

file

THE WHITE HOUSE

September 10, 1997

Mrs. Eduard Shevardnadze
Tbilisi

Dear Mrs. Shevardnadze:

Thank you for your very thoughtful letter and gifts following our visit which was so beautifully described in your article. You were most generous to me and to our country.

It was a pleasure meeting you and your granddaughter and to learn more about the challenges you are facing in Georgia. Chelsea and I appreciate greatly the lovely pins you gave to us and the sentiment you attached to them.

With warm regards to you and President Shevardnadze, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Hillary Rodham Clinton

bcc: Amb. Country
NSC
Melanne Verwen ✓
Marsha Berry
gift unit

Nannli Shebardnadze

July 17, 1997

Dear Mrs Clinton,

Please allow me to express my warmest greetings and affection.

I will always remember every minute of our last meeting which had such a great impact on me - please be assured of my sincerity. For me, you are the epitome of intellect and charm. These impressions inspired me to write a article which I immediatly published in the newspaper of which I am Editor-in-Chief.

Please accept an English translation of this article with my compliments. Unexpectedly, I was not able to locate a copy of the publication - I suspect that because of the article about you, every copy was sold!

There was not a photograph published along with the article, but the one of us together in the White House was included belatedly in the next issue. This way many people in my small country could become a little bit more

acquainted with you. I leave the estimation of the article to you.

I am sending you a small present, a token of my abiding respect. Please accept my wishes that your life would be as light and beautiful as the form of the butterfly, along with the legendary Caucasian longevity. I also enclose a small gift for your lovely daughter. Please accept these as tokens of my humble affection and sincere regard.

Yours ever,

N. Shevardnadze

Nanuli Shevardnadze

(Translator's note: *Kalbatoni* means literally "lady" in the Georgian language, but is also used as though a title (i.e. *Lady Diana* in English) in everyday speech. The actual word "lady", borrowed from English, is normally used when referring to a U.S. First Lady)

A Little Account of a Big Event *As Guest of the First Kalbatoni of the United States*

By Nanuli Shevardnadze

Yes, *Kalbatoni*. *Kalbatoni* is the word I prefer to "lady". "Lady" sounds fine in English, while in Georgian... Perhaps many will disagree, but *Kalbatoni* is the proper address in the Georgian language.

Much has been reported about my trip to the United States, so there is no need to repeat the purpose and significance of this visit.

While in Atlanta, Georgia (slightly familiar, isn't it?), I received a call from our embassy informing me that Hilary Clinton wanted to meet and talk with me. Of course I was delighted, since such a meeting had not been on my initial itinerary. Not because I did not wish for one, but because I did not want to impose upon Mrs. Clinton. What if she could not find time? You understand, it would have been embarrassing. Believe me, not because I am overly sensitive about such things personally, but I would have been hurt on behalf of my country. And in this case, an entirely different type of sensitivity would have been triggered in me... Indeed "*skhva Sakartvelo sad aris?*" (lit. "another Georgia, where is there?") I have been running on, but now let me tell you my story.

Together with my granddaughter who was to serve as my interpreter, I flew to Washington.

I left gloomy weather behind in Atlanta, and had been warned that the same awaited me in Washington. From the ramp I looked at the sky in amazement. The sun was at its zenith and it was quite warm.

After about two hours, we headed to the White House escorted by a Secret Service vehicle.

When we arrived, the usual crowd of visitors was milling about the green expanse of lawn...

How often have I been here... I count four times altogether. Whenever I see this magnificent building, I am inevitably overwhelmed with emotion. I cannot even describe it. Reverence perhaps? amazement?...what?...

My hostess, who had been waiting on the porch tripped lightly down the steps and greeted us in the garden. Her clear bright eyes shone with tact and the genuine welcome of a desired guest. She took our hands and smiling, said "What fine weather you've brought with you." On other occasions, this would have seemed a rather banal politesse. But having been jaded by days of poor weather, her comment rang of sincerity.

"I am pleased to hear it - I will try to see that it gets left behind when I go." We both laughed outright.

We ascended the sunlit, pristine stairway. My journalist's eye could not resist the urge to give a quick sideways glance to take in her appearance. I found her charming, fair complected, handsome featured and of elegant figure and carriage. The fabric and exquisite line of her outfit bespoke of taste.

"Let's take the elevator," she suggested. I noticed that the arrangement of things was somewhat different. As a rule every new mistress of the White House makes her personal imprint on its decor.

She politely showed us into the parlor where she offered us tea, coffee and a variety of confections. But when we began to talk, the refreshments went virtually unnoticed.

