honorary chairman is Carter.

The trade embargo was intensified by a 1992 law further limiting shipping to Cuba and restricting its ability to buy drugs from other countries.

THE REPORT echoes two other studies, one by a University of South Florida professor.

Anthony Kirkpatrick, a USF assistant professor of anesthesiology and pharmacology who wrote one of the earlier studies, endorsed the report Monday.

He said he shared information with

the group's researchers during four trips he made to Cuba between 1993 and 1995.

"My goal is to get this to the American people and let them decide for themselves if they want their country to be part of this," said Kirkpatrick, active in an anti-embargo group called Cuba Vive.

His study focused on obstacles U.S. companies face in selling medicine to Cuba. It was published in November in the British medical journal *Lancet* after a major U.S. journal deemed the issue too hot to handle, he said.

A study in the January American Journal of Public Health found that Cuba's death rate rose from 1989 to 1994, mostly from 7,500 additional elderly deaths.

Margarita Cancio, 37, a Cuban-American doctor and Tampa General Hospital's vice chief of staff, said she doubts the health problems are new.

"What needs to be blamed is that they have a political system that is oppressive, that does not allow personal liberty or economic growth," she said.

But Cancio, who left Cuba when she was 11, is against the embargo.

"It gives them an excuse," she said. "They want to blame the embargo and the Yankees for everything that goes wrong in Cuba." Ending it, she said, "would take away that crutch."

Staff writer Phil Willon contributed to this report.



Tribune file photo

The 37-year-old embargo has contributed, through worsening nutrition, to the sickening of 50,000 people in Cuba, the study says.

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Cuban Lies

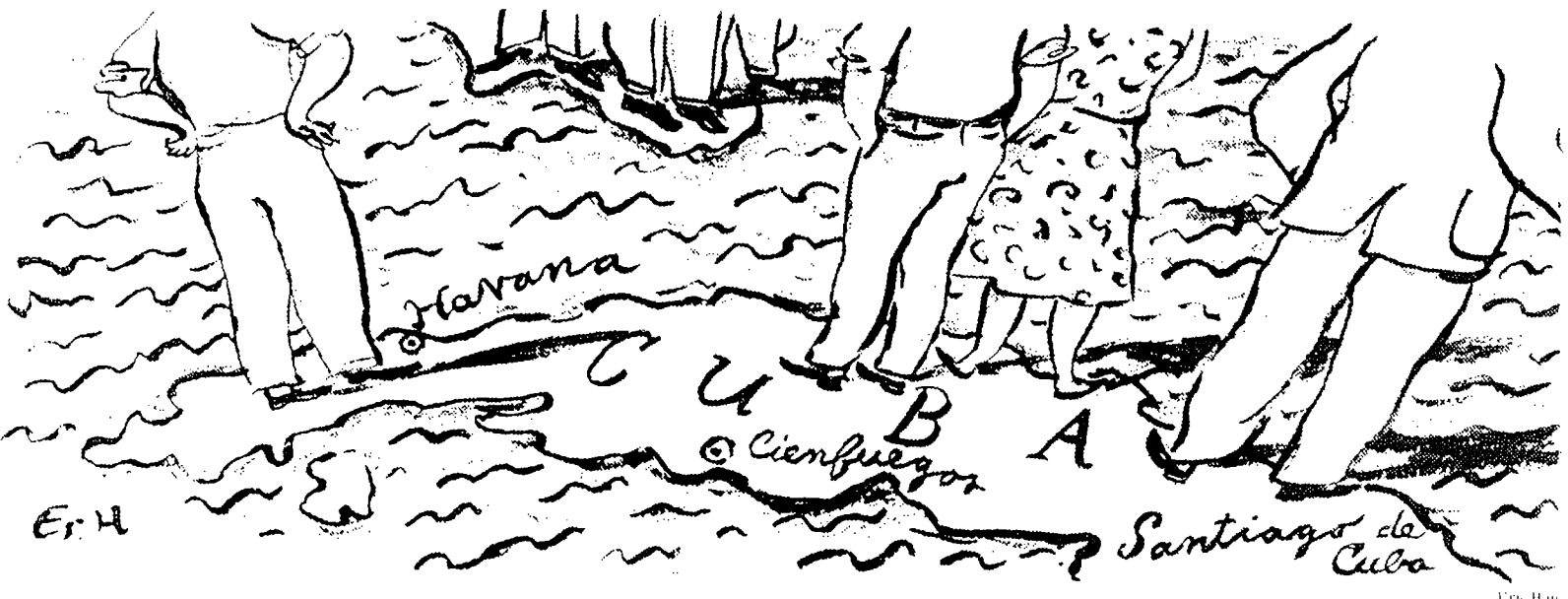
AS AN INDEX of the cynicism guiding the leadership of Cuba, you cannot do much better—or worse—than Havana's complaint that the United States is conducting biological wars. This bizarre and flimsy charge, which the American government has fully denied, was brought against the United States at the United Nations earlier this month.

It started with a routine cleared-by-Cuba overflight of a Colombia-bound civilian crop-dusting plane last Oct. 21. Observing a Cuban commercial aircraft flying below, the American pilot followed procedure and marked his location with a puff of smoke. Two months later Cuba complained that the American plane—which, the State Department insists, carried no herbicide—had released some unknown substance. In May Cuba went to the United Nations to accuse Washington of "biological aggression," saying that a plague of plant-destroying insects identified as *Thrips palmi* had appeared after the American flyover. The pest attacks practically every crop, resists pesticides and "can be considered ideal biological agents able to inflict heavy damage on agricultural food crops," Cuba

said. The smoke from the aircraft's smoke generator became "a white or grayish mist."

Reports from Havana note that the new charges are in a long tradition of Cuba's assigning responsibility for its misfortunes to the schemes of the "Yankee imperialists" over the years. The charges fit an attempt by the Cuban government to justify possible summer food shortages resulting from some combination of natural causes, the American embargo and Communist mismanagement.

Hearing these ugly accusations, some in Cuba and elsewhere will assume that Fidel Castro's regime is simply lying. That's what we think. But others may be conditioned to give the accusations more credence by their knowledge of the dubious longtime American food and medicine embargo, part of the broader embargo that has been in place practically since President Castro took power. The United States should have reviewed this question years ago. The purpose of reviewing it now is not to repudiate the Castro lies—a necessary but tedious exercise. It is to demonstrate that Americans do not support this sort of infliction of hardship directly upon the unoffending Cuban people.



Eric Han

Cuba Can't Change on Its Own

By Elizardo Sanchez
Santacruz

HAVANA

Like people everywhere, Cubans yearn for peace, prosperity and freedom. Our challenge is to make our existing totalitarian state, which is obsolete and inefficient, evolve into a more open system that is better attuned to the global economy and the world around us. The Cuban people fervently want that change, but they insist it occur peacefully.

Peaceful transformation can only be achieved through a process of national reconciliation in which all political voices are included — even those of the leaders of the present Government. The transformation, after all,

Elizardo Sanchez Santacruz is director of the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation.

must begin under them. How could it be bloodless if the ouster of the regime were a precondition?

Some will argue that Castro Government will not permit change. To speak of reconciliation, says the Cuban exile leadership in Miami, is treasonous. The pressures against Cuba must be maintained — even though those pressures haven't produced anything in more than 35 years.

I have spent more than nine years in Fidel Castro's prisons, yet I am convinced that a hard-line approach against his Government is based on false assumptions. True, some top officials do not want to change anything. But they do not have that luxury: Cuba, now without Soviet help, is poverty-stricken. To recover, it must change.

Modern economies depend on access to information, on having people think for themselves, on the abilities of tens of thousands of managers to make instant decisions. The centralized economy and strait-jacketed political culture we now have simply cannot be competitive. I believe that

U.S. policy
only makes
repression worse.

the large majority of Cubans understand this fact and want change. I believe that even the overwhelming majority of Cuban officials understand it as well and that the top leadership is sufficiently pragmatic to move with the times.

