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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 24, 1995

MR. PRESIDENT:

The attached memo from Tony Lake recommends that you approve the First Lady's participation in the Beijing Women's Conference.

A White House statement would be released Friday afternoon stating that Mrs. Clinton has accepted a recommendation from your foreign policy team. If asked about linkage to Harry Wu's release, we will continue saying that a variety of factors contributed to the decision.

State will make Hill calls and Tony recommends that Mrs. Clinton call a few Members who have been prominent on Conference issues (Feinstein, Boxer, Morella and Pelosi) as well as Tom Lantos.

One last issue: Rep. Stark has asked whether you'd be interested in meeting Harry Wu around Labor Day. Tony strongly opposes a meeting.

First Lady's participation

Approve Disapprove Discuss

Decline Harry Wu meeting

Agree Disagree Discuss

Todd Stern

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E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By KRNARA, Date 8/18/2012

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8-26-95

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON
August 24, 1995

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ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LEXE ✓

SUBJECT: Mrs. Clinton's Participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing

Purpose

To obtain your approval of the First Lady's participation at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and to obtain your agreement to decline a meeting with Harry Wu. The State Department concurs.

Background

The Beijing Conference: With Harry Wu's release, we believe the major obstacle to Mrs. Clinton's participation has been removed and we recommend that she travel to Beijing for the Women's Conference.

We recommend against adding a subsequent trip to Mongolia, which we fear could be perceived as solely an attempt to ameliorate public concerns about her travel to China.

While there may be some criticism of Mrs. Clinton's participation in the Conference due to the human rights situation in China, we do not believe it will be significant. Indeed, the predominant impression may well be that delaying the decision on Mrs. Clinton's participation helped to hasten Wu's release.

Factors relevant to the decision to participate: In our public comments about the First Lady's participation in the Conference, we will emphasize that the Conference presents a rare opportunity to chart further gains in the status and rights of women -- ending violence against women, expanding their participation in decision-making, assuring access to education and health care and strengthening families. We will further stress that the First Lady's participation reflects our deep commitment on these issues and strengthens our effort to ensure that the Conference endorses U.S. goals.

Public Announcement: If you approve Mrs. Clinton's participation, we propose a White House press release stating that Mrs. Clinton has accepted a recommendation from your foreign

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cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By KKH/NARA, Date 8/12/2022

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policy team that she attend the Conference. We will issue this release on Friday afternoon, before the Women's Equality Day event that you will be attending in Wyoming on Saturday. We will ensure that the Chinese authorities are informed prior to the public announcement.

If, after the announcement, we are asked whether Mrs. Clinton's participation was linked to Harry Wu's release, we will continue to respond that a variety of factors were involved in making this decision.

Mrs. Clinton's Activities in Beijing: We believe that Mrs. Clinton should avoid any bilateral meetings but be willing to participate in group meetings hosted by the Chinese. In her speech to the Conference, she would include discussion of human rights -- a critical Conference issue -- without specifically criticizing the Chinese government.

Informing Members of Congress and Others: State will make Hill calls just before the announcement. We will ask Mrs. Clinton to call a small number of legislators who have been leaders on issues related to the Conference, including Sens. Feinstein and Boxer and Reps. Morella and Pelosi. We will also ask that the First Lady speak to Rep. Tom Lantos, who is both a human rights activist and one of Mrs. Clinton's staunchest defenders on the Hill. Finally, we will identify and inform those Chinese student activists, members of the human rights community and opinion leaders who we believe will be willing to express support for Mrs. Clinton's travel to Beijing.

Request for Meeting With Harry Wu: Rep. Pete Stark's office has inquired whether you would be interested in meeting with Harry Wu (a constituent of Rep. Stark) around Labor Day when you will be in the San Francisco area. We advise against such a meeting, as we believe it would be highly offensive to the Chinese after they have made what they believe to be a positive gesture in releasing Mr. Wu. Alternatively, I could see Wu when he visits Washington (as he surely will). I met previously with his wife.

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the First Lady's participation in the Beijing Conference and the plan of action described above.

Approve Disapprove

That we inform Rep. Pete Stark's office that your schedule will not permit a meeting with Mr. Wu, but that I would be willing to see him at a later date.

Approve Disapprove

Handwritten signature