She is possessed of a striking wit and intelligence -a fact acknowledged by even her most ardent critics in America, and which bothers some of them who enviously fabricate stories about her. What can one do? Such is the fate of First Ladies everywhere and may the critics be forgiven. But I am running on...

What should have been a twenty minute visit ended up being an hour. I confess that it was my fault. When asked about my country's problems, I launched into an unremitting tale of Abkhazia, Samachablo, civil conflict, and economic tribulation...I tried to condense it all, mindful of the time constraints, even more so since she surprisingly asked question after question, making comments throughout.

Indeed, a very intelligent *kalbatoni*. I tried several times to steer the conversation to our women's organization, but she persistently kept returning to the painful problems of Georgia.

Once or twice I glanced at my watch. "I think I have exceeded our time," I said. "Never mind, this is extremely interesting," she replied. This is what I had hoped for. I was aware that my emotions were difficult to control by then, although usually I am able to (not meaning to boast).

America has extended a helping hand to Georgia. You have significantly contributed to the very survival of my country. We have received half a billion dollars of aid so far, including cash. Her eyes sparkled, as anyone's would by words of well deserved gratitude.

At the end, she inscribed some books for my granddaughter and me.

"Enough is enough, we have already abused your hospitality," I said, starting to rise. This time, she permitted to take our leave. "You know, my husband is leaving for Egypt today," as if she needed to apologize. We walked down the stairs, side by side, into the garden. The photographer met us, clicking away. I hope that, as is the custom of the Americans, she sends us copies of the photographs.

Once more she looked up, savoring the sunlight, and bid us a warm farewell.

But as it happens I could not keep my promise, for the next day, I am told, it rained in Washington.

Foreign Affairs

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Social Safety Net

Estimates are that by 2005 one billion portable Internet connections will be deployed around the world — be it through cell phones, pagers or Palm Pilots. And by 2010 there'll be about three billion — so many in fact that 100 million toasters should be online by then. Why not? Finland is already putting phones in Coke machines — you can charge your drink to your home number — and the company DigiScents plans to deliver smells over the Internet by sending data to a "Snortal" attached to your PC, which would on command mix different chemicals to recreate various scents. Look around: anything with electricity is being reinvented to carry software and become networked. That's the future. Even for your toaster.

I picked up such futurology not at an Internet trade show but at an Aspen Institute seminar on poverty, headed by Nelson Mandela and Jimmy Carter. The question participants were asking was this: Can any of this whiz-bang Internet technology be used for alleviating poverty?

The answer is yes. "The Internet scales like no other technology," argues Allen Hammond, the senior scientist at the World Resources Institute. "One education Web site translated into Hindi, Mandarin, Swahili and Spanish would have a potential user base of two billion people. It can help even the poorest people invent their way out of poverty."

How so? Consider the Web site www.PlaNetfinance.org. The brainchild of a French banker, Jacques Attali, PlaNet Finance works like this: Roughly 1.3 billion people live on a dollar a day. One thing we know is that one of the most effective tools for combating their poverty is micro-lending. Micro-loans range from \$10 to \$1,000. They go mostly to women and are given without any collateral. Micro-loan recipients use them to buy everything from sewing machines to a cell phone the whole village can use, to beauty supplies to start a salon in a Bangladeshi slum. These people have the will to better themselves, they just don't have the basic cash, and that's what micro-loans provide.

While people who need micro-loans are not online today, many of the micro-banks and aid organizations that work with the poor do have computers and can get online. What PlaNet Finance is doing is wiring these 7,000 micro-finance groups around the world into a network that holds huge possibilities.

"First," says Mr. Attali, "PlaNet

will connect as many micro-banks as possible so they can share solutions. Second, we will help those that are not online get online, as we did in Benin. Third, we are creating a system, like Moody's, that will rate micro-banks according to their ethics, how well they serve the poor and financial efficiency. Fourth, we are setting up a university online to teach best practices to micro-banks, and an online marketplace for micro-loan recipients to sell their crafts. Finally, we are creating PlaNet Bank, which will extend lines of credit to micro-banks and will enable anyone to come to our Web site, donate money to selected projects

Soon, online micro-loans for the poor.

offered by the best micro-banks, and then track whom that money went to and how it is used."

If PlaNet can really rate and link all the micro-banks, it could help them lower their biggest cost — tracking and processing all these little loans. The idea is that a single micro-banker, armed with the sort of information device that FedEx uses to track your packages, could keep track of hundreds of loans and payments at a time. If the processing and transaction costs of these micro-loans can be reduced, they can be bundled together and sold on a commercial basis to the Citibanks of the world. Micro-banks usually charge 4 to 5 percent interest a month, so this market would appeal to big banks — if the processing costs were cut. And that would change everything, because right now there is great demand for micro-loans, but their cash pool is limited to donations. With \$20 billion in commercial loans from big banks you could provide micro-loans to 100 million people living on \$1 a day.

