

RELEASE IN PART B6

Your upcoming trip

From: Melanne Vermeer

B6

To: Hillary Clinton hr15@att.blackberry.net

Subject: Your upcoming trip

I feel like I'm in limbo but trying to do what's allowable on the women's front.

I wanted to raise a few issues regarding your upcoming trip.

China - the state of female migrant workers is looming as a big challenge and exacerbated by the economic downturn. About half of the 130 million migrant workers are women. The Chinese government just announced that 20 million migrant workers have lost jobs. Women's fate is compounded by the fact that 85 million are reported suffering from domestic violence and an unknown number are victims of trafficking. According to the All China Women's Federation, 1/3 of China's 267 million families have witnessed domestic violence and 94% are of the victims are women. A Chinese court in 2008 issued the first ever protective order to a domestic violence victimso far 6 have been issued in 3 localities. A central government document now mandates police to respond to DV complaints made through hotlines and mandate the All-China Women's Federation to establish DV hotlines throughout the country. The All-China Women's Federation is committed to getting a domestic violence law approved this year. Also China has finally issued the national action plan on combating trafficking in women and children to adopt a comprehensive approach to trafficking. They have a long way to go but this represents progress.

If there's anyway to mention pressing concerns affecting women, particularly protecting migrant workers, the urgency of protecting victims of domestic violence and trafficking, it could make a difference.

If you have time to meet with any women or to include them in an already planned for discussion, there are several women (some of whom you met during your 1998 trip to China and again at Vital Voices event, as well as the representative of All-China Women's Federation, Chen Zhili). I can provide contact information if there's interest, as can Susan O'Sullivan in DRL.

Finally on HIV/AIDS

ZENG JINYAN is the wife of the famous HIV/AIDS activist and detainee Hu Jia who was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. Sec. Rice raised his case in 2008 as he has been detained since 2007 for testifying on TV for the EU about China's human rights situation.

Zheng, his wife, was selected by TIME as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. She is under house arrest with her 2 year-old daughter for speaking out on behalf of her husband. Zheng and Hu were our messengers to Dr Gao when we were trying to get her to come to Washington in 2006. ZHENG TRANSLATED YOUR LETTER TO THE CHINESE PRESIDENT AND PREMIER, AS WELL AS THE VITAL VOICES INVITATION INTO CHINESE FOR DR. GAO. If there's anyway you could meet with Zheng it would send a strong and personal message for human rights.

I don't know where DRL and the China desk come down on all of this, but I thought you'd want to know. You have no shortage of experts in the building.

Japan - The DCM, James Zumwalt, is the Charge. He is terrific. His wife, ANN KAMBARA, is also a Foreign Service officer. She took the lead when Baker was Ambassador (strongly supported by Nancy Kassebaum at the time), to get the Japanese to address the terrible trafficking problem, which had been largely ignored.

(John Miller wanted to come down hard on the Japanese and Nancy knew that would be a counterproductive strategy with the Japanese.) Nancy brought in Vital Voices to engage others from around the world and demonstrate to the Japanese that this was a global problem that we all had to address. We worked really closely with Ann who did a terrific job of pulling a regional meeting together of top governments and NGOs -- first time Japanese govt was in same room with the NGOs. It had a very positive impact and the work continues.

If you have a chance to thank Ann for her work on trafficking, it would be well deserved.

She is a huge fan of yours. She had me do a speaking tour in different parts of Japan for the embassy and I learned a great deal about the rather nascent state of civil society and the strictures on young women to leave the work force once they become mothers. This is creating a real problem as the birth rate there is dropping significantly.

I'm sorry to put this in an email as opposed to a more readable memo. If you need anything additional on any of this, I'm happy to do what I can.

Have a productive trip.

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