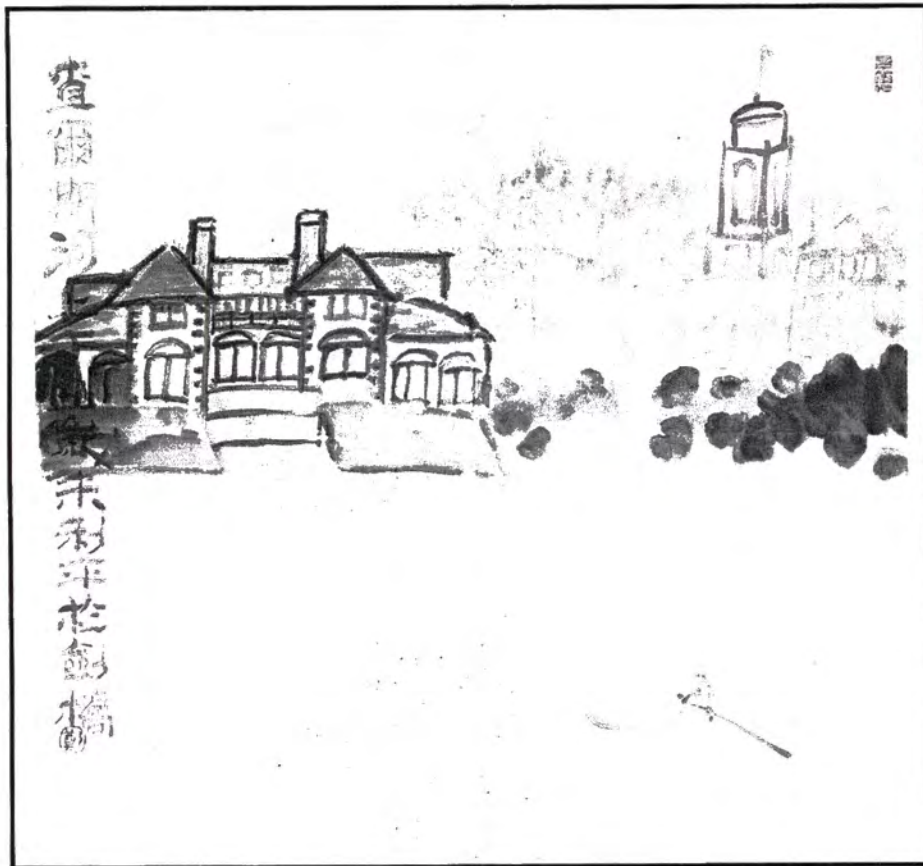

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The China Initiative



JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
Harvard University

February 1998

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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CHINACHEM GROUP
HONG KONG



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SPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT • FIRST DAY OF ISSUE • WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS • WFUNA CACHET



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HEART TO HEART

HONG KONG, CHINA, 1 JULY 1997 • THE WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS • WFUNA CACHET

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

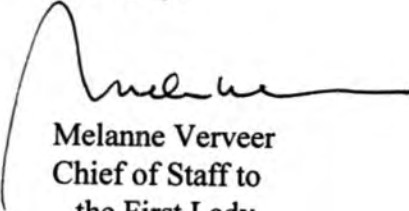
July 6, 1998

Dear Father Robert Kondritick,

Included are the White House photographs taken when His Holiness Patriarch Ilia Shiolashvili visited the First Lady in early May. We would really appreciate it if you could send them to him in Gerogia. Thank you very much.

Best Wishes, and God Bless.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 24, 1998

Ms. Nina Kostina
Executive Vice President
Frank Foundation
1030 15th Street, NW, Suite 1020

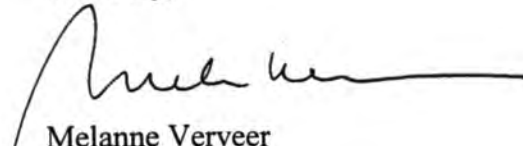
Dear Ms. Kostina:

Thank you very much for keeping us posted on the proposed visit of the orphaned children in November.

Though it is not yet clear what Mrs. Clinton's schedule will be later this year, we look forward to your keeping us apprised of progress on the children's trip. You know we will do what we can to be helpful.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,


Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

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the orphaned*

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keeping
your
progress on
children's
trip*

All Children Smile
in the Same Language®



Frank
Foundation

Child Assistance
International, Inc.

June 25, 1998

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

Dear Ms. Verveer:

In mid March, my colleagues and I had the pleasure of meeting with you at the White House as a follow up to my initial encounter with the First Lady during her visit of the Bonum Center in Yekaterinburg, Russia. You may recall, we had described our past, current and future activities in further detail and asked for the support of the First Lady for those endeavors which were of highest priority.

In my last correspondence to you (letter dated March 16, 1998), I mentioned a special event which would bring eight blind orphans (ages 7-10) to the United States under a unique cross cultural exchange program. At that time, the target date was June of 1998. However, as we developed the program, some truly fantastic events have evolved which prompted us to change the dates of the program to November of 1998. Since our March meeting, we have developed a partnership with the National Sports Center for the Disabled in Winter Park, Colorado. Our simple idea has now expanded to a much greater level to include recreational rehabilitation for our disabled children. The extraordinary support this project has received from the corporate world, the local and global community has been inspirational. For your convenience, I have enclosed a preliminary outline which briefly describes the exchange and provides an envisioned calender of events.

You may recall during our March meeting, I had asked you if you felt Mrs. Clinton would be inclined to greet this special group of orphaned children at the White House upon their arrival to the United States. At the time, you had replied that should Mrs. Clinton's schedule allow it, you felt the event would be something which would be highly favored by the First Lady. Since the dates have now shifted from June to November, I now ask for your kind guidance and support for this opportunity. You will note from the program outline, we have tentatively proposed November 20, 1998 as the meeting date. However, we understand that the First Lady's schedule may require us to consider alternate dates. As the opportunity to meet Mrs. Clinton is so exceptional for these children, we remain flexible.

As the program develops, we will be happy to forward updates to you. As I mentioned earlier, the support for this project has been phenomenal. United Airlines has agreed to pay for all the domestic airline costs for the participants. Winter Park Resort is hosting the children and providing all lessons and local hospitality pro bono. Acclaimed athletes and other celebrities have embraced the project's philosophy and have asked to be a part of its implementation.

page 2

Should it be beneficial, I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you again to further discuss the details of this wonderful program. In the meantime, as I will be traveling for the majority of the summer, please contact my assistant, Julie Hogan at the office via phone (202-452-8279), fax (202-452-0719), or email (jleehogan), should you have any immediate concerns or questions.

Thank you for your time, assistance and support.

Sincerely



Nina Kostina
Executive Vice President

INTERNATIONAL WINTER WONDERLAND
An Innovative Cultural Exchange Opportunity for
Visually Impaired Orphaned Children from Russia

Sponsors:

Frank Foundation Child Assistance International, Washington, DC and
National Sports Center for the Disabled, Winter Park, CO

Program Summary:

Under the auspice of Frank Foundation Child Assistance International, eight blind orphans (ages 7-10) from Russia will have a once in a life time opportunity to engage in a unique cultural experience designed to enhance self-esteem, dispel cultural and physical stereotypes and inspire hope through the vehicle of sports. The children will engage in a week long intensive fun filled educational training program at the National Sports Center for the Disabled in Winter Park Colorado. Volunteer Instructors, specially trained to address the needs of visually impaired youths, will provide one on one skiing lessons for each child. During their stay in Colorado, the children will be living with local families which will provide an added cultural, familial experience for the orphaned youths.

A true testimony to the power of global partnerships for the good of children, the International Winter Wonderland Program has been embraced by the highest level of government. Prior to the group's departure from Russia, First Lady of Russia, Mrs. Naina Yeltsina, will greet them at the Kremlin to wish them a safe and wonderful journey abroad. In turn, First Lady of the United States, Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, will warmly welcome the children at the White House upon their arrival within the United States. Two First ladies of two world powers, once again, symbolically unite, to celebrate international cooperation for the world's children.

Other highlights of the program include special lessons with internationally acclaimed athletes such as Scott Hamilton and Ekaterina Gordieva (figure skating champions) and Alberto Tomba (World Cup Champion and Olympic Gold Medalist in Alpine Skiing). A welcome VIP Thanksgiving dinner/fundraiser is being planned at commencement of the group's stay at Winter Park.

Frank Foundation Child Assistance International has been designing and sponsoring innovative exchange programs for less advantaged children in Russia and the United States since its initiation in 1992. The foundation's other activities include medical evacuations, child advocacy work, humanitarian assistance, fact finding missions, professional training programs and adoption support. The organization's endeavors are guided by two objectives: delivering immediate relief for children with the greatest need and sustaining ongoing efforts to eradicate suffering for all children. All activities reaffirm the foundation's belief that "All Children Smile in the same language."

The National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD) began in 1970 and has since become the largest and most successful program of its kind in the world. Enabling the spirit through sport for participants from every continent except Antarctica, NSCD is recognized as a leader in therapeutic recreation. Since its founding in 1970, NSCD provides nearly 28,000 lessons a year to children and adults with physical and mental disabilities. Participants learn there is "no mountain too high" through NSCD opportunities that build self-confidence through recreational and competitive challenges.

Dates of Program: November 19 - November 27, 1998

US Cities: Washington, DC (November 20 and 26)
Winter Park, CO (November 21 - November 26)

Special Corporate Sponsors: United Airlines, Aeroflot Airlines, Winter Park Resort,
Victoria Adoption Center

Program/Highlight Events:

November 18, 1998: *1	Special Meeting with Mrs. Naina Yeltsina, First Lady of the Russian Federation: The Kremlin, Moscow, Russia
November 19, 1998:	Depart Moscow; Arrive in Washington, DC (via NYC)
November 20, 1998: *2	Special meeting with Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, First Lady of the United States of America: The White House, Washington, DC, USA
November 21, 1998:	Depart DC to Winter Park, CO (via Denver) on United Airlines (pro bono tickets)
November 21, 1998 through November 26, 1998:	Winter Park Program -- designed and supported by NSCD and local businesses
November 26, 1998:	[Thanksgiving Day] Depart CO to DC
November 27, 1998:	Depart DC for Moscow

*1 Meeting awaits confirmation from the Kremlin

*2 Request to White House in process of review

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 24, 1998

Jurate Kazickas
15 East 92 Street,
New York, NY 10128

Dear Jurate:

Thanks for your letter; it was so nice to hear from you.

The Save America's Treasures trip went very well. I am sorry that you missed the First Lady in Seneca Falls, but glad that Lynn was able to be there. Enclosed are Mrs. Clinton's remarks. She loved being with Roger this week and is so grateful to him.

Best wishes, and I hope all is well. I am

Sincerely yours,

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

*2 This week
it is
grateful to
him*

Jurate Kazickas

July 10, 1998

To: Melanne Verveer

From: Jurate Kazickas

It's been a while since we spoke but I hope all is well.

I just read about Mrs. Clinton's tour of historic sites. Are you joining her? Wish I could come along, especially when she visits Harriet Tubman et al. I hope she has her trusty copy of SUSAN B. ANTHONY SLEPT HERE as she travels around. Lynn is going to be doing a book signing in Seneca Falls during the big celebrations. But much to our dismay, the publisher is threatening to put our book out of print. Next week may well be our final hurrah. Is there any way Hillary could make a passing reference to this essential guide book in one of her many speeches? That would mean so much to Lynn and me.

I'll just miss you as I am not scheduled to be in Seneca Falls until July 18th (after I return from climbing Mt. Rainier.) And I'm disappointed I won't be in East Hampton (where my family has had a home for 40 years) when the Clintons visit. I think they'll really enjoy it. They have so many friends and supporters there.

Hope you get to take some time off with Phil. Remember you have standing invitation to come to the ranch in Wyoming. Roger and I will be there all of August.

All the best,

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 21, 1998

Jacquelyn Kendall
Executive Director
Midwest Academy
225 W. Ohio Street, Suite 250
Chicago, IL 60610

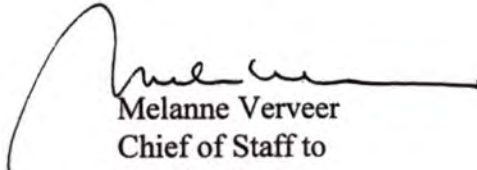
Dear Ms. Kendall:

Thank you for your letter and invitation for the First Lady to attend your 25th Anniversary celebration to honor Heather Booth, here in Washington on December 10, 1998.

It is not yet certain whether Mrs. Clinton's schedule will allow her to accept your invitation, but I know she would want me to convey her appreciation for your thoughtfulness. I have forwarded your invitation to Patti Solis Doyle, Director of Scheduling for the First Lady, and she will be in touch with you.

Best wishes, and thank you for all the important work you do in so many areas.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

MIDWEST ACADEMY®

Celebrating 25 years of training activists

July 8, 1998

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Attn: Melanne Vermeer

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Midwest Academy, the nation's leading training institute for progressive activists in the country. In commemoration of this special milestone, we will honor the Academy's founder, Heather Booth, at a December 10, 1998 gala at the Capitol Hilton in Washington, DC. I am writing to ask you to be our special guest that evening. Your participation will help us to ensure that the evening is a great success.

There is much to celebrate. Strong staff and leaders have always been at the center of our organizing efforts. With over 20,000 alumni, Midwest Academy has played a central role in ensuring that organizations have had the staff and leadership with the skill level and commitment needed to carry out the work.

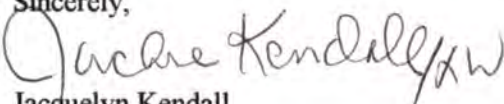
While the Academy has worked with a variety of issue-based organizations striving to make improvements in the environment, health care delivery, child care, transportation, housing and access to education, our principal goal has been to ensure that citizens are actively involved in the decision-making processes that influence their daily lives. Among the groups that we are proud to have worked with are labor and women's organization, Citizen Action, the National Council of Senior Citizens, AARP, Stand for Children, the United States Student Association, the Alzheimer's Association and hundreds of local community organizations.

On this occasion, I can think of no one more appropriate to honor than Heather -- an activist of great vision and leadership who has left an indelible mark on so many progressive, grassroots initiatives across the country, including the Citizen/Labor Energy Coalition, Citizen Action, and Health Security Express. Most recently she brought those very skills to her work with the Democratic National Committee, most recently as the Director of Field Operations.

We look forward to honoring Heather as we celebrate the Midwest Academy's twenty-five years, and we hope you will agree to join us on December 10th. We will be in touch with your staff shortly to discuss your participation in more detail.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jacquelyn Kendall
Executive Director

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 22, 1998

Mr. Robert J. Keefe
TKC International, Inc.
Suite 711
444 N. Capitol St.
Washington, DC 20001



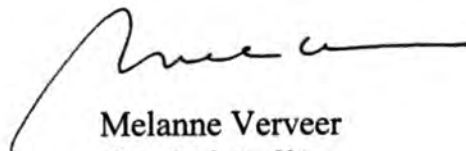
Dear Mr. Keefe:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you for your letter and invitation to participate in a discussion on the Internet with Japanese children under the auspices of KONET and the Japanese Ministry of Education.

↑
I have forwarded your request to the scheduling office and they will be in contact with you should Mrs. Clinton be able to accept your offer.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

 **TKC INTERNATIONAL, INCORPORATED**
444 North Capitol Street, N.W. * Suite 841 * Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone: (202) 638-7030 Fax: (202) 638-6784

Q
Cont
comment

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

DATE: June 4, 1998
MESSAGE TO: Ms. Anne Lewis
COMPANY: The White House
FAX NUMBER: (202) 456-1213
MESSAGE FROM: Cheryl Ali, Assistant to Mr. Bob Keefe
FAX NUMBER: (202) 638-6784
NUMBER OF PAGES: 39 (Including Cover Sheet)

**IF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS RECEIVED POORLY OR
INCOMPLETE, PLEASE CALL (202) 638-7030.**

TKC INTERNATIONAL, INCORPORATED

Suite 711 • 444 North Capitol Street • Washington, D.C. 20001 • Phone: (202) 638-7030
Fax No. (202) 638-6784

May 5, 1998

Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Hillary,

I would like to invite you to participate in an interactive media session with about one million school children in Japan and the United States. KONET (literally, the children's network) is a Japanese multimedia system which links more than 1000 K-12 schools with Internet connections and video conferencing. The KONET Plan Promotion Council, a group of leading Japanese companies which sponsor the project along with the Japanese Ministry of Education would like to have you participate in an hour long session on their network.

Previously, Prime Minister Hashimoto and Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates have both participated in KONET sessions. Attached is a brief video giving an overview of the system and a snapshot of the Hashimoto and Gates sessions. With your strong leadership in education and your prominence on the world scene, you would make a very attractive guest in an interactive session. KONET is prepared to support the project in any manner to make it easy, productive and satisfying for you. If you have a topic that you would prefer to make the focus of the session, they would certainly accommodate you.

The session can be scheduled to fit your convenience - anytime during the morning school time in Japan. That is anytime from 8 pm through midnight Washington time, Sunday through Thursday until mid July. The session can be done from almost anywhere - including from your home, The White House. All it takes is an ISDN line. KONET is prepared to handle the technical requirements.

Although time differences make it difficult, KONET officials are working to gain participation from American students. Pennsylvania-based Classroom Connect has agreed to Internet broadcasting of such an event. They provide Internet solutions to over 40,000 US schools. KONET is also working to bring in additional schools in Hawaii and California. This has the potential to be the largest Video Conference ever.

In preparation for the conference, participating schools would develop special educational programs on the United States, and on you and your husband. These programs would supplement normal curriculums which provide little current affairs information about the United States.

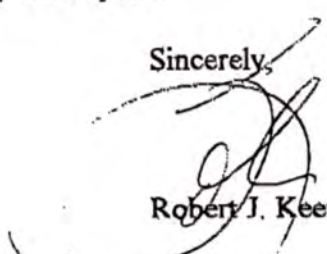
President Clinton and Prime Minister Hashimoto agreed last year to encourage more collaboration and exchange programs between the US and Japanese education systems using modern network technology. This event will be a great way to promote this particular agenda. It will give you the opportunity to talk with and hear from students in different locations, using modern technology to make for a new mutual understanding model in the Global Network Age.

I hope you will be able to participate in this exciting technological event.

Material describing KONET and its background is attached for your information.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Keefe

FYI: KONET is a project of the Ministry of Education of Japan and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Company. Minister of Education Nobutaku Machimura is a long time friend of mine and is personally interested in the project. I have represented NTT on international procurement matters for nearly 20 years.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 28, 1998

Ms. Judith Kaufmann
Mission Permanente Des Etats-Unis,
Route de Pregny 11, 1292
Cambesy-Geneva, Switzerland

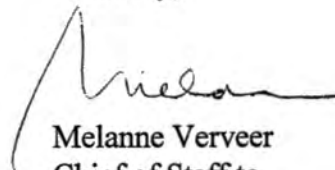
Dear Judith:

Thank you for the book, which I have passed along to the First Lady. I know she will read it with considerable interest. The photo was hilarious. You can just tell how much the Ambassador and First Lady enjoy each other's company. I just wish they'd shared their observation with us!

We fondly remember our all-too brief time in Geneva. We are so grateful to you and George for your many kindnesses and I so enjoyed our dinner conversation. I hope you both have a fascinating and rewarding stay in Geneva.

All the best.

Sincerely,

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

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

(R)

JUDITH KAUFMANN
GEORGE MOOSE

July 1, 1998

Ms. Melanne Vermeer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Melanne:

During the First Lady's second visit to Geneva, she and I spoke briefly about the mindset of the Middle East and sub-continent. At the time I was reading, and have since finished, the enclosed book. I found it fascinating. It provides a history of Islam and an analysis of the basic texts of Islam from a feminist and academic perspective. The asides about the affect of Western culture on the psyche of the Arabs were as interesting to me as the history and analysis about the role of women in Islam.

Fatima Mernissi, the author, is well-known and respected. She has also written on Islam and Democracy, although I have not yet read that book. Ms. Mernissi is obviously not a woman who shies away from controversial subjects. I think Mrs. Clinton might enjoy this book, if she has not already read it, although I know she must have more than enough to read as it is.

I enclose as well a copy of a photo taken during Mrs. Clinton's visit. George claims not to remember what caused such hilarity; I just think he's not telling!

I enjoyed being able to chat with you and hope that you can come back – either with or without the First Lady. I also hope that your trip to Prague was wonderful; I am trying to convince George that we should go sometime.

Sincerely,



Judith R. Kaufmann

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 28, 1998

Mr. Tom Keneally,
24 The Serpentine,
Bilgola Beach
NSW 2107 Australia

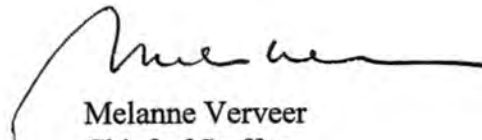
Dear Mr. Kenally:

Thank you for your invitation to the First Lady to attend the National Childrens' Summit, in Canberra this December. Senator Kennedy forwarded your request to Mrs. Clinton.

Regrettably, Mrs. Clinton's schedule will not allow her to accept your kind invitation. But she has asked me to convey her appreciation, along with her best wishes for a successful event.

Very best wishes, and thank you all you do in our common cause to improve the lives of children.

Sincerely,

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

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

Tom Keneally, 24 The Serpentine, Bilgola Beach, NSW 2107,
AUSTRALIA.

5th June, 1998

**The Hon. Hillary Clinton
FIRST LADY
The White House
Washington DC**

Dear Mrs Clinton,

**Re: Possible Australia Visit, Mr and Mrs Clinton, December 1998;
Childrens' Summit, Canberra**

I hope you do not mind if, on the basis of our acquaintance and your past kindnesses, I write to you at the urging of some associates of mine. I am aware that if you accompany your husband in December, you will do so for relaxation, in which case you should ignore this tentative suggestion.

Here in Australia as in your Grand Republic there is a sense in all sections of the community that there has been a decline in the quality and security of children's lives, and the negative impact of many policies common in the developed world. A peak group named the Coalition for Australia's Children represents many programs, professionals and experts in this area, and it is under the aegis of that body, led by a Queenslander named Jan Owen, that we are trying to mount a full-scale, bi-partisan, highly professional and visible Children's Summit, the first one in our history, to be held in Canberra in the first week of December.

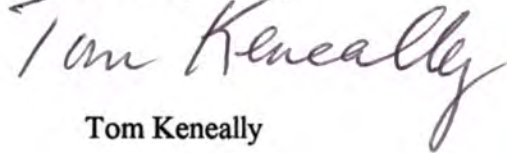
One of the objectives of the Summit is to increase the visibility of children's issues both with politicians and in society in general. We hope that through our influence an Australian Federal office for children will be established.

And again, the organisers have had the temerity to ask me would you like to speak at the summit at any time during your possible stay in December. While it may seem, and no doubt is, an act of Aussie hubris to suggest this, I know how you have been concerned yourself with questions of the health and happiness of children. I am emboldened to approach you because a statement made on these issues from the exotic distance of Australia may perhaps have an inevitable visibility which a similar statement made at events in the United States might not.

Naturally, if by any chance you could visit, we would speak to the Department of Foreign Affairs. Again, I know all this is a remote chance, but I write because there is some marginal hope that our sole agenda and yours, the happiness of the child, might make the Canberra summit a suitable platform for you.

In the meantime I look forward to sending you next year via Nan Talese my new book next March, and I hope you know what an impact you and the President had upon Australia during your visit, and how welcome you will always be here.

Yours respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Tom Keneally". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Tom" is written with a large, sweeping capital 'T'. The last name "Keneally" is written with a capital 'K' and a long, trailing flourish that extends to the right.

Tom Keneally

Briefing Kit

Coalition for Australia's Children

coalition for australia's children

a united project of
commitment and action
for australia's children
and young people

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***Commitments to Australia's Children
and Young People***

Campaign 1998

including

~ National Children's Summit ~

13

Operating guidelines of the Coalition

coalition for australia's children
postal address: Level 4 313-315 Flinders Lane Melbourne Victoria 3000
Convenor Jan Owen Tel: 07 3847 8880 Fax: 07 3847 8889
email : aaypic@world.net

A VISION FOR AUSTRALIA'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

A nation's humanity can be measured in the well being and condition of its children. Its status is diminished by every child who suffers needlessly.

What happens to our children physically, emotionally and intellectually today, effects them for the rest of their lives and will be reflected in the kind of nation Australia will be in the 21st century.

Every childhood lasts a lifetime.

Viewed within a global context, most of Australia's children and young people are endowed with good health, education, income support and protection by their families and community.

But not all.

There are still far too many children and young people who are denied the opportunity to reach their full potential. By the age eighteen, seven out of ten young Australians will have experienced poverty, physical and/or sexual abuse, homelessness or mental illness. Seven out of ten.

Australia has one of the highest youth suicide rates in the world.

As many as 25,000 of our children and young people are homeless.

Another 20,000 live in care.

We seek to celebrate and build on Australia's diversity with peace, tolerance and freedom. Affirming the fundamental worth and dignity of every child, encouraging their right to participate and belong.

We see resources spent on our children not as consumption or some kind of drain, but as an investment which pays dividends with safe, healthy, happy children who grow into responsible, contributing and productive adults.

We see it as an investment in Australia's future.

The Coalition for Australia's Children calls on community leaders, institutions, organisations and each government in Australia to make a commitment to Australia's children and young people now and in the future.

COALITION PARTICIPANTS

Australian Association of Young People in Care
Amnesty International
Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission
Australian Early Childhood Association
Australian Family Association
Australian Institute of Family Studies
Australian Law Reform Commission
Australians Against Child Abuse
Australian Youth Policy & Action Coalition
Australian Society of Psychologists
Association of Support Services to Australia's Families
Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia
CENTACARE Australia
New Children's Hospital, Westmead
Children's Welfare Association of Victoria
Community Services Australia
Defence for Children International
End Child Prostitution & Trafficking Australia
Ethnic Child Care, Family & Community Services Co-operative Ltd
Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission
International Social Services
Kids HelpLine
Marrickville Legal Centre
National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect
National Childrens and Youth Law Centre
National Network of Law Centres
OZ Child
Relationships Australia
Secretariat National of Aboriginal & Islander Child Care
UNICEF Australia
William Glasser Institute
Young Media Australia
Ann Symonds
Dr John Yu
Chief Justice Alastair Nicholson

ABOUT THE COALITION

In 1996 the Coalition for Australia's Children was formed to bring together the expertise and experience of over 30 national and peak children's and youth interest organisations operating within Australia.

The current status and situation for children and young people in Australia is precarious as indicated by the high levels of reported cases of child abuse and neglect, youth homelessness, drug addiction, unemployment levels amongst young people and youth suicide.

There is little coordination, data or evaluation of effectiveness, from a national perspective, of care and services provided to children and young people. It is estimated that 7 out of 10 children and young people will require additional support systems throughout their childhood and adolescence.

After consultation and input from various stakeholders, and research into the United States initiative - 'America's Promise to Children' - the Coalition has developed the *Commitments to Australia's Children and Young People Campaign* as the vehicle to drive policy reform for children and young people in Australia.

The Coalition Membership

The Coalition for Australia's Children was formed in 1996. It's membership consists of a wide range of peak and national non-government organisations plus several highly regarded professionals with a strong record of advocacy for children.

The Coalition Aim

The central aim of the Coalition is to create a united effort across all sectors of society for commitment and action for children and young people in Australia embracing and building upon the spirit and principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Coalition Philosophy

The Coalition has adopted a five point plan as the fundamental philosophy around which the membership will focus. The Coalition will work to help create an environment where all children and young people in this country:

- Feel supported, are bonded with caring adults and are connected to good networks
- Are treated fairly and have access to resources for safe and healthy development
- Trust they will have a happy future and possess the capacity to dream
- Have skills to communicate, with confidence in their written and verbal abilities
- Want to contribute to building a united, productive and rewarding society.

The Coalition Action Framework

The Coalition will promote the need for and direct it's activities to:

- Unite people to commit and act to achieve the Coalition philosophy
- Coordinate strategies which facilitate a diverse range of commitments and action for children and young people
- Develop, implement and strengthen policies which promote commitment and action for children and young people
- Support service providers and programs dedicated to achieving the Coalition philosophy
- Promote the need for evaluation, research and accountability for programs established for children and young people.

The Coalition Campaign Strategy

The Coalition will achieve it's aim and philosophy by running a variety of campaigns targeted at different segments such as: federal and state governments, corporations, community groups, families, and children and young people. The Coalition will tailor specific messages which contain both an educational component and an action

orientation. In all cases, campaigns will foster the development of commitments to help improve the way that we as a nation think about and respond to the needs of children and young people.

The campaign strategy will include the following elements:

The Government sector

The focus of the government campaign is to establish it's commitment to children and young people. The target outcome is to have government:

1. Implement Child Impact Statements as federal government policy
2. Develop and evaluate Child Action Plans in all government institutions
3. Table in parliament, biennial reports on the status of children and young people
4. Establish independent advocacy and monitoring mechanisms at the national level
5. Coordinate policy development at the national level

The Community sector

The Community campaign will address key issues that emerge from a Coalition survey on:

1. The views that society holds towards children and young people
2. The nature of their current commitment and activities, and
3. The community's perceived capacity to impact positive change for children and young people.

At this early stage the goal is to develop a theme to improve understanding about key issues and to improve the experiences of children and young people in Australia. The campaign will draw attention to the need for all children to experience the basic components of a happy and healthy childhood outlined in the Coalition philosophy. Activities that help make the philosophy a reality will be promoted. Community commitment and action is the target outcome.

The Corporate sector

The campaign for the corporate sector will gain commitments from businesses throughout Australia with a view to engaging private industry in a range of activities tailored, with assistance from the Coalition, to match their own corporations particular interest. Some corporations may choose to commit to Australia's children and young people, for example, by:

1. Supporting employees to teach young people computer skills
2. Partnering with community sector organisations to enhance service delivery capabilities
3. Sponsoring the Coalition media campaign or the project for government
4. Ensuring business practices are family friendly
5. Providing the person-power to participate in, or fund, literacy programs

The Non-Government sector

The Campaign for families and children, and those who provide services to this target group, will focus on different points at different stages of the Coalition strategy. A key goal is to place services for families and children on the national agenda as an election item for analysis and discussion. Initially, the Coalition has engaged in joint consultation with the National Children's and Youth Law Centre, the Australian Association of Young People In Care, and the Australian Youth Policy and Action Coalition, to examine ways children and young people can directly participate in, and give input to, the campaign.

The Coalition Leadership

The Coalition recognises that what it has set out to achieve will take:

1. Strong leadership, vision, strategic foresight, and integrated planning
2. Skilled management, professional team work, and multiple project partnerships
3. Frequent communication, clarity of outcomes and goals, and utilisation of focused evaluation

4. Effective organisation, promotion, and publicity

5. Significant collaborative relationships with multiple supporters and sponsors.

The work of the Coalition is coordinated by a working group of it's membership. The combined experiences of the working group (alone) result in over 140 years of professional involvement in business and human services systems. Members backgrounds include senior positions in the fields of law and human rights, advertising, retail, child protection, the private health industry and the youth sector.

All professionals bring leadership experience to the working party and as part of this, have experience in the development and implementation of new strategies for children and young people.

The Coalition membership has united for a specific purpose around a unique philosophy and is committed to achieving change for children and young people in Australia. It has adopted a leading edge strategy which will draw upon expertise from within the Coalition and the Working Party, and has a structured plan in which collaborative relationships with a wide range of experts from government, non-government and the private sector will operate.

COMMITMENTS TO AUSTRALIA'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

~ CAMPAIGN 1998 ~

The Commitments to Children and Young People Campaign in 1998 will focus on securing government commitment around mechanisms for policy coordination, monitoring and advocacy for children and young people at the national level; whilst simultaneously seeking corporate support and commitment to the goals of the Coalition.

To this end, the Coalition for Australia's Children will convene a **National Children's Summit** with the following objectives -

1. To develop a model framework and mechanism for policy coordination, monitoring and advocacy for children and young people within Australia at the national level
2. To develop a range of model 'commitments' showcasing community and business partnership in improving the situation of Australia's children and young people

Summit Theme

***"Australia's Commitment to Children and Young People
Government and Community - responsibility and partnership"***

There will be two streams within the Summit for which participants will nominate prior to the event -

1. Advocacy and policy mechanisms at the national level
2. Community and business partnership and participation in setting the agenda for children and young people.

Terms of Reference

Stream One - *advocacy, policy and coordinating mechanisms*

- Is there a need for the Commonwealth to establish a national approach to policy coordination, monitoring, and advocacy for children and young people ?
- What issues would be addressed through such a national approach?
- What mechanisms would achieve a coordinated national approach?
- How will your proposal benefit children and young people?

Stream Two - *Community and business partnership*

- Is there a role for the community and business sectors to work in partnership for the benefit of children and young people ?
- What are the issues to be addressed in establishing such partnerships?
- What are the benefits for children and young people?
- Has your organisation participated in such partnerships? If yes, please outline the activity/program undertaken. What did you learn and what were the outcomes?

Format

The deliberations of the Summit will occur in syndicate groups with specific outcomes required for each stream.

Several keynote speakers with experience and expertise will be sought to address the two major Summit themes.

The participation of young people will include a specific strategy to involve children and young people prior to and during the Summit, ensuring their input as a driving force which informs the Summit outcomes.

The outcomes of the Summit, in the form of a statement of Commitment to Australia's Children and Young People will be formally presented to the Prime

Minister, Opposition Leader and leaders of the other parties in a ceremony at the close of the Summit.

Pre Summit forums

A number of forums will be convened in preparation for the Summit:

"Stream One" - mechanisms for policy, coordination and advocacy at the national level - will take the form of a full meeting of Coalition members, representatives of government agencies and other interested stakeholders to review the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Treaties Committee Report; present coordinating/ infrastructure models from overseas; and finally develop two or three model frameworks for discussion and debate at the Summit.

"Stream Two" - partnerships between business and the community sector to advance the interests of children and young people - will bring together interested parties in the business and community sector to develop the framework and program for 'stream two' within the Summit.

It is anticipated that the preparatory forums be presented as part of the overall Summit program and that an Advance Notice and registration materials are prepared early in order for participants to register for one or more of the pre-Summit forums, as well as the actual Summit, as a whole package.

Summit Participation

... All Coalition members are reserved two delegate positions at the Summit with a third available if the delegate is a child or young person. All other participation in the Summit will be by application. Invitations to participate will be open and widely advertised. Specific areas of children's and young people's lives including education, health, child welfare, NESB and indigenous groups will be targeted. Governments - at commonwealth and state/territory level, media groups and the corporate /business sector will be invited to participate.

... Intending participants will be asked to provide a written indication of their contribution to the Summit, having regard to the terms of reference developed by the Coalition.

... Following consideration of the submissions by the Coalition, organisations /agencies will be invited to attend the Summit. Participating organisations will be required, where appropriate, to bring a young person to the Summit as part of their delegation. It is suggested delegations consist of no more than two people per organisation/agency.

Date

Proposed last sitting session of Parliament early December 1998

Venue

Parliament House, Canberra

Cost

Cost of Summit registration and participation fee will be \$300.00 for the Summit only; \$100 per pre- Summit forum; \$350.00 for both. Participants will make their own transport and accommodation arrangements. The registration fee will not extend to children and young people for whom specific sponsorship will be sought. The registration fee will include morning and afternoon teas, lunches, the Summit dinner and pre and post Summit briefing materials.

Concessional rates may be negotiated with the Coalition as required. Travel and accommodation discounts, subsidies and/or sponsorship will be sought for all participants by the Coalition.

Summit Coordination

... A summit Coordinator and a conference/event management company will be sought to provide organisational and administrative support for the Summit.

... The Working Group of the Coalition will oversee the planning for the Summit.

Media strategy

DDB are currently devising a three stage media strategy for the Coalition which will involve:

1. Presenting the situation of children and young people in Australia, including the positive and negative aspects of their lives
2. Encouraging the public to rethink their perceptions of children and young people in Australia and their role and needs as citizens
3. Profiling the Coalition and its membership; its role as a partnership of expertise in children's and young people's advocacy, policy and service provision in Australia and; its role in facilitating the voice and participation of children and young people themselves.

This work will form the basis of a wider media program to be developed leading up to the Summit.

Participation by Children and Young People in the work of the Coalition

The Australian Association of Young People in Care (AAYPIC), the Action and Youth Policy Coalition (AYPAC) and the National Children's & Youth Law Centre are coordinating a strategy for the participation of children and young people in the Summit and the on-going work of the Coalition.

Facilitating the input of children and young people to the Summit will include resourcing and developing the use of technology to access the views of children and young people from a variety of different experiences and perspectives, pre-Summit briefings and support. Specific resources are being sought for this strategy.

Coalition commissioned survey of Australia's attitudes and values towards children and young people.

The Coalition strategy for 1998 includes the commissioning of a focussed survey on Australian's attitudes and values towards children. It is anticipated this work will be completed by the Summit.

The Outcomes

The Summit will achieve the following outcomes

- Present governments with clearly articulated options from which to develop policy platforms and take action for children and young people.
- Gain critical and on-going input and participation from children and young people themselves in contributing their views and formulating solutions.
- Harness the extensive experience and expertise of a wide range of children's, youth and family focussed organisations, agencies and institutions in developing appropriate responses to the current needs of children and young people.
- Engage governments, the business and community sectors in partnerships to formulate a holistic commitment to addressing the needs of children and young people.

OPERATING GUIDELINES OF THE COALITION

Mission

To promote the interests of children and young people in Australia.

Membership

Membership of the Coalition is open to all children's and youth interest organisations at the peak and national level,

And

invited individuals who are actively promoting the interests of children at the national level.

National/Peak organisations who are members of the Coalition will be asked to contribute a foundation donation of \$500.00 each to cover costs incurred by the Coalition for the printing, distribution and launch of the Commitment and other associated costs of the Coalition in 1997.

Membership of the Coalition is not subject to payment of the foundation donation.

Structure

The Coalition will meet 3 times per year or more often as required.

Coalition meetings should include a representative from each member organisation.

Coordinating Group

The Coalition has established a Coordinating Group whose role is to:

- implement the activities, action and outcomes desired by the Coalition between meetings
- be proactive on behalf of the Coalition to promote children's interests as and when necessary - delegations, lobbying and representation of the Coalition at conferences, forums etc.

- establish working groups or delegate individuals to undertake specific tasks for the Coalition as and when necessary
- produce a Communique, for use and distribution by members, after each meeting and for any other purpose in the work of the Coalition
- the group should consist of no more than 8 people.

Coalition Convenor

The Coalition has appointed a Convenor until the completion of the Commitment to Australia's Children Campaign in 1998.

The Convenor's role is to:

- chair the Coalition meetings
- represent the Coalition in the public arena
- be the spokesperson for the Coalition

The Convenor is the person authorised to speak on behalf of the Coalition. Members of the Coalition are encouraged to speak on their own and/or organisations behalf to promote the work of the Coalition.

In the absence of the Convenor, the Coordinating Group will nominate another person to act in the role.

Treasurer

A Coalition member will administer funds on behalf of the Coalition including:

- payment of costs incurred by the Coalition
- providing financial statements to Coalition meetings

The organisation acting as Treasurer should be incorporated and have charitable status.

Communication

The Coordinating Group will record the outcomes, and distribute them after each meeting of the Coalition. A Communique will be distributed after each meeting outlining the current progress of the Coalition.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 28, 1998

Senator Edward Kennedy
315 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

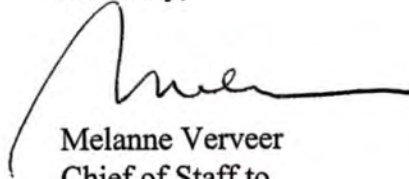
Dear Sen. Kennedy:

Thank you for forwarding the invitation from Tom Keneally to the First Lady to participate in the Childrens' Summit in Australia this December.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Clinton is not able to travel to Australia in December. Enclosed is a copy of the letter sent to Mr. Keneally.

Very best wishes, and thanks for all you do.

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 28, 1998

Mr. Tom Keneally,
24 The Serpentine,
Bilgola Beach
NSW 2107 Australia

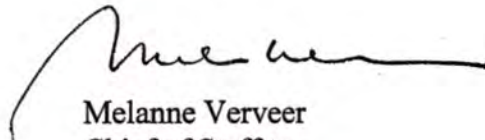
Dear Mr. Kenally:

Thank you for your invitation to the First Lady to attend the National Childrens' Summit, in Canberra this December. Senator Kennedy forwarded your request to Mrs. Clinton.

Regrettably, Mrs. Clinton's schedule will not allow her to accept your kind invitation. But she has asked me to convey her appreciation, along with her best wishes for a successful event.

Very best wishes, and thank you all you do in our common cause to improve the lives of children.

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

Edward M. Kennedy
Massachusetts



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 8, 1998

The First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Hillary:

I've just received the enclosed letter of invitation and accompanying materials from Tom Keneally in Australia.

I've known Tom for several years as an excellent author, historian (he's an expert on how the Irish won America's Civil War!), and activist on social issues. I believe you and the President may have met Tom and his wife Judy during your visit to Australia in November 1996. I told him I'd be glad to send the invitation along to you, and I hope you'll give it the highest consideration.

With respect and warmest wishes,

As ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "E. M. Kennedy", written over the words "As ever,".

Edward M. Kennedy

PHOTOCOPY
MISC. HANDWRITING

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 14, 1998

Ms. Linda Kerber
Obermann Center for Advanced Studies
134 Oakdale Hall
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242-5000

Dear Linda:

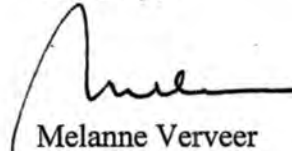
Thank you for the copy of *No Constitutional Right to be Ladies*, which I received through Lauren Osborne. We are so honored to have one of the first copies.

It was a pleasure for Mrs. Clinton to spend time with you. She conveys her best wishes, and sends her congratulations for the publication of your newest work.

All the best.

Congratulations!

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



HILL & WANG

A DIVISION OF FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX

19 UNION SQUARE WEST, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10003 FAX: 212-633-9385

212-741-6900

August 31, 1998

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
Old Executive Building, Rm. 100
Washington D.C. 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer:

We've just received our first copies of Linda Kerber's *No Constitutional Right to be Ladies*, and I wanted to be sure to get one into your hands. Thanks so much for your interest in the book since Linda's dinner with Mrs. Clinton, and do let me know if anyone else in your office would like to have a copy. We publish on September 16.

Best regards,

LMO

Lauren M. Osborne
Editor
(signed in her absence)

Thanks -
To Linda
Kerber
see her address
Eric - I have
her address

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 23, 1998

Ms. Anu Kumar
Senior Program Officer, Population Area
MacArthur Foundation
140 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60603-5285

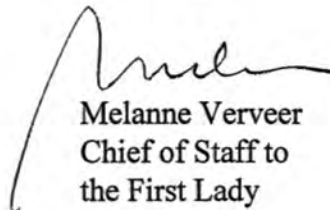
Dear Anu:

Thank you for your letter, and your
recommendations about the experts on Haiti.

We greatly appreciated your participation at the
meeting Mrs. Clinton convened and we are hopeful that
the trip to Haiti will produce positive results for the people
there.

Best wishes, and thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

140 South Dearborn Street
Suite 1100

Chicago, Illinois 60603-5285
Telephone: (312) 726-8000
TDD: (312) 920-6285

THE JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T.

MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

September 9, 1998

Melanne Verveer
Assitant /Chief of Staff
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500-2000

Dear Ms. Verveer,

Thank you for inviting the MacArthur Foundation to the meeting last month on your upcoming trip to Haiti. It was an honor and pleasure for me to meet you and learn about USAID's work in Haiti.

I had some additional thoughts about your trip that I wish to share with you in this message. I think it is very important that you meet with individuals who are knowledgeable about Haiti from a non-governmental perspective. These individuals would be able to provide you a view from civil society which we heard has been active in Haiti.

In my preparation for the meeting, I ran across two names that might be useful for you. The first is M. Catherine Maternowska, who is from Little Rock, AR. She conducted an evaluation of a family planning clinic in Cite Soleil that encompassed 10 years of observing clinical practice. An article by her entitled, "Community, clinic, and culture: a case study of the impact of family planning in Haiti," is very informative.

Another person who I believe would be helpful is Paul Farmer. Dr. Farmer is an anthropologist as well as a physician. He has done extensive fieldwork in Haiti and has written widely on HIV/AIDS in Haiti. His work is outstanding. He was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship ("genius award") and donated the money to a charitable organization working in Haiti. I believe he is based in Washington.

You may also be interested in knowing that the Global Fund for Women has made grants to women's groups in Haiti. In fact, one of their grantees, Clinik Solidarite Fann Ayisyen, was recently raided by the police. A demonstration of more than 1000 women helped the clinic to overcome their fear and reopen their doors.

Melanne Verveer
September 9, 1998
Page 2

Finally, the Panos Institute has an office in Haiti. Their local office director is Jan Voordouw. I am aware of two projects that they have ongoing. One is linking Haitian journalists with other Caribbean journalists to foster a more cohesive Caribbean identity and reduce Haiti's historical sense of isolation. The other project entails women journalists documenting women entrepreneurs and their activities. Given the success of the USAID micro-credit program, this is likely to be an interesting project.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the meeting last month. If I can be of any assistance as you prepare for this trip, please call on me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anu Kumar".

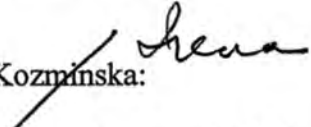
Anu Kumar, PhD
Senior Program Officer, Population Area
Program on Global Security & Sustainability
Email: akumar@macfdn.org

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 14, 1998

Mrs. Irena Kozminska
3101 Albemarle Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008

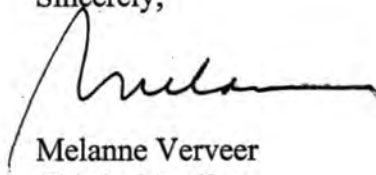
Dear Mrs. Kozminska:

 Thank you very much for inviting Mrs. Clinton to serve as the Honorary Chairperson of the new Polish foundation "The Children's Emotional Health Program" and to attend the May 1999 conference. This is a wonderful initiative of yours that should make a difference in promoting the psychological and emotional education of Polish children, parents and teachers.

Under White House regulations, the First Lady is unable to serve on foundations and, therefore, must decline your invitation. It is also unlikely that she will be able to attend the conference next year for scheduling reasons. However, she would be very interested in being kept informed of the foundation's accomplishments and the outcome of the conference.

Once again, let me express our appreciation for your gracious invitation and your kind words about her work on children's issues. We look forward to continuing a dialogue on these issues and your ongoing efforts to help Polish children adjust to the increasingly complex world in which we live.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

5702

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

August 19, 1998

*Eric -
p15 do the*

MEMORANDUM FOR MELANNE VERVEER

FROM: GLYN DAVIES *(R) for*

SUBJECT: FLOTUS Response to Mrs. Kozminska, Wife of Polish Ambassador

Attached at Tab A is a draft letter from the First Lady to Mrs. Kozminska, the wife of the Polish Ambassador to the United States, who asked her to serve as honorary Chairperson of a new Polish foundation, "The Children's Emotional Health Program" and to attend a conference in Poland in May 1999.

The draft letter regrets Mrs. Clinton's involvement with the foundation and attendance at the conference. There is a White House policy which prohibits use of the First Lady's name for fundraising by foundations, even for charitable causes. Exceptions to the rule require that a particularly important case be made from a foreign policy perspective and that we are able to vouch for the integrity of the foundation. While we can vouch for the integrity of Mrs. Kominska and another foundation she has created, we cannot vouch for this foundation because it is just getting started. There is also no pressing foreign policy reason why Mrs. Clinton should serve as Chairperson.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Mrs. Kozminska

Tab B Incoming correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Kozminska:

Thank you very much for inviting me to serve as the Honorary Chairperson of the new Polish foundation "The Children's Emotional Health Program" and to attend the May 1999 conference. This is a wonderful initiative of yours that should make a difference in promoting the psychological and emotional education of Polish children, parents and teachers.

Regrettably, I am unable to serve on the foundation at this time and probably will not be able to attend the conference next year for scheduling reasons. However, I would be very interested in being kept informed of the foundation's accomplishments and the outcome of the conference.

Once again, let me express my appreciation for your gracious invitations and your kind words about my work on children's issues. I look forward to continuing a dialogue on these issues and your ongoing efforts to help Polish children adjust to the increasingly complex world in which we live.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Irena Kozminska
3101 Albemarle Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 22, 1998

Ms. Corene T. Kendrick
1910 37th St., NW
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Ms. Kendrick:

I am writing to let you know that I won't be able to offer you a position in my new office. I have appreciated your interest and impressive qualifications. If I hear of other positions, I would be happy to let you know.

Best of luck with your job search.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shirley Sagawa', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Shirley Sagawa
Deputy Assistant to the President
and Deputy Chief of Staff,
Office of the First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 26, 1998

Ambassador Ojars Kalnins
Embassy of Latvia
4325 Seventeenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

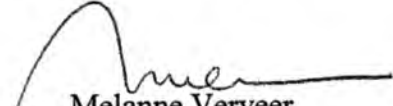
Dear Ambassador Kalnins:

Thank you for your kind words and very thoughtful letter. From your unique position, you offer tremendous insight and I know the President and the First lady greatly appreciate your support. I have given your letter and the CD to them.

Thank you for your wisdom, your leadership within the diplomatic community, and for all that you do.

Love to Irma.

With Best Wishes,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

(P)

EMBASSY OF LATVIA
4325 SEVENTEENTH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20011

Dear Melanne,

This is a personal note, written not by the Ambassador of Latvia, but by a guy who grew up on the West Side of Chicago. The fact that I started my job as ambassador in the same January month that Bill Clinton became president, has been special to me and has enabled me to observe the events in Washington for the last 6 years from a very unique vantage point.

Knowing how rough it has been inside the White House this last year, I wanted to share some recent observations. If I knew the president had time to read it, I would write the letter to him. I'd also write one to the first Lady. But if I wrote to either one directly, I would have to write as ambassador, on behalf of my country, knowing my letter would get filed, archived, verified etc.

I just wanted to write as a friend.

**

I thought that the standing ovation the President received at the UN General Assembly last Monday was one of the most electrically charged moments I have ever experienced. It looks now like it may be remembered as part of a major turning point in the President's present troubles.

While the world's leaders stood on their feet to express heartfelt support to Bill Clinton, the videotape of the President's grand jury testimony was being broadcast around the world, to the people those leaders were representing. We know now that public opinion has turned even more in favor of the President as a result of that videotape.

But the diplomats who were in that General Assembly hall that day had no way of knowing that. We left our hotel rooms that morning being told by every TV news reporter and radio commentator to expect the worst. Once we entered the barricaded fortress that had been placed around the UN, we were cut off from all news.

As we awaited the President's arrival at the podium we knew that almost everyone in the world but us had already seen or was still watching what Dan Rather kept calling the 'historic' testimony. For all we knew, (and based on what the press had led us to believe) what the President was saying and revealing in that videotape would nail the coffin on the lid of his presidency.

So you would think that the world leaders, ambassadors and other diplomats assembled in that cavernous UN hall were preparing to welcome a condemned man.

I've been around Washington and hardball politics long enough (13 years) to know that politicians don't readily associate themselves with the politically dead or dying. Everyone, as we know, is out for themselves.

That's why the standing ovation in the GA hall was so remarkable. It defied political logic. It was one of the most genuinely spontaneous and sincere demonstrations of human feeling I have ever seen among hardcore politicians.

I was with President Ulmanis and the Latvian delegation at the back of the hall, and from our seats we could see the entire room before us. When the President appeared on the podium the

applause broke out; polite at first, as would be expected for any US President addressing the GA. But the applause grew. Suddenly, a delegation in the very first row (I think now it was Mexico) stood up. The entire hall saw this. Immediately another delegation rose. Then a third. Entire rows began to rise and soon the entire hall surged to its feet. (It's the first time I've seen diplomats do the 'wave'.)

I think we were all surprised by what was happening. Surprised by our own spontaneity and by our suddenly totally undiplomatic desire to let this guy know that we liked him. Despite everything, we liked him.

There was a sense of catharsis in that hall, as if for the first time we were able to put aside our public personnas and show how we really felt.

I had been hearing how world diplomats really felt for days, back in Washington and in New York. Feelings were mixed, criticism came freely and predictions mingled with puzzlement. But everyone hoped that the President would survive this, so the US could return its attention to the rest of the world. While they questioned his judgement, remarked on his weaknesses and told good natured jokes at his expense, they still liked him, and wanted him to remain in charge of 'the world's only indispensable country'.

But no one wanted to say anything publicly, because the subject was so sensitive and unfamiliar. They hadn't been trained how to deal with this kind of thing in diplomat's school.

I never went to that school, which is why I decided to write James Morrison of the Washington Times a short note about how I felt about the President's troubles. James printed it on August 24, and while it startled some of my colleagues, they all privately agreed with me. (They also probably felt relieved that someone else chose to risk breaking the ice with a public comment.)

The GA standing ovation let everyone finally come out of the closet in expressing their sympathy and support for Bill Clinton.

I've continued to hear that support all week. Met the South African ambassador Franklin Sonn last night at the MS Ambassador's Ball, and he gushed with pride about the Nelson Mandella visit, particularly Mandella's unqualified support for the President. I told Franklin that our president Ulmanis had also come out publicly in support of the President, but of course, he doesn't get the press attention of a Nelson Mandella.

The other very notable aspect of diplomatic reaction to all this concerns the First Lady. The respect people feel for her is enormous. And continues to grow. They say that events like this create no heroes, (except perhaps tragic ones) but Hillary's stature has indeed assumed heroic proportions in recent months. The President recently said that this crisis has helped bring his family closer together. In a very intimate way, it has also brought a lot of people a lot closer to his family.

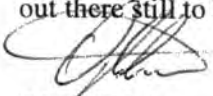
The press writes that people expect their leaders to be superhuman figures, beyond reproach and flawless. But that's not true. Leaders are human like the rest of us, and suffer the same anxieties, uncertainties, impulses and weaknesses we do. What sets leaders apart is their ability to rise above all those very human, all too human traits, and lead.

My colleagues (and apparently very many Americans) believe that Bill Clinton is a good leader. What sets him apart is a series of circumstances that have led to a very public exposure of his human weaknesses. Since many of us have the same (or comparable) weaknesses, it is reassuring to see that a man uniquely gifted with the skills, instincts and courage of leadership, is also human. Just like us.

Politicians and the press will continue to attack because politics has always been a lot like rugby – you don't care whose feet you step on when you're trying to get the ball. There's a lot of

pushing, shoving and shouting, feelings are bruised and bones are broken, but sooner or later the ball and its possessor emerge. Someone eventually scores a goal. The game goes on.

At the UN General Assembly last Monday, I got the impression that the leaders of the world wanted to give Bill Clinton the ball back, so he could run with it. There are a lot of goals out there still to be reached.



Ojars Kalnins

P.S. Although I wrote this as a guy from Chicago, I should point out that I have acquired some authority in this town – I have become the ‘dean’ of the European diplomatic corps and am somewhere near the top ten of all serving (surviving?) ambassadors. (It’s purely a function of longevity.) At the National Cathedral Memorial service for the victims of the US embassy bombings I became ‘acting dean’ of the attending diplomatic delegation, since no one higher in rank was present. Given that this service was dedicated to all diplomats risking life and limb around the world, it was a singular honor for me to symbolically ‘head’ the global diplomatic corps. It’s the kind of experience that gives a kid from Chicago the goose pumps.

P.P.S. Earlier this year I wrote the president and suggested he give a listen to the music of Steve Earle. I suspect he hasn’t had time. But if he did, I would recommend one song in particular, called Valentine’s Day. It’s song 7 on the enclosed CD. It’s the kind of song a guy might want to play for his wife sometimes.

The Washington Times

WORLD

Embassy Row

By James Morrison

Diplomatic defense

President Clinton has a friend in the diplomatic corps who believes he has been an "effective leader" in international affairs.

Latvian Ambassador Ojars Kalnins, the senior European diplomat in Washington, dropped Embassy Row a letter last week to offer the president some encouraging words from a foreign envoy who came to Washington in April 1993, three months after Mr. Clinton took office in his first term.

Mr. Kalnins' comments were directed at the presidential sex scandal and written before Mr. Clinton announced the strikes against terrorist targets in Sudan and Afghanistan.

"In reflecting on President Clinton's present crisis, I think it is important to put it into a broader perspective," Mr. Kalnins wrote. "President Clinton has been an effective leader in the international arena and a good, reliable friend and partner to many countries around the world."

He noted Mr. Clinton's support for the enlargement of NATO and said the president has played a "pivotal role in the integration and rebuilding of a new Europe."

"It is always unsettling to see a friend go through difficult times, regardless of the cause of those difficulties," Mr. Kalnins wrote.

"Ultimately, however, the future of President Clinton is up to the American people. They must decide whether they want him to continue to lead or not. In most foreign capitals, the story now isn't so much what the president did, but what the American people will do in response."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 29, 1998

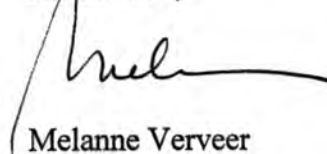
Mr. Marvin Krislov
US Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW Rm. S-2002
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Marvin:

Congratulations on your move to the University of Michigan. It's a great institution with an extraordinary president who's a fine lawyer and constitutional scholar. You are in good company.

Thank you for all you have done. It was a pleasure to work with you. Best of luck to you and please stay in touch.

All the best,

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

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



FAREWELL FOR MARVIN KRISLOV

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

3:00-5:00 P.M.

GREAT HALL

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Marvin Krislov is leaving the Department of Labor to become General Counsel of the University of Michigan.

Please join his colleagues and friends in saying thank you and farewell to Marvin. Anyone wishing to send notes/letters can address them to Marvin as follows: U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room S-2002, Washington, D.C. 20210.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 2, 1998

Ms. Donna Kocian
2500 Steck Avenue #27
Austin, Texas 78757

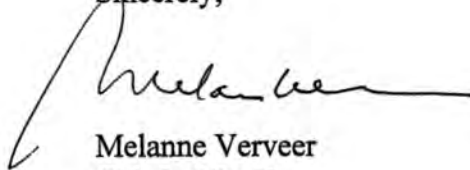
Dear Ms. Kocian:

Thank you for your recent correspondence with the First Lady and your news about the invitation to the launch. Mrs. Clinton was pleased to learn that Jerrie Cobb had an opportunity to discuss first hand with NASA Administrator Dan Goldin the possibility of a future flight opportunity. She felt it was important for her to hear directly from Administrator Goldin and get the benefit of his views since he will make any final decisions on future flight opportunities aboard the Space Shuttle. I understand that Administrator Goldin has followed up on the meeting with a letter directly to Ms. Cobb.

It is our understanding that NASA intends to evaluate the scientific data obtained from John Glenn's flight before making any commitments of future flights on aging research. At that time, if NASA does proceed with a future flight, I am confident that Ms. Cobb's experience and credentials will be an asset in the selection process.

Please find enclosed photos from the meeting you had with Mrs. Clinton this summer. I encourage you to stay in close contact with NASA over the coming months and wish you well.

Sincerely,

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

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
to the First Lady



To Jerrie Cobb with best wishes -
Hillary Rodham Clinton



To Donna Kocian with best wishes -
Hillary Rodham Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 30, 1998

The Honorable Lakshman Kadirgamar
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Colombo

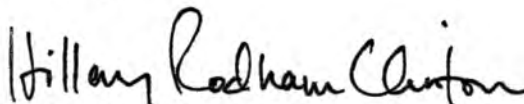
Dear Mr. Minister:

Thank you for your letter concerning the use of children in combat by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. I am appalled at the abuse of these children -- any nation's most precious assets.

You are to be commended for bringing this matter to the world's attention. It is morally repugnant for the children of Sri Lanka to suffer like this and caring people everywhere condemn those who would perpetuate this abhorrent practice.

Thank you again for your letter and for speaking out on this important issue.

Sincerely,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 21, 1998

Ambassador Madeleine Kunin
US Embassy Bern
Jubilaumstrasse 93, 3005 Bern
Switzerland

Madeleine

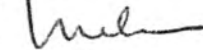
Dear Ambassador Kunin:

Thank you for forwarding the invitation for the First Lady to attend the FDP women's conference in Lucerne this June.

Regrettably, the First Lady must decline the invitation. But please convey Mrs. Clinton's appreciation to the FDP women for their thoughtfulness, along with her best wishes for a successful conference.

Hope all is well in Bern. Happy holidays and very best wishes for the new year.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

December 17, 1998

Ambassador Madeleine Kunin
US Embassy Bern
Jubilaumstrasse 93, 3005 Bern
Switzerland

Dear Ambassador Kunin:

Thank you for forwarding the invitation for the First Lady to attend the FDP women's conference in Lucerne this June.

Regrettably, no
~~Given the partisan nature of the event, the~~ First Lady must decline the invitation. But please convey Mrs. Clinton's appreciation to the FDP women for their thoughtfulness, along with her best wishes for a successful conference.

Hope all is well in Bern. Happy holidays and very best wishes for the new year.

o/c

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

November 16, 1998

7766

Regul

*to our
Ambassador
H. Kerner*

MEMORANDUM FOR MELANNE VERVEER

FROM: GLYN T. DAVIES *GD*

SUBJECT: Invitation of the Swiss Free Democratic Party to
the First Lady

The women's caucus of the Free Democratic Party (FDP) of Switzerland has invited the First Lady to a conference in Lucerne on June 26, 1999. The FDP is one of several political parties in Switzerland. Given the partisan nature of this event, we believe the First Lady may wish to consider declining the invitation.

Attachment

Tab A Incoming correspondence

Big Event For the Free Democrat (FDP) Women
Culture-and Congress Center Lucerne on June 26, 1999, 10 a.m.

Dear Madam Ambassador

The Women's section of the FDP Switzerland, the "FDP Women Switzerland" and the "Young FDP Women" are organizing together in close cooperation with Mrs. Marianne Kleiner, Vice President of the FDP Switzerland and Executive of the Government of Appenzell Ausserrhoden, a big event for all Free Democratic women from the federal, cantonal and communal levels. Women who are striving for a mandate and sympathizers are also invited. Our goal is to experience and demonstrate solidarity, to discuss and exchange experiences and to encourage each other.

Most activities will take place in the concert hall of the new culture- and congress center in Lucerne.

It would be a great honor for us if Mrs. Hillary Clinton could attend our event! In this case we would try to organize additional, smaller events with other senior individuals from the business and/or cultural sectors.

We would therefore kindly ask you to determine if our wish could become reality.

Should there be scheduling difficulties regarding the acceptance of this invitation, we could change the event to June 19, 1999.

I would like to contact you by phone in the next few days.

With the request of a favorable consideration and best wishes

FDP Switzerland
Department Women
M.-L. Baumann-Bruckner

*Appreciate
your consideration though
I realize this may
be difficult to do.*

Madeleine M. Curin

*Free Democratic Party
1 of 16 parties - major party*

Clinton Presidential Records

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Collection: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup: First Lady's Office

Series: Melanne Verveer

Subseries:

Document Title Women's caucus of the Free Democratic Party of
Switzerland

Language: Swiss

Folder Title Melanne Verveer's Mail -1998-K [2]

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