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001a. letter	To Mrs. Clinton from Judy Smith re: recommendation (1 page)	08/26/1997	b(6)
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COLLECTION:

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Melanne Verveer's Mail - 1998 - H [1]

2013-0534-S

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 16, 1998

Sister Joan Hart, SSND
6401 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21212-1099

Dear Sister Joan:

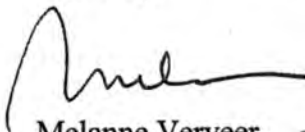
Thank you for your letter about relief to Central America in the wake of Hurricane Mitch.

The President and the First Lady share your concern about the people of the region and every effort is being made to provide significant assistance ranging from food aid and medicines to rebuilding bridges and roads. Recently Mrs. Clinton visited Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador where she was able to see the effects of the storm first hand. We also spent time in the Dominican Republic and Haiti which have yet to recover from Hurricane George. During the trip, she announced some of the additional initiatives the US is taking to help these countries recover from the severe devastation and we are working diligently on the long term reconstruction needs as well as exploring the debt relief issues, immigration, and CBI enhancement. Last week, the President met with the leaders of Central America and announced additional U.S. support. He also said he would be traveling to the region in February.

I know Mrs. Clinton would want me to convey her appreciation for all you are doing to help those affected by the storm and for what you do each and every day. Very best wishes and thank you for all you do.

Happy Christmas!

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

P. S. I do remember you and most especially your commitment to social justice.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 13, 1998

Sister Joan Hart, SSND
6401 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21212-1099

Dear Sister Joan:

Thank you for your letter about relief to Central America in the wake of Hurricane Mitch.

The President and the First Lady shares your concern about the people of the region and every effort is being made to provide significant assistance ranging from food aid and medicines to rebuilding bridges and roads. Recently Mrs. Clinton visited Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador where she was able to see the effects of the storm first hand. We also spent time in the Dominican Republic and Haiti which have yet to recover from Hurricane George. During the trip, she announced some of the additional initiatives the US is taking to help these countries recover from the severe devastation and we are working diligently on the long term reconstruction needs as well as exploring the debt relief issues, immigration, and CBI enhancement. *Since then we have met with the President and the First Lady to discuss the situation in Central America and announced additional U.S. support.*

I know Mrs. Clinton would want me to convey her appreciation for all you are doing to help those affected by the storm and for what you do each and every day. Very best wishes and thank you for all you do. *for also*

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

P. S. I do remember you and most especially your commitment to social justice.

So that he would be travelling to the region in February.

©

SCHOOL
SISTERS
OF
NOTRE
DAME



6401 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland
21212-1099
Phone (410) 377-7774
Fax (410) 377-5363

November 12, 1998

Melanne Verveer
Office of the First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Melanne,

Jim Hug, SJ suggested that I send the enclosed letter to Mrs. Clinton through you. I can imagine the mountain of mail she receives each day, yet the question of immediate debt relief for the Central American countries devastated by Hurricane Mitch is so important that I hope you can bring this urgent concern to her attention.

We met years ago in your pre-White House days, but I'm sure you won't remember. Anything you can do to help us bring the debt relief question to center stage will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Joan Hart, SSND
Joan Hart, SSND

APOSTOLIC WOMEN RELIGIOUS IN MISSION

Argentina • Austria • Bolivia • Brazil • Canada • Chile • Czechoslovakia • Dominican Republic • El Salvador • England • Germany • Ghana • Guam • Guatemala • Honduras • Hungary
Italy • Japan • Kenya • Liberia • Mexico • Nepal • Nigeria • Paraguay • Peru • Poland • Puerto Rico • Rumania • Sierra Leone • Sweden • The Gambia • USA • Yap • Yugoslavia



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 16, 1998

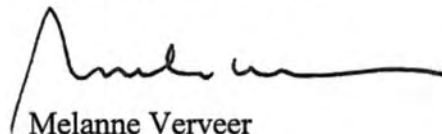
Donna Hrinak
Ambassador
US Embassy, La Paz
Avenue Arce No. 2780, La Paz
APO AA 34032

Dear Ambassador Hrinak,

Thank you so much for the articles from the Bolivian press about the Vital Voices conference in Montevideo. It is helpful to see the coverage in the foreign media.

The conference was excellent and I know the First Lady will continue to do all she can to further women's progress. Thank you for all you do to make it real. Hope all is well in La Paz!

With very best wishes,

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

December 14, 1998

Donna Hrinak
Ambassador
US Embassy, La Paz
Avenue Arce No. 2780, La Paz
APO AA 34032

Dear Ambassador Hrinak,

Thank you so much for the articles from the Bolivian press about the Vital Voices conference in Montevideo. ~~We are always interested in coverage by the~~ foreign media. *in*

*It is helpful
to see me*

The conference was excellent and I know the First Lady ~~enjoyed it very much~~. Thank you for all you ~~did~~ to make it possible. Hope all is well in La Paz! *do*

real.

With very best wishes,

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

*will
continue to
do all she can to
further women's progress.*



Embassy of the United States of America

(R)

La Paz, Bolivia

November 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President
and Chief of Staff to the
First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Melanne:

It was great meeting you in Montevideo. I'm sure it is no surprise to you to hear the First Lady's participation at the Vital Voices conference was the highlight of the event -- and a real inspiration to all of us attendees. On behalf of the Bolivia delegation (and for myself!), thank you for encouraging her to come.

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed samples of Bolivian press coverage of the Vital Voices conference and follow-on. If I or any of the Embassy La Paz team can be of help to you regarding Vital Voices or any other matter, please feel free to call on us.

Sincerely yours,

Dorna J. Hrinak
Ambassador

MUJERES EN ACCION

Primer Encuentro "Voces Esenciales de las Américas"

**Sobre todo una herramienta
para los objetivos femeninos**



Sonia Montaño, Mimy de Gasser y Ericka Brokman representaron dignamente a nuestra delegación



Enrique Iglesias, presidente del BID, colaboró con las líderes de las Américas. Entre las bolivianas: Cecilia Campero, Mimy de Gasser y Mercedes Canaldo, de República Dominicana



Julita Maristiani, de Argentina, y Aida Alvarez, de Estados Unidos, compartieron la testera con nuestra presidenta de FUNBODEM.

Durante la tercera conferencia mundial "Voces Esenciales" y el primer encuentro de 500 mujeres líderes de las Américas que tuvo lugar en Montevideo, Uruguay, fue sobresaliente la presencia de Hillary Clinton, en su calidad de primera dama de Estados Unidos, como también el respaldo del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo y de su presidente Enrique Iglesias, co-auspiador del evento.

Desde luego, una gran oportunidad para los frentes femeninos donde se pudo dejar sentado que el tema de la mujer es tema de todos. Como parte de esta nota informativa, la señora Mimy Ortiz de Gasser, presidenta de FUNBODEM y una de las once invitadas bolivianas, dio a conocer que un capítulo aparte merece la carismática Donna Hrinak, embajadora de Estados Unidos en Bolivia. Tanto ella como sus inmediatas colaboradoras Jill Rhodes, Kate Byrnes, Maryann Minutillo y Roxana Cárdenas son las responsables de dar continuidad al programa "Voces Esenciales" en nuestro país.

LA DELEGACION BOLIVIANA

Bolivia participó con una importante delegación de once mujeres representativas de nuestra sociedad, quienes cumplieron con una singular participación como panelistas y, por otro lado, por sus trayectorias en el campo de la superación femenina. Todas ellas fueron motivo de admiración por el conocimiento de la temática y porque usaron la palabra de manera sencilla y brillante.

Virginia Gillum de Quiroga, esposa del vicepresidente, con una firmeza increíble dejó escuchar su voz y el compromiso de trabajar para que se ponga en práctica en Bolivia lo acordado durante el encuentro. Siendo que ya ha puesto empeño para hacer realidad la Fundación para la Mujer Boliviana.

Lidia Cárdenas que tuvo el privilegio de compartir la testera de la conferencia con las primeras damas de Uruguay y Estados Unidos, nos hizo sentir orgullosas, habló como mujer, como maestra y como indígena, ganándose el respeto de la audiencia que se puso de pie para aplaudirla.

Sonia Montaño, fue otra ganadora de estruendosos aplausos por su presentación acerca de las temáticas que maneja con maestría: derecho y liderazgo femenino.

Elizabeth Iñiguez, la primera boliviana que llegó a Ministra Constitucional de la Corte, participó con la ponencia "Que la reforma legal trabaje en beneficio de la mujer". Con gran sobriedad y marcadísimo éxito puso en tela de juicio la necesidad de lograr la meta de la igualdad jurídica entre el hombre y la mujer para el 2002.

Ivette de Antezana fue panelista del tema "Las pequeñas empresas y el acceso al crédito", y lo hizo con la capacidad y experiencias ganadas en la Fundación Bolinvest, de la cual ella es pieza importante.

Mimy Ortiz de Gasser y Cecilia Campero estuvieron encargadas de desarrollar el tema "El uso del crédito en el mejoramiento del poder económico de la mujer", el cual concitó mucho interés por la agilidad de su propuesta, contando con plan de acción, metas para el mismo y pasos para lograrlo a corto y largo plazo.

Ericka Brokman, senadora de la república, ganó nota 100 no sólo por su calidad humana y su hermosa presencia física, sino por su convicción de un cambio en las estructuras políticas que favorezcan a la mujer.

Rosaly Ledezma, joven abogada ha podido destacarse por su activismo en las reformas judiciales.

Teresa Montaño, como siempre sobresaliente dando a conocer su papel de defensora de causas difíciles.

Basilia Catari, líder indígena y secretaria general para Latinoamérica de las trabajadoras del hogar, completó la participación boliviana hablando de su realidad y de las vivencias reales de la mayoría femenina postergada por falta de oportunidades.



Hillary Rodham Clinton

**Necesitamos compartir
experiencias
y construir redes y
asociaciones más fuertes**

Hillary Clinton fue la iniciadora de las conferencias "Voces Esenciales", siendo que la primera fue llevada a cabo en 1997, en Vena. Desde entonces se ha extendido por todo el mundo y, últimamente en Uruguay, durante el primer encuentro de líderes de nuestro hemisferio destacó en su discurso a todas aquellas mujeres que han luchado durante tanto tiempo, que han alentado a miles de personas en las Américas porque nunca se han dado por vencidas con respecto a sí mismas y sus futuros.

Hizo también buenas preguntas: ¿Cómo asegurar que la democracia y las economías de libre mercado produzcan mejores vidas para todos, especialmente los pobres y los marginados? ¿Cómo creamos condiciones para que las mujeres tengan las oportunidades para tener plena participación en sus sociedades? ¿Cómo fortalecer la sociedad civil y sus instituciones? ¿Cómo expandir la participación política de la mujer en la vida pública? ¿Cómo fortalecer el imperio de la ley, y cómo promover el acceso de la mujer a las oportunidades económicas?

Sobre todo, la primera dama señaló que las mujeres reunidas en este primer encuentro de líderes de las Américas somos benditas. Si bien muchas han sufrido, el espíritu no se quebrantó. Pero piensen en las miles y miles de mujeres de las que nadie habla, que creen que no valen nada, a las que se les ha negado la educación e incluso la asistencia médica básica. ¿Qué haremos nosotras para elevar nuestras voces esenciales por ellas?

"Espero que al abrir el sistema legal para tener más magistradas y mujeres fiscales, las mujeres se aseguren que se respeten los derechos de la mujer y que el estado de derecho se afiance en todos nuestros países.

Mañana, cada una de ustedes tendrá la oportunidad de asistir a talleres de formación política y de medios de información, auspiciado por USAID, los Compañeros de las Américas, la Liga de Mujeres Votantes, y la USIA, a través de la campaña internacional de la mujer. Esta es una forma en la que podrán probar y mejorar sus capacidades y aprender acerca de cómo llevar los mensajes de esta conferencias a sus hogares.

Unamos nuestras energías para trabajar juntas y asegurarnos que estas voces se escuchen. Creo que tenemos una gran oportunidad por delante".



Hrinak se suma a la cruzada

Parlamentarias impulsan Encuentro Nacional de Mujeres

Las mujeres de Bolivia organizarán el "Encuentro Nacional de Mujeres" con el propósito de crear la igualdad de oportunidades para la vida, salud, justicia, toma de decisiones y una existencia plena en libertad.

La iniciativa cuenta con el respaldo de quienes participaron en la conferencia "Voces Esenciales", que se llevó adelante en Montevideo Uruguay, el mes pasado.

De concretarse, el encuentro femenino se realizará a finales del mes de marzo del próximo año.

El "Encuentro Nacional de Mujeres" tiene entre sus objetivos informar sobre todos los derechos y garantías con las que cuenta la población femenina, lograr organizar a las mujeres para que encuentren soluciones a sus problemas, capacitarlas, de manera que se constituyan en gúfa de su comunidad, para que preparen a sus compañeras y brinden soluciones a sus dificultades.

BROCKMANN

La senadora del Movimiento de la Izquierda Revolucionario (MIR), Erika Brockmann sostuvo que para "las mujeres" la conferencia de Montevideo no fue un punto de llegada, sino un nuevo punto de partida, para actuar como equipo plural a favor del sexo femenino.

Expuso que a través de la Agencia norteamericana USAID, se canalizará 120 millones de dólares en los próximos tres años, monto que será destinado al sector de la microempresa en el país y, de esa cantidad el 60 por ciento será para las mujeres.

"Este encuentro se constituirá en un espacio de diálogo, consulta, concertación y de búsqueda unitaria de respuestas al problema de la pobreza y desigualdad que se presentan en su mayoría y afectan a las mujeres", añadió Brockmann.

Ese encuentro tiene a la Vicepresidencia de la República como el eje transversal del gobierno y cuenta con el apoyo de organizaciones internacionales, no gubernamentales, territoriales de base y otras instituciones con personería jurídica.

HRINAK

La Embajadora de los Estados Unidos en Bolivia, Donna Hrinak sostuvo que el gobierno de su país quiere subrayar "los derechos de la mujer" que son parte fundamental del respeto a los derechos humanos.

Agregó que la inclusión de la mujer en la sociedad como participante plena, es un elemento importante del espíritu de integración que se siente cada vez más fuerte en este hemisferio.

"Lo que tenemos que hacer ahora - añadió Hrinak - es llevar este mensaje de unidad para las mujeres de Bolivia y a todo el hemisferio, para que se dé seguimiento a un movimiento muy importante que logre la igualdad de género para el 2002".

VOCES EN MONTEVIDEO

10 mujeres bolivianas identificadas con diferentes sectores y campos de nuestra sociedad, representaron a Bolivia en la conferencia Voces Esenciales de las Américas: La mujer en la Democracia, en Montevideo, que estuvo organizada por los Estado Unidos y el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID).



FOTO: REUTERS

Hillary, la reina de Montevideo

Hillary Clinton fue la invitada de gala de una cita regional femenina realizada en la capital uruguaya. La Primera Dama de los Estados Unidos estuvo acompañada por 400 mujeres, la mayor parte de América Latina, quienes la aplaudieron de pie al descubrir, y en algunos casos confirmar, su gran estatura política.

"Mujeres en Democracia" era el nombre del encuentro organizado por el Departamento de Estado y el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo. En Montevideo estuvieron presentes empresarias, políticas, profesionales, alcaldesas, juezas, indígenas, negras y líderes de cuanto color y volumen monetario pueda imaginarse. Once iban en representación de Bolivia, y una de ellas, nuestra columnista Sonia Montañó, nos hace ahora una semblanza humana del carisma de la abogada progresista Hillary Clinton, esa mujer que ya hace algunos años quiso implantar el seguro de salud en los Estados Unidos.

Para Montañó, Hillary es un cerebro pragmático que ha aprendido a esperar el momento oportuno para actuar bajo marcos democráticos.

Voces esenciales: 400 mujeres americanas hablaron de democracia

Más de \$us 150 millones para apoyar a las mujeres

FOTO: REUTERS

■ La reunión "Voces esenciales de las Américas: Mujeres en la democracia", celebrada en Montevideo, Uruguay, entre el 1 y el 3 de octubre, dejó un resultado altamente favorable para la región: más de 150 millones de dólares para el fortalecimiento de las mujeres.

Los 150 millones de dólares, que serán donados por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica y el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID), se destinarán a tres áreas fundamentales: derechos de las mujeres y fortalecimiento político; salud sexual y reproductiva; y microcrédito para la microempresa de mujeres.

En el encuentro, organizado por la Secretaría de Estado de los EE.UU. y el BID, participaron aproximadamente 400 mujeres de todo el continente, desde la primera dama de los Estados Unidos, Hillary Clinton, que mostró un renovado compromiso con las luchas de igualdad de género y democracia, hasta mujeres indígenas, entre ellas, la esposa del ex Vicepresidente, Lidia Katari de Cárdenas.

NUEVO DISCURSO

Sonia Montañó, una de las integrantes de la delegación boliviana, destacó especialmente la participación de Hillary Clinton, quien lejos del discurso tibio que presentó en la IV Conferencia Mundial sobre la Mujer, en Beijing, China, en 1995, se mostró comprometida con las luchas en defensa de los derechos de las mujeres en un contexto de equidad, en el cual, sin las mujeres, la democracia no sería tal.

"Hay mujeres en América Latina que no tienen derechos mínimos y que nada valen. Por ellas y sus hijos, debemos alzar nuestras voces de reclamo", dijo la Primera Dama estadounidense.

Al respecto, Montañó comentó que su percepción es que en los Es-



VOCES ESENCIALES: las mujeres hablaron de democracia y fortalecimiento político

tados Unidos "hay una clara preocupación que ha venido acompañada de una disponibilidad de recursos muy importante, más de 150 millones de dólares, que están poniendo para la región para impulsar acciones para la mujer".

Asimismo, agregó que es especialmente significativo que "un banco como el BID empiece a poner plata y recursos para que los estados empiecen a impulsar (programas para la mujer) ya no desde la marginalidad o desde las ONG".

