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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 10, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: PAT LINDH *PL*
SUBJECT: Presidential Press Conferences in
Houston and Topeka

Due to the recent articles in the paper we have prepared a Q & A for the President relative to Mrs. Ford's ERA activity during the past week.

Also, a question may arise on the film presentation held last Friday on the ERA. We have attached the invitation from the First Lady for your information.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR:

Pat Lindh

FROM

: RON NESSEN

Here's your fact
sheet on I W Y for
State Dept. letter-
head and reproduction.
Looks good!

PAT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: RON NESSEN

FROM: PAT LINDH *PL*

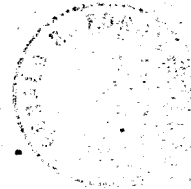
For your information _____

For appropriate handling

Per your request _____

Remarks:

Attached is the fact
sheet for distribution
this evening. We would
like 3500 copies later this
week for the mailing I
discussed with you.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: JERRY JONES

FROM: PAT LINDH *PL*

For your information X

For appropriate handling _____

Per your request _____

Remarks:

JULY 14, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE OF
THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

1975 was proclaimed as International Women's Year by the United Nations General Assembly in December, 1972. The major international event sponsored by the United Nations for this Year was a World Conference held in Mexico City from June 19th - July 2nd. This Conference was attended by 1,300 people representing 130 nations.

United States Delegation

The official U.S. Delegation to this Conference was appointed by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. The list of the Delegation is attached.

World Plan of Action

The World Plan of Action adopted unanimously by the Conference delegates maps out guidelines directed at national governments and international bodies to accelerate women's full participation in economic, social, political, and cultural life.

The draft Plan of Action was prepared by 23 nations last March at a meeting held at the United Nations. The United States was represented by Patricia Hutar at this meeting.

Eight hundred ninety-four amendments were proposed by the delegates in Mexico City. Within the time provided the delegates voted to adopt the World Plan of Action after amending the Introduction and Chapter 1 entitled, "National Action." The U.S. Delegation felt that the amendments adopted strengthened the final document.

One amendment of interest to women in the United States was the difference of opinion on the words "equal pay for equal work." In the United States the Equal Pay Act has been interpreted to mean equal pay for work of equal value. Thus the following compromise between the United States and others was agreed upon: "equality of opportunity and conditions of employment, including remuneration."

The remaining chapters in the Plan of Action spell out specific areas for national action including political participation, education and training, employment and other economic issues, health and nutrition, the family in modern society, population, housing and related facilities, research, data collection and analysis, mass communication media. There is a section on international and regional action and a final section on review and appraisal of progress made.

In closing remarks regarding the Plan of Action the U.S. Delegation pointed out several areas it would have liked to have amended. Some of these include the following ideas:

- 1) Chapter II, section D on employment and related economic roles should provide that Governments, employers, and trade unions should ensure to all women workers freedom from discrimination because of pregnancy, in hiring, leave, insurance, re-employment, and all other conditions of employment. Disabilities caused or contributed to by child-birth and pregnancy-related conditions should be treated for all job-related purposes like any other temporary disability. Leave for child-rearing purposes should be liberal, especially in the early years, and should be available to either parent.

- 2) Section F on the family in modern society should stipulate that appropriate temporary or permanent allowances should be provided for disabled spouses and spouses who have lost opportunities for education or employment because of homemaking responsibilities or because of providing education for the other spouse. Each parent should be liable for support of children within their means, taking into account the desirability of the spouse with custody of the children remaining at home.
- 3) In Chapter III on Research, data collection and analysis, provisions should be added to indicate that more data need to be collected on women in particular but it is equally important to establish their relative position vis-a-vis men. Research and data analysis should look at both women and men.
- 4) Chapter VI on Review and appraisal should state that beginning in 1976, all appropriate bodies of the United Nations system should include in their development, assistance plans, programmes, sector analysis, and project documents, where relevant and feasible, a statement of how the proposed assistance activities will affect women as participants and beneficiaries. These statements would serve both as guides to the design, review, and implementation of appropriate assistance activities and as standards for their later evaluation.

Resolutions Initiated by the United States Delegation

Resolutions considering current trends and changes in the status and roles of women and men, and major obstacles to be overcome in the achievement of equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities were adopted primarily to strengthen various actions to be taken by national governments and international bodies as outlined in the World Plan of Action.

The United States initiatives included the following:

- 1) INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AS EQUAL PARTNERS WITH MEN recommends that all organs of the United Nations development system, specialized agencies, and other international technical and financial assistance programs and agencies:
 - a) give special attention to those development undertakings which integrate women in the development process;
 - b) incorporate in their development assistance plans, program and sector analyses and program documents an impact statement of how such proposed programs will affect women as participants and beneficiaries, in consultation with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women;
 - c) establish review and appraisal systems, as well as research to serve in the design, implementation and evaluation of programs and to provide a means of measuring progress in the integration of women in the development process;
 - d) ensure that women are included on an equitable basis with men on all levels of decision-making which govern the planning and implementation of these programs, keeping in mind the principle of geographical distribution.

The resolution further invites all member governments and private organizations engaged in development programs to adopt the above recommendations in their programming processes.

- 2) EDUCATION AND TRAINING recommends to governments that:
 - a) genuine reforms should be carried out in all educational systems starting with early childhood education so that girls and boys will consider each other as equals;
 - b) training for teaching, counseling, and administration should be without sex bias or discriminatory attitudes and should heighten teachers awareness of the full range of abilities in both sexes;
 - c) at all levels of teaching and administration men and women should be equally represented;

- d) all forms of mass communication and technology should be used to expand the educational opportunities for women as well as men;
- e) all teaching media and materials should be free of sex bias and should be directed toward changing discriminatory attitudes;
- f) identification of authentic skills and all human resources of the community, and full use of these skills and resources in the educational process, with particular emphasis upon the contribution of women;
- g) the establishment of training and promotion centers for women in the form of community or co-operative enterprises in rural and urban areas where the need is greatest;
- h) continuing research and evaluation of education programs as they affect girls and women, and as they bring about changes in attitudes and roles for women and men.

The resolution further urges that structures and strategies be evolved and implemented to these ends on a massive scale and calls upon non-governmental organizations to assist governments in such programs.

- 3) THE SITUATION OF WOMEN IN THE EMPLOY OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES recommends that the United Nations, its specialized agencies and all its subsidiary bodies recognize their responsibilities to set an example to member states in employment and personnel practices and give priority attention to implementing in the shortest possible time the recommendations of the Standing Committee of the Joint Advisory Committee and of Ad Hoc Groups on Equal Rights for Women.

- 4) WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD PEACE THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES recommends that in the current year governments of member states should seek to increase substantially the number of women in their delegations to meetings held under United Nations auspices.

The resolution further recommends that governments should not only maintain this increase, but should seek to improve upon it in subsequent years; and that governments should not limit the representation of women to the Third Committee of the U.N. General Assembly, but should appoint women to serve on all Main Committees of the General Assembly.

- 5) POPULAR PARTICIPATION (SELF-HELP) recommends to Member states that they sponsor voluntary social promotion programs, such as self-help groups, co-operatives, women's groups and other organizations at all socio-economic levels as an integral part of general local self-help popular projects or programs aimed at national, economic and social development.

The resolution further recommends that the voluntary social movement should be composed of nationals and permanent residents of the countries in question and should respond to the social conscience of the respective countries.

Resolutions Co-sponsored by the United States Delegation

- 1) INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN provides for the establishment, under the auspices of the United Nations, an International Training and Research Institute for the promotion of women, financed through voluntary contributions, which the collaboration with appropriate national, regional and interregional economic and social research institutes would:

- a) undertake research and the collection and dissemination of information as the basis for the formulation of programs and policies for the effective participation of women;

- b) assist in the design of research for the monitoring of changes in the situation of women and the impact on their lives of economic, social and technological changes;
- c) develop, adapt and provide training programs for women in particular those of the developing countries which would enable them to undertake national research, to assume leadership roles within their own societies and increase their earning possibilities.

2) FAMILY PLANNING AND THE FULL INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT calls on Governments consistent with their national policy as far as possible:

- a) to provide adequate facilities for formal and non-formal education for women and girls, especially those in rural areas, to ensure that full advantage shall be taken of family health services;
- b) to make available to nursing mothers and their children the necessary health services within easy reach, coupled with programs of education in maternal health and child welfare as an integral part of health programs;
- c) to make available to all persons the necessary information and advice and adequate facilities and services within easy reach to enable women who so desire to decide on the number and spacing of their children and furthermore, to prepare young people for responsible parenthood;
- d) to include women on all boards and policy-making bodies at all levels in relation to the numbers of men, especially in socio-economic development plans and population policies.

Declaration of Mexico, 1975 on the equality of women and their contribution to development and peace

Two draft declarations were presented to the Conference; one prepared by the developing nations and one prepared by Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States. These declarations were statements of principle. The major difference between the two documents was the insertion of highly political issues in the draft prepared by the G-77 nations. Among these were references to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the inclusion of the word Zionism in the draft. This declaration was not unanimously approved by the Conference delegates.

IWY TRIBUNE

An International Committee of the Conference of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council organized a non-governmental Tribune, modeled on a similar forum at the 1974 World Population Conference, to run concurrently with the inter-governmental World Conference of IWY at Mexico City, June 19th - July 2nd.

Open to the participation of all interested people, the Tribune's Agenda centered on the IWY themes of equality, development and peace and the multiplicity of issues including "Women Across Cultures," "Attitude Formation and Socialization Processes," "Law and the Status of Women," "Population and Planned Parenthood," and "Peace and Disarmament."

Daily briefings on actions of the inter-governmental conference were scheduled each morning. Subjects discussed at ad hoc meetings during the Tribune were almost as varied as the interests of the some 5,000 Tribune participants representing over 80 countries.

The organizers of the Tribune stressed that the Tribune itself had no political position and would not issue any statement of principles. Individuals and groups could make statements but not in the Tribune's name.

From the beginning it became increasingly evident that the structure of the Tribune as well as the distance between the official conference and the Tribune, a distance both of geography as well as of spirit, did not allow for any direct input of the Tribune participants into the deliberations of the Conference delegates. The frustrations arising from this lack of communication led to the formation of "speakout" sessions open to all Tribune members who wished to discuss the contents and implementation of the World Plan of Action.

A core of activists sparked by American women but representing such diverse countries as Nigeria, Australia, Japan, Argentina, India, Bermuda, Mexico and Sri Lanka formed a steering committee to consider necessary revisions to the Plan of Action, the centerpiece of discussion and activity in Committee One of the official conference.

In a session on Wednesday, the 25th, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. the suggested changes to the Plan were presented to over 2,000 persons. The suggested changes to the World Plan of Action were discussed and approved by the 2,000 participants.

Calling themselves the Voice of the United Women of the Tribune, a committee called on Ms. Helvi Sipila Thursday morning to present her with a copy of the revisions and to request 10 minutes of Plenary Time to present the revisions to the official delegates. Ms. Sipila agreed to take the request in hand and accepted an invitation to respond to the Tribune on Friday.

In her remarks Ms. Sipila acknowledged the achievement and contributions of the speakout while at the same time firmly explaining that the Conference management committee could not set a precedent by granting floor time to a group not accredited to the Conference. She urged the Tribune participants to press their national governments for adoption of the World Plan of Action she predicted would emerge from the World Conference. She enjoined her audience to carry their unification beyond the Mexico City experience to create a network of women for future implementation of the World Plan.

The importance of the preparation of the Tribune recommendations is that a group of dedicated women working around the clock overcame political and national differences to agree on a blueprint for the improvement of the lives of women throughout the world. This is a testimonial to the concept of self-help embodied in one of the resolutions sponsored by the United States Delegation.

United States Delegation Participation in the Tribune

There were three official American appearances at the Tribune, namely a panel of Third World Women chaired by Senator Charles Percy, a member of the U.S. Delegation; the Delegation briefing on Friday, the 27th; and a speech by another member of the Delegation, Congresswoman Bella Abzug entitled, "Woman Power in the Future." Each was unmarked by any hostility or demonstrations.

During the U.S. Delegation briefing on the 27th, it was announced by the Head of the Delegation, Patricia Hutar, that the United States Embassy through Ambassador John Jova had agreed to print 5,000 copies of the Tribune's suggested changes to the World Plan of Action. Of these 5,000 copies half would be in English and half in Spanish. This effort was made as the Tribune had no facilities for printing their document.

OTHER NGO ACTIVITIES

The U.S. Delegation in addition to the activities directly with the IWY Tribune scheduled four other activities with the United States non-governmental leaders present in Mexico City some attending the World Conference and some attending the IWY Tribune.

The first meeting scheduled by the Delegation in co-operation with the United States Embassy was held on Saturday, the 21st. This meeting was held in the Embassy. The purpose of this meeting was to provide two-way communication with the Delegation and non-governmental leaders.

Following this Saturday meeting, three meetings were scheduled for the leaders of national organizations in attendance at the Tribune and the Conference. All of these meetings were held in the Embassy to ensure continued dialogue with the Delegation and these leaders.

On Friday, the 27th, Ambassador John Jova and Patricia Hutar unveiled the United States IWY Commemorative Stamp with the leaders of the non-governmental organizations present.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

The National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year established by President Ford on January 9th and appointed on April 2nd, is the United States vehicle for a continued focus on the items covered in the World Plan of Action adopted by the Conference. The Commission, composed of 35 members from the private sector and four members of Congress, will review the items contained in the Plan of Action and make further recommendations for implementation.

According to the Executive Order which established the Commission, a final report will be presented to the President thirty days after the close of the Year. The President then in consultation with his Special Assistant for Women, Patricia Lindh, will review this report and make recommendations regarding its implementation.