Unfortunately, American policy impedes the transformation we seek. Efforts to pressure and isolate Cuba simply give the leaders a pretext to continue their repression and allow them to divert attention from their failures.

The vast majority of us on the island who oppose the Government believe that a dialogue and a relaxation of tensions between the United States and Cuba would better facili-

tate a transformation. Unfortunately the Helms-Burton Act, which among other things mandates sanctions against foreign companies that do business in Cuba, makes it very difficult for the United States to take part in such a dialogue.

Still, even with the Helms-Burton Act in place, the United States can play a less obstructive role. At the very least, it should allow Europe, Canada and Latin American countries to encourage economic and political liberalization in Cuba. It should also drop its objections to Cuba's reintegration into hemispheric affairs and its eventual re-entry into the Organization of American States.

Washington should also lift all restrictions on travel to Cuba by Americans. Is not the United States committed under the Helsinki agreements to the free flow of people and ideas across borders? And how can one sincerely argue that the cause of a more open Cuba would not be advanced by having as many Americans as possible in the streets of Havana? (Critics will say that Cuba, too, has travel controls. Well of course it does: It is a totalitarian state. That is no reason for the United States to make the same mistake.)

Finally, America should lift its embargo sales of food and medicine to Cuba, a prohibition that violates international law and hurts the people, not the regime. Denying medicine to innocent citizens is an odd way of demonstrating support for human rights.

The basic responsibility for Cuba's future rests with the Cubans themselves. We must begin reforms that offer hope to all. But less rigidity on the part of the United States would do a lot to help that change begin.

E & DIPLOMACY

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Cyrus R. Vance, another former secretary of state, and former Bosnia mediator Richard Holbrooke before settling on Baker, they said

— John M. Goshko

Health Study Faults Cuba Embargo

■ The tightening of the U.S. embargo against Cuba in 1992 has had a devastating impact on the health of ordinary Cubans, with patients often denied essential drugs and doctors working without adequate equipment, according to a new report

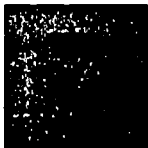
The study by the Washington-based American Association for World Health says the impact has been particularly severe on women, children, the elderly and people with chronic diseases.

"Our medical delegation found the tightening of the embargo has had unintended consequences on the health of the Cuban people, including unnecessary suffering and deaths," said Peter Bourne, chairman of the group's board and a former top adviser on health issues to President Jimmy Carter.

The State Department quickly challenged the report, saying Cuba had other trading partners and the condition of its health system reflected its own national priorities. "If there's a finger to be pointed about why the Cuban people don't have adequate medical supplies, it should be pointed directly at Fidel Castro," a spokesman said.

Bourne said Cuba cannot get spare parts for the U.S. equipment it has. The 1992 law tightening the embargo included a ban on trade with Cuba by U.S. subsidiaries in third countries. "We witnessed kidney dialysis, X-ray, respirators, incubators and other lifesaving machinery standing idle for want of U.S.-produced spare parts," Bourne said.

— News Services



Health status in Cuba declining under embargo

The U.S. embargo on Cuba has caused suffering, particularly among women, children and people with chronic diseases, according to a new study.

The non-profit American Association for World Health conducted a year-long study of Cuba to gauge the effects of the U.S. embargo on food and medical supplies. The findings: since the embargo was tightened in 1992, medicines are more scarce, the water supply lacks proper filtration and outdated medical equipment cannot be replaced with more reliable machines.

"Our medical delegation found the tightening of the embargo has had unintended consequences on the health of the Cuban people, including unnecessary suffering and deaths," said Peter Bourne, MD, chairman of the AAWH board. APHA opposes the embargo.

The study found that of the 1,297 medicines available in Cuba in 1991, physicians now have access to only 889 of those medicines.

The 1992 trade ban prohibited Cuba from purchasing food from U.S. corporate subsidiaries and imposed a licensing requirement for the sale of medicines and medical supplies to Cuba.

Before the cutoff, more than 90 percent of U.S. subsidiary trade was in foods and

medicines, according to the study. Now, any medical equipment with 20 percent American-made components is prohibited.

"In an age of globalization of manufacturing, it is difficult to find any state-of-the-art machinery that does not have some U.S.-built component," Bourne said. The AAWH delegation saw kidney dialysis machines, X-ray machines, respirators and incubators standing idle in Cuba for lack of U.S. parts, he said.

Robin Williams, MD, medical officer of health for the regional municipality of Nicaragua, said he was dismayed by the impact of the embargo on the breast cancer screening program in Cuba.

"Cuban women are exposed to higher

than recommended radiation levels as a result of not being able to purchase the safest film produced by the U.S. firm, Kodak," Williams said. "The embargo has prevented Cuba from providing a comprehensive mammography-screening program to Cuban women."

The study's authors said humanitarian donations of food and medicine have done little to mitigate the effects of the embargo.

For more information on the report, "Denial of Food and Medicine, The Impact of the U.S. Embargo on Health & Nutrition in Cuba," contact AAWH, 1825 K St., NW, Suite 1208, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 466-5883.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 22, 1997

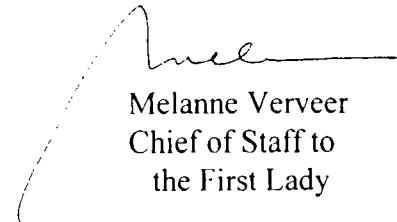
Ms. Mahnaz Afkhami
Sisterhood is Global Institute
4343 Montgomery Avenue
Suite 201
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Mahnaz:

Thank you very much for Muslim Women and the
Politics of Participation. We are pleased to have this valuable
reference guide.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 15, 1997

Ms. Barbara Allen
333 Heart Springs Drive
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

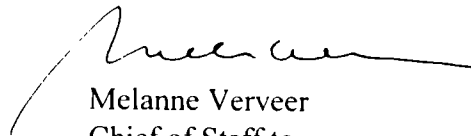
Dear Ms. Allen:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you for your invitation to address the Children of Vision Symposium next Spring.

It is too early to determine whether the First Lady will be able to attend. Our scheduling office will contact you once a decision has been made.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

CP
copy to
file

Barbara Allen
333 Heart Springs Dr.
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

12-8-97

Dear Hillary Clinton,

Thank you for your commitment and service for the future of our children and all the great work you have done to inspire a positive future. I would like to invite you to review the overview for the Children of Vision Symposium to see if you would be interested in speaking at the symposium planned for March 7, 8, and 9, 1998 in NY city. There are three main ways in which you could participate: speak at the function over the weekend, join us at the Sunday evening reception that we will be hosting at the UN, or participate in the panel discussion and luncheon that will be held at the UN on Monday, March 9. We would be honored if you would consider any or all of these three possibilities. If it is not possible for you to be with us in person we would ask that you be present with us in spirit.

James Redfield author of "The Celestine Prophecy" and Neil Walsh author of "Conversations With God" and many other authors and leaders are volunteering their time to be part of this vision and we would be honored to have you join us if it is a possibility for you. This is a non-profit fund raising event. We are providing airfare, hotel accommodations, expenses, and, if necessary, honorarium or non-profit tax deduction for fees donated. I realize it would be a giant commitment for you with your current schedule and I would not feel right asking if my belief in this work and level of commitment was not so unwavering. Again, we would be honored to have you join us and understand if it is not possible at this time. Please let us know as soon as you can so that we can finalize our plans and mail out information on the event. I would like to keep you informed about the unique work we are doing with young people and hope that you will be able to join in our efforts to serve our youth.