That's how you change the world — get the big market players to do the right thing for the wrong reasons.

"There's an old saying: 'Feed a man a fish and you've fed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you've fed him for a lifetime,'" says Mr. Attali. "Well, we have millions of poor people who know how to fish. They just don't have a pole. Through PlaNet we might be able to get poles for a lot more of them." □

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File Foreign

8 November 1999

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

It seems at FINCA that we can never stop thanking you enough for the countless times you have intervened on behalf of our clients and the microfinance movement.

Your calling key Democrats on the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee provided an extraordinary boost in our efforts to pass S.1463, the Microenterprise Self-Reliance Act.

Unfortunately, Senator Helms sees S.1463 as so popular that he may now attempt to attach it to his own unpopular foreign assistance bill. Early next year, we are hoping to secure enough bi-partisan support to assure the passage of S.1463 as a stand-alone bill.

In the next few months, we will also work with your office to identify ways that the Clinton Administration can assure the continuity of its microenterprise program for years to come.

I am enclosing FINCA's new public service announcement and a copy of a New York Times opinion piece. The piece cites ideas which FINCA is developing in partnership with Allen Hammond, the futurist, for extending the Internet Revolution to microentrepreneurs.

Finally, I want to thank you for your greeting and gift that Neel Lattimore kindly delivered to me on my birthday. It was a great moment for me! I look forward to seeing you in Amman.

With warm wishes,

*Foundation for International Community Assistance
Banking on the PoorSM*

**FINCA** International, Inc.

TO: Katy Bulton
Office of the First Lady

FAX: 456-6244

TEL: 456-7264

Date 11/4/99

file foreign

Number of pages including cover sheet 3

FROM: Ceil Bartreau, Exec. Asst.
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Hi Katy: Here is some info Lawrence is sending.

LA Times: USC study questions micro-credit effectiveness
Wednesday, November 3, 1999

Study Contests Micro-Lenders' Effectiveness

By MARIA DICKERSON, LEE ROMNEY, Times Staff Writers

Micro lending programs reach a "tiny" number of the low-income entrepreneurs they target and are burdened by operational inefficiencies, a three-year USC research project has found. A report on the findings, titled "Microcredit Programs in the U.S.: The Challenges of Outreach and Sustainability," will be presented at a public policy conference in Washington on Friday and published in this month's issue of the Harvard Business Review.

Micro lending programs have quadrupled in number over the last eight years and gained popularity among policymakers as community development tools. Programs lend between \$500 and \$25,000 to spur small business development. They generally target low-income individuals with the notion that entrepreneurship is a path out of poverty.

The USC study stresses that some micro credit programs are indeed effective, but it aims a harsh critique at them overall. Programs examined by researchers made an average of just 25 loans per year--implying that only 10,000 borrowers are served yearly nationwide--and most programs had difficulty finding credit worthy applicants. Many borrowers were not living below the poverty line and so did not demonstrate the greatest need, the study found.

Furthermore, more than 30% of programs that were lending in 1996 had gone out of business two years later, and the "vast majority" were dependent on external subsidies. Recruiting by many programs was weak, they were slow to disburse funds, and criteria to determine credit-worthiness were too conventional, the study found.

"We need to be cautious about advocating more loan programs--something that the development community and policymakers have fallen in love with," said Nitin Bhatt, executive director of USC's Business Expansion Network and the study's lead author. "The money is [already] there. We have to figure out why the money is not being used."

Bhatt, public policy assistant professor Gary Painter and public policy associate professor Shui-Yan Tang examined 16 California micro-credit programs, interviewed 300 Los Angeles-area micro-entrepreneurs and reviewed national studies highlighting the industry's successes.

The U.S. industry was modeled 15 years ago on the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh. That Third World program, along with Accion International in Latin America and BRI Unit Desas in Indonesia, has seen near-perfect repayment rates by poor residents, who are traditionally considered terrible credit risks. But many early micro-credit programs here failed to take into account competitive pressures, higher costs, the need for business training and other complexities of the U.S. economy.

The study called for financial sponsors to support only those programs with track records. It urges micro-credit programs to offer technical assistance to borrowers and to consider alternative evidence of credit-worthiness such as landlord references and car payments. Programs also should adopt more stringent operational standards to become more self-sustaining, it said.