Entre los programas de fortalecimiento previstos por el BID, explicó Montañó, están la generación de liderazgos políticos de mujeres, apoyo a la formación y capacitación de mujeres líderes, el impulso de agendas políticas con la participación o no de los partidos políticos.

CONTRA LA VIOLENCIA

Otro de los temas fundamentales en la reunión de "Voces esenciales" fue el de la violencia que es ejercida contra las mujeres. En este sentido, Hillary Clinton habló no sólo de la violencia física, sino también sobre todas las formas de discriminación que afectan a las mujeres.

"El día que una mujer indígena pobre pueda denunciar a la justicia el acoso o discriminación por parte de cualquier persona o funcionario público sin tener miedo a las represalias, habremos ganado la batalla; mientras tanto, debemos seguir luchando", aseguró la primera dama estadounidense.

DELEGACIÓN PLURAL

La delegación que representó al país, lejos de lo que se podría supo-

ner de una reunión a nivel oficial, no sólo estuvo compuesta de mujeres relacionadas al actual Gobierno, sino que también contó con la participación de mujeres que destacaron durante la pasada gestión gubernamental, como Lidia Katari o la propia Sonia Montañó.

También estuvieron en Montevideo la esposa del vicepresidente Jorge Quiroga, Ginger Quiroga; la abogada Teresa Montañó, la senadora Ericka Brockmann, Mimi de Gasser, del Banco de la Mujer en Santa Cruz, y un grupo de mujeres relacionadas con el tema de la microempresa. Destacó también la presencia de Basilia Katari, boliviana dirigente de las trabajadoras del hogar de latinoamérica.

En definitiva, el discurso feminista madura, y la democracia gana.



EL DIARIO

LA PAZ,

PAGINA



Montevideo, Uruguay, oct. 2.- La boliviana Lidia Katari (cent.) conversa con la primera dama estadounidense Hillary Clinton (izq.) mientras son observadas por la esposa del mandatario uruguayo Martha Canessa, durante la conferencia hemisférica "Voces Esenciales de las Américas - La Mujer y la Democracia". La mujer en Latinoamérica continúa siendo víctima de la discriminación social y étnica. (Telefoto Reuter)

Uruguay: conferencia sobre el papel de la mujer en democracia

Hillary habla de justicia

MONTEVIDEO / EFE
JORGE FIGUEROA

■ La esposa del Presidente de los Estados Unidos, Hillary Rodham Clinton, exhortó ayer a unas cuatrocientas mujeres líderes sociales de más de treinta países de América "a ser la voz de las más necesitadas" para lograr una sociedad justa y donde se respeten sus derechos.

La Primera Dama estadounidense pronunció el discurso central de la conferencia "Voces esenciales de las Américas: la mujer en la democracia" que se celebra en Montevideo organizada por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos y el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID).

"Hay mujeres en América Latina que no tienen derechos mínimos y creen que nada valen, por ellas, y sus hijos, debemos alzar nuestras voces de reclamo", afirmó Hillary Clinton, recibiendo un entusiasta aplauso de la concurrencia.

Hillary Clinton aseguró que las mujeres políticas de la región "pueden superar sus diferencias y barreras ideológicas y filosóficas" para trabajar unidas en la búsqueda de un bien común "en asuntos de interés recíproco".

Destacó la actuación de las denominadas redes de mujeres políticas recientemente creadas en Paraguay y Uruguay "que nos están dando una lección y enviando un mensaje positivo, incluso para mi país", agregó.

Como ejemplo de superación, Hillary Clinton citó el caso del Parlamento de Colombia en el que las mujeres "ocupan más de un tercio de los cargos".

La Primera Dama de los Estados Unidos se refirió además a la violencia doméstica y aseguró que "además de afectar la moral de las mujeres, pone en duda su confianza en las instituciones y por consiguiente en la democracia".

"La violencia familiar y doméstica, presente en todas las sociedades, es un crimen y como tal se debe

FOTO: REUTERS



Hillary se ha convertido en una figura pública independiente

atacar", afirmó la esposa del presidente de los Estados Unidos, abogada de profesión.

"El día que una mujer indígena pobre pueda denunciar a la justicia el acoso o discriminación por parte de cualquier persona o funcionario público sin tener miedo a las represalias, habremos ganado la batalla; mientras tanto deberemos seguir luchando", afirmó Hillary y volvió a recibir fuertes aplausos de aprobación.

Tras destacar la "larga y dura lucha" de muchas mujeres latinoamericanas "contra los generales" durante los regímenes *de facto* que en el pasado reciente gobernaron a casi todos los países de la región, la Primera Dama mencionó a las Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo.

En la conferencia participan mujeres representantes de la actividad pública y privada de los sectores más diversos, entre ellos gobiernos, parlamentos, empresas, justicia, educación, salud, agropecuaria, comunidades indígenas, organizaciones sociales y otras.



U S I S

EL DIA

SANTA CRUZ

22 DE JUNIO

PAG



Hillary Rodham
Clinton

Martha Cárdenas de
Sanguinetti

Foto: Reuters

ENCUENTRO Uruguay une a dos damas: Lidia y Hillary

Lidia Catari, esposa del ex vicepresidente de nuestro país, Víctor Hugo Cárdenas, vistiendo su típica indumentaria conversa con la primera dama de los EE.UU., Hillary Rodham Clinton; mientras la observa la primera dama de Uruguay, Martha Cárdenas. La Conferencia "Voces Vitales de América, las Mujeres y la Democracia", reunió en Uruguay a las más connotadas damas de Latinoamérica para tratar temas sobre la discriminación social y étnica.

La capacitación de la mujer es la inversión más rentable

La capacitación y educación de la mujer es la inversión más rentable para cualquier país, puesto que ésta extiende los conocimientos no sólo a sus hijos, sino también hasta los nietos; en cambio si se educa a un hombre sólo se enseña a un ser humano.

El papel de la mujer en la lucha contra la pobreza es fundamental, precisamente por el rol que tiene en la sociedad, indicó la embajadora de Estados Unidos, Donna Rhinak, al recordar que los múltiples estudios sobre cómo promover el desarrollo de un país coinciden en que "la mejor inversión es invertir en la mujer y en su educación".

La diplomática destacó la importancia de la reunión de 400 delegadas de las mujeres del continente en Uruguay, en la cual intercambiarán experiencias e ideas sobre la participación de ésta en la democracia y el desarrollo de cada país. "Voces esenciales" es parte de la agenda americana.

La delegación boliviana estará integrada por diez mujeres de distintos sectores. La idea es llevar un grupo representativo de Bolivia a la primera reunión de mujeres de 34 países del continente que participaron en las Cumbres americanas, porque ésta es un seguimiento de las iniciativas, indicó la Embajadora.

PONENCIAS: La reunión se realizará entre el uno y tres de octubre en Montevideo, Uruguay, en la cual se intercambiarán experiencias e ideas de las mujeres en los 34 países, lo que permitirá conocer las acciones que ejecutan en las distintas naciones para lograr la



Donna Rhinak
Embajadora de EE.UU.

equidad.

Bolivia tiene buena experiencia en el microcrédito, recordó la diplomática al afirmar que lo que beneficia a la mujer en este país también es importante para la mujer en Estados Unidos.

Se formaron tres grupos de trabajo para elaborar las ponencias nacionales en la reunión de Uruguay. La de economía y negocios estableció los problemas de acceso al financiamiento y a los mercados para colocar sus productos.

La comisión de Política y Vida Pública encontró dos problemas: la capacitación y oportunidad. La de Leyes y Liderazgo reconoce que se avanzó en la legislación, pero hay que difundirlas.

Los planteamientos de las delegadas nacionales serán expuestos a la reunión continental. Al retorno se definirá un plan de acción y difundirán los temas tratados. (anf)

"Voces esenciales" de Bolivia en Uruguay

Diez líderes femeninas en diversos campos de la actividad profesional y social, representarán al país en el evento internacional "Voces Esenciales de las Américas: Mujeres en Democracia" que se desarrollará en Montevideo, Uruguay del 1 al 3 de octubre

Mitad de los votantes y un tercio de los jefes de familia son mujeres en Bolivia. Desde su más temprana edad las mujeres se destacan en actividades como la escuela, donde según el SIMECAL, las niñas obtienen mejores resultados que los niños.

Pero ni el significativo número de votantes, ni su rol dentro de la economía familiar, o la ventaja de ser mejor educadas desde pequeñas les ha valido a las mujeres bolivianas las condiciones necesarias para alcanzar la equidad que reclaman a través de diferentes organizaciones civiles de género.

En busca de ideas y caminos concretos que ayuden a equilibrar la participación de hombres y mujeres en ámbitos tan diversos como la justicia, la política y la economía 10 bolivianas, seleccionadas de cerca de 80 profesionales, llegan mañana a Montevideo, Uruguay para participar en el encuentro "Voces Esenciales de las Américas: Mujeres en Democracia" organizado por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos y el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo.

Las bolivianas se unirán a un grupo de 400 líderes femeninas del hemisferio que encabezadas por la primera dama estadounidense Hillary Rodham Clinton, pretenden crear una red de información que ayude a crear las condiciones de una participación equilibrada de las mujeres en todos los ámbitos del qué hacer de un pueblo.

Para llevar no sólo intenciones, sino planteamientos concretos, el grupo que nos representa en el evento internacional ha trabajado seriamente elaborando ponencias que contribuyan a la discusión que se inicia mañana y termina el viernes.

Según la embajadora de los Estados Unidos en nuestro país, Donna Hrinak, el grupo boliviano ha sido elogiado por los organizadores como el más heterogéneo de la conferencia.

De la conferencia, además, participa la esposa del vicepresidente Virginia Gillum de Quiroga, en representación del Gobierno y cinco personas de la representación de los Estados Unidos en el país, encabezados por la embajadora Hrinak.



Las mujeres bolivianas quieren mayor equidad y participación

Mujeres y progreso económico

Cecilia Campero, representante de una organización católica que apoya el microcrédito, cree que los planes de acción para combatir la pobreza en el país tienen rostro de mujer.

"Si cerca de la mitad de la población económicamente activa trabaja por cuenta propia y 50% son mujeres tenemos un área de trabajo de enormes posibilidades, dice Campero.

La misión de las representantes bolivianas para los foros sobre la participación de las mujeres en la economía tiene pensado ver nuevos caminos de otras experiencias latinoamericanas, que puedan ser aplicadas aquí.

Cecilia afirma que dado que las mujeres campesinas son las que menos acceso tienen a préstamos y a un trabajo que les permita mejores niveles de subsistencia, lejos del campo, es éste el mayor reto del país.

"Queremos ver qué caminos se han encontrado en Perú, por ejemplo, donde las mujeres campesinas aprenden a elaborar productos diferentes a los ya existentes en el mercado", sostiene a tiempo de añadir que no sólo se trata de crear microempresas femeninas, sino también de asistirles en la venta y mercadeo de sus productos.

Hasta ahora Bolivia obtiene buenos resultados, producto del exhaustivo trabajo en otras áreas como la rural y la perirru-

ral, como es el caso de FUNBODEM de Santa Cruz de la Sierra y cuya directora Mercedes Ortiz de Gasser, despliega una labor ampliamente reconocida apoyando, capacitando y proveiendo de espacios para la venta de los productos que elaboran las microempresarias cruceñas.

FUNBODEM presentará estudios de caso en la reunión de Montevideo, como muestra de los logros, problemas y soluciones que se adoptan en el país para incluir a las mujeres en un mercado laboral diferente al tradicional, pues de trata en la mayoría de los casos de madres que, además de luchar por su sustento, crían a sus hijos paralelamente.

Si bien Bolivia ha logrado éxitos remarquables en el campo de las microfinanzas son los sectores más necesitados, especialmente femeninos, los que están más lejos de beneficiarse de estas ventajas.

Bolivianas en política y la sociedad

Sólo 3% de los representantes nacionales en la Cámara de Senadores viste falda y usa maquillaje. Nuestro gabinete tiene apenas una mujer. A pesar de representar casi 50% de los votos en época de elecciones, la política es aún un juego donde priman los pantalones y la participación femenina está lejos de alcanzar los niveles de igualdad implantados en muchas de nuestras leyes.

Uno de los tres puntos a tratarse en la conferencia de Montevideo es justamente aquel que tiene que ver con la participación femenina en la política y la sociedad civil, entendida como ejecutora de cambios.

Para Sonia Montaña, directora del CIDEEM y especialista en temas de género, la principal razón por la que las mujeres bolivianas aún no alcanzan la relevancia necesaria en círculos políticos y sociales se centra en la falta de institucionalidad.

"La institucionalidad es el mecanismo que falta para dar continuidad a los procesos de cambio -dice Montaña- para así convertirlos en política estatal. Sólo así viabilizaremos las demandas de equidad y género".

"Si bien el país atraviesa una era de cambios donde la participación tanto de hombres como mujeres está siendo garantizada en el papel, las tres participantes bolivianas de las discusiones sobre Políticas y Sociedad Civil de la conferencia "Voces Esenciales", aseguran que a veces estos cambios no tienen el resultado deseado.

Por ello sostienen que la ampliación de conocimientos y posturas, especialmente el diálogo, pueden ayudar a la aplicación de medidas que tengan su punto de partida en la gente.

Uno de estos sectores es el de las trabajadoras del hogar, cuya legislación está siendo tratada en el Congreso.

Basilisa Catari, que representa desde hace varios años los intereses de las trabajadoras del hogar y una de nuestras representantes, vieste este foro latinoamericano "como una oportunidad de avanzar juntas" hacia objetivos comunes. "Yo creo que ha habido un gran cambio", resalta Catari, "porque mujeres humildes como las trabajadoras del hogar están aquí" participando de un grupo tan heterogéneo.

Garantías legales y equidad de género

La reivindicación de la equidad de género en las últimas reformas al ordenamiento jurídico nacional, aunque mínima, fue significativa en opinión de las abogadas Teresa Montaña y Elizabeth Itiguez quienes participarán en el evento "Voces Esenciales de las Américas: Mujeres en Democracia" que se inaugura hoy en Montevideo Uruguay.

"La mujer tiene que ser una persona protagonista en la sociedad", dijo al señalar que se debe descartar el feminismo o el machismo. Abogó por una mayor participación femenina en los niveles de decisión y sobre todo en la política.

En el plano legal, se destacó la reforma a la Ley de Reforma Agraria (INRA) que reivindica la posesión femenina de la tierra y el acceso al crédito. Asimismo, la Ley Contra la Violencia Doméstica y las Garantías para la Mujer y el proyecto de Ley Contra el Acoso Sexual.

No obstante, la participación de la abogada en el evento internacional está en duda, toda vez que Silvia Portal, a quien acusó por tentativa de asesinato -en una casa de su propiedad, el niño Gabriel Estellano perdió un dedo al tocar una barda electrificada- volvió a arraigarla judicialmente. "Los abogados de ésta señora me pidieron que firme un desistimiento para viajar", denunció.

Por su parte, la abogada Elizabeth Itiguez tiene previsto exponer sobre el avance de las reformas legales en la perspectiva de la equidad de género. Explicó que será grande la expectativa al comparar las legislaciones de los diferentes países a fin de establecer los avances.

Itiguez remarcó que si bien existen importantes instrumentos jurídicos que verifican garantías y mayor participación femenina en Bolivia, su cumplimiento aún es escaso puesto que aún falta una etapa de concientización, especialmente entre las mujeres.



ARTURO HURT



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MUNDO

ESPECIAL

LA PRENSA

Primeras Damas de la interminable lista de esposas de mandatarios, un porcentaje abrumador desempeñó el puesto a la sombra del marido. Unas pocas, como Evita Perón o Eleanor Roosevelt, brillaron con luz propia.

Una voz esencial: Hillary Clinton

SONIA MONTAÑO VIREIRA

No todos recuerdan que Hillary destacó en el movimiento internacional de mujeres, antes de que Clinton sea Presidente

La semana pasada, del 1 al 3 de octubre, Montevideo fue la sede de un singular encuentro cuyo plato fuerte fue, sin duda alguna, la presencia de Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Las once bolivianas asistentes al evento, junto a otras 400 delegadas de toda la región, aplaudimos de pie su discurso en medio de un centenar de cámaras de televisión. "Voces esenciales. Mujeres en democracia" se denominó la reunión convocada por el Departamento de Estado y el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) para discutir estrategias de avance en materia política, legislativa y empresarial para las mujeres de la región. La reunión estuvo precedida por una similar en Viena y otra en Belfast, ocasiones en que se impulsó a las mujeres de los países del este y a las Irlandesas, respectivamente, en la construcción de la paz.

LLEGA EL PLATO FUERTE

El día jueves en la noche, y en medio de un despliegue de seguridad inusual en la tranquila ciudad de Montevideo, llegó Hillary Clinton exhibiendo una impecable sonrisa y una jovialidad poco frecuentes, si se toma en cuenta el largo viaje que le precedió. Cosas del oficio. Mis amigas me invitaron a la recepción inicial donde intercambiamos un diálogo políticamente correcto, del estilo vengo de tal país, hago tal cosa, mucho gusto. Me sorprendió, sin embargo, su capacidad para recordar eventos pasados, situaciones compartidas —como la reunión preparatoria de Beijing— y un conocimiento más que protocolar de la situación en cada país. Ante el entusiasmo que suscitó este primer encuentro decidí no abandonar mi espíritu crítico. Traté de recordar momentos menos seductores como su presencia en Beijing en 1995, cuando en la Cuarta Conferencia Mundial sobre la Mujer, Hillary actuó infatigablemente como portavoz de la política norteamericana, desvirtuando —a mi juicio— la naturaleza de la Conferencia y planteando temas de carácter bilateral que no estaban en la agenda. Construí un expediente mental de acciones que pudiera minimizar mi entusiasmo. Recordé que ella, al fin y al cabo, no era más que una Primera Dama obligada a secundar la política liderada por su esposo. Recordé que es precisamente en Estados Unidos donde se inspiran nuestras primeras damas criollas, a veces con menos cabeza y con más poder, para sustituir los organismos internacionales que las mujeres queremos para atender nuestros derechos. Llegué inclusive a recordar los planteamientos de una congénere que consideraba a



HILLARY: la capacidad de salir fortalecida del escándalo que envuelve a su esposo es otra prueba de su valía

Hillary una gil funcional al patriarcado por no haberse divorciado de Clinton, nada más sabiendo de sus actividades impropias. Nada. Mi entusiasmo, moderado como siempre, continuó. Hillary me conquistó por una razón principal: es una cabeza política extraordinaria.

EL ENCUENTRO

"Voces esenciales", reunió empresarias pequeñas y medianas, de derecha, centro e izquierda, feministas y otras no tanto, profesionales destacadas, líderes juveniles, alcaldesas, juezas, jóvenes y de la tercera edad, trabajadoras del hogar, in-

dígenas...todas consideradas líderes reconocidas en sus países, deseosas de trabajar por los derechos de las mujeres en el marco de las democracias en construcción. En cierta forma, el encuentro sirvió para mostrar cuánto hemos avanzado las mujeres de la región y cómo las ideas feministas forman parte de la agenda internacional. Desde Madeleine Albright hasta el presidente Sanguinetti, pasando por el propio Enrique Iglesias del BID coincidieron en que la democracia sin la plena participación y derechos de las mujeres es imposible e inadmis-

Me tocó pronunciar uno de los tres discursos de inauguración. Quedé sorprendida cuando las mujeres ovacionaron de pie mi propuesta de radicalizar la democracia a través del fortalecimiento de la sociedad civil, defendiendo los derechos humanos —Incluidos los sexuales y reproductivos— respetando las disidencias y combatiendo la pobreza, pero no desde la marginalidad sino desde la arena amplia de la democracia.

El segundo día, luego de varias deliberaciones en talleres, llegó Hillary Clinton demostrando que brilla con estrella propia. Su discurso de

más de media hora incluyó todos y cada uno de los temas por los que estamos las feministas: violencia doméstica, igualdad económica, democracia social y familiar, derechos sexuales y reproductivos, todos situados en el contexto de la democracia. Arrancó muchos aplausos cuando comprometió su apoyo para que nunca más una joven, señalando a la representante de Guatemala, deba abandonar su país por la violencia. Evocó a las dictaduras para que nunca más se repitan. Atacó duramente el terrorismo, recordando el rol pacifista de las mujeres peruanas y centroamericanas. Incluyó temas de seguridad jurídica, abogando por eliminar la impunidad "para que llegue el día en que ninguna mujer sea maltratada por los políticos, sea por su color, su vestimenta o su raza".

HILLARY Y LIDIA

No sólo intercedió por luchar contra la pobreza femenina, sino que demandó una comunidad global que compense a todos los trabajadores con equidad. En fin, el discurso de Hillary se inscribió en una visión de fortalecimiento de la democracia y los derechos. Para no dejar dudas, recordó a las Madres de Mayo de la Argentina como emblema de esta lucha. Para coronar nuestro entusiasmo boliviano participó Lidia Catari de Cárdenas, quien acompañó a Hillary en la mesa principal exponiendo con sencillez, credibilidad y claridad la lucha de las mujeres de la región. Cuando Lidia acabó de hablar, el fotógrafo oficial tuvo que organizarse para poder tomar fotos de dos bellas mujeres: Hillary y Lidia, ambas fuertes, enérgicas y capaces de expresar con voz propia lo que ni su condición de primeras damas les pudo arrebatarse: credibilidad e inteligencia.

UNA POLÍTICA REALISTA

Al terminar el encuentro recordé que el hombre de Hillary Rodham Clinton ya sonaba en el movimiento internacional de mujeres, mucho antes que su esposo, Bill, asumiera la presidencia. Abogada progresista, llegó de acompañante a la Casa Blanca decidida a impulsar una de las reformas sociales más importantes: la reforma a la salud. Para cumplir esa meta, ejerció un liderazgo incompatible con el rol de Primera Dama y pronto tuvo que retroceder para dejar el protagonismo político a su esposo. Dejé de sentir la sensación de pérdida por esa especie de inmolación ante el realismo político, cuando ella habló con claridad sobre el futuro de la democracia en el mundo y aprendí que parte de su talento radica precisamente en el saber esperar, ocupando los espacios que la democracia le abre. Hillary no es una diosa, es una humana inteligente: realista política en el mejor sentido y una aliada de la construcción democrática de nuestros países. Su vocación democrática nos hace pensar que con mujeres como ella podremos discutir nuestras diferencias sin anular nuestras semejanzas.



Una visión del fortalecimiento democrático



Una consejera hábil y realista

BROCHAZO

■ Donna Hrinak
"SOY FEMINISTA"

JATHA

La Embajadora de Estados Unidos se proclamó feminista y dijo que, debido a su condición de mujer, no le resultó fácil llegar a formar parte del cuerpo de embajadores de su país.

"Yo soy feminista, no creo que haya nada malo en decir qué una es feminista", afirmó la diplomática en diálogo con los periodistas.

"Feminista quiere decir que todas las personas tienen igualdad de oportunidades. Somos mujeres, hermanas, esposas y madres, y quisiéramos que nuestros hijos tengan los mismos chances", definió. La diplomática remarcó que por su propia experiencia se sentía orgullosa de su militancia feminista.

SEN DIPLOMÁTICA

Hrinak reveló que las dificultades para el surgimiento profesional de las mujeres en su país son las mismas que en todo el mundo.

"Hemos tenido que luchar mucho. Ahora las mujeres en el servicio diplomático de los Estados Unidos tenemos más oportunidades, pero eso ha venido después de muchos años", declaró.

"Las mujeres no hemos recibido nada gratis, hemos tenido que luchar muchos procesos legales contra el Gobierno para ganar nuestro lugar".

Próxima a cumplir su primer año en misión diplomática en Bolivia, Donna Hrinak informó que tampoco hay muchas mujeres en el Parlamento estadounidense. "Más o menos un 11 por ciento", precisó. En Bolivia la cifra oscila entre el 4 y el 6 por ciento.

LUCHADORAS

Según Hrinak, las mujeres pueden desempeñar un papel "clave" en la lucha contra la pobreza.

"Hay muchos estudios sobre el desarrollo y varias opiniones sobre cómo promoverlo de un país a otro, pero casi todos los estudios coinciden en un punto: la mejor inversión es en la mujer y en su educación. Existe la expresión famosa: si das un pez a una persona, tiene una comida; pero si le enseñas a pescar hay comida por toda su vida. Si das enseñanza y educación, enseñas a un ser humano, si se las das a una mujer, enseñas no sólo a ella sino a sus hijos, nietos y a toda una familia".



Feminismo diplomático

Hogar: una aymara al frente de las trabajadoras latinoamericanas

Basilia Katari, activista de los sindicatos del hogar

FOTO: JOSÉ L. QUINTANA



BASILIA KATARI: dirigente a nivel latinoamericano, como reivindicando su apellido...

A sus 10 años, Basilia aún no había aprendido a leer y ya sabía de la vida del "no me dejes tata, está bien señora, no me pegues tía". En su sonrisa y memoria, marcadas por el abuso y desprecio por ser "gente del campo", pero también en su rebeldía que no por clandestina dejó de existir, ella es como el signo de toda esa generación de niñas campesinas que entraron a la ciudad por la puerta trasera, para servir de "empleadas domésticas", sin más asombro de la realidad que el miedo, sin mayor comprensión del mundo que el silencio.

La mayor de nueve hermanos, Basilia fue la primera de los suyos en pasar por ese calvario que la mirada oficial llama "migración campo-ciudad".

"Cuando mi papá fue joven estuvo aquí en La Paz —cuenta—, entonces él quería que sus hijos por lo menos sepan bien el castellano, por eso me trajo a los diez años; a esa edad yo tuve que empezar a trabajar, como niñera".

Dos años con la "madrina", como aprendiz. Después, otra vez como el común de sus "hermanas" (o sea, muchas niñas campesinas), fue empleada por esta madrina en otro lugar, como niñera, pero eso sí, "sólo por la ropa, no tenía sueldo".

Hoy, Basilia Katari Tórrez es dirigente de la Confederación Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Trabajadoras del Hogar (Conclatrabo).

¡LOS VOLANTES, BASILIA!

Antes hasta dar el nombre de una daba miedo. "Nos indentificaban y ya nos venía el desprecio. Estas cholas que les enseñan a ser mañudas y contestonas a las empleadas", se quejaban los patrones.

Secretaria de Conflictos. La propia Basilia fue despedida cuando sus patrones se enteraron de sus afanes de "malacrianza", que en esa época significaba el sindicalismo.

"Grave era, voy a ir a comprar

pan', salfamos", pero además del pan, con la ropa de trabajo encima, era el tiempo de los trámites.

Una dibujaba, la otra escribía a máquina, entre todas corregían los errores, las demás repartían. "¡Ay nuestros volantes...!", recuerda con cariño los subversivos medios.

En el Ministerio de Trabajo, Basilia y sus hermanas —siempre las llama así— conocieron de cerca la mentalidad colonial de los funcionarios, que con la irónica sonrisa les recibían los reclamos.

"Ah, pero nosotras no nos dejábamos, qué pues. Ya conocíamos la ley y discutíamos también...".

CHOLITAS SUBVERSIVAS HERMANADAS

La posibilidad de organizarse, reconoce Basilia, se la deben mucho a los patrones comprensivos, "que

nos daban tiempo para salir".

Como la cosa era llamar, hablar y sumar fuerzas, cada domingo, el bendito domingo de organización, se reunían para tratar temas que iban desde discutir sus derechos hasta aprender a leer y cómo manejar los electrodomésticos.

"Como muchas estábamos solas y sin familia, el sindicato era nuestro segundo hogar; como hermanas cocinábamos y comíamos juntas".

DIRIGENTE SINDICAL LATINOAMERICANA

Hoy Basilia se sabe de memoria cuántos años tienen los sindicatos de cada uno de los países afiliados a Conclatrabo.

Con la respiración que más de una vez se le queda corta a la hora de enumerar los problemas que tienen, recuerda con alegría cómo "no ha-

bíamos sido las únicas".

Cosmopolita no a lo turista, ya anda planeando cómo ir y organizar sindicatos en aquellos países donde se vinieron a menos, en Venezuela, Uruguay. "Un mes más o menos tardaríamos", planea con picardía.

SU MIRADA DE HOY

A Basilia, que ya anda por los 33 años —sonríe cuando reconoce su edad—, lo que más le apena es la situación de las trabajadoras jóvenes, esas que más andan con la música y en espera del fin de semana para ir a las "discotecas de cholitas".

"No oyen las noticias, no saben de su organización, no se enteran. Eso no está bien, ahora que nosotras ya nos animamos más a salir en los medios. No, el sindicato trabajo de hormiga siempre es", reflexiona.

El sindicato, esa nueva wawa que criar y cargar

Basilia Katari es una de las fundadoras del primer sindicato de Trabajadoras del Hogar, allí en Sopocachi; también lo es de la actual Federación Nacional de Trabajadoras del Hogar de Bolivia (Fenatrabo). Sobre su primera experiencia, recuerda con cariño a dos mujeres, "de las más luchadoras que he conocido, Lucía Mejía de Morales, dirigente campesina, y doña Domitila Chungara, de las amas de casa mineras".

Ella ingresó al sindicato a los 19 años, "vía volante, mediante esos papeletos muchas nos hemos enterado". Recuerda con gratitud a los voluntarios, "la madre Emilia Torrico, en primer lugar, los jóvenes sociólogos, abogados y la señorita de Derechos Humanos que nos daban charlas".

FENATRABO EN UNA SEMANA

La verdad es que la Federación Nacional de Trabajadoras del Hogar nació de rebote.

"Un día de esos, cuando Conciencia de Patria (Condepa) estaba de su-

bida, nos convocan y algunas hermanas condepistas nos hablan de formarnos a nivel nacional, nos ofrecen oficina, no sólo en La Paz. Nosotras, calladas, si no más les decimos. Pero después de salir de su reunión, no pues, declamos, con un partido no está bien. En eso, urgente, en una semana nos movemos y formamos la Fenatrabo. La verdad es esa".

¡AY, EL SINDICATO!

Primero fue La Paz, luego Cochabamba, después Tarija. "Yo viajaba sábado en la mañana y volvía domingo en la noche. El dinero lo aportábamos todas... con los suelditos que nos pagaban, eso es mucho decir ¿no?".

Sindicalistas de a pie, incluso en la dictadura de García Meza tuvieron que andar con el testamento —los papeles del sindicato— bajo el brazo.

"No le miento, nosotras mismas no sabíamos por qué nos perseguían, pero tuvimos que corretear ocultándonos", recuerda ya con humor.



ESTA BASILIA...

► **Signo** de una generación de mujeres campesinas, vino a los diez años, la emplearon a cambio de ropa e idioma, para que se "ciudadanice" pues.

► **Basilia Katari** es una de las fundadoras de la "terrible" Federación Nacional de Trabajadoras del Hogar, donde están afiliadas sus entrañables "hermanas".

► **¡Los volantes, Basilia!** Aprendió de la ley y sus derechos hablando de su situación, enfrentando más de una mentalidad colonialista que desprecia las polleras.

► **Actualmente**, como dirigente a nivel latinoamericano, ya anda viendo cómo cambiar la situación en los países donde no hay sindicatos de trabajadoras del hogar.

09/27/98

VITAL VOICES

El papel femenino en la democracia masculina

Uruguay recibirá en octubre a 400 mujeres líderes

• Ana Rosa **LÓPEZ** Villegas La Paz

"Soy hija primogénita, pero no deseada, porque mis padres querían un varón". Esa es la historia de Teresa; no es una historia casual, se repite todos los días y en todo el mundo. En política y democracia, las mujeres tampoco son "deseadas".

La cultura, la educación y las creencias se tejen como una dura red en contra de las mujeres. Sin embargo el panorama -aunque lentamente- comienza a cambiar.

En el ámbito político y democrático, "la cuestión de género" no ha comenzado aún a establecerse. La representación femenina en el Congreso Nacional alcanza sólo al 11%. La Ley de Cuotas, promulgada en marzo de 1997 y que "obliga" a los partidos políticos a incorporar un

mínimo de 30% de mujeres en las listas de candidatos a diputados y senadores, está aún inmadura y es tarea de las mujeres cambiar la mentalidad masculina de los partidos.

La discriminación laboral e incluso la que, paradójicamente, se da entre mujeres, ya sea por la edad, la situación económica o condición social, hacen pensar que el problema no está sólo en el entorno y en las relaciones humanas, sino en las conciencias.

La función de la mujer, como parte integral del fortalecimiento de la democracia en el hemisferio occidental, será el tema central de la Conferencia "Voces Esenciales de las Américas: La Mujer en la Democracia", que se realizará en Montevideo, Uruguay, a partir del primero de octubre próximo. El gobierno de los Estados Unidos y el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID), coauspician la reunión.

Asistirán a la conferencia 400 mujeres líderes de sectores gubernamentales y no gubernamentales, así como de las esferas civiles, jurídicas, educativas, periodísticas y privadas. Once mujeres llevarán la representa-

ción nacional a la reunión. Los temas de base son tres: Leyes y Liderazgo, Política y Vida Pública e Integración Económica y Crecimiento Comercial.

Según el informe escrito sobre la conferencia, la idea de realizarla surgió de una reunión similar que tuvo lugar en Viena, Austria, en julio de 1997. En aquella ocasión, se reunieron líderes de Europa Oriental, países de la antigua Unión Soviética, de la Unión Europea y de los Estados Unidos.

Las participantes en la conferencia "se reunirán para compartir sus conocimientos y experiencias, y explorarán posibles estrategias para el fortalecimiento del papel de la mujer en la democracia a través de talleres".

OBJETIVO CLAVE

La embajadora de los Estados Unidos en Bolivia, Donna Hrinak, explicó ayer, durante un almuerzo trabajo, que el "objetivo clave" de la mencionada conferencia en Uruguay es el de "promover la participación plena de las mujeres" en los campos político, económico y social. Según dijo la

diplomática, la conferencia internacional permitirá a las mujeres bolivianas dar a conocer las experiencias del país y conocer otras nuevas, de manera que el intercambio de ideas sea productivo y no un simple discurso.

El plan de acción de la delegación boliviana de mujeres efectivamente "representativas" de la población femenina, según explicó la embajadora, está ya elaborado. Los parámetros de las tres propuestas (Leyes y Liderazgo; Política y Vida Pública e Integración Económica y Crecimiento Comercial) fueron presentadas también durante el almuerzo trabajo en el que se compartieron las expectativas con los medios de comunicación.

Los resultados que se obtengan en la conferencia, serán aplicados y difundidos en el país para que las estructuras inflexibles y masculinas, que aún detienen el paso de las mujeres, comprendan que la "cuestión de género" no es cuestión de feminismo, sino de democracia e igualdad de derechos y oportunidades. Esa es la intención y voluntad expresada por las líderes bolivianas viajeras. ♦

L.S.A.

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Delegación boliviana que asistirá a la Conferencia

TEMA LEYES Y LIDERAZGO

- Elizabeth Iñiguez, abogada y miembro suplente del Tribunal Constitucional.
- Rosalí Ledezma, abogada y asesora de la Comisión Congresal Conjunta sobre Reforma de la Legislación Jurídica.
- Basilia Catari, mujer indígena y Secretaria General de la Federación Latinoamericana de Mujeres Empleadas Domésticas.
- Teresa Montaña, abogada y maestra, trabaja en asuntos criminales.

TEMA POLÍTICA Y VIDA PÚBLICA

- Ericka Brockmann, psicóloga, senadora y Presidenta de la Comisión de Participación Popular de la Cámara Alta.
- Lydia Catari de Cárdenas, socióloga y líder indígena.
- Sonia Montaña, psicóloga, fundadora del Centro de Desarrollo e Información de la Mujer (Cidem).

TEMA ECONOMÍA Y NEGOCIOS

- Cecilia Campero, economista y directora del programa de capacitación sobre micro finanzas del Instituto Boliviano de Estudios Empresariales (IBBE).
- Ivete Arancibia, administradora de empresas y directora ejecutiva de la Fundación Bolinvest.
- Mercedes Ortiz, líder cívica, fundadora y presidenta de la Fundación Boliviana para el Desarrollo de la Mujer.

FUENTE: USIS

La propuesta de las líderes bolivianas para la conferencia

SOBRE LEYES Y LIDERAZGO

Propone la institucionalidad de las reformas que favorecen a las mujeres:

- Ley INRA, que permite que la mujer sea propietaria de un territorio independientemente de su estado civil.
- Ley de Participación Popular
- Código Penal
- Ley de Reformas a la Ley Electoral
- Ley contra la Violencia Doméstica
- Reformas a la Ley General del Trabajo
- Proyecto de Ley de las Trabajadoras del Hogar

SOBRE POLÍTICA Y VIDA PÚBLICA

- Ley de Partidos Políticos que facilite la participación de las mujeres.
- Capacitación para ejercer trabajos.
- Promover la asistencia de las niñas en edad escolar a los centros educativos, para que sean formadas como buenas líderes.

SOBRE ECONOMÍA Y NEGOCIOS

- Fomentar el acceso de mujeres a servicios financieros y no financieros en áreas rurales.
- Impulsar el acceso a recursos del estado y a la central de riesgos por parte de instituciones financieras no reguladas, que proveen servicios a las mujeres.
- Crear y fortalecer las instituciones existentes de desarrollo empresarial orientadas a las mujeres.

FUENTE: Propuestas expresadas en el almuerzo trabajo.

ENCUENTRO HEMISFÉRICO

Las mujeres se unen para hablar

En Montevideo, 11 líderes bolivianas llevarán sus voces para pedir igualdad de oportunidad y capacitación. Todas ellas tienen enfoques diferentes y construyen un discurso rico en diversidad

Las mujeres bolivianas serán escuchadas por el hemisferio. En un foro de líderes de 34 países, ellas pedirán igualdad de oportunidades y reclamarán democracia. Se sienten capaces y están convencidas de que pueden contribuir al desarrollo de la región y el país y a la mejora de la calidad de vida. Once representantes hablarán del país, de su gente, de sus necesidades. Todas son diferentes, pero tienen un discurso enriquecido por los matices de la diversidad.

Autoridades, intelectuales, profesionales, nativas, esposas de personalidades y mandatarios. Todas ellas líderes participarán en el encuentro "Voces esenciales de las Américas, la Mujer en la democracia", que se llevará a cabo en Montevideo, Uruguay, entre el 1 y 3 de octubre del presente. Allí, la

delegación boliviana intercambiará experiencias con las representantes del hemisferio.

La delegación boliviana es distinta a anteriores representaciones. Es heterogéneo, puesto que intenta transmitir el sentir de la mujer boliviana, desde diferentes enfoques, vivencias, propuestas.

La representación está conformada así: la esposa del vicepresidente Jorge Quiroga, la socióloga y esposa del ex mandatario Víctor Hugo Cárdenas, Lidia Catari, Elizabeth Iñiguez, consultora en temas judiciales; Rosalí Ledezma, destacada joven abogada, Basilia Catari, dirigente de las trabajadoras del hogar; Teresa Montaña, abogada que pelea contra la negligencia médica; Erika Brockmann, senadora del MIR; Sonia Montaña, socióloga y experta en temas de

género; Cecilia Ampuero, experta en microcrédito; Ivete de Antezana, experta en exportaciones e inversiones; y Mercedes Ortiz de Gasser, dirigente cívica y promotora de capacitación de la mujer en Santa Cruz.

La embajadora de Estados Unidos, Donna Hrinak, acompañará la delegación boliviana, puesto que tiene particular interés en el tema ya que fue coordinadora de la Cumbre de las Américas, en Miami, donde se definió la realización de este encuentro, al que asistirá Hillary Clinton, esposa del presidente estadounidense Bill Clinton.

COMPROMISO

Todas las representantes se reunieron el viernes en la sede de Usaid, el mediodía del viernes, para hacer conocer las

La embajadora Hrinak acompañará a la delegación boliviana. Las representantes se reunieron el viernes



propuestas que llevarán en los siguientes temas: leyes y liderazgo, economía y negocios, política y sociedad civil.

En los tres temas, las delegadas bolivianas coincidieron en señalar que una de las ma-

yores demandas más importantes es la capacitación de la mujer para que pueda acceder a niveles de decisión.

Equidad significa, según se planteó en la reunión, un cambio de mentalidad de hombres y mujeres para que no se pro-

picie la discriminación.

Finalmente, en el encuentro surgió el compromiso de que una vez concluya el encuentro de Montevideo, las líderes bolivianas harán el seguimiento de los temas para que los acuerdos rompan el límite del papel.

Junto con las delegadas de Bolivia

Embajadora Donna Hrinak asistirá a la conferencia "Voces esenciales"

Por **Rafael Alvis Flores**

La Embajadora de los Estados Unidos, Donna Hrinak, se reunió con las delegadas a la Conferencia "Voces Esenciales de las Américas: La Mujer en la Democracia", la misma que se realizará del 1 al 3 de octubre en la ciudad de Montevideo, Uruguay, y que reunirá a mujeres de todos el hemisferio.

"Este acontecimiento se llama Voces Esenciales: Las mujeres en la Democracia, y la idea es juntar a las mujeres de todo el hemisferio para hablar de los problemas que tenemos en conjunto y también, expresamente, plantear soluciones que un país se puedan implementar", dijo la diplomática.

De acuerdo con la información

"Esperamos regresar del Uruguay donde se va llevar a cabo la conferencia con ideas nuevas y después compartirlas con todas las mujeres bolivianas, gracias a los medios de comunicación", dijo la diplomática.

LA CONFERENCIA

El Gobierno de la hermana República del Uruguay es el anfitrión de la Conferencia que está también co-espiciada por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos y el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID). "La idea es llevar experiencias y traer experiencias", dijo la diplomática sobre el evento.

La delegación Boliviana estará acompañada de cuatro miembros de

na y Mercedes Ortiz de Gasser.

PILANTEAMIENTOS

El principal problema que llevarán las personas del grupo de Leyes y Liderazgo es que muchas de las leyes que sirven para las mujeres no se cumplen, por lo que se verá qué problemas de estos existen en los grupos de otros países.

Pese a esa situación, el grupo de estudios en este campo dijo que hay leyes en las que se han dado avances, como ser en la Ley Electoral, aunque no es la ideal porque en la realidad eso no ocurre. Por otra parte se piensa hablar también sobre Ley de las Trabajadoras del hogar y desarrollar un proceso de coordinación.



proporcionada por la Embajadora Hrinak, son diez las mujeres que asistirán al encuentro y ellas están lideradas por Virginia Guillum de Quiroga, esposa del Vicepresidente de la República, Jorge Tuto Quiroga. "Hay representantes de varios sectores de la vida de Bolivia, tenemos asesores, una miembro del tribunal constitucional, educadoras y personas que trabajan en microcrédito. La idea es llevar una delegación más representativa de Bolivia", agregó Hrinak.

Según la información proporcionada por la Embajadora de los Estados Unidos, las delegadas bolivianas compartirán con todas las mujeres del hemisferio y de los 34 países que han participado en las cumbres de las Américas, debido a que se trata de un seguimiento de las iniciativas de la agenda hemisférica.

la Embajada norteamericana, entre ellas Hrinak, ya que se trata de la primer Conferencia a nivel Continental que promueve la integración de la mujer y promueve su participación plena en todos los ámbitos.

La Conferencia que se realizará en Uruguay, está dividida en tres grupos de trabajo que son los de Leyes y Liderazgo, Política y Vida Pública, e Integración Económica y Crecimiento Comercial.

Las mujeres bolivianas que asistirán al encuentro son, en el grupo de Leyes y Liderazgo estarán Elizabeth Iniguez, Rosalí Ledezma, Basilia Katari y Teresa Montañón. En el grupo de Política y Vida Pública estarán Ericka Brockman Quiroga, Lidia Katari de Cárdenas y Sonia Montañón. Por otra parte en el grupo de Economía y Negocios estarán Cecilia Campero, Ivette de Antez-

En la presentación de los temas se pidió a los medios que promuevan la protección a las mujeres, ya que es necesario trabajar con los mismos para que la sociedad se haga partícipe.

El grupo de Política y Vida Pública, también expondrá varios problemas detectados entre los que se encuentran la falta de capacitación y oportunidades para la mujer desde la familia que la discrimina.

Por esa razón, para que las mujeres tengan las mismas oportunidades políticas lo que se necesita es analizar la Ley de Partidos Políticos, para que faciliten esa participación, además de formarse y capacitarse para ejercer el trabajo, coadyuvando también a que desde la escuela las niñas comiencen a ser líderes.

También se va a proponer que se tengan mujeres líderes que se capaciten para ejercer a cabalidad los cargos públicos. Por su parte las delegadas del grupo de Economía y Negocios han detectado también varios problemas que llevarán para exponerlos.

Entre esos problemas se encuentran la falta de acceso al crédito, accesos a mercados y comercialización, falta de capacitación, asistencia técnica y asesoramiento, conflicto entre las responsabilidades del hogar y de la empresa, y otros.

Las principales soluciones que se propondrán están que hay que fomentar el ingreso a servicios financieros y no financieros en las áreas rurales. También impulsar el acceso a recursos del Estado y a la central de riesgos por parte de instituciones financieras no reguladas que proveen servicios a las mujeres.

Otra solución es que se destinen recursos y llevar iniciativas con el fin de promover la comercialización y la apertura de mercados a las mujeres empresarias.

Las delegadas bolivianas esperan que la Conferencia tenga éxito y a su retorno prometieron informar de todos lo realizado en el Uruguay, en beneficio de todas las mujeres del país para que se coadyuve a su asistencia.



**UNIVERSIDAD MAYOR DE SAN ANDRÉS
FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS PURAS Y NATURALES**

INVITACION DIRECTA No. 15/98

"CONSTRUCCION DE LABORATORIO DE RUV Y OZONO EN EL EDIFICIO DE CIENCIAS PURAS Y NATURALES"

La Universidad Mayor de San Andrés tiene a bien invitar a todas las Empresas Constructoras, legalmente establecidas en el país, a presentar Propuesta Técnica y Económica, para los trabajos de "Construcción del Laboratorio de Rayos Ultra Violeta y Ozono en el Edificio de la Facultad de Ciencias Puras y Naturales", ubicado en avenida Andrés Bello del Predio de Cota Cota.

El Pliego de Condiciones.-

Los Planos y documentos correspondientes deberán ser recogidos en las Oficinas del Departamento de Infraestructura, piso 8o. del Edificio "HOY" previo depósito en Caja Central del Monoblock Central de Bs. 350.-

El Plazo de Presentación de Propuestas.-

Se señala hasta horas 12:00 del 19 de octubre del presente, en Asesoría Jurídica, piso 12 del Edificio "HOY" avenida 6 de Agosto No. 2170.

La apertura de sobres se realizará a horas 16:00 del 19 de octubre de 1998 por la Comisión Calificadora, en la Dirección Administrativa Financiera.

La Paz, 22 de septiembre de 1998

pa1014-0922/1

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

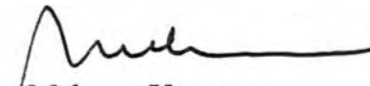
December 16, 1998

Nadine Hogan
1215 Russell Rd.,
Alexandria, VA 22301

Dear Nadine:

Thank you so much for your thoughtful note, the "touch of Oscar" and all your many kindnesses. It was great to see you in Chile. We loved our visit to La Romana. The children are so well taken care of there. Very best wishes to you and your family for the holidays.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

December 14, 1998

Nadine Hogan
1215 Russell Rd.,
Alexandria, VA 22301

Dear Nadine:

Thank you so much for your thoughtful note, ~~the~~
_____ and all your many kindnesses. It was great
to see you. Very best wishes to you and your family for the
holidays.

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

in Chile.

*We loved
our visit
to La Ramona.
The children
are so well taken
care of there.*

*the "touching"
Oscar*

Nadine M. Hogan ^{Thombs} (K)

Dear Melanne

I have great respect
for you and the great service
you give to our nation in
working for the First Lady. This
is a small touch of "Oscar"
Sincerely, Nadine Hogan

1235 Russell Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22301

Mrs Melanne Vermeer

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 1, 1998

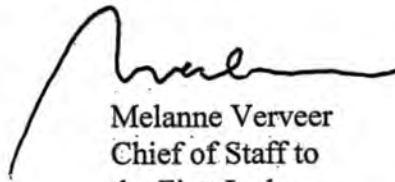
Dr. David Hamburg, M.D.
Carnegie Corporation of New York
437 Madison Avenue,
New York, NY 10022

Dear David:

I'm also glad to get your note and books. Thanks to your assistance, we are in the process of getting the letters of invitation out for the meeting, and I will talk to you about the particulars when I get back from Russia and Ireland.

In the meantime, all the best as always.

Sincerely,

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

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

Carnegie Corporation of New York

437 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022 • (212) 371-3200 • Fax: (212) 207-6342

David A. Hamburg, M.D.
President Emeritus

August 12, 1998

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Office of the First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Melanne:

Knowing of your thoughtful interest in children and youth, it occurred to me that you might like to see this book that I helped to put together, *Preparing adolescents for the twenty-first century: Challenges facing Europe and the United States*. It is an international perspective on adolescent development, education, and health – worked out jointly by Carnegie and the Johann Jacobs Foundation of Switzerland. We were fortunate to get excellent authors on both sides of the Atlantic. I hope you will find items of interest in this work.

I also hope you are having a good summer and all goes well.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

David

Enclosure

*I enjoyed our meeting a lot,
I'm now working on the next batch.
Enjoy your vacation!*

Carnegie Corporation of New York

CP

437 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022 • (212) 371-3200 • Fax: (212) 207-6342

David A. Hamburg, M.D.
President Emeritus

August 3, 1998

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Melanne:

I am pleased to send you our latest books, *Turkey's Kurdish Question* by Henri Barkey and Graham Fuller, and *Sustainable Peace*, by Connie Peck.

Turkey's Kurdish Question is a path-breaking study of a conflict that has tormented Turkey and its neighbors for much of this century. Peck's book examines the preventive diplomacy role of the United Nations, regional organizations, and international NGOs, and recommends the establishment of UN Regional Centers for Sustainable Peace. I think you and Hillary might find these books of interest and relevance to the issues you are confronting. They certainly bear on US engagement in world affairs.

Cy and I appreciate your continued commitment to conflict prevention.

Sincerely,

David

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 4, 1998

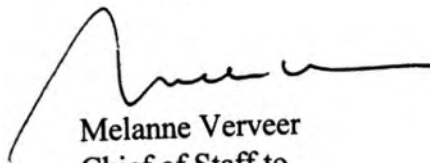
Ms. Rita Harmon
Executive Director
Leadership America Inc.
700 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 610
Alexandria VA 22314-2040

Dear Ms. Harmon,

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you very much for "William's World," which was conveyed to us by Audrey Haynes, of the Women's Office. I know Mrs. Clinton will be interested in it.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,

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

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



Ⓟ
Thanks

May 20, 1998

Audrey Tayse Haynes
Deputy Assistant to the Office for
Women's Initiatives and Outreach
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Audrey:

It has been two months since you and your wonderful White House colleagues -- Lynn Cutler, Sylvia Mathews and Cheryl Mills -- shared your wit and wisdom with the women of LEADERSHIP AMERICA. I am still receiving calls and notes from the class members on that wonderful program session, and thank you again for the time and attention you all put into the session.

I have been remiss in sending the enclosed package along to you, with the request that you forward it to Mrs. Clinton. Cheryl Mills, who is a member of the 1998 class of LEADERSHIP AMERICA, asked if I would do so. Cheryl met Mrs. Clinton at Renaissance Weekend at Hilton Head, where they had an opportunity to share their interests and concerns about the children of our nation. Cheryl promised to send Mrs. Clinton a copy of her new children's book, "William's World," which I am enclosing.

I hope you will pass it on to Mrs. Clinton, and I also hope our paths will cross again soon! I send you best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rita".

Rita Harmon
Executive Director

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 29, 1998

Ms. Sara Harris
Producer
ABC News Intercontinental, Inc.
Moscow 121019
Russia

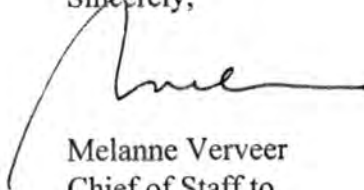
Dear Sara:

It is always good to hear from you for I have such fond memories of our conversations and travels together. The news from Moscow often seems confusing - one hopes that the commitment to democracy and market reforms will continue unimpeded.

Unfortunately, I was out of the country when your son was in Washington and your fax was not read until I returned. Obviously, had I been here I would have liked to have seen him. I have passed Dimitri's phone number on to my son in Madison.

Stay in touch and I hope to visit with you again - hopefully before too long.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

P.S. Melanne been xoxoxo

Reponse to
attached

Dear Dana -

It is always good to
hear from you for I have
such fond memories of our conversations
& travels together. The news
from Moscow ~~is always~~ ^{often} seems
confusing - ~~as it seems~~.
One hopes ~~it~~ ^{it} will all work
out over time.

Unfortunately, I was out of
the country when your son
was in Washington and your
fax was not read until
I returned. Obviously, had
I been here I could have
liked to see him. ~~with respect~~
I have passed Dimitri's phone #
on to my son in Madison.

Wrote ~~forward~~ stay in touch
and I hope to visit with
you again - hopefully before too long.



ABC News Intercontinental, Inc., B Afanasyevski Per. d. 7 (formerly ul. Myaslovskogo 7), Moscow, Russia

Fax: 7095-202-58-27 or 212-456-1303 Telex: 41347

To: Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady

From: Sara Harris
Producer ABC News

Phone #: _____

Fax #: _____

Comments: (personal)

If transmission is interrupted or of poor quality,
please call: 7095-232-37-37
or from NY: 85-2500

This Fax contains 3 pages. (including this sheet)

ABC News Intercontinental, Inc. Moscow 121019

B. Afanasyevsky per. 7

tel. (7-095) 232-3737 fax: (7-095) 202-5827

**To: Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
Fax: (202) 456-6244**

**From: Sara Harris
Producer-ABC News
April 15, 1998**

Dear Melanne,

I reread your beautiful letter today which brought back memories of the incredible trip we took together last November. I hope all that has happened since then has not clouded out the joy and excitement of that adventure. I have thought of you and the First Family many times since then and my heart is with you. I have never felt so ashamed for my profession. What amazes me is how little media attention is paid to all the positive bills that have been passed during the Clinton administration, bills that have a direct and urgent effect on our lives!

Your letter gave me the idea to ask your advice on a matter of concern to me. My older son Andre Kamenshikov has worked actively in the area of human rights and conflict resolution for the past six years. I think I mentioned this to you but I am not sure. (I know I spoke about my younger son Dimitri who is in Madison.) Andre is Director of Nonviolence International in the Newly Independent States (NINIS). Former Congressman Lantos of California is aware of his work. Much of Andre's attention has been directed toward the situation in and around Chechnya. He has spent considerable time in the Northern Caucasus. He is quite alarmed with the seriousness of the most recent developments in that area and fears that a new major war in the Northern Caucasus is imminent - which could easily spread to bordering states and involve the international community. His concern is that this could become a second Yugoslavia or worse.

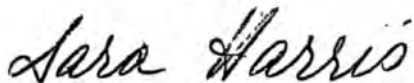
Andre is in the United States now and I can't help but wonder if it would be valuable for him to share his observations about this situation. He will be in Washington on Thursday and Friday of this week (April 16th and 17th.) If there is any interest or concern, he can be reached then through Nonviolence International tel. (202) 244-0951 or 244-5545. I could also pass a message on to him. My home phone/fax in Moscow is (7-095) 336-5323. If my suggestion in any way inconveniences you, I apologise in advance. During our tour last fall I developed a great deal of respect for

you and the First Lady and sensed your sincere concern for the welfare of the world community.

I send you and Mrs. Clinton my very best greetings. I look forward to an opportunity to continue our conversation and to learn more about your fascinating story, as you say, either in Washington or Moscow. As a second best, if your son would enjoy meeting an American who grew up in Moscow, I am sure my other son would be delighted to meet him. Dimitri Kamenshikov's phone in Madison is (608) 277-5545.

In hopes that we can again visit some part of the world together,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Harris".

Sara Harris (producer, ABC News)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 14, 1998

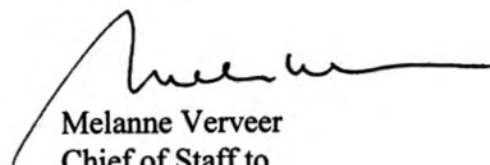
Dean Serafina Hager
Georgetown University
Faculty of Language & Linguistics
37 & O Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20057

Dear Dean Hager:

I regret that I was unable to attend the organizing meeting for FLL's 50th Anniversary but we were in the throes of final preparations for the President's trip to Africa. I know from Kathy Baczko plans are being developed for a memorable celebration.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to be helpful. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

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

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

Huma-
P's type
up
thinks

Hager
Dean Serafine Hager
Georgetown University
Faculty Languages + Linguistics
37 + 0 82 is NW
Wash, DC 20557

Dear Dean Hager:

I regret that I was unable
to attend the ~~original~~ ^{original} meeting
~~planning~~
for FLL's 50th anniversary.

~~We were in the throes of~~ I know

from Kathy Baczkus that

but we were in the throes of

final prep'ns for the President's

trip to Africa. I know from Kathy Baczkus

~~off Kathy Baczkus~~

~~that~~ plans are being

~~developed for~~

developed for ~~the~~

Laugh Track

David Letterman, noting it was very windy in NYC over the weekend: "I don't know if it's because of El Nino, or President Clinton breathing a sigh of relief." Letterman, on Pres. Clinton saying he wanted his day in court: "Bill, just relax. Maybe one of the other hundred women you hit on will come through for you" ("Late Show," 4/6). Jay Leno, on the return of *The Odd Couple* to the big screen: "Hillary and Bill are back in Washington. Yeah, the odd couple are back with more wacky adventures." Leno, on Energy Sec. Federico Pena: "I love saying his name, Federico Pena. You want to make love when you say that name" ("Tonight Show," 4/6). Arianna Huffington, on her visit to the WH: "When I was there the White House was like Disneyland -- outside the Lincoln Bedroom there was a sign that read: 'You have to be this high to ride the president'" ("Hardball," CNBC, 4/6). For those planning to RSVP for Juwan Howard's next party, click [Back Bench](#).

From The Mind Of Somerby

Bob Somerby: "THIS JUST IN!! TAMMY WYNETTE DEAD AT 55! Yet, another Clinton-related death!!" His "ruminations" on Candidate Bono: "Good news for Democrats: Mary Bono met Sonny at her college graduation. Prediction: She'll side with the Dems on the Monica thing." On "Family Values" and the fact that Bono's mother-in-law came out against her candidacy: "Savvy grandma knows she will get stuck with the kids." On the fact widows "always seem to win these elections": "If Ralph Waite (Pa Walton) had died in office, would Michael Learned have been able to run for the seat?" And, finally, from our "We-Get-The-Actors-In-Congress-That-We-Deserve" file: "We elected Gopher and Cooter, we turn down Pa Walton? Why do we always complain about Congress, when we elect only the dumb-guy acting parts to the seats?" (4/7 release to *Hotline*).

TOP TEN WAYS TO MAKE FILING TAXES MORE EXCITING

10. New law: Everyone pays what they want, Bill Gates takes care of the rest.
9. Have H. Block fight R. Block on Jerry Springer.
8. New tax form envelope that reads: "You May Already Owe Ten Million Dollars!"
7. List your income as "whatever I find on the floor of the D train."
6. Instead of mailing in your returns, a guy dressed as Uncle Sam goes door-to-door collecting, and you're allowed to kick his ass.
5. One in every five W-2 forms will burst into flames when you write on it.
4. Find Waldo in your 1040, and win a \$10 million refund.
3. New question on tax form: "Name someone you'd like us to audit 'till their ears bleed."
2. IRS must tell you if Clinton deducts your wife as an entertainment expense.
1. Voluntarily enclose a urine sample ("Late Show," 4/6).

[\(Back to Contents\)](#)

The Hotline Earlybird

8:00 a.m. Each weekday. Only on Cloakroom.

**National
Journal**
cloakroom.com

ADVERTISEMENT

a memorable

Celebration, and wanted you to

~~know if I can be helpful in anyway~~

please let me know if there's ^{anything} ~~anyway~~

^{do to} I can be helpful. ~~to you~~

1

Neloune Turner SLC '66

38 NEWSWEEK: It's That Time Of Year For Religion Polling

775 adults surveyed 4/2-3, margin of error +/- 4%.

Are you born-again or Evangelical Christian?

Protestant	30%
Evang. Prot.	24
Roman Catholic	24
Mormon	2
Jewish	1
Other	9
No Religion	6

Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit?

	Yes	No
All Christians	47%	48%
Evangelical Prot	75	21
Other Protestant	34	59
Catholic	37	60

The last time you felt the Holy Spirit, it was ...

Spiritual Exper.	13%
Physical Exper.	4
Mental Enlighten	6
Change of Heart	4
All above @ once	20
Never had	52

[\(Back to Contents\)](#)

► TV MONITOR

This Morning

"GMA" hosted Clinton adviser Rahm Emanuel v. NRA's Wayne LaPierre on the assault weapons ban. "Today" and "CBS This Morning" hosted House Speaker Newt Gingrich. "FOX Morning News" hosted Cato Inst.'s Lea Abdnor and National Cmte. to Preserve Social Security's Max Richtman. C-SPAN's "Washington Journal" hosted *Dallas Morning News*' Carl Leubsdorf, ADA's Bob Corolla, ACU's Bill Pascoe, NOW's Elizabeth Toledo and IWF's Anita Blair.

Today/Tonight

For the most up-to-date TV listings, [click here](#).

Last Night

CNN led with the Dow breaking 9000. All other nets led with breast cancer research. "NewsHour" focused on assault weapons with Clinton adviser Rahm Emanuel. "Inside Politics" hosted Ex-Clinton WH Special Counsel Lanny Davis and Ex-Bush WH Counsel C. Boyden Gray, and Energy Sec. Federico Pena. "Special Report" hosted Lucianne Goldberg. "InterNight" hosted Marcia Clark, ex-Paula Jones atty Joe Camaratta, *Reader's Digest*'s Michael Barone and ex-IC Michael Zeldin. "Hardball" hosted MD LG Kathleen Kennedy Townsend (D), Arianna Huffington, *USA Today*'s Walter Shapiro and *Time*'s Karen Tumulty. "Big Show" hosted Rep. Bob Barr (R-GA). "The News" hosted House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA). "Rivera Live" hosted ex-Paula Jones atty Joe Camaratta and Dee Dee Myers. "Charles Grodin" hosted ABC's Sam Donaldson, Dee Dee Myers, Lanny Davis, ex-Bush AG Dick Thornburgh and *Standard*'s Tucker Carlson. "White House in Crisis" hosted *Time*'s Karen Tumulty, *Washington Post*'s David Maraniss, and *Newsweek*'s Howard Fineman. "Charlie Rose" hosted House Speaker Newt Gingrich. "Nightline" examined the children of the war in Rwanda.

TV SOUNDBITE

"I'm not an adviser to the Republican Party, but if I were -- "

-- Pat Robertson, offering advice to the GOP, "700 Club," CBN, 4/7

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 17, 1998

Ms. Janet Howard
The Coca-Cola Company
800 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 711
Washington, DC 20006

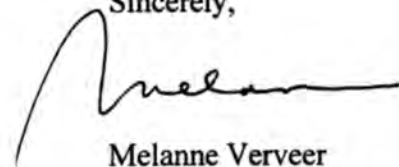
Dear Janet:

Thank you very much for your letter and for the extraordinary exhibition book and related materials on *China: 5,000* and for your invitation to the First Lady to attend An Issue Evening on March 23.

Regrettably, Mrs. Clinton will be unable to join you as we will be traveling with the President in Africa during that time. We send our best wishes for a successful and productive evening.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

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

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

Humma -

pls reach a
response

regret. IHC & Iore
in Africa

Congratulatory
Thank for
the material

The Coca-Cola Company

WASHINGTON, D.C.

(R)

JANET A. HOWARD
DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
MANAGER, WASHINGTON OFFICE

March 13, 1998

800 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 711
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
TEL (202) 973-2650
FAX (202) 296-0047

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Melanne:

Recognizing 1998's pivotal importance in Chinese-American relations, the President of The Coca-Cola Company's Middle and Far East Group, Mr. Douglas N. Daft, has encouraged several initiatives.

As you will see from the attached materials, The Coca-Cola Company has entered into a partnership with the Guggenheim Museum in New York for their art exhibition, *China: 5,000 Years*, and as you know, the First Lady is the Honorary Chair for the exhibition. In November, we will help underwrite a "return exhibition" of *America: 300 Years* that will first be in Beijing in November and then travels to Shanghai in March 1999. We hope these two exhibitions may help both the American and Chinese publics have a broader understanding of each country.

An Issue Evening has been scheduled on Monday, March 23rd at the Meridian House here in Washington. We hope very much that you can give serious consideration for the First Lady to attend. The speakers are listed on the attached page, and the audience will be a high-level group of 45 people from academia, business, labor, and possibly two or three Members of Congress. (Senator Feinstein has accepted.)

Mr. Daft and our staff here want to do everything possible to help make 1998 a year of positive progress for what the President is trying to achieve in his summit this June.

Please let me know any questions you may have and we look forward to your response.

Best regards,

Sincerely,



Enclosures

*Of course, we would be honored if she
could give some remarks —*

An Issue Evening on
Sino-U.S. Relations
Meridian International Center
Washington, D.C.
Monday, March 23, 1998

7:00 p.m.	Drinks
7:30 p.m.	Presentations and dialogue
8:45 p.m.	Dinner
10:00 p.m.	Evening concludes

Speakers:

The Honorable Bill Richardson *(invited)*
United States Ambassador to the United Nations

Mr. Thomas Krens
On the occasion of the 1998 exhibition, *China: 5,000 Years*
Director, The Guggenheim Museum, New York

Dr. Harry J. Harding, Jr.
Dean, Elliott School of International Affairs
The George Washington University

Mr. Douglas N. Daft
Senior Vice President, The Coca-Cola Company
President, Middle and Far East Group

Mr. R. Michael Gadbaw
Vice President and Senior Counsel
General Electric International

Moderator:

Dr. Charles B. Knapp
President, The Aspen Institute

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 23, 1998

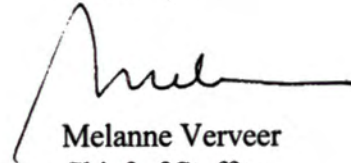
Ms. Jane Hickie
Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson & Hand
901 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Jane:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter and for the information on the Women's Museum. I am hopeful that we will be able to schedule a D.C. announcement. We will let you know once a decision is made.

Thanks and best wishes. Hope all is well.

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

to Jane



VERNER · LIIPFERT
BERNHARD · McPHERSON & HAND
CHARTERED

901 - 15TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-2301
(202) 371-6000
FAX: (202) 371-6279

February 9, 1998

to Bobbie
HOLD
pending a
decision

Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
100 Old Executive Office Building
17th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Melanne:

I am sorry that you were not able to come for breakfast on Friday, January 16th, but am glad to learn of your interest in the Women's Museum.

Enclosed you will find materials about the project. I have given your name to Candace O'Keefe at the Foundation for Women's Resources to discuss the museum further. Any advice you could offer on the project would be welcome.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Jane Hickie

In no way thank
Mr. Clinton could
not be part of
the Advisory
Committee for this
project - it needs to honor
their leadership - I'd like
to call you to help to make
something

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 20, 1998

Mr. Lester S. Hyman
Swidler & Berlin
3000 K Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20007-5116

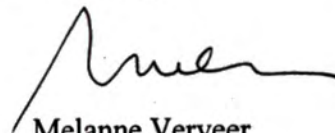
Dear Lester:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding a visit by the First Lady to West Africa in July to attend the 150th Anniversary of the Republic of Liberia.

I will be traveling this week on the President's trip to Africa. Please call me when we are back and we can discuss your proposal. Because of the First Lady's upcoming schedule, however, I think it is highly doubtful that she will be able to travel to Liberia.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

SWIDLER
&
BERLIN
CHARTERED

LESTER S. HYMAN
SENIOR OF COUNSEL

DIRECT DIAL
(202) 424-7509
LSHYMAN@SWIDLAW.COM

March 12, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Office of the First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Melanne:

As U.S. counsel for the Republic of Liberia, I write to ask whether I can meet with the appropriate members of the First Lady's staff to discuss the possibility of Mrs. Clinton going to West Africa in July to attend the ceremonies marking the 150th anniversary of Liberia, and, more importantly, having the opportunity to pursue her agenda of promoting women's and children's rights. I would propose to come alone to such a meeting so we could talk frankly and not risk any awkwardness if the proposal is not acceptable.

Jesse Jackson tells me that he already has reported to President and Mrs. Clinton on his recent constructive visit to Liberia and, as you can see from the attached Washington Post article of March 1st, the political and economic situation in that country is promising.

Liberia is the only country in all of Africa with deep ties to the United States. The modern republic was established by emancipated men and women who traveled from the United States to Liberia under the auspices of the American Colonization Society which was the brainchild of Francis Scott Key. Among the Board members were Daniel Webster, Henry Clay and John Marshall. During World War II, Liberia agreed that its foreign flag ships would be placed at the disposal of the United States in the event of a wartime emergency. During the Cold War, America's key Voice of America listening post was located in Liberia. Monrovia, the capital, is named after President James Monroe. The port city of Buchanan is named after President James Buchanan. The Constitution of Liberia was written at Harvard Law School. The new President, Charles Taylor, was educated in the United States (Bentley College in Boston), as is the case with most of his Cabinet. Even the Liberian flag closely resembles the flag of the United States.

I would wager that not 1 out of 1000 Americans knows any of the historical background set forth above. Liberia truly is America's forgotten partner. On this anniversary of Liberia's founding, it is time to disabuse ourselves of that notion. By her visit, Mrs. Clinton could achieve that purpose.

Ms. Melanne Verveer
March 12, 1998
Page 2

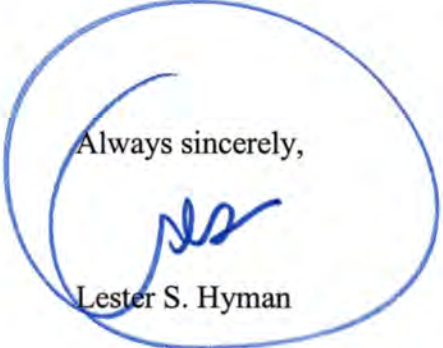
I have some specific ideas on how Mrs. Clinton can promote her agenda interests through a visit to Liberia. In particular, I suggest that she can tackle head-on the use of children in warfare. It could be an extremely important opportunity.

All I ask is thirty minutes to discuss and expand upon the above themes with the staff and ask whether they might recommend to Mrs. Clinton that she honor Liberia on its 150th anniversary by her presence. Only if they and she agree would I then have my clients issue a formal invitation to the First Lady.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, Melanne -- I do hope that you will grant me this appointment.

Warmest regards.

Always sincerely,



Lester S. Hyman

Enclosure

LSH:lsj:4956.01

Thanks, Melanne!

WORLD NEWS

Liberian President Rebuilding Nation He Helped Destroy *Burdens of Office Moderate Leader of Militia in Civil War*

By James Rupert
Washington Post Foreign Service

MONROVIA, Liberia
On Friday the 13th, Liberian President Charles Taylor confronted an old foe: Nigerian troops of the West African peacekeeping force that helped end Liberia's civil war—a war that Taylor started.

The Nigerians had used Liberian territory to stage their attack last month on the military junta ruling neighboring Sierra Leone and had captured junta members who had fled to Liberia in helicopters. Taylor condemned the arrests as a violation of Liberian sovereignty and told Nigeria to hand over the Sierra Leoneans—or else.

The Nigerian army instead seized Monrovia's airports and stationed tanks in its streets. A Nigerian jet rattled the city with thunderous passes barely higher than the shell-pocked presidential office building.

Taylor and his closest lieutenants were angry enough that some around him thought he might order the Nigerians out of the country—a step that would have put Liberia's fragile recovery from war at risk.

But, said one of Taylor's aides, he surprised them by summoning a group of politicians and religious leaders, including one of his toughest critics, Roman Catholic Archbishop Michael Francis. After consulting them, Taylor decided that a confrontation with Nigeria, while emotionally satisfying, would not be what Liberia needed.

"He came out and said he was going to go home and shoot some basketball to calm down," the aide said.

Seven months after Taylor was elected to Liberia's presidency, he is being changed by it, Liberians and foreign diplomats say. From 1989 to 1996, Taylor dominated Liberia's civil war with a militia—the National Patriotic Front of Liberia—that armed children as soldiers and frequently killed and brutalized civilians.

"He was not known for listening to other people," a diplomat said. But as an elected leader trying to rebuild the state he helped destroy, Taylor is appealing to other Liberians and foreigners for help.

Especially in the past two months, Taylor has begun "a degree of consultation with people from outside" his faction, said Samuel Woods, director of Liberia's Catholic Justice and Peace Commission. Taylor and his aides have more regularly summoned religious, politi-

A CHANGED MAN

Seven months after being elected president of Liberia, Charles Taylor is being changed by it, say Liberians and foreign diplomats. From 1989 to 1996, Taylor dominated Liberia's civil war with a militia that killed and brutalized civilians. In the past two months he has begun to consult with people from outside his faction, some say.

CHARLES MCARTHUR TAYLOR

Born and raised in Liberia; he is 49. Graduated in 1977 from Bentley College, a little-known business school in Waltham, Mass., with a degree in economics.

After seizing power in 1980 from President William R. Tolbert Jr., President Samuel K. Doe invited Taylor to return to Liberia to be director general of the General Services Agency.

He served three years in the government before vanishing in 1983 amid accusations that he embezzled nearly \$1 million from the Liberian treasury. Interpol tracked him to the United States, and he was picked up by U.S. authorities in May 1984, on a Liberian extradition warrant. He escaped from a Massachusetts jail in 1985 to avoid trial on the Liberian charges and later appeared in Ghana.

On Dec. 24, 1989, Taylor and a small band of men invaded

cal and civic leaders to meet with them, said Woods and others. And, they said, harassment of journalists has decreased, as have human rights abuses.

Taylor appears to be responding to appeals for administrative reforms to restore the state's finances and permit resuscitation of the economy. And he seems to be groping for a reconciliation with old foes, while keeping firm control of political and military power.

Still, it is not clear how independent Taylor can be of the militia members and commanders who fought

under him for seven years. "He is surrounded by his security people, telling him, 'You're threatened—you have to support and fund us,'" said a Liberian intellectual who asked not to be quoted by name.

Thousands of young men who fought for Taylor during the war are illiterate, untrained and feeling hopeless about the future. In rural areas they set up roadblocks to shake down travelers for "tolls."

"The guns are buried for now," said a Western aid worker who has traveled extensively in the interior.

See LIBERIA, A23, Col. 4



PHOTO BY DAVID GUTTENFELDER—THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charles Taylor attends a Baptist church service with his wife in Monrovia on Sunday, July 20, 1997. He was a presidential candidate at the time.

Liberia from the Ivory Coast to topple Doe's government and did,

thus starting Liberia's seven-year war.

In July 1997, he was elected president in what Liberians say was their freest voting ever.

SOURCES: Wire reports, The World Almanac 1998.

BY ROBERT DORRELL—THE WASHINGTON POST

Liberia's Leader Moderating His Militancy

LIBERIA, From A21

And, for now, the country seems exhausted by the years of war. But should the exhaustion and patience of the ex-fighters wane, "they will know where to find" guns, the aid worker said.

Taylor's turn to the outside is visible in his choice of economic advisers, diplomats and economists said. He appointed a World Bank economist, Elie Saleeby, as finance minister and recently named "technically efficient people" to replace his sister-in-law as planning minister and another longtime loyalist as transport minister, a diplomat said. Many other officials of Taylor's faction, some regarded as corrupt, remain in key economic posts, the diplomat said.

In an interview, Saleeby voiced confidence that Taylor is committed to basic administrative and economic reforms. Saleeby has been struggling to revive government finances, which for years have been sluiced into the pockets of the various militias competing for power. Liberia's budget for this year amounts to \$41 million—less than the Washington, D.C., financial control board has spent on consultants, lawyers and contracts.

Saleeby guessed that the government's revenue base last year represented no more than 10 to 15 percent of Liberia's economy. After reviving and streamlining customs and business tax collections, Saleeby said, "we're tapping perhaps 60 or 65 percent" of the economy. Much of the rest escapes through corruption and smuggling, notably of gold and diamonds, he said.

Taylor's government is to meet in early April with potential foreign aid donors, including the U.S. government, to discuss what help they might offer Liberia. Saleeby said Liberia's withered economy and state "will be able to absorb only a portion of its needs. . . . I would be open to looking for \$600 [million] to \$750 million over two years."

To combat donors' fears of corruption or waste, "I'm prepared to appoint a firm of international auditors to monitor our use of aid funds and report back to the donor community," Saleeby said.

Taylor's opening to people outside his longtime circle does not extend to security issues. Shortly after taking office, he barred the West African peace force from helping to rebuild the Liberian army, as had been foreseen by the peace plan that ended the civil war.

Taylor has retired an estimated 2,000 members of the old Liberian army—which was dominated by ethnic Krahnns who were among Taylor's most bitter enemies—and is replacing them with his loyalists.

Several analysts, including Woods, questioned how independent Taylor can be of his old militia security chiefs, who now serve in key state positions.

These include Joe Tate, a cousin of Taylor's who is director of the Liberian national police. Tate helped lead a six-week spasm of violence and looting in 1996 in Monrovia. After Taylor named Tate to his job, the United States canceled a project to help train the Liberian police "because Congress wouldn't stand for spending money on Joe Tate," a U.S. analyst said.

Human rights groups and the State Department say security agencies have harassed and brutalized Taylor's critics. In November, police arrested an opposition politician, Samuel Dokie, and three relatives. They handed the Dokies to men from the presidential bodyguard, the Special Security Service, and the Dokies' burned, mutilated bodies were found three days later. The Special Security Service director, Benjamin Yeaten, acknowledged having ordered the arrests, but denied ordering the killings.

A court dismissed murder charges Thursday against three Special Security agents accused of the killings, and the government pressed charges against two civilian codefendants.

Tate has arrested journalists, notably from the *Inquirer*, a Monrovia newspaper, and the government closed two independent radio stations for a week in January. In an interview, Taylor said the stations' closure had been "on pure, technical grounds . . . [of] improper registration." He said a recent closure of the *Inquirer* was justified because the paper had published an ill-founded story that encouraged civil upheaval.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 23, 1998

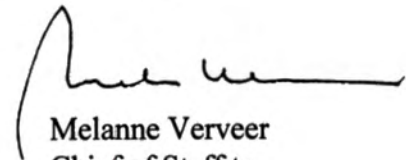
Dr. Hassan Hatout
The Islamic Center of Southern California
434 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Dear Dr. Hatout:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you very much for your thoughtful letter and for "Reading the Muslim Mind." We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a large, sweeping initial 'M'.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



©
Thanks

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE BENEFICIENT, THE MERCIFUL
THE ISLAMIC CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
434 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020
INFORMATION (213) 384-5783 BUSINESS (213) 384-6324 FAX (213) 382-9200

February 11, 1998

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Old Executive Office
17th and G Street, Room 100
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

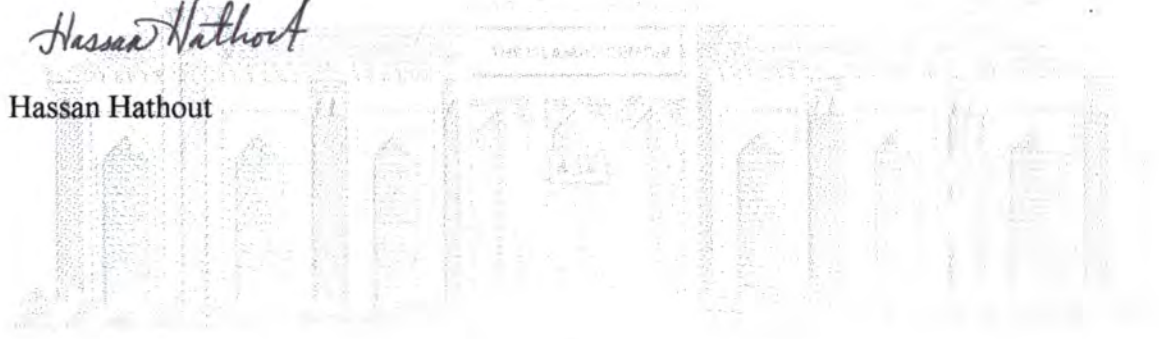
Your gracious reception of Muslims at The White House for Eid on January 29, 1998, prompts yet another thank you. We have been very impressed, and feel very grateful.

I am sending a copy of my book, "Reading the Muslim Mind", in case you or Chelsea wish to have some more insight in Islam.

With my kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Hassan Hathout



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 12, 1998

His All Holiness
The Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew of Constantinople
Rum Patrikhansi
34220 Fener
Halic Istanbul, Turkey

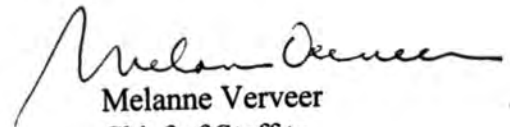
Your All Holiness:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter and for the wonderful gifts for the First Lady and myself which Father Alex has forwarded to us from you. It was a privilege to receive you at the White House. The First Lady's words of welcome spoke for all of us, particularly for those of us who were privileged to visit with you in Istanbul.

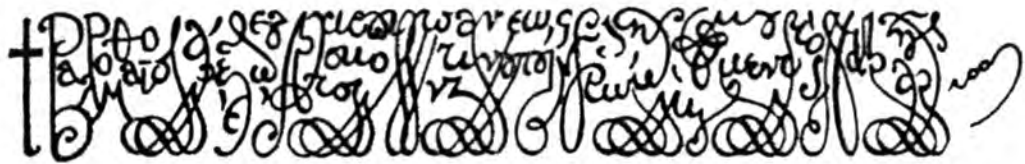
We wish you the blessings of the Christmas Season and a fullness of God's blessings. Thank you for many kindnesses

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



† Bartholomew, by the grace of God, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch

Miss Melanne Vermeer, Office of the First Lady, beloved in the Lord: Grace and peace to you from God.

Now that we have returned to our own City, we take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation and thanks to you for all of your labors on behalf of our first Patriarchal visit to America. Your careful preparations and attention to detail helped to make the reception of our Modesty as the White House with the First Lady a truly memorable experience. On behalf of our own person and the Most Reverend Members of the Holy and Sacred Synod, we express our warmest thanks to you for your devotion and dedication to your duties.

We will always remember you in our prayers here at the Ecumenical Patriarchate, commending you to the love and care of Saint Andrew the First-Called Apostle, the Holy Protector of our Patriarchate. As Ecumenical Patriarch, we bestow on you and your loved ones our Patriarchal and paternal blessing, praying that our good and gracious Lord will grant you good health, prosperity and progress in all your endeavors.

May our Savior, the Pre-Eternal God, Who is coming to be born in Bethlehem for our salvation, grant you a blessed feast filled with angelic joy and divine love, and may His grace and infinite mercy be with you always.

At the Patriarchate, December 1, 1997

Your fervent supplicant before God,

THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH



† Κυριε ανυψωθεις Ιαδοξαμος

† Bartholomew of Constantinople

December 22, 1997

Mr. Val Halamandaris
Executive Director
Caring Institute
513 C Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-5809

Dear Val:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter. It was so nice to hear from you.

Thanks also for *Caring People*, which I have shared with others here.

Best wishes and happy holidays!.

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

CARING

2

P U B L I S H I N G

Val J. Halamandaris, Publisher

Heather Dittbrenner, Editor

December 2, 1997

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Deputy Chief of Staff
to the First Lady
Office of the First Lady
OEOB, Room 100
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Melanne:

The purpose of this note is to wish you all the best during this holiday season and throughout the new year. My fondest wish is for your health and happiness.

I am taking the liberty of enclosing the latest issue of our *Caring People* magazine, which contains our salute to the most caring men and women in America. If you know someone who should be honored with a national Caring Award, please let me know.

I hope that 1998 will be your best year ever.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Val J. Halamandaris
Publisher

VJH:amw
Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 12, 1998

Ms. Marge Hartigan
The Chicago Community Trust
222 North LaSalle Street
Suite 1400
Chicago, IL 60601-1009

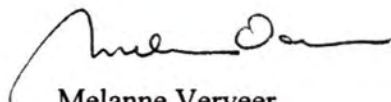
Dear Ms. Hartigan:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you very much for your letter and invitation to *The Chicago Dinners*.

It is too early to determine whether the First Lady will be able to attend. Our scheduling office will be in touch once a decision has been made. In the meantime, we look forward to receiving further information about specific dates.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



December 3, 1997

Hillary Rodham Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I am writing in follow-up to the round table discussion on race relations that took place during your recent visit to Chicago for your birthday celebration.

As I mentioned at that time, the Human Relations Foundation of Chicago, a supporting organization of The Chicago Community Trust on whose Executive Committee I serve, sponsors *The Chicago Dinners: A Night of Unity*. This event is a series of dinners that brings together civic, business and community leaders from various racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds in small groups to socialize and discuss issues of race. Over 800 individuals have participated in a single evening.

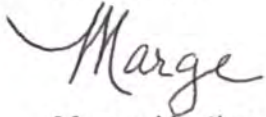
The Chicago Dinners is inspired by the belief that informal conversations among small groups of community leaders from different racial and ethnic backgrounds is a vital step in healing our country's racial and ethnic divisions. The beauty of this strategy is its simplicity. Americans rarely find the opportunity for honest conversations about race, even among social or professional peers.

The Chicago Dinners is a place where we can get to know each other, speak from the heart about important things and gain a stronger sense of community. These dinners encourage and nurture conversation about race that is both real and personal. They provide an opportunity to listen quietly and respectfully to fresh perspectives.

I have enclosed a description of the logistics of *The Chicago Dinners* and some of the things written about the dinners for your information. The next round of *The Chicago Dinners* will be in April 1998. We would be delighted, if your schedule permits, for you to attend one of the dinners. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the possibility with one of your staff members.

I believe that *The Chicago Dinners* process is an effective model for opening racial dialogue and hope that you agree. If you have any questions, feel free to call me or Clarence Wood who serves as President of the Human Relations Foundation of Chicago at 312.456.7745.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marge". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Marge Hartigan



Why the Chicago Dinners?

The Chicago Dinners: A Night of Unity is inspired by the belief that informal conversations among small groups of community leaders from different racial and ethnic backgrounds is a vital step in healing our country's racial and ethnic divisions. The beauty of this strategy is its simplicity. Americans rarely find the opportunity for honest conversations about race, even among social or professional peers.

The Chicago Dinners is a place where we can get to know each other, speak from the heart about important things and gain a stronger sense of community. These dinners encourage and nurture conversation about race that is both real and personal. They provide an opportunity to listen quietly and respectfully to fresh perspectives.

When it comes to race, we're usually too concerned about being politically correct to have real conversations with one another. If you wouldn't say it on national television, better not say it at all. We are so careful not to offend that we don't really say what's on our minds and in our hearts. Sometimes what's really in our minds and hearts isn't something we want to acknowledge to ourselves, either. So, better no to talk about race at all. Leave that to the sociologists or to the demagogues.

When we *do* talk about race, we don't often talk about our own personal feelings and experiences. We say things we believe we *should*. This is especially true within our peer groups. we fear isolation if we are perceived as holding views that might put us at odds with our friends and our colleagues.

It's even more uncomfortable talking about race with people of different races and ethnicity. We hold ourselves in check, unsure of what to say, wary of stirring surprising and unpredictable emotions. Too often there's a political agenda afoot, which tends to polarize people rather than bring them together. Agendas get in the way of real conversation.

But if we don't talk realistically about race in America, our solutions to the challenges we face as a community will always be constructed on the soft ground of half-truths. If we fear we might offend, we will be afraid to try bold approaches to public and social policy in our community. People of good will must talk with one another and share their thoughts honestly about an issue that touches us fundamentally. Otherwise we will allow our community attitudes and policies to be shaped by the most strident voices.

We will fulfill the prophecy of the Irish poet William Butler Yeats, who wrote in "The Second Coming":

*"The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity."*

The Chicago Dinners: A Night of Unity Project Overview

*"This event was one of the most important efforts in race relations
in Chicago in a long time."*

--1995 Chicago Dinners Host

- "The Chicago Dinners: A Night of Unity" is a series of dinners coordinated by the Human Relations Foundation of Chicago that brings together civic, business, and community leaders from a variety of racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds in small groups to socialize and discuss issues of race.
- The beauty of the strategy behind The Chicago Dinners is its simplicity. Americans rarely find the opportunity for honest conversations about race, even among social or professional peers. Informal conversations among small, diverse groups of community leaders can be a vital first step in healing our country's racial and ethnic divisions.
- The Chicago Community Trust and The Human Relations Foundation kicked off The Chicago Dinners project with a landmark event on November 28, 1995. That evening, more than 500 community leaders from around the Chicago area participated in 71 dinners held in people's homes, places of business, or local restaurants throughout the city and suburbs.
- The Chicago Dinners have created momentum across the Chicago area for launching a positive dialogue to build bridges across the widening racial, ethnic, and religious divides in our city and country. Since the first round of dinners in November, many hosts and guests have initiated similar events on their own to continue the dialogue they started that first evening.
- The positive momentum stimulated by the initial round of dinners is being maintained through the day-to-day activities of dinner participants. Dinner groups have reconvened on their own to continue the conversation they began last November. Participants have initiated similar dialogues about race relations in their workplaces or places of worship. The project has also inspired multi-ethnic community development, arts, and sports programs.
- The format of The Chicago Dinners is simple. Each dinner is hosted by a Chicago community leader, and takes place at the host's location of choice. Hosts plan and sponsor their own dinners, and all dinners take place on the same evening.

**A SAMPLING OF EDITORIAL
COMMENTS**

A Bountiful Feast for the Soul

■ Recent "unity dinners" designed to improve race relations left most diners hungry for more.

Personal View / By Laura S. Washington

Here we go again.

That was my reaction to a recent invitation to attend a "Chicago Dinner: A Night of Unity," designed to bring city leaders and professionals together for frank conversations about race. Where have I heard that one before?

In the last two months, I've been invited to participate in at least a dozen panels, seminars, conferences and forums attempting to tackle the thorny subject of race.

I was skeptical that yet another round of conversations would move us beyond the usual rhetoric and hand-wringing over race relations.

But sponsor Clarence Wood, president of the city's Human Relations Foundation, wrote in his invitation to the Unity Dinners: "We rarely find the opportunity for honest conversations about race, even among our social or professional peers." He's right.

So I joined about 920 others at 83 dinners, most in private homes from Hyde Park to Elmhurst to Glencoe. Since then I have heard from several dozen participants.

All agreed that this is a significant step in a city often considered the most segregated in the nation. What surprised me most about their comments is what they learned from one another:

■ Chicago was founded by a black man, French trader and explorer Jean Baptiste DuSable.

■ Some white participants said the dinners were the first time they had visited the South Side. They

didn't know about thriving, predominantly black communities such as Chatham and South Shore.

■ Black men are not the only ones who get followed in stores and malls by security guards. Just ask Latinos and Native Americans.

■ White women—not African Americans—have been the chief beneficiaries of affirmative action.

This is unsettling, even painful. But that's what makes these conversations so important. As one host put it: "We're talking about incredibly difficult stuff here."

Wood has pledged that dinners will continue; the next is planned for November. That's great. But

some participants offered some additional strategies:

■ Include people from working-class and low-income communities. The privileged class may hold most of the power, but they don't have all the answers.

■ Invite the politically incorrect. Liberals don't have a license on racial tolerance. Many conservatives agree that improving race relations is key to our survival. We all need to talk honestly to people who don't want to talk to us.

■ Participants left the dinner hungry for action. They want to do more talking about concrete steps they can take—tomorrow. Wood says he'll be exploring options.

■ Last: We need a new name for the dinner series. If they were "Unity Dinners," we wouldn't need to have them. But we also would not be the diverse, vibrant city that we are.

Laura S. Washington is editor and publisher of the Chicago Reporter.

Chicago Tribune

FOUNDED JUNE 10, 1847

JACK FULLER, *Publisher* HOWARD A. TYNER, *Editor*

N. DON WYCLIFF, *Editorial Page Editor* ANN MARIE LIPINSKI, *Managing Editor*

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22 Section 1

Friday, June 7, 1996

Food, drink and frank talk on race

In recent years, race relations have become like the weather: Everybody complains about them, but nobody does anything.

Well, not quite nobody. Clarence Wood, head of the Human Relations Foundation of Chicago, and Bruce Newman, head of the Chicago Community Trust, have chosen to act.

They created "The Chicago Dinners: A Night of Unity," a series of multi-racial, multi-ethnic dinner parties at which participants share food and drink—and discuss race relations.

Two rounds of dinners have been held so far. The first, held last Nov. 28, brought together more than 500 participants, in parties of 12 to 16, at 71 dinners and one lunch. The second round, held April 18, drew more than 850 people to 83 dinners in the city and the suburbs.

Most of the dinners are held in private homes, with one individual or couple serving as host. All of the

invitees are "community leaders" of some sort, whether in government, business, education, religion or another field. And all come committed to breaking down the barrier of silence behind which racial resentments smolder.

Have the dinners ushered in a new era of racial brotherhood? Of course not. But they have opened some minds and opened some lines of communication among people who otherwise would never have known or spoken to each other.

Has the execution been perfect? Of course not. Guest lists have been notably light on, for example, white ethnics from the city's Bungalow Belt, people who need to be engaged in a racial dialogue. Some affirmative action in that direction would be helpful.

But The Chicago Dinners are a work in progress. The crucial thing is that Wood and Newman have dared to do something about race relations, not just complain about them.

John McCarron



Pleading white but not guilty in the racial dialog

Just because I'm a white liberal doesn't mean I'm guilty. Nobody in my family owned slaves. Anything I've been able to scrape together in this world—the job, the mortgage, the mini-van and the IRA account—is the product of my own hard work and the support of my parents and family. I didn't exploit anybody and nobody exploited me.

Sociologists might call it a working-class background.

Whatever you call it, I think it's why I begged off last month when a friend invited me to dinner at their home, where a carefully selected bi-racial group of "leaders" was to discuss the tender issue of race in America. Dozens of these "unity" dinners have been held throughout the Chicago area over the last year.

Judging by the background of my would-be host and hostess (highly educated charitable-foundation types), I had a pretty good idea of how the evening would go. The African-American professionals at the table would relate the subtle, and not-so-subtle, forms of racism they have encountered throughout their lives. The white professionals would nod sympathetically and, when their turns came, confess to their own little acts of bigotry. Perhaps the time they mistook a black executive for a secretary, or switched lines at Dominicks to avoid the cashier with the dreadlocks.

In other words, the evening was likely to be a warm and fuzzy white guilt trip. And frankly, with apologies to my liberal friends and co-workers, I no longer do white guilt trips. Not if I can avoid them. And almost never on my own time, because my day job requires me to attend far too many one-sided discussions about race and racism.

Normally I just look at my shoes, because my perspective most often doesn't square with the racial correctness that suffuses most college seminar rooms, non-profit workshops and, yes, newsrooms and editorial boards.

Within such rarefied circles, racism is almost always regarded as something whites perpetrate against blacks. Bad behavior by whites is almost always attributed to hatred, greed or some other base motive. Bad behavior by blacks is generally

bad behavior by whites is almost always attributed to hatred; greed or some other base motive. Bad behavior by blacks is generally laid to negative social circumstances.

laid to negative social circumstances (bad schools, job discrimination, ineffective social programs) and those circumstances are almost always blamed on whites.

There is a measure of truth to such generalizations, to be sure. I spent too many collegiate hours listening to cultural historians such as George Fredrickson and the late Christopher Lasch to be unaware of the effects of Negro slavery, Jim Crow and "benign" neglect. As a reporter, I've seen too many black neighborhoods destroyed by white slumlords and fast-buck mortgage brokers. Blacks have plenty to be angry about.

But so do whites. And that's where these one-sided attempts at "dialogue" fall short.

Somehow I don't think my hostess would have appreciated it if, over coffee and dessert, I had complained about the time my wife and I were chased off a tennis court in predominantly black west Evanston by a stone-throwing black guy. Or if I had pointed out that blacks commit twice as many acts of lethal violence against whites as whites commit against blacks.

You can look it up, though you'd never guess it from reading the newspapers or listening to the race experts on TV. Black-on-white murders, like the slaughter last week of a Downers Grove teenager in an Oak Park alley, are not generally reported as racial incidents, nor do they prompt indignant editorials about hateful behavior. But let some white punk try to burn a cross on a black family's lawn, or spray the "N" word on a garage door, and the journalistic brimstone just flows and flows. As it should. But where's the balance?

My suspicion, based on recent election returns and conversations with the sort of people who don't get invited to "leadership" dinners, is that most working-class whites, including those who sympathized with the civil rights movement, have had it with the gospel of white oppression and black victimization. They've been preached to by "Roots" and scolded by innumerable PBS documentaries on the black experience... and they're ready to move on.

They do not see themselves as oppressors. On the contrary, they have begun to see themselves as victimized by the failure of fully a third of American blacks to assimilate into the economic mainstream. This despite 30 years and several trillion tax dollars worth of anti-poverty spending. They're angry, not sympathetic, that our state and federal jails are bursting with minorities, and that black men are being put behind bars at a rate six times that of white men.

Intellectuals call this "blaming the victim," which, to my mind, shows how out of touch they have become with the common understanding of who is a victim and who is a victimizer.

Is white racism a continuing blight on life in these United States? You bet it is. And it must be fought on every front.

But there's also something called black racism. And one of its symptoms is an unwillingness to move beyond the victim/oppressor paradigm. It's so much easier to blame others for one's troubles. But so very debilitating.

Until the paradigm shifts, guess who's not coming to dinner.

Chicago Tribune

FOUNDED JUNE 10, 1847

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14 - Section 1

Tuesday, June 18, 1996

'Non-guilt' pro

LOMBARD—I have only one word for John McCarron's June 10 Op-Ed column, headlined "Pleading white but not guilty in the racial dialog"—excellent.

My family's roots are in Poland, Hungary and the former Czechoslovakia, and I have never felt guilty or responsible because of how blacks have been treated. I was raised to treat everyone with respect regardless of skin color, religion or politics.

Mr. McCarron also is right about the one-sided coverage the news media give to crimes involving race. A good example could be a local TV station's June 8 story about a black woman who charged that the white management of a local pizza restaurant refused to serve her party. While being interviewed, the woman was identified as a "Discrimination victim."

Really? We have only her word, and aren't such charges normally resolved in the courts? Is unbiased coverage something that exists only in the pristine environment of journalism schools?

Dave Gorak

'Non-guilt' con

CHICAGO—I cannot overstate my disappointment in John McCarron's perspective on efforts to openly and frankly discuss race relations in an intimate, face-to-face environment. Frankly, I believe his views represent stereotyping and a lack of courage inconsistent with the intellectual openness of the liberal tradition he claims to be a part of.

McCarron assumes his host would bombard him with stories of white racism—to him, the classic move in the overplayed game of "I'm the victim." All he has in response are tales and statistics (mostly specious) of victimization. I would ask McCarron to give his host more credit. By inviting strangers into his/her home, it's more likely the host wants to take the discussion further than laying blame and establishing guilt. McCarron's view notwithstanding, most thinking black people would like to discuss solutions. His stereotyping restricts the possibility of seeking common ground.

Lets assume, however, that McCarron is right. Does he then lack the courage to confront the guilt game once it comes? Does he lack the intellectual capacity to tactfully push the discussion past blame? Does simmering in irritation or responding with blame-placing stories of his own represent his only options? If the latter, the examples he provides don't hold up well against any reasonable criteria for racially motivated transgressions.

But while I acknowledge the existence of racists of all hues McCarron ignores the greater ability for whites to act on racist feelings from positions of power in issues of importance (loans, housing, hiring, etc.). His feelings about the racial guilt game may stem from the fact that he has so few cards to play.

Darrell A. Williams

from HRC

cc Melanne ✓
file

MBER 27, 1997 • • •

International

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Life in the Romanian capital is going to the dogs

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUCHAREST, Romania — Rome is famous for its stray cats, New York for its rats. But in Bucharest, the streets have gone to the dogs.

Between 100,000 and 200,000 mangy mutts roam the city, cowering in doorways, dashing in front of cars, foraging for food. They bite 50 people a day — nearly twice as many as in New York, a city three times larger.

"I was climbing the stairs to the Senate, and a dog just jumped up and bit my leg," Irinel Radulescu said. She went for tetanus and rabies shots "and in the hospital courtyard, a dog almost bit me again."

Even Hillary Rodham Clinton's security guards had to deal with the mongrels by chasing a pack away from another hospital just before she arrived for a visit last year.

The problem of out-of-control canines is blamed on Nicolae Ceausescu, the former dictator who leveled entire neighborhoods during his building spree in the 1980s.

Ornate prewar homes were torn down to make way for a gargantuan Palace of the Republic — second in floor space among government buildings only to the Pentagon — and rows of equally pompous buildings along a boulevard patterned after the Champs-Elysses in Paris.

The people who lost their homes were moved into large apartment

blocks with no yards. Some found new homes for their dogs, but others just left them to fend for themselves. And the abandoned animals have been breeding ever since.

The dogs saunter along the sidewalks with a confident air, sniffing around for scraps and rooting through garbage cans at night. Human passers-by try to avoid them, but sometimes the dogs snap.

The bites are usually more painful than dangerous.

Bucharest hasn't had a case of rabies since the 1970s, but most people still get the shots as a precaution, said Dr. Mariana Mardarescu of Colentina Hospital.

"It's not the poor animals' fault," she said. "They're protecting their

territory and are hungry and thirsty."

But not everyone is so forgiving.

More than 1,000 complaints a month pour into the city's animal protection office. But the cash-strapped city has only eight dog-catchers, two trucks and one pound with space for 300 animals. A third truck was put out of service this month by dogs who chewed up the wiring.

Killing the stray dogs, as done elsewhere, is not an option. Local authorities once proposed that solution, but dozens of organizations protested. Brigitte Bardot even wrote to Bucharest's mayor to plead for mercy.

Opposition politicians exploited

the issue, accusing the mayor of having no heart; residents resoundingly told newspapers that killing the dogs would violate Christian values.

So, the dogs that are caught are kept until they can be given check-ups and sterilized.

Then they're let go, said Codrut Visoiu, a vet who took over the office Nov. 3.

"They're not so aggressive after sterilization," he said. "True, it doesn't stop their barking, but until we can build more space to shelter them, there's nothing else we can do."

Adoptions from the pound are rare; most Bucharest residents look down on the mutts, preferring a purebred.

December 9, 1997

Melanne,

See attached letter and exchange of notes between HRC and me. I think HRC doing letters of recommendation for women she meets on her foreign travels sets a really bad precedent. I guess that's why I have been sitting on this for so long. What do you think? You were there.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pam', is centered below the text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Pam - I'd like to do
general recommendation -
but can't tell from letter
where's she's applying.
pls call Mrs Smith + inquire
about specifics

PHOTOCOPY
HRC HANDWRITING

Is Judy Smith with
A10? Neither she nor
her husband are in
embassy directory. No
address P.

Her husband is (or
was?) our Ambassador
to Senegal

PHOTOCOPY
HRC HANDWRITING

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. letter	To Mrs. Clinton from Judy Smith re: recommendation (1 page)	08/26/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 14384

FOLDER TITLE:

Melanne Verveer's Mail - 1998 - H [1]

2013-0534-S
ry1614

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001b. resume	Re: student (2 pages)	n.d.	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 14384

FOLDER TITLE:

Melanne Verveer's Mail - 1998 - H [1]

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- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 12, 1998

Ms. Ruth Herman
Executive Director
Women in Community Service
1900 N. Beauregard Street
Suite 103
Alexandria, VA 22311

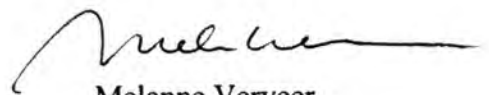
Dear Ms. Herman:

Thank you very much for your letter and invitation to the First Lady to the Women's Rights National Historic Park's celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Women's Rights Movement.

The First Lady hopes to attend, but it is too early to determine at this time whether it will be possible. Our scheduling office will contact you once a decision has been made.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



*Reducing poverty
by promoting
self-reliance.*

President
Virginia T. Austin, DC

Vice President
Christene Chambliss, VA

Treasurer
Denise Dedeaux, MS

Secretary
Sylvia Martinez-Flores, TX

Ex-Officio
Diane Kessler, IL

Executive Director
Ruth C. Herman, VA

Founded in 1964
by a coalition of:

American GI Forum
Women

Church Women United

National Council of
Catholic Women

National Council of
Jewish Women

National Council of
Negro Women

National Office

1900 N. Beauregard St.
Suite 103
Alexandria, VA 22311

(703) 671-0500
(800) 442-WICS
(703) 671-4489 fax

E-mail:
WICSnatl@aol.com

Web Site:
<http://www.WICS.org>

January 7, 1998

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Old Executive Office Building, Room 100
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Verveer:

As you know, 1998 will mark the 150th Anniversary of the Women's Rights Movement. An afternoon tea shared in 1848 by five women friends near Seneca Falls, New York, led to the global effort to improve women's status which continues today. As Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton has become an international ambassador for this vital cause, it is our hope that she will assume a prominent role in the upcoming anniversary celebrations.

An excellent opportunity for the First Lady presents itself on Saturday, July 18, in Seneca Falls, hometown of this peaceful, determined revolution. If Ms. Clinton would agree to keynote the central program hosted by the Women's Rights National Historic Park and Celebrate 98 on that day, her address could be telecast to thousands of people who will be assembled for celebrations across the nation. Her address would most likely be highlighted by the print and electronic media as well.

Already, over 300 national women's and girls' organizations are planning local and state events for this important Anniversary under the theme "Living the Legacy: The Women's Rights Movement 1848-1998". As you can see from the list enclosed, Women in Community Service (WICS) is among the many organizations that are already participating. As a national nonprofit that already addresses women's issues across the nation, we encourage everyone to participate in this landmark event.

The First Lady's public appearance on this important day will both give her a historic venue for voicing her conviction that women's rights issues are of paramount importance, and further validate the importance of the nationwide Anniversary celebration.

I hope her presence as the keynote speaker in Seneca Falls on Saturday, July 18 will be possible.

I thank you for your consideration of this request and look forward to your positive response. You may reach me at (703) 671-0500 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ruth C. Herman", is written over a horizontal line.

Ruth C. Herman
Executive Director



SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT*

9 to 5 National Association of Working Women
AFL-CIO Working Women's Department
African-American Women's Clergy Association
Alice Paul Centennial Foundation
American Association of University Women
American Business Women's Association
Appalachian State University Women's Studies Dept
Asian Women United of California
Bennett College
Black Women United for Action, Inc.
Black Women's Agenda, Inc.
Broward County Women's History Coalition
California Women's History Coalition
Center for Women Policy Studies
Church Women United
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Commission on Women-Kentucky
Commission on the Status of Women, New Mexico
Commission on the Status of Women, San Luis Obispo
Commission on the Status of Women, Humboldt County
Commission on the Status of Women, Santa Monica
District 8 Zonta International
Every Women's Celebration, State of AZ
ERA - Illinois
ERA Summit
Federally Employed Women, Inc.
Feminist Majority Foundation
Forum 98
Frederick Douglass Institute of West Chester University
Fremarjo Enterprises, Inc.
Girl Scouts of the USA
Graland Country Day School
Hadassah
History of Women Religious Conference
Institute for Women's Policy Research
Jewish Women International
Jewish Women's Coalition, Inc.
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Maryland Center for the Study of History and Civic
Education
Maryland Women's History Coalition
McLean Satellite Communications, Inc.
Morton Township Women's History Coalition
Mount St. Mary's College

Myra Sadker Advocates
National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League
National Abortion Federation
National Association for Girls & Women in Sport
National Black Herstory Task Force, Inc.
National Black Women's Health Project
National Coalition for Sex Equity in Education
National Committee for Responsible Philanthropy
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Negro Women, Inc.
National Council of Women of the United States, Inc.
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc.
National Museum of Women's History
National Organization for Women
National Woman's Party
National Women's Conference
National Women's History Project
National Women's Law Center
NOW-Los Angeles
Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.
Soroptomist International of the Americas
Third Wave Foundation
University of CT Women's Center
Wider Opportunities for Women
Wild West Women, Inc.
Women in Communication, Inc.
Women in Community Service
Women's Action for New Directions
Women's Environment and Development Organization
Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press
Women's League for Conservative Judaism
Zonta International

*as of December 18, 1997

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

7738 BELL ROAD • WINDSOR, CALIFORNIA 95492-8518

PH: 707-838-6000 • FAX: 707-838-0478 • E-MAIL: NWHP@AOL.COM

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.NWHP.ORG



1900 N. BEAUREGARD STREET, SUITE 103
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22311-1716



Ms. Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Old Executive Office Building, Room 100
Washington, DC 20500



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 12, 1998

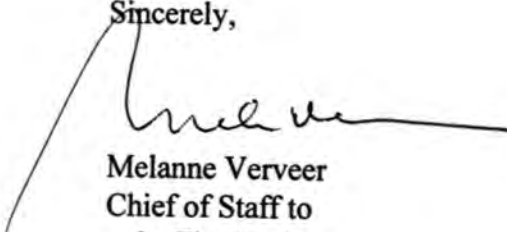
Ms. Jessica Heineman-Pieper
400 E. Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Ms. Heineman-Pieper:

Congratulations on your new position with NIMH. We are not surprised that you found challenging employment so quickly. It sounds like the perfect job for you. We wish you all the best as you face new challenges.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

Jessica Heineman-Pieper
400 E. Randolph St.
Chicago, IL 60601
jhpie@ccp.uchicago.edu

(R)
Congrat

December 30, 1997

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

Dear Ms. Verveer:

Thank you very much for your reply and assistance in response to my inquiry regarding possible job openings with the Administration. I very much appreciate your generosity in lending me your time and consideration.

I have just been offered a position at NIMH, which I have accepted with alacrity. It is an ideal job for me in that it involves forging links between research policy, and program implementation on behalf of children, and also combines a component involving the philosophy of research.

I wish you the very best of health and happiness in the coming New Year

Thank you again for your kindness.

Sincerely,

Jessica Heineman-Pieper

Jessica Heineman-Pieper

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 9, 1998

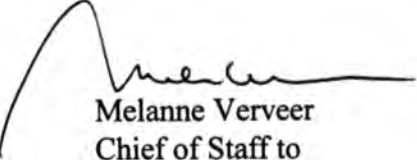
Mr. Anthony Hartigan
Merrill Lynch
2 Eagle Square
P.O. Box 2708
Concord, NH 03302-2708

Dear Tony:

Thank you very much for your letter and for "Art and Antiques," with Bethany Tarbell's wonderful article. I have shared it with others here.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



Anthony F. Hartigan
First Vice President -
Investments

Private Client Group

2 Eagle Square
P.O. Box 2708
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-2708
603 223 2208
800 651 1862
FAX 603 223 2220

December 22, 1997

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Melanne:

It is fun to share in Terry Shumaker's excitement. He took time to call and ask that I forward to you the enclosed article from the January issue of Art & Antiques (pg. 73).

Bethany Tarbell is a Wellesley graduate who covered furniture auctions for three years in New York. She was swept away by our furniture makers, and I again want to thank Mrs. Clinton for having visited us last year.

In 1998 our exhibit and auction will again be in August and September. In June, the exhibit will adorn the Colonial mansion of Governor Wentworth in Portsmouth. We are investigating Washington locations for a traveling show.

Sincerely,

Anthony F. Hartigan

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

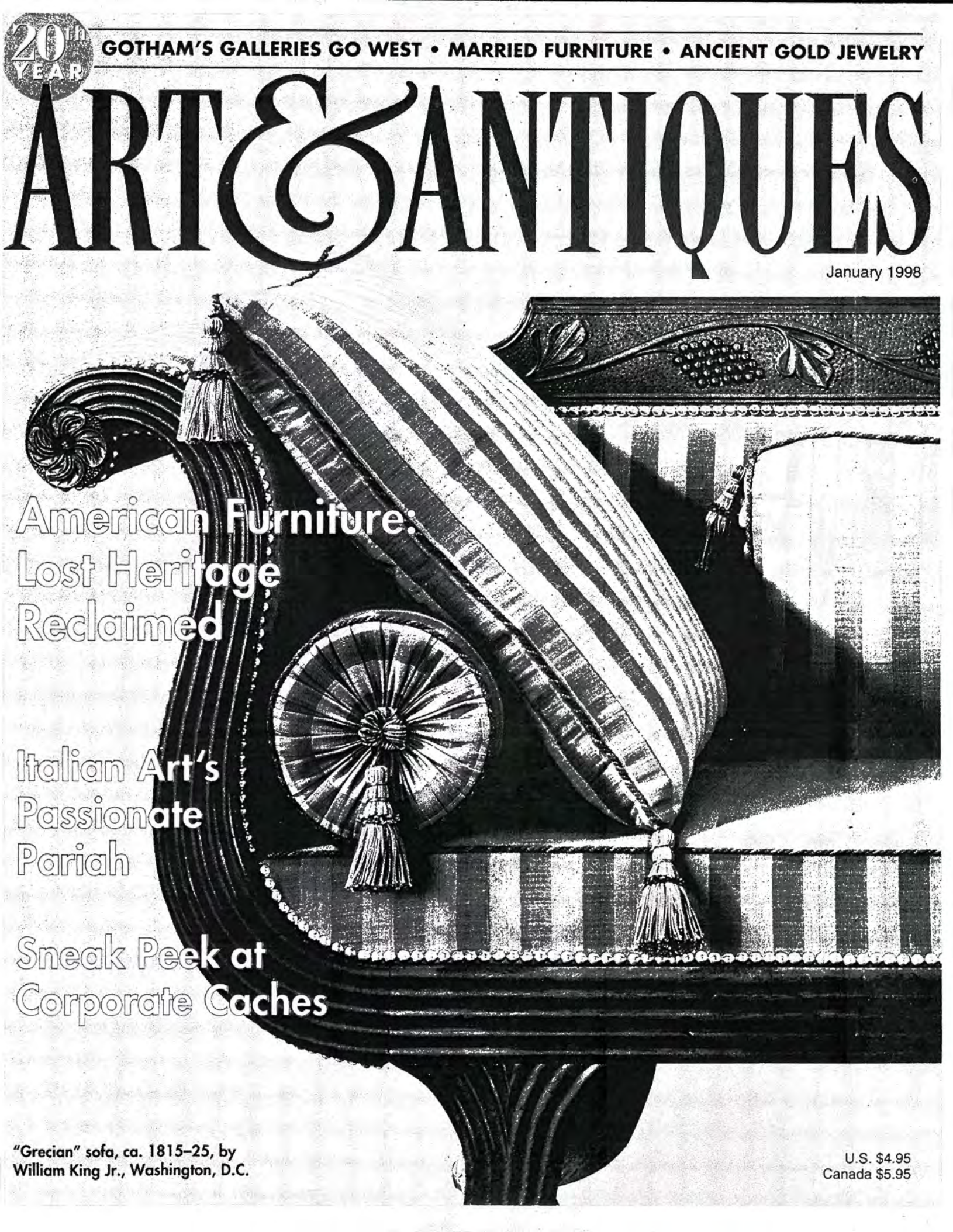
Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

20th
YEAR

GOTHAM'S GALLERIES GO WEST • MARRIED FURNITURE • ANCIENT GOLD JEWELRY

ART & ANTIQUES

January 1998



American Furniture:
Lost Heritage
Reclaimed

Italian Art's
Passionate
Pariah

Sneak Peek at
Corporate Caches

"Grecian" sofa, ca. 1815-25, by
William King Jr., Washington, D.C.

U.S. \$4.95
Canada \$5.95

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 5, 1998

Ms. Katie Hinman
850 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 4411

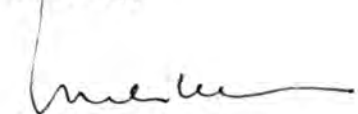
Dear Ms. Hinman:

Thank you very much for your letter and invitation to the First Lady to speak at the City Club of Cleveland's Youth Forum Series.

Our scheduling office will contact you once a decision has been made as to whether Mrs. Clinton will be able to accept your invitation.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,

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

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

*Coy R
for Betty*



December 15, 1997

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

The City Club of Cleveland
a citadel of free speech

Dear Ms. Verveer:

As a representative of the committee on the Youth Forum Series at the City Club of Cleveland, I would like to invite Mrs. Clinton to address a group of high school students from the Greater Cleveland area.

The City Club Forum is one of the outstanding speakers' platforms in the country, and has been a citadel of free speech since its founding in 1912. Those of us at the City Club are excited about our latest initiative, the Youth Forum Series. What makes the Youth Forum Series unique is the fact that it is entirely student-run; a panel of 18 area high school students selects and invites speakers, and handles everything pertaining to the event itself, from writing press releases to emceeing the event.

This is a rare opportunity for a figure of Mrs. Clinton's national importance to relate directly to today's young people.

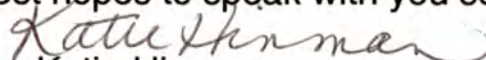
The luncheon address is usually 25-30 minutes long, and is followed by a 30-minute question and answer period. Because we understand the restrictions of the First Lady's schedule, the date of the proposed forum is completely flexible.

Our radio network includes 362 outlets in more than 40 states which broadcast City Club forums in their entirety. The complete program is also televised in the Ohio region and receives extensive news coverage by local affiliates and newspapers with frequent national pick up by news networks and wire services. Recent speakers have included President William J. Clinton, Ms. Janet Reno, Attorney General, Mr. Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House, Ms. Madeline Albright, as U.N. Ambassador.

As the Chief of Staff to Mrs. Clinton, you understand that she is much admired by students across the country. Her work in arenas such as education, health care, and human rights has touched on some of the

issues most important to today's youth. We would be honored to have Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton as the inaugural speaker of the Youth Forum Series, and will be calling to follow up.

With my sincerest hopes to speak with you soon,


Katie Hinman

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 29, 1998

Mr. Robert W. Hatch
Chairman of the Board
FINCA International, Inc.
1101 14th Street, NW
11th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Hatch:

Thank you for your letter and the framed pictures of Mrs. Clinton's visits to FINCA projects at home and abroad. It was wonderful to hear from you and the pictures brought back wonderful memories of the First Lady's work on behalf of microcredit.

I have given your gift to the First Lady and we thank you again for the important work that you are doing.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

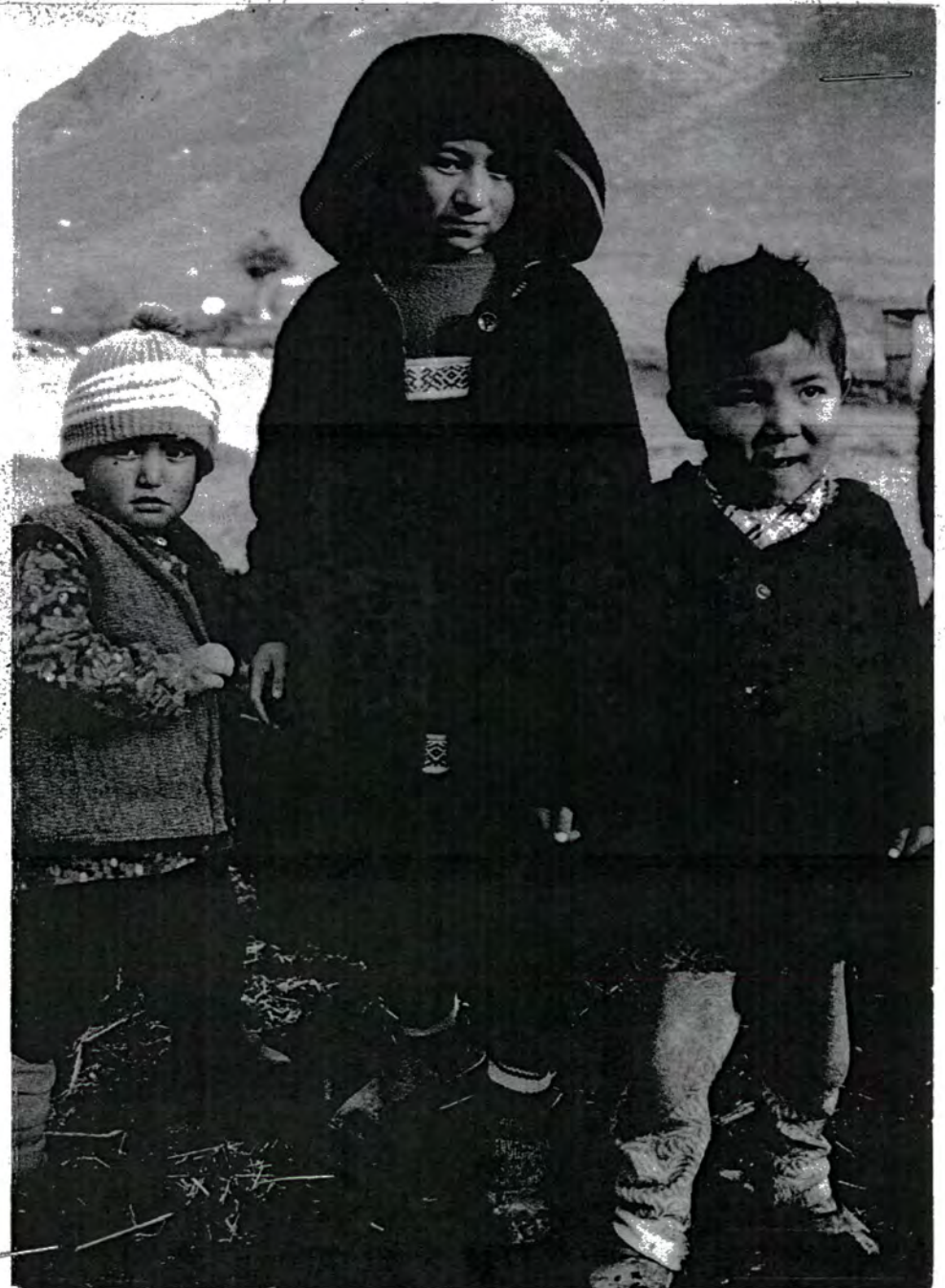
The Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA International) is a nonprofit organization, providing the working poor with small loans, a savings plan and the opportunity to better care for their children. FINCA coordinates a network of 15 affiliated agencies in 14 countries, serving over 68,000 borrowers organized into more than 2,700 village banks. Village banks are peer groups, usually of 25-35 low-income women. The groups select their own members, elect officers, and administer bank transactions.



FINCA[®] INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Foundation for International Community Assistance

1101 14th St., NW, 11th FL. Washington, DC 20005
Tel (202) 682-1510 Fax (202) 682-1535
E-mail 76215.1036@compuserve.com



Chechen refugee children dress in their best clothing for festival day.

Social and economic change in the former Soviet Republic of Kyrgyzstan has come at a price for the Kyrgyz people, especially women. Displaced from the formal work force, grandmothers, mothers and daughters have been forced to ration the income spent on the family.

Established in 1995, FINCA Kyrgyzstan is the only source of microbusiness credit in the country, providing small loans of \$50 and up. Most Kyrgyz village bankers engage in petty trade and commerce, including selling fruits, vegetables, confections and bread along the main streets and in the markets of Kyrgyzstan. Profits from these businesses are used to purchase food and medicines for the family.

Photo by Graham Sim

Elyse May
 Alexandra Sanchez
 John Hatt
 Laura Fredrick
 Wendy Brack
 Lauren
 Amelia Pines
 Thank You!
 Rebecca & James
 Elizabeth Angell
 Laura Foote
 Andy Martz
 Fe Snow
 Alberto Quiroga
 Sarah
 Sarah Smith
 Carol Hardner
 Christine Carroll
 Emma Jones

TO: Hillary Rodham Clinton



FINCA INTERNATIONAL, INC.

1101 14th Street, N.W. • 11th Floor • Washington, DC 20005 • 202-682-1510 • FAX 202-682-1535

January 13, 1998

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Old Executive Office Building, Room 100
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

On behalf of the board, staff and clients of FINCA, I extend a heartfelt thank you for your generous contribution of \$10,000 to FINCA International.

Over the years, you have come to know FINCA in many ways. Not only have you visited with the women who participate in FINCA's programs in Nicaragua, Uganda, Kyrgyzstan and in Washington, DC, but you have also become a tremendous advocate for microcredit programs around the world. I hope you take pride in knowing that because of your efforts, you are a shining example to thousands of women who have been, for the first time, empowered with a small business loan and their will for a better life for their children.

It is our pleasure to send along the following collage of "FINCA and First Lady" pictures. Again, thank you for your generosity and for inspiring us and many others to continue this important work to alleviate world poverty.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Hatch
Chairman of the Board

Rupert Scofield
Executive Director

John Hatch
Founder