Since 1988 I have been organizing and supporting international youth leadership camps, exchanges, and environmental summits with the UN. I have raised funds to bring 150 youth from Russia and hundreds of kids from over 30 different countries to participate in our leadership programs. All funding was developed through grass roots fund raising and inspiring families to participate by hosting children while they were in the USA. The Children of Vision Symposium we are organizing is our first public event and will raise funds for the summer of 1998 international camp and scholarships for young peoples human rights, environmental or community projects in their home countries.

If you need any further information please call me. Barbara Allen 512-894-3569, my fax is the same. I am so inspired by the thousands of young people I have met from all over the world that are empowered with their own personal life vision and want to make a difference. I appreciate your consideration of being part of this event to create opportunities for children to manifest their dreams.

Love and Blessings

Barbara Allen

THE CHILDREN OF VISION SYMPOSIUM NEW YORK BENEFIT - March 7, 8, & 9, 1998

In 1957, the United Nations made a separate Declaration on the Rights of Children. By the end of 1993, 149 countries had signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

"Mankind owes to the child the best it has to give..."

Declaration on the Rights of the Child

What are every child's birth rights? Are we channeling our planet's resources and focusing our priorities so that we will support our most precious natural resource, the children of the Earth? Imagine a world in which all children are nurtured and supported. A world in which all children have the opportunity to develop to their full potential so that they may express their unique talents. A world in which they are able to actively share the gift that they are to create a brighter future for all. This is the world that we at **Children of Vision** prognosticate.

"Until modern times young people could anticipate a future rather like their parents. Social change was that slow. Now young people face futures for which their parents' culture cannot prepare them. The young must create the future..."

Margaret Mead

The Children of Vision Symposium is a benefit supporting educational nonprofit organizations that provide international youth with leadership training and assist young people in conscious creative service towards a peaceful and sustainable global future. Supporting children to identify their personal passion and purpose in life and develop the skills necessary to manifest their visions to serve their home communities, as well as international projects, may well be the most significant use of our time and energy to create a sustainable global future.

The Children of Vision Symposium is scheduled for the spring of 1998 in New York City. The benefit event is a weekend conference and celebration in support of **Children of Vision**. The money raised by this event will be used for a youth scholarship fund for international leadership programs. A secured venue in New York City, the Masonic Temple on Central Park West, offers 1200 seats for the program. On Sunday evening, March 8th, the Costa Rican

the program. On Sunday evening, March 8th, the Costa Rican Ambassador to the United Nations and his wife will honor the speakers with a private party for other Ambassadors, corporate sponsors, and others committed to promoting children's vision. Costa Rica takes the lead as a country with no military and deep concern for children and will help to bring our global consciousness and deep humanitarian commitments to the forefront. On Monday, March 9th, a panel discussion and luncheon is planned with the participating presenters. This will be held at the Delegates Dining Room at the United Nations with UNICEF, UNEP, UNDP, and other officials in attendance.

The objective of the **Children of Vision Symposium** is twofold. First, the program is designed to inspire participants to apply transformational tools and perceptions to create lives of fulfillment with genuine meaning and purpose. Second, the program will inform parents and mentors of the significance of nurturing and supporting the visions and dreams of the children in their lives. Given the opportunity our children's unique talents and personal journeys will unfold as a life of fulfillment and profound purpose. The conference is about supporting empowered young people to make a positive difference in the world.

This symposium features brilliant speakers, such as **James Redfield "Celestine Prophecy"** and **Neil Walsh "Conversations With God"**, who will share insights for discovering and expressing our unique life objective. The key to finding one's true life purpose can be found in the dreams and visions one imagined as a child. The human spirit of the innocent young child is truly bursting at the seams with potentiality, just waiting to express his/her dreams. The list of speakers for the **Children of Vision Symposium** consists of America's foremost teachers of transformational wisdom. Confirmed speakers are: **James Redfield, Salle Merrill Redfield, Neal Walsch, Linda and Richard Eyre, Gary Zukav, Dr. Judith Orloff, Michael Ryce, Dr. Carlos Warter, and Gordon-Michael Scallion.** These individuals bring exciting information that will open new avenues to benefit you and your children. Young leaders who have been supported in manifesting their dreams will share their successes and inspire us all to act upon our dreams.

The symposium is designed to engage individuals in reconnecting with their childhood visions and their dreams of what they wanted to be. Our western focus on a material culture often leads to a sense of always striving for more, often times leaving us with an emptiness when we reach the goals we have struggled so hard to achieve. Our goal is to further the emergence of a culture with our souls and minds focused on the values of the human spirit. We believe this is the basis for authentic empowerment instead of external power struggles.

Children of Vision supports young people to express their soul purpose in the service of a better world. We support children to participate in international leadership programs to prepare for their role as world citizens and future leaders. Many children want to make a difference in life. Because they are sensitive, the things they see around them that are unjust or tragic disturb them, especially when they feel powerless to do anything about it. Our goal is that proactive, energizing opportunity will replace victimizing and energy draining attitudes that suggest the world is just the way it is and there is nothing one person can do about it. The work of **Children of Vision** is to give children a forum that gives them the opportunity to learn leadership skills, to be able to work on issues that they feel are important, and to know they have the power to make the difference. We know children of vision who care and want to contribute. Help us mentor and support their journey to lead a life of higher purpose.

Fax Cover Sheet

From: Barbara Allen
(512) 894-3569 phone & fax

Date: 12-8-97

TO: Hillary Clinton

of pages including cover sheet: 5

Notes:

Thanks - Barbara Allen and James Redfield

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 20, 1997

Ms. Bella Abzug
President
Women's Environment &
Development Organization
355 Lexington Ave, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10017-6603

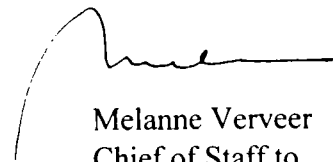
Dear Bella:

Thank you very much for your letter and for *Promise Kept, Promise Broken?* which I have shared with the First Lady. The progress that has been made since the Beijing conference in implementing the Platform for Action is heartening and WEDO's leadership has been invaluable.

We are off to Central Asia, Russia and Ukraine where the First Lady will continue to underscore the themes of the Platform for Action.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

WE DO Women's Environment and Development Organization

P

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Faye Wattleton
Writer/consultant, President
Center for Gender Equality
USA

Susan Davis, Executive Director

*WE DO is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit
educational organization*

October 1, 1997

Ms. Melanne Vermeer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Office of the First Lady
OEOB, Room 100
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Melanne,

We are pleased to present you with ***Promise Kept, Promise Broken?***, a global survey of governments on national action plans to implement the Beijing Platform. This report updates our March edition to cover nearly 80 per cent of all member states of the United Nations and is being released to mark the second anniversary of the Beijing women's conference.

All 185 nations that adopted the Platform for Action at the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September 1995 committed themselves, under Paragraph 297, to preparing national action plans by 1996 to advance the status of women. This was the first time-bound commitment in the Beijing Platform.

Two years later, our survey has found that 110 nations have drawn up actual plans. Twenty-one more have drafts ready. Only 29 countries are still silent, and non-response cannot be interpreted as inaction. Overall, our survey has found heartening evidence of forward movement on the Beijing agenda in a number of countries, despite significant economic, political and cultural factors that continue to undermine women's rights worldwide.

We have taken the initiative to track national action plans because the plan is a critical instrument that enables the wide-ranging Platform to be adapted to national needs and priorities. Our intention in bringing out this report is to sustain momentum on monitoring implementation of the Beijing Platform, a process we began last year with the publication of ***First Steps*** and ***Beyond Promises***, six-month and one-year progress reports, and will continue in the next year.

We welcome your feedback on this report, and look forward to our continued collaboration to help realize the Beijing vision.