[illegible]

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

file foreign

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FIRST LADY

SUBJECT: Summary of press coverage of your trip to Egypt,
Tunisia and Morocco

Attached is a collection of articles on your recent trip to North Africa.

Coverage of the trip was very positive from beginning to end. Nearly all of your visits to historical and religious sites, health clinics, micro-enterprises and schools received coverage. Reporters consistently framed these activities in the context of your long-standing efforts to promote religious tolerance, women's rights, development, education and cultural preservation. Your major speeches in each country were quoted in detail and further reinforced these themes in the press.

Criticism of any kind was remarkably infrequent. One reporter faulted you for an unwillingness to address openly the issue of limited political freedom in Egypt. The vast majority of articles, however, praised as diplomatic your skill in aggressively promoting the causes you value while not offending your government hosts.

Articles also drew attention to the connection you made with people at a personal level, emphasizing the interest and excitement with which you were received both by the people and the leaders of the countries you visited. Coverage of Islamic Cairo, for instance, included highly complimentary quotes from everyday Cairenes that witnessed your visit. While your gentle encouragement of a shy schoolgirl in Aoufous revealed personal warmth, the roundtable with Moroccan women showed that you were engaging in a substantive exchange of views on issues of importance in the lives of local citizens. On the whole, the conclusion in the press was that your trip realized its goal of strengthening ties with the people of the Arab world and contributing to the breaking down of negative stereotypes.

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OVERVIEW

Divider Title: _____

In Morocco, Hillary Clinton Discards Politics for Diplomacy

By PETER BAKER
Washington Post Staff Writer

MARRAKESH, Morocco, March 31—Forget the Senate. Over the last 12 days, Hillary Rodham Clinton has looked and sounded more like a candidate for secretary of state.

There she was in Egypt, gently urging tolerance for the minority Coptic Christians. There she was in Tunisia, lashing out at Islamic radicals in other countries who oppress women. And here she was in Morocco, speaking out on everything from the Middle East peace process to the NATO airstrikes in Yugoslavia.

It has hardly been a new role for the most traveled first lady in American history. Indeed, Clinton's trek through the deserts of North Africa has closely followed the political and diplomatic road map she has used through six years of globe-trotting to such out-of-the-way locales as South Asia, Sub-Sa-

haran Africa and the former Soviet republics.

But the sight of the first lady back on the world stage where she feels so sure-footed brought into sharp focus the peculiar trade-offs facing her as she decides whether to run next year for the seat of retiring Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.): How does a woman who eagerly told an audience this morning about education and economics in Guatemala and Uganda turn her attention to the pork-and-potholes issues that arise in places like Utica and Ithaca? How does a woman whose international profile is so high that bystanders in Africa two years ago referred to her as "the queen of the world" adjust to becoming a low-ranking member of the seniority-conscious Senate?

These are the questions that some advisers leery of her Senate flirtation have been asking her. If she has come up with any answers, she was not letting on today.

"I'm still weighing all this in my own

mind," she told reporters as she prepared to return to Washington Thursday. "I've really tried to put it out of my mind the last 10 days ... so I will start thinking about that again once I return home."

But she added that she would hardly forget the issues she has made her mantra around the world, including women's rights, education and religious tolerance. "These issues should be a priority no matter what I do," she said. "I don't believe that my one voice is in any way sufficient to speak out on some of these issues. But I will continue to add it no matter what decision I make about my future."

She added it in her own trademark manner in North Africa. She stuck to themes and tones that would not offend her hosts, while pushing her causes with carefully chosen words and pictures.

As she does on most of her overseas trips, Clinton visited a microenterprise program

that helps women start businesses with small loans, met with nongovernmental organizations advocating human rights, announced modest U.S. financial help and convened a round-table discussion of local women to talk about their status in society.

The pattern is so familiar that embassies notified in advance no longer need much guidance in arranging for her visits. "In the beginning, people didn't know quite what to expect," said Margaret A. Williams, her former chief of staff, who came to Morocco to help with the visit. "Now people know to start putting together the lists of all the women in town."

By this point, embassies know to identify some of the most exotic sightseeing for the first lady and her daughter, Chelsea, 19, who joined her while on break from Stanford University. In Egypt they toured the ancient Luxor Temple and in Morocco they rode camels in the Dunes of Merzouga.

Clinton had planned to visit Israel and Jordan, but scratched them from her itinerary in light of the Israeli elections and the recent death of Jordan's King Hussein. Yet the politics of the Middle East followed her in Arab countries that recall—and heartily applaud—her statement last year essentially supporting Palestinian statehood as part of the long-term solution to the region's tensions.

Mindful of the dust storm that comment created—and perhaps of sensitivities about the topic in New York—Clinton did not repeat it here. Asked about the issue today, she took a decidedly more neutral tack, to the point of implicitly urging Palestinian leaders not to declare statehood on their own at this point.

Less likely to cause problems in New York were her attacks on Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic for his campaign to empty Kosovo of ethnic Albanians.

Hillary's image rides high in jaunt across North Africa

Her act plays well in Morocco, but what will be next?

By Jennifer Harper
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Hillary Rodham Clinton has spent the past week in North Africa doing what she does best: polishing her multifaceted public persona.

And they loved her as diplomat, humanitarian and feminist in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, just as they did in India, which she visited a year ago with daughter Chelsea.

But will her global appeal play where it counts the most, at home?

Immersed in a 12-day goodwill tour of North Africa, Mrs. Clinton has been far from the narrow, often frenetic world of insider politics. She has toured health clinics, lunched with high-profile feminists, dined with other first ladies and toured the sites with Chelsea.

When an Egyptian tour guide suggested she might like to be an archaeologist, Mrs. Clinton responded with aplomb. "Well, I am looking for a new career," she said.

The first lady has been kissed on the cheek by a female admirer, pestered by reporters and applauded by crowds of veiled women. She has spoken about waste water, women's rights, education and Kosovo.

Mrs. Clinton complimented a Tunisian women's clinic for its policy of encouraging men to have vasectomies rather than counting on female birth control.

"I agree with that," Mrs. Clinton said. "You are the first health clinic I've visited anywhere in the world that has recognized that. I'm very impressed."

Mrs. Clinton is in her element on the broader international stage. She is at ease here — impeccably turned out, telegenic and even-tempered under relentless media scrutiny.

She began the North Africa trip with a bang, reaffirming both her interest in a run for the Senate and keeping a public presence after her husband leaves office.

In Cairo, she told reporters that she had made "lots of calls" and would "continue speaking out" on issues that have fascinated her for decades.

When bombs fell over Kosovo, Mrs. Clinton switched immediately to classic first lady mode, supporting American will — and her husband.

"As my husband the president explained last night to the American people, the United States and its NATO allies have acted to stop the brutal killings of people in Kosovo and avert a broader humanitarian crisis," she said Thursday and added she was praying for the American military.

On Friday, Mrs. Clinton spoke up for women's rights, condemning violence against women in some Islamic countries.

"It is time for the violence to end, so that Algerians can once again be free to work in peace and in safety," she said. "We also must speak up for the women of Afghan-



Hillary Rodham Clinton prepares to dismount yesterday after an early morning ride in Morocco on which she watched sunrise on the Sahara.

Mrs. Clinton is in her element on the broader international stage. She is at ease here — impeccably turned out, telegenic and even-tempered under relentless media scrutiny.

istan . . . once again in the misused name of religion."

In Morocco, Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea retreated to the desert Saturday as their Muslim hosts slaughtered lambs in celebration of their religion's most holy event, Eid el-Adha, or "Feast of the Sacrifice."

After an evening of feasting and entertainment, the Clintons arose early, mounted their camels and rode a few hundred yards over dunes of red sand to a point from which they watched the sun rise over the Sahara.

Mrs. Clinton returns home Thursday, and according to her spokeswoman, does not have public activities planned until the White House Easter Egg roll on April 5.

Her more distant future still fascinates many. Inquiring minds ask: Will she be appointed U.N. ambassador, leave her husband, move to Manhattan, take a lucrative spot in a corporation — or even run for Senate?

Her international credentials notwithstanding, the Senate doesn't look like a sure thing.

A Marist College poll released Friday found 45 percent of registered New York voters surveyed who said Mrs. Clinton should run for office, down from 56 percent a few weeks ago. Another 49 percent said she should not run at all — up from 37 percent in February.

Indeed, life in this hemisphere has not always been kind to Mrs. Clinton.

A few weeks ago, gleeful reports of a snarling first lady made the media rounds. The Fox News Channel broke a story March 10 detailing a hair-raising row between Bill and Hillary Clinton during a family vacation.

"I don't want to be in the same room with him, let alone the same bed," Fox quoted her as saying. She also refused to accompany her husband on his Central American trip because she could not get her own bedroom.

LEVEL 1 - 7 OF 99 STORIES

The Associated Press

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March 31, 1999, Wednesday, AM cycle

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 724 words

HEADLINE: **First lady finds North Africa tour welcome respite**

BYLINE: SANDRA SOBIERAJ, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: MARRAKECH, Morocco

BODY:

Greeted with reverence and adulation, **Hillary Rodham Clinