

Briefing Book

Conference/U.S. Role in International Issues of Disability

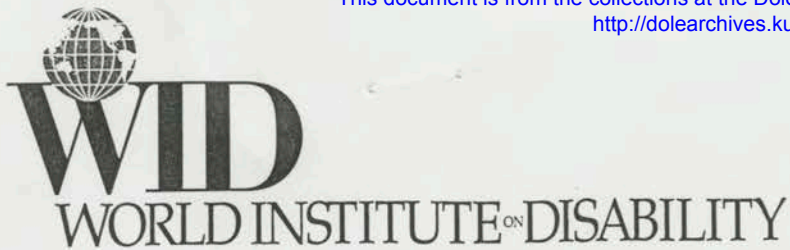
Tuesday, November 16, 1993, 9:45 a.m., SD-628
Staff: Alec Vachon (x4-8959)

- Purpose/Background:

- Meeting will (1) examine worldwide efforts to include disabled in foreign aid/development programs/human rights; and (2) develop plan--see attached invitation.
- Audience: 65+ expected; mix of policy wonks; program officers and interagency people from multilateral organizations such as World Bank.
- Sponsored by World Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation International. WID--think tank/advocacy group on disability found early 1980s by Ed Roberts with funds from MacArthur Foundation "Genius Award." Roberts also a founder of independent living movement. Rehabilitation International founded 1922; worldwide federation of 157 disability organizations.
- Copy of your floor statement on Human Rights bill will be distributed to audience; copy attached.
- Senator Harkin scheduled speak at 9:15 a.m. on foreign assistance policy.

- Where and When:

- Ar 9:45 am --Alec will meet you at door. When you arrive, Judy Heumann, Assistant Secretary for Special Ed and Rehabilitation, US Dept. of Education, will be speaking -- she will break and introduce you. (N.B.: Judy was formerly Vice President at WID and you sent her congrats when she was nominated -- attached.)
- Dp 9:55 am --Sponsors have been told you need to leave quickly and will not have time for Q&A; Alec will be present for most of day.



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October 28, 1993

The Hon. Sen. Robert Dole
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

CONFERENCE INVITATION

Dear Senator Dole,

We would like to inform about this important conference on the U.S. Role in International Issues of Disability, and invite you to deliver opening remarks on the Tuesday morning November 16, 1993, with Senator Tom Harkin. This would be a great opportunity to tell of your efforts to include disabled people in the State Department's annual report on human rights. The conference will be held November 16 and 17, 1993, in Washington, D.C.

The meeting has two main purposes:

- To examine the history and future of American research of disability internationally; and,
- To develop a comprehensive plan to incorporate Disability concerns into all levels of foreign assistance.

As you may read in the enclosed agenda, the conference activities will highlight different aspects of both concerns.

This conference is the culmination of six years of the International Disability Exchanges And Studies project, a collaborative effort of the World Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation International, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. Since 1987, the IDEAS project has sent US researchers to study disability phenomena worldwide. Additionally, the IDEAS project sponsored an Executive Roundtable on Disability and Development in October, 1992. The findings of last year's Roundtable provide the framework for the development portion of our conference.

MOVING TOWARD EQUALITY

In order to facilitate discussion, we regretfully must limit attendance. Prompt confirmation of your participation will insure a smooth and productive meeting.

Please confirm your attendance by calling Todd Groves at the World Institute on Disability 510/763-4100, voice or TDD, or by fax 510/763-4109.

PLEASE NOTE each day of the conference will be held in different buildings.

If you need materials in an accessible format, need an interpreter at the proceedings, or if you have questions, please contact Todd Groves at the World Institute on Disability 510/763-4100.

We look forward to working together to provide increased opportunities for disabled people at home and abroad.

Sincerely,

Edward V. Roberts

Ed Roberts
President

Suzanne Reier / RN

Suzanne Reier
Acting Director
International Division

Encl.

TG.rn

x 14 Curtis
x 10 Currier/Reier

THE U.S.ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF DISABILITY

DAY I - November 16, 1993, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Rm. 628

9:00 a.m.

Welcome

Ed Roberts, *President, World Institute on Disability*

Susan Hammerman, *Secretary General, Rehabilitation International*

Opening Remarks

The Honorable Senator Tom Harkin

The Honorable Senator Robert Dole (invited)

Keynote Address

International disability work, its future, and its value to our nation. Judith E. Heumann, *Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services*

11:00 a.m.

Approaches to disability and development: Examples from Nordic Countries and Canada

Paul Silva, *Associate Director, Academy for Intercultural Training Overseas Operations, Georgetown University*

Yutta Fricke, *Development Program Director, Disabled Peoples International, Canada*

12:00 p.m. LUNCH

1:30 p.m.

Integrating disabled people into development activities
Experiences from development agencies

1. World Learning/PVO/NIS project
2. Development Associates - CAPS
3. Academy for Education Development

Experiences from disabled directed organizations

1. World Institute on Disability
2. Mobility International
3. Wheeled Mobility Center
4. Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation

3:00 p.m.

How to apply the principles of the Americans with Disabilities Act to U.S. international activities

Justin Dart, *Chairman, The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.*

DAY II - November 17, 1993, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Rm. 2257

9:00 a.m.

A summary of Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services international projects, past and present. Paul Ackerman, *Director of International and Interagency Activities, National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research*

Key issues from IDEAS with a look to the future

- I. Employment - Larry Scadden, *National Science Foundation*, presenting his recent studies on the effect of technology on employment of people with disabilities.
- II. Training in International Disability Issues
Nora Groce, *Yale University School Public Health*
- III. The best and worst practices of the IDEAS project 1987 - 1993 review by Barbara Duncan, *Assistant Secretary General, Rehabilitation International*

12:00 p.m. LUNCH

1:30 p.m.

- IV. Ethical Issues and Disability - Hugh Gallagher, *journalist and author*, discusses his research into Germany of the 1930's and today, identifying ethical issues for involvement of the disability community.

Needs and priorities of Eastern European disability groups:
Report from Disabled Peoples International - Europe meeting
Suzanne Reier, *WID*
Ed Roberts, *WID*
Sid Wolinsky, *Disability Rights Associates*

Working group to develop conclusions and recommendations.



BOB DOLE
UNITED STATES SENATE

March 11, 1993

Dear Judy,

Just a brief note to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. The President has made an excellent choice, and I look forward to working with you on many important issues affecting people with disabilities over the next four years.

If I or Dr. Alexander Vachon, my Legislative Assistant for Disability Policy, can be helpful in any respect, please let me know.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE

Ms. Judy Heumann
World Institute on Disability
510 Sixteenth Street, Suite 100
Oakland, CA 94612



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 103^d CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 139

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1993

No. 99

Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, June 30, 1993)

By Mr. DOLE (for himself, Mr. Harkin, Mr. Helms, Mr. McCain, Mr. Leahy, Mr. Simon, Mr. D'Amato, Mr. Durenberger, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Inouye, Mr. Lugar, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Jeffords, Mr. Hatfield, Mrs. Kassebaum, Mr. Moynihan, and Mr. Hatch):

S. 1256. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to examine the status of the human rights of people with disabilities worldwide; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

DISABILITY RIGHTS IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY ACT OF 1993

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I introduce today the Disability Rights in American Foreign Policy Act of 1993. It is a short bill, and requires just one thing: That the Secretary of State include an examination of discrimination against people with disabilities in the annual report on human rights mandated by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

I am pleased that this bill comes before the Senate with strong bipartisan support. Senators Harkin, Helms, McCain, Leahy, Simon, D'Amato, Durenberger, Kennedy, Inouye, Lugar, Mitchell, Jeffords, Hatfield, Kassebaum, Moynihan, and Hatch join me as cosponsors of this measure.

Mr. President, neither the length nor simplicity of this bill should obscure its promise or power, which is to introduce for the first time an explicit recognition of the rights of people with disabilities in American foreign policy.

Mr. President, our Nation was founded on the concept of human rights. Recently we celebrated the 217th anniversary of American independence. As children, we all learned the immortal words which begin the Declaration of Independence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of

human rights in 25 years.

Mr. President, on July 26 we will commemorate the third anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. As Members of this Chamber know well, ADA heralded a new approach to disability in our Nation. Although for over 70 years we have enacted Federal disability programs and limited legal protections, we had never before made either a clear or comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination.

But ADA has done more than prohibit discrimination, as important as that is. With the passage of ADA, we determined our national policy on disability would be based on the positive values of equality of opportunity and inclusion.

Mr. President, it is past time we included these principles in our human rights policy. This bill will do that, and send a message around the world that America respects the rights of all people, including those with disabilities.

Indeed, America's greatest export has been its concept of human rights. Let us continue that tradition with this bill. I sincerely hope this measure will not only encourage people with disabilities all over the world, but prompt other Governments and non-governmental organizations interested in human rights to take close interest in the circumstances of people with disabilities.

Mr. President, I am mindful that there will be objections to even this modest measure. For example, some may say the situation of people in developing nations is so difficult that attention to the disabled is an unaffordable luxury.

I do not agree. In my maiden speech before this body almost 25 years ago, I insisted that Americans with disabilities must be recognized as full, contributing partners in the building of this Nation.

But today I realize how parochial these words were. People with disabilities, of whatever region or nation, must be recognized as full, contributing

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These sentiments were later echoed in the declaration of human rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948, the first international accord on human rights in world history:

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

Just last month, the world's commitment to the proposition of universal human rights was reaffirmed in Vienna, at the first world conference on

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According to the United Nations, of the 500 million people worldwide with disabilities, 80 percent live in developing nations. The rights of these individuals cannot wait until it is convenient to recognize them. Moreover, this year's World Bank report on development finds that disability is a serious impediment to economic growth in developing countries.

And let me note further, Mr. President, with

anger and sadness, that the manufacture of disability is one of the great industries of the world. Today, millions of people become disabled from war and civil strife, in Bosnia and Hercegovina, in Somalia, and in too many other places in the world. This bill is preparation and hope for peace.

Mr. President, others may argue that we are advocating special rights for people with disabilities. Again, I disagree. We ask merely that they not be denied opportunities accorded others.

In closing, Mr. President, let me note that this bill is only a beginning, and there is much more to be done. Two years ago I joined with Senators Simon, Harkin, and Helms in proposing amendments to a reauthorization of the Foreign Assistance Act that would provide for the first time a specific mandate for aid to people with disabilities. As I said at that time:

It is our duty to provide assistance to other nations as they struggle to design medical and rehabilitation services for their citizens with disabilities.

That legislation never made it into law, but I intend to take up this matter again at an appropriate time.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S. 1256

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Disability Rights in American Foreign Policy Act of 1993."

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) Findings.—The Congress finds that—

(1) at least 500 million people throughout the world have a disability, most of whom live in developing countries;

(2) legal and other forms of discrimination against people with disabilities are pervasive worldwide;

(3) such discrimination involves not only active exclusion, but a lack of accommodations and accessibility that would allow participation by people with disabilities;

(4) discrimination against people with disabilities is a violation of their human rights; and

(5) discrimination against people with disabilities has not historically been addressed by existing standards of human rights employed in American foreign policy.

(b) Purpose.—It is the purpose of this Act to promote recognition of the human rights of people with disabilities and to promote the elimination of discrimination against such people.

SEC. 3. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES INCLUDED IN ANNUAL REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

(a) Section 116(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (2);

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) an examination of discrimination toward people with disabilities; and."

(b) Section 502B(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304) is amended by inserting "disability," after "language."

SENATOR BOB DOLE

REMARKS TO
CONFERENCE ON U.S. ROLE IN
INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF
DISABILITY

NOVEMBER 16, 1993
SD-628

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE, AND THANK YOU FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION.

-- TWO RECENT EXAMPLES OF PROGRESS IN OTHER AREAS OF DISABILITY POLICY: NATIONAL SERVICE AND CRIME

LET ME BEGIN BY CONGRATULATING THE WORLD INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL FOR SPONSORING THIS IMPORTANT MEETING. IN MANY AREAS OF PUBLIC POLICY, THERE IS A "DISABILITY AWARENESS" TODAY WHICH MAKES IT EASIER FOR US IN CONGRESS TO DO NEW THINGS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE NATIONAL SERVICE BILL, I GOT READY AGREEMENT FOR AN AMENDMENT TO CREATE AN OUTREACH PROGRAM TO RECRUIT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES INTO NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS. FOR TOO LONG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE BEEN JUST THE OBJECTS OF SERVICE. NO DOUBT WELL MEANT, BUT I FELT IT WAS PAST TIME THEY HAD THE SAME OPPORTUNITY FOR NATIONAL SERVICE AND BE HELD TO THE SAME STANDARD OF CITIZEN DUTIES AS OTHER AMERICANS.

AND LAST WEEK, SEVERAL PROVISIONS WERE ADDED TO THE CRIME BILL THAT CONCERN PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES -- IN FACT, THIS MAY BE THE FIRST TIME THE DISABLED HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED IN A CRIME BILL.

I SPONSORED A PROVISION IN THE CRIME BILL TO COLLECT STATISTICS ON HATE CRIMES AGAINST THE DISABLED. ANOTHER PROVISION STIFFENS SENTENCES FOR SUCH CRIMES. AND I JOINED WITH SENATORS COHEN AND HATCH TO ALLOW CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS ON PERSONS PROVIDING HOME CARE AND PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES.

ALTHOUGH GENERALLY UNRECOGNIZED, ACCORDING TO THE 1986 HARRIS SURVEY OF DISABLED AMERICANS, FEAR -- FEAR OF BEING HURT, FEAR OF BEING A CRIME VICTIM -- IS THE NUMBER ONE REASON WHY MANY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES DO NOT ENGAGE IN SOCIAL ACTIVITIES -- WHETHER GOING TO THE MOVIES OR VISITING WITH FRIENDS.

-- NEED FOR GREATER DISABILITY AWARENESS IN FOREIGN POLICY

BUT DESPITE THESE GAINS IN RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF DISABILITY IN OTHER AREAS OF PUBLIC POLICY, IN FOREIGN POLICY TOO MANY PEOPLE STILL THINK PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE IRRELEVANT OR EXPENDABLE, OR BELIEVE ANY ATTEMPT -- ESPECIALLY IN POOR COUNTRIES -- TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY IS AN UNAFFORDABLE LUXURY.

IN MY VIEW, THAT'S JUST PLAIN WRONG.

-- THE HUMAN RIGHTS BILL

TO HELP REMEDY THIS SITUATION, IN JULY I INTRODUCED "THE DISABILITY RIGHTS IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY ACT OF 1993." ITS PURPOSE IS SIMPLE -- IT REQUIRES THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO EXAMINE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN ITS ANNUAL

REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

BUT THE UNDERLYING MESSAGE IS VERY POWERFUL -- FOR THE FIRST TIME IT IS AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY TO REGARD THIS KIND OF DISCRIMINATION AS A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION.

WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS IN ENACTING THIS LAW BY ADDING ITS PROVISIONS AS AN AMENDMENT TO OTHER LEGISLATION. IN THE CONFERENCE REPORT TO THIS YEAR'S FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS BILL, THE HOUSE AND SENATE CONFEREES REQUESTED THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DO WHAT MY BILL ASKS. AND WE HOPE TO MAKE THIS REQUIREMENT MANDATORY IN ANOTHER BILL NEXT YEAR.

-- NEED FOR THEIR HELP IN MAKING HUMAN RIGHTS BILL WORK

BUT I NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THE PROMISE OF THIS LAW A REALITY. WHAT WE DO BEST IN CONGRESS IS CREATE OPPORTUNITIES, AND THIS BILL IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO COLLECT IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. WE NEED YOUR GOOD IDEAS ON WHAT KINDS OF INFORMATION SHOULD BE COLLECTED AND THE BEST WAYS TO DO THAT. MY LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT FOR DISABILITY POLICY, DR. ALEXANDER VACHON, IS HERE TODAY, AND I HOPE YOU WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WITH HIM.

THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES FOR A PRODUCTIVE MEETING.