Sincerely,



Bella S. Abzug
President

© 1997 WE DO 202

RECYCLED POSTCONSUMER
SHEET 100%

WE DO Women's Environment and Development Organization

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Faye Wattleton
Writer/consultant, President
Center for Gender Equality
USA

Susan Davis, Executive Director

Press Release

September 9, 1997

Contact: Bharati Sadasivam
Program Coordinator
Tel: 212.973 0325x207

Embargoed until Friday, September 12, 1997

WEDO GLOBAL SURVEY FINDS GOVERNMENTS PROGRESS ON NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY

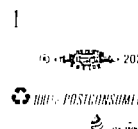
Two years after the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, a WEDO global survey has found that 110 governments have drawn up national action plans to implement the Beijing Platform for Action. Twenty-one more have drafts ready. Together, 70 per cent of the 187 delegations that attended the women's conference now have plans and drafts to advance the political, economic and social status of women and girls, testifying to the commitment of many governments, as well as the determination of women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to make good on the promises made in Beijing.

In a September update of its March 1997 report, WEDO has found that 47 more countries have drawn up actual plans, representing a 75 per cent increase in the number of national plans. Eighteen of these are in Africa and nine in Asia, where governments are moving to act upon their Beijing commitments despite economic crises, political uncertainties and environments traditionally hostile to women's development. Only 29 countries are still silent, and non-response cannot in all instances be interpreted as inaction.

"There has been greater implementation of paragraph 297 of the Beijing Platform [that asked governments to have national action plans in place by the end of 1996] than of most other provisions of U.N. conference agreements," Bella S. Abzug, WEDO President, said. "The recognition of the importance of the national action plan by significant numbers of ministers, parliamentarians, mayors and civil society can become a strong rallying point for women's empowerment and make women in every country a serious political constituency."

A heartening feature of the survey is that out of the 115 assessments made by NGOs, 76 per cent say their governments are moving forward. A small number among them have indicated forward movement citing policies and programs aimed at achieving gender equality, even though their governments may not have documents formally titled national action plans. In the U.K., for example, NGOs agree that the one-year progress

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educational organization*



report from the government lays out its progress on implementation and includes plans for the future. In Israel, while NGOs do not view the government document as a formal plan, they feel that government policies are taking the country forward. In the Caribbean, many countries are working on gender plans on a sectoral basis, even if they have not formulated national plans.

Twenty per cent say their countries are standing still either for lack of a plan, or the absence of implementing mechanisms and resources, or economic and political conditions that work against women's interests. Four per cent report backward movement for the same reasons.

While the overall results of this survey suggest encouraging advances in implementing the Beijing Platform, they cannot obscure the fact that in many parts of the world concurrent global and national political and economic forces are undermining the gains made so far. The increasing momentum of economic globalization, cutbacks in state-supported social programs, and wars have combined to erode the human rights of large sections of populations, especially the health and living conditions of women and children.

WEDO has taken the initiative to track this time-bound commitment in the Beijing Platform for Action because the national action plan is a critical step in the huge task of ensuring the progressive realization of the hefty Beijing agenda. Even in countries with longstanding programs and policies for women, a national plan can be a powerful tool with which governments can gauge strengths and weaknesses, set priorities, identify NGO partners and plot future directions in advancing women's empowerment. A focus on the action plan reinforces the need for commitment of political will at the highest level to advance the Platform in individual countries.

NGOs across the world, who were among the primary sources of information for this survey, recognize that having a plan on paper does not necessarily result in women-centered development. Some have noted that their governments have unveiled plans that are little more than declarations of intent, without mechanisms or resources to match. "This awareness of the gap between rhetoric and reality is the starting point for concerted advocacy," Susan Davis, WEDO Executive Director, said. "The plan provides women activists with a means of constructive engagement with policy-makers by giving us a tool and a place at the table. It also challenges us to hone our advocacy and monitoring skills to ensure that the Beijing agenda is implemented according to each country's needs and priorities."

The updated edition of *Promise Kept, Promise Broken?* marks the second anniversary of the Beijing women's conference and the third anniversary of the Cairo conference on population and development. The report will be formally presented to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan this month.

ends

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PROMISE KEPT, PROMISE BROKEN?

*A Survey Of
Governments
On National Action
Plans To Implement
The Beijing Platform*

**UPDATED
SEPT. 1997**

Paragraph 297 of the Beijing Platform for Action

“ As soon as possible, preferably by the end of 1995, Governments, in consultation with relevant institutions and non – governmental organizations, should begin to develop implementation strategies for the Platform and preferably by the end of 1996, should have developed their strategies and plans of action. This planning process should draw upon persons at the highest level of authority in government and relevant actors in civil society. The implementation strategies should be comprehensive, have time-bound targets and benchmarks for monitoring, and include proposals for allocating or reallocating resources for implementation. Where necessary, the support of the international community could be enlisted, including resources. ”

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 20, 1997

Dr. Susan Andersen
Department of Psychology
6 Washington Place, Room 550
New York, NY 10003-6634

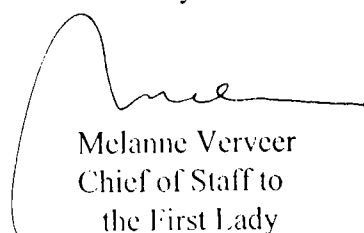
Dear Susan:

It's good to have you in Washington where I'm sure you will make an important contribution to the public policy concerns we care so much about.

Thank you very much for your letter. I have forwarded your offer of assistance on to others here as well.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



New York University
A private university in the public service

Faculty of Arts and Science
Department of Psychology

Psychology Building
6 Washington Place, Room 550
New York, NY 10003-6634
Telephone: (212) 998-7900
FAX: (212) 995-4018

Sabbatical Address:

**1701 16th Street, NW, #732
Washington, DC 20009
Tel: (202) 986-8718
Fax: (202) 986-6336**

October 6, 1997

**Ms. Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20050**

Dear Melanne:

Just a brief note to let you know that I did finally decide to take a one-year sabbatical from NYU, am here in Washington and available. If there is anything at all I can do for you and your Office as regards community service, the America Reads Initiative, the Race Relations Initiative, or the general aim of ensuring that the President truly comes to be known as the Education President, and the President who inspired Americans to "give back" through community service, I hope you will let me know. This is what brings me here, as I'm sure you've gathered.

All the best,


Susan M. Andersen
Professor of Psychology

SMA/s

P.S. I'm affiliated with the Institute for Communitarian Policy Studies at GW while here (with Etzioni) – working on various projects concerned with community service and service-learning – but it's easiest to reach me at the above address, phone, and fax..

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 24, 1997

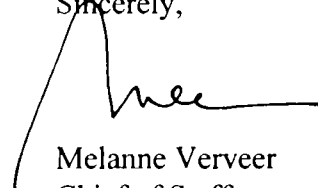
Dr. Susan Andersen
Professor of Psychology
New York University
6 Washington Place
New York, NY 10003-6634

Dear Susan:

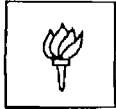
Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter and good wishes. It was good to hear from you.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



New York University
A private university in the public service

Faculty of Arts and Science
Department of Psychology
Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology

6 Washington Place, Suite 468
New York, NY 10003-6634
Telephone: (212) 998-~~7222~~ 7799
FAX: (212) 995-4292

R

July 22, 1997

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
to the First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear Melanne:

I've just learned through Bill Barrett that you've taken on the Chief of Staff position in the First Lady's Office. Just a note of congratulations, and to wish you the best of luck with this high stress, high profile job -- along with the thick skin and fortitude it seems to require.

All the best to you,


Susan M. Andersen
Professor of Psychology
Director of Graduate Studies
in Psychology

SMA/s

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 24, 1997

Ms. Debbie Atkinson
Director
Riverside Health System
606 Denbigh Boulevard
Suite 504
Newport News, VA 23608

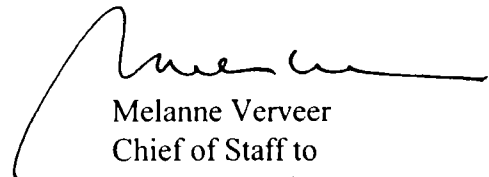
Dear Ms. Atkinson:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you very much for your letter and invitation to Riverside Health System's 1997 national conference.

Regrettably, Mrs. Clinton is unable to accept your kind invitation as she is scheduled to be out of the country in November. However, we would be happy to provide you with a video greeting. If you are interested, please contact Evan Ryan at (202) 456-6266 for further information.

Thanks and best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



RIVERSIDE

H E A L T H S Y S T E M

(B)
Request -
Scheduled to
be on
country
video?

Melanne Verveer
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC 20500

July 10, 1997

Dear Ms. Verveer:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter addressed to Mrs. Clinton. I appreciate any assistance you may be able to provide in bringing this request to her attention. We have tentatively scheduled former First Lady Barbara Bush to close our conference scheduled for November 12th. Unfortunately, Colin Powell, originally scheduled, could not accept our invitation due to a West Coast commitment the day before.

We eagerly await a response!

Sincerely,

Debbie Atkinson, M.Ed., A.C.C.E.
Director
Community Health, Children's Health and Wellness Education
Riverside Health System
606 Denbigh Boulevard Suite 504
Newport News, VA 23608

Phone: 757-875-7538



RIVERSIDE

H E A L T H S Y S T E M

Hillary Rodham Clinton
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

June 4, 1997

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I attended the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and heard you say, **"That leaders from communities across the country need to be asked to make new commitments to ensure that young people will have the fundamental resources that will help them get on the road to success."** I left that day filled with new knowledge, new determination, and an even greater respect for all of the work you have done to support families and children in America. I was also fortunate enough to have a brief conversation with you during the reception. When I told you that I was from the VA Peninsula and had worked very closely with the "I AM YOUR CHILD" campaign, as well as the ABC Special focused on the VA Peninsula community of Hampton, you asked that I keep you informed of our progress.

Since that day I have worked passionately, using your example, to let our community know of your personal interest and support. We have found success in developing regional approaches to service delivery so that the good work of Hampton can be used to replicate intensive in-home support to more families peninsula-wide.

In February, I sent you a letter of support for the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and I also included vital information about my organization, Riverside Health System. Today, I am asking for your support on behalf of my community and my organization.

Since 1992, over 1,000 health care leaders in America have attended the **annual Riverside wellness conference in historic Williamsburg, Virginia.**

Our mission in gathering these leaders comes from our knowledge that the health care field is now faced with a future whereby we will be held accountable for not just "sick care," but for the health and well being of the communities we serve.

On November 12, 13 and 14 Riverside Health System will shine a spotlight on the results of community health initiatives where the vision of a healthy community is no longer a dream. The first day of the 1997 national conference will feature Healthy Families America, Healthy Families Virginia, and the Hampton Healthy Families Partnership. The National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse has given this "first of its kind" event its highest endorsement and the Healthy Families VA organization will serve as a co-sponsor.

PUNNETT PROFESSIONAL PARK
606 PUNNETT BLVD. STE. 504
NEWPORT NEWS VA 23608-4112
(757) 871-7811

We will target our audience to include leaders from hospitals and other health care providers and we will also share this opportunity with leaders from the community at large. We believe it is important to demonstrate the necessity of collaboration in all community health initiatives.

We expect an audience of approximately 300 people.

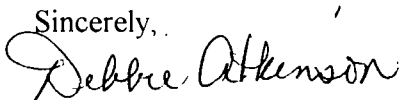
The conference will be held at the **Kingsmill Resort and Conference Center in Williamsburg**. I know, as I am a resident of Kingsmill, that you and the President have been to Kingsmill in past years. We have enjoyed glimpses of your arrival and departure and have been told that you very much enjoy our beautiful surroundings.

Riverside Health System, the VA Peninsula and I personally would like to invite you to appear and provide a keynote message on the opening day of our conference; on November 12th in the late afternoon or early evening.

We are also negotiating with the Washington Speaker's Bureau to include Gen. Colin Powell as a presenter. There is a possibility he will be available on November 14th which is our closing day.

Riverside, the entire VA Peninsula and I eagerly await your response!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Atkinson".

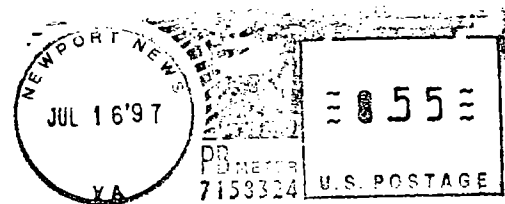
Debbie Atkinson, M.Ed., A.C.C.E.
Riverside Health System
606 Denbigh Boulevard Suite 504
Newport News VA 23608

Phone: 757-875-7538

Fax: 757-875-7816

 **RIVERSIDE**
H E A L T H S Y S T E M
DENBIGH PROFESSIONAL PARK
606 DENBIGH BLVD STE 504
- NEWPORT NEWS VA 23608-4442

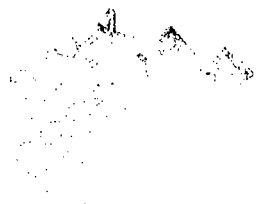
FIRST
CLASS



MELANNE VERVEER
CHIEF OF STAFF
WHITE HOUSE
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

PHOTOGRAPH
1-25-1971



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 28, 1997

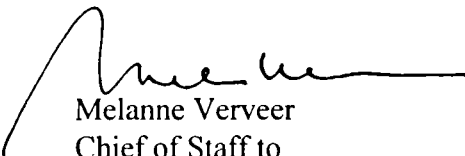
H.E. Lubica Z. Acevska
Embassy of Former
Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
3050 K Street, NW
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Ambassador Acevska:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you very much for your thoughtful letter and the gifts for the First Lady from Mrs. Todorovska. We have also acknowledged Mrs. Todorovska directly.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



2

The Ambassador of Macedonia

Washington, D.C.

Melanne

BR. 022/445/97
27 June 1997

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

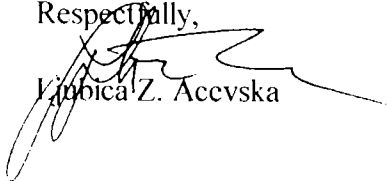
The pleasure of forwarding the letter from Mrs. Savka Todorovska, President of the Union of Women's Organizations of the Republic of Macedonia, precedes the honor of presenting a traditional Macedonian apron and a CD from the Oscar nominee for best foreign film in 1995, "Before the Rain."

I equally share the desire of the women of the Republic of Macedonia and their long time dream, to host your visit to our country, and full heartedly hope that I will be given the privilege to facilitate your trip at a time and manner of your convenience.

The fact that I have been appointed to the most important diplomatic post, speaks of the progress of the Macedonian woman and the path it is on. Your respected visit to the "island of peace and stability" of the Balkans, as Macedonia is often referred to, will not only boost the positive process in my country but will influence the region as well.

Wishing your family the best of health and happiness, I remain expectant of the honor to deliver the long expected news of your visit to the women of the Republic of Macedonia.

Respectfully,


Ljiljana Z. Acevska

enclosures

12

August 11, 1997

Ms Melanne Veveer
The White House
Office of the First Lady
OEOB
Room 100
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Veveer:

At the suggestion of a staff assistant in Mrs. Clinton's office, relative to her book promotion, and its identifying idea, "it takes a village to raise a child", I am enclosing a letter to her describing an existing work, entitled: "THE LITTLE CHRISTMAS TREE THAT SHINES WITH THE LIGHT OF LOVE". I sincerely believe that this narrative poem could be a signature work for her wonderful campaign.

The author has assured me that she is sole owner of the coyright, and would be thrilled and excited to send a copy of her work to Mrs. Clinton, should she desire to read it.

