



International Leadership Forum for Women with Disabilities

Press Release: June 15, 1997

Aspects of Leadership to be Forum Focus, June 16

Women leaders---is their leadership approach different from their male counterparts? How do women become leaders in various cultures despite oppression and lack of opportunity? How can girls, including disabled girls, be prepared for leadership roles in the future? These and other questions about the components of leadership development will be the theme for main sessions and workshops to be presented on June 16, the first day of the International Leadership Forum for Women with Disabilities.

The approximately 500 Forum participants will first be challenged by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who is also Chair of President Clinton's

Interagency Council on Women, and by Health & Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, who will deliver morning keynotes. They will be followed by Maria Rantho, a disabled Member of Parliament from South Africa, and by Laura Liswood of the Women's Leadership Project, Washington, D.C. Liswood will present and discuss her unique videotaped interviews with female Heads of State from around the world, probing for the essence of female leadership.

Workshops

The six concurrent workshops for Monday afternoon will be on organizational development, UN conventions related to women, proposal writing, services developed by disabled people for disabled people, strategies to change systems and community organizing on the grassroots level. Presenters will be from Brazil, India, Bangladesh, Finland, Zimbabwe, Russia, Indonesia, Sweden, El Salvador, Canada, Uganda, Kenya, Japan, Yugoslavia, Malawi, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, South Africa, Nigeria, Cuba, Mexico and the USA.

For information: contact the Forum Secretariat: Third Millennium Events, 711 Brent Road, Rockville, MD 20850; tel 301 838 3031; fax 301 838 3029; e-mail RBBieler@aol.com