Unfortunately, I am leaving with my husband for an overseas business venture which will last at least three years. However, I have enclosed the name, telephone number and address of the author. I regret that my departure date is so soon, because I honestly believe, and others who have read the work agree, that this could be one of those works that resonates with the concern for family and society, with a spiritual overlay, an idea whose time seems to be coming with greater and greater speed, in significant measure due to Mrs. Clinton's efforts and dedication.

I truly believe that Mrs. Clinton will agree that this work has tremendous power for all age groups, and offers wonderful possibilities for assisting her in her vital work for children, families and the nation.

Yours truly,

Margaret R. Ainsley
Margaret R. Ainsley

Encl: Letter

FYI Melanne
I spoke to Alice's
Office re this ltr +
they said that
this was something
that their office
should respond to.
They will outopen
your signature
I will
just
file
this
over
there
OK

August 11, 1997

Mrs. Hillary Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

My warmest congratulations to you for the outstanding success of your national campaign to focus on children, their importance and their needs, but most importantly the responsibility of society to protect and nurture them in their early and impressionable years.

"It takes a village to raise a child" is a powerful mantra, sorely needed in today's world. With the number of high profile persons (e.g. Bill Bradley) who have joined you in your efforts or have embarked upon their own programs, as well as the communities and neighborhoods that have caught the spark, it is a resounding personal triumph for you! In the most important ways to count in this world, efforts on behalf of and for the children are of the first magnitude.

Which brings me to the reason for this letter.

There is a work available, ("THE LITTLE CHRISTMAS TREE THAT SHINES WITH THE LIGHT OF LOVE") which sums up in the most spiritual and gentle way all that you and your husband have tried to convey to the nation and to the rest of the world. We are all one universe, one globe, one people, encompassing the world of animals, natural beauty as one integrated, magnificent whole surrounded, enfolded and transcendant in the one God.

Incredibly enough, this message is communicated by this poem subtly to all ages, from the youngest child to the oldest adult. It has been said that a single truly spiritual message can be communicated simultaneously to the entire universe. This poem is an example of that kind of power.

"The Little Christmas Tree That Shines With the Light of Love," let me hasten to add, conveys a message that is not limited to nor necessarily more appropriate for the Christmas season. Therein lies its genius. It is truly for all seasons, all cultures, all living things under the Fatherhood of God.

As a former P.R. person I believe that it could be a perfect signature piece for you and the successful campaign that your book has launched..

Several years ago, because of my enthusiasm for the poem, with the author's permission, I shared it with Susan Porter Rose, Mrs. Bush's Chief of Staff. They were enthusiastic and sought to use it later in Mrs. Bush's national plans. However, George Bush was not re-elected. I brought it to the attention of Patricia Stonesifer, who at that time was Senior V.P of the Consumer Division of Micro-Soft. She too was equally enthusiastic, shared it with other members of the Division, who then requested that they might keep their copy in their files, pending the development of the direction of the then new Consumer Division. Later the Dreamworks/Microsoft entity was formed, with the indication that initially there would probably be concentration on their own self-developed materials, but again, they requested permission to retain their copy..

Unfortunately, I do not have a copy of the poem for you to read. However, I have contacted that author, and she has indicated that there are no copyright owners except herself, and she has not entered into any agreements, because she believes that the work is "special" ! When asked if she would be willing to forward a copy to you, should you be interested in reading it, her response

was very enthusiastic, understandably enough, because of your book. In addition, she shared some extraordinary information with regard to the possibility of its being presented in another art form by a world famed company.

I am enclosing the name, address and telephone of the author should you wish to have your staff contact her, I certainly hope that you will do so; I am willing to be a "guarantor" that you will be as moved as have been others who have read it or heard it.

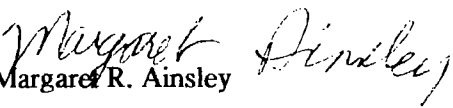
Enclosed are the name, address and telephone number of the author:

Joanne Garland
4807 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20011

Tel.No.: 202 722 1808

With warmest appreciation for your time,

Yours truly,


Margaret R. Ainsley

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 2, 1997

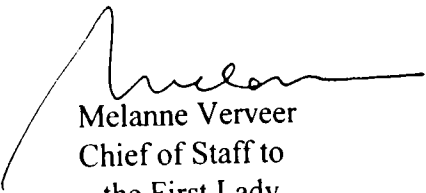
Dr. Susan Andersen
1701 16th Street, NW, #732
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Susan:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter and for sharing with me your letter to Harris Wofford. You always make a lot of sense. I am also grateful to you for your comments on The Washington Post Magazine article. I'm just glad I survived the experience.

Best wishes in all you do.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

2



New York University
A private university in the public service

Faculty of Arts and Science
Department of Psychology
Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology

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Sabbatical Address:

Prof. Susan M. Andersen
1701 16th Street, NW, #732
Washington, DC 20009
Tel: (202) 986-8718
Fax: (202) 986-6336

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 11/26/97

TO: Melanne Verveer

FAX NUMBER: 456 - 6244

PHONE NUMBER: 456 - 6266

FROM: Susan Andersen at sabbatical address (above)

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 4



New York University
A private university in the public service

Faculty of Arts and Science
Department of Psychology
Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology

6 Washington Place, Suite 468
New York, NY 10003-6634
Telephone: (212) 998-7979
FAX: (212) 995-4292

Sabbatical Address:

1701 16th Street, NW, #732
Washington, DC 20009
Tel: (202) 986-8718
Fax: (202) 986-6336

11/26/97

Dear Melanne -

What a wonderful article on you is the
Post Magazine! From the Selma march, to
People for the Amer. Way (which I've been a member
of since its inception) and Common cause, no
wonder it felt so easy to connect with you
when we met. And with feet on the ground,
but eyes on the stars, you are portrayed much as
I've envisioned our President, ... so they obviously
have the right person in you. And although
I am ever more exquisitely aware that the
Administration cannot do everything it might wish
to do, I'm enclosing a highlighted section of a
brief letter I recently sent to Harris Wofford
in case you may find it of interest. How funny to be
paging through recently unread Posts and to come
upon this great piece on you.

All the best, Erik Andersen

P.S. Have a good
Thanksgiving.



New York University

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Faculty of Arts and Science
Department of Psychology
Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology

6 Washington Place, Suite 468
New York, NY 10003-6634
Telephone: (212) 998-7979
FAX: (212) 995-4292

Sabbatical Address:

1701 16th Street, NW, #732
Washington, DC 20009
Tel: (202) 986-8718
Fax: (202) 986-6336

November 20, 1997

Sen. Harris Wofford, CEO
Corporation for National Service
1201 New York Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20525

Dear Sen. Wofford:

Thanks very much for stopping by my workshop at the New England Community Service Learning Conference on Tuesday, and for your kind remarks. I'm sending along the handout you read through briefly, which I heard from Marilyn and Malcolm that you wanted a copy of. The handout is part of a position paper I'm finishing for the Institute for Communitarian Policy Studies at GW (where I am affiliated while on sabbatical here in Washington), and it may perhaps surface in something for the Partnering Initiative as well.

FYI, I'm also enclosing the letter you may have heard about that I sent to the White House last month, which may be what provoked their inquiry about the potential value of service learning in promoting positive intergroup relations – for the Race Relations Initiative. A follow-up letter I wrote more recently is also enclosed.

My aim while in Washington is to do whatever I can in whatever way I can to help you and the President in efforts to promote the ethic of service and caring in our society, enhancing common bonds and shared purpose among Americans. It seems to me this can be done through cultivating a coherent national voice on these pressing matters that is repeatedly heard, giving Americans something to be proud of and something to strive toward, and of course through helping to promote concrete actions that can be taken to make this a reality in American life.

* In terms of the latter, given that all the America Reads funding for the Corporation is located in AmeriCorps, I hope you'll consider directing your staff to find a way to commit 1/3 or so of these dollars to support AmeriCorps programs that specifically facilitate service learning (such as City Year does, among others). If you do this, high school students can be trained to tutor first and second graders in service learning as the President intended in the original bill – that was stuck in committee before the balanced budget agreement fashioned a new America Reads solution. Assuming the legal issues can be worked out, AmeriCorps announcements and application instructions could be rewritten so as to emphasize such proposals; this would increase many-fold the number of tutors who

could be trained, while facilitating the ethic of service and caring in more young people in the context of K-12 and higher education. To be responsive to the spirit of the Race Relations Initiative simultaneously, the announcements could also emphasize that proposals articulate outreach efforts within schools to make sure that service learning activities extend across racial and ethnic and other boundaries between groups, and/or involve collaborations with community based organizations that enable such diversity by including service-learning students from other schools or diverse community volunteers.

An enhanced sense of caring and acceptance of others from diverse backgrounds is at the heart of character education. Hence, empowering students to take responsibility to make a difference in their community has as much to offer to character education as it does to civic education and education for participatory democracy.

In any event, congratulations on this new funding, and I'd love to talk more about any of these things if you'd like. And I'd also love to hear more about how you think I should be involved in the Goal 5 Task Force, which you mentioned to me on Tuesday, and which I would happily do depending on what you have in mind. Thank you for inviting me, by the way, to the August meeting, which I was sorry I could not attend, but I was recovering from major surgery at that moment.

If there is anything at all I can do to help with your wonderful work, I hope you'll let me know.

All the best,

Susan M. Andersen
Professor of Psychology (NYU),
Senior Research Associate, Institute for Communitarian
Policy Studies, George Washington University

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 2, 1997

Ms. Joanne Alter
Chair, Working in the Schools
150 East Huron, Suite 900
Chicago, IL 606011

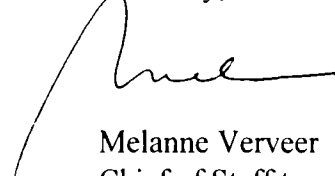
Dear Joanne:

Thank you very much for your letter and invitation to the First Lady to Working in the Schools' tutoring program in Chicago.

I have forwarded your letter to Patti Solis Doyle, Director of Scheduling for the First Lady, and she will be in touch. However, it is too early to determine at this time whether the First Lady will be able to attend in March.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



*Putti
and Mrs
Chicago
Project
R*

November 21, 1997

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff-Mrs. Hillary Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Melanne:

Jim joins me in sending our belated thanks for everything you and Mrs. Clinton's staff did to make our visit to the White House a huge success. It was a lovely, memorable evening.

In discussing the WITS (Working In The Schools) tutoring program and a possible visit to Chicago, you and Bobbie Greene suggested that I request a specific time so we could begin to explore possibilities.

Wednesday, March 4 is a good date for us. We would like to ask Mrs. Clinton to speak at our Breakfast and Books event and then tutor a child in a nearby inner city school. WITS Executive Director, Matt Pickering, stands ready to help in every way.

Also, thanks for the nice words about Jon. My best regards to you and a special hello to Bobbie Green.

Sincerely,

Joanne Alter
Chair

Enclosures

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 6, 1997

Ms. Joanne Alter
Chair
Working in the Schools
150 East Huron
Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60611

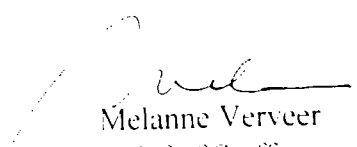
Dear Ms. Alter:

Thank you very much for your letter and information on Working in the Schools, which I have shared with the First Lady and other members of the First Lady's staff.

It was a pleasure to meet you at the NPR event. As we told you - and it bears repeating - we are all fans of your son.

Thanks and best wishes in your important work. Your commitment is inspiring to all of us.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



2

October 29, 1997

Ms. Mellane Verveer
Chief of Staff
Office of Hillary Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Verveer:

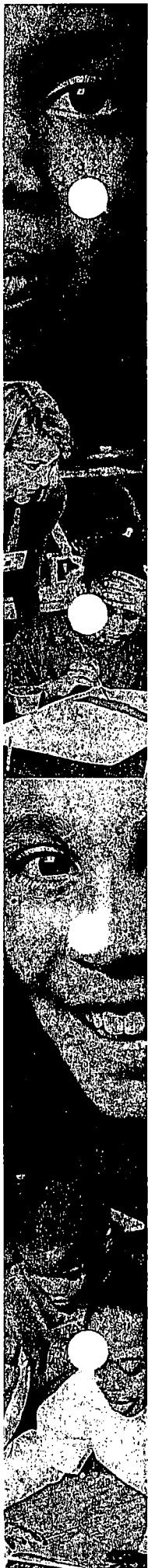
When I met with Mrs. Clinton in Chicago on Monday, I gave her some information about WITS, Working in the Schools.

Please find enclosed a brochure on WITS with additional information about this innovative program. Mrs. Clinton put the information I gave her in her handbag, so I am hopeful she was able to read it.

Thank you for your interest in the program.

Sincerely,

Joanne Alter
Chair



Working In The Schools

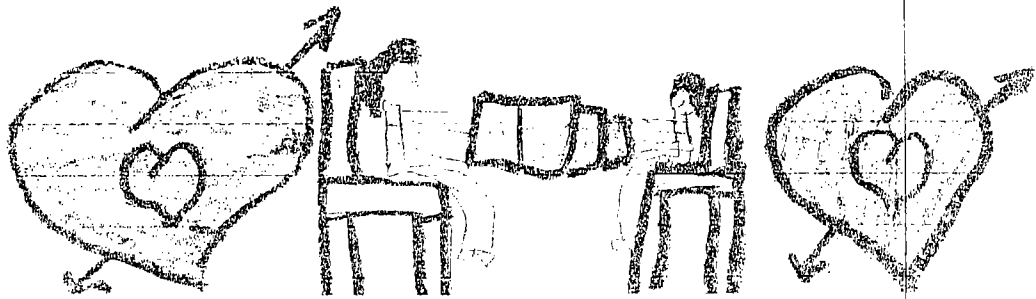
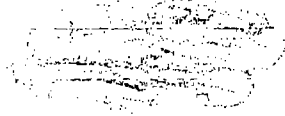
WITS



The mission of
Working In The
Schools (WITS)
is to promote

I will miss you and
you have been great to us and I
will remember you every time we are
in a reading group. I will
miss you taking history and me
with you. You mean a lot
to me and always will be my
favorite reading teacher, you and Momi.

Your friend,
Patricia





...the learning
development of
children in urban,
public elementary
schools...

Thank you for giving us our books. I will enjoy it all summer, the name of it is Journey of the Sparrow and I will try to read one chapter a day. Before I go out and play, I read one page so far but I will read more books when I get through reading my book I will read more books!

Thank you for volunteering in our class. We really enjoyed your stay here and we hope you can come back to visit us for a day, but if you can't see you next year when we are in fifth grade. We are going to miss you when you leave us.

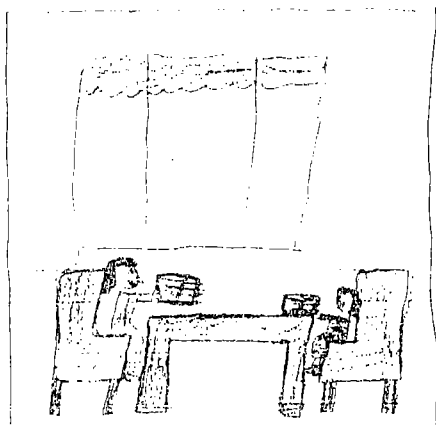


...through tutoring
and mentoring
programs
provided within
the schools...

I just wanted to tell
you that I had fun reading
the Ancient Greek book with
you. When we were acting
like the Ancient Greek it
was really fun. And you
made me laugh so hard that
my mouth was falling off.

Thankyou for being so
kind to our class. And
thankyou for the book
it was nice. Well I hope
you and your husband
have a nice trip.

Your friends,
Erika

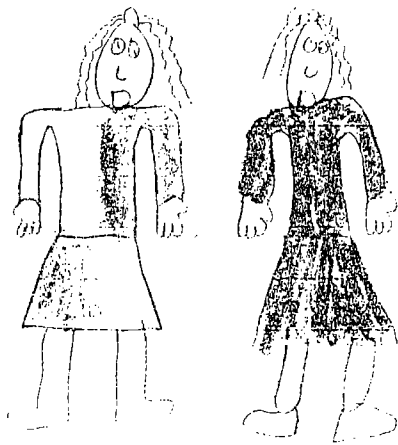


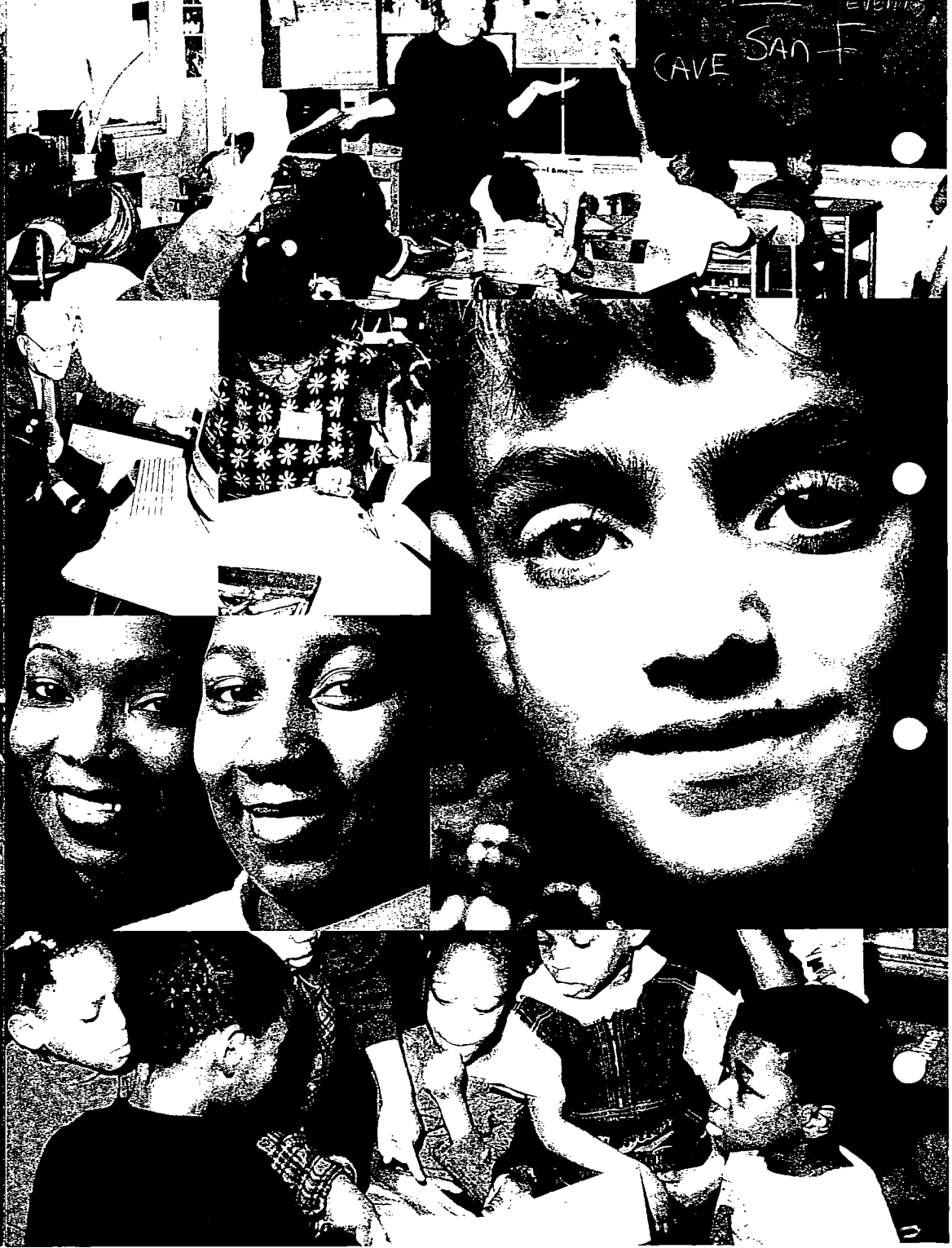


...by multi-
generational
volunteers from
the community.

Thank You for Sam the cat
I know I haven't been with
your reading group, but I know
you will make a good Reading
Teacher.

Your friend,
Rebecca





share
learn
explore
care
hope
understand
believe

WITS

Working In The Schools (WITS) touches the lives of countless students every day. Through one-on-one tutoring and mentoring, WITS volunteers are committed to teaching and developing the minds of children in urban, public elementary schools.

A non-profit organization

WITS began as a grassroots volunteer program in Chicago in 1991. The non-profit organization has since grown into an award winning, public-private partnership that serves as a national model for corporate volunteerism. WITS has reintroduced community members to their schools, provided teachers and principals needed support, and most

importantly, given children the skills they need to succeed.

Your commitment

There are two ways you can get involved: become a volunteer, or become a corporate partner. As a volunteer, you are only required to devote a minimum of three hours every other week. As a corporate partner, you allow your employees time off every other week to tutor during the work day. In return, WITS provides:

- orientation and training
- placement and coordination
- safe, convenient round-trip transportation

Program benefits

- Provides role models for school children
- Helps students and teachers achieve their goals

- Encourages community involvement
- Creates camaraderie among volunteers
- Re-energizes public education

business benefits

- Shows a commitment to the community
- Boosts employee morale and productivity
- Encourages team-building
- Provides a program for retirees
- Improves the quality of your future work force

our achievements

Since its inception, WITS has distinguished itself. Among our achievements:

- Earned a commitment from EVEREN Securities, Inc. to expand WITS' corporate volunteerism initiative to 20 cities by the year 2000 at the 1997 Presidents' Summit for

America's Future. This commitment was cited by *Newsweek* as one of the top 20 commitments, out of the more than 250 accepted.

- Recognized by Chicago's Mayor Richard M. Daley, who held up WITS to the nation as a model volunteer program during his tenure as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

- Selected by Chicago Public Schools Board President Gery Chico and CEO Paul Vallas as one of the key organizations in the 10,000 Tutors Program.

- Commended by U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley as "a vital service organization that is making education better, child by child."

- Named by Illinois Governor Jim Edgar and the Illinois Department on Aging as the recipient of the 1994 Governor's Award for Unique Achievement.

words on WITS

"Working In The Schools has made a significant contribution to our efforts to improve education for Chicago children. Through private sector involvement in public schools, this unique program provides much-needed human resources and helps prepare students for their futures. I'm pleased to support WITS as it expands nationally."

— Mayor Richard M. Daley, City of Chicago

"I believe we have a corporate responsibility to the community, and through WITS, we receive much more than we give. There is no greater return on our investment than the rewards of taking an active role in the education of our children, employees and future clients."

— James R. Bone, Chairman and CEO,

EVEREN Securities, Inc.

"The WITS program has had a positive impact on our students in many ways, providing motivation and individual attention. The volunteers' dedication has improved their progress and self-esteem."

— Sandra Estlinover, Principal,

Edward Jenner Academy of the Arts

"Working with students and helping them learn is such a rewarding experience. The small breakthroughs they have made during the school year have made it so worthwhile. They teach me just as much as I teach them."

— Lynn Edgar, WITS Volunteer,

Smith Barney-Chicago

our number

To become a volunteer, or for additional information, please contact 888.660.WITS.

design. SAMATAMASON

photography. SANDRO / MARTHA BROCK

printing. H. MACDONALD



Working In The Schools (WITS) 888.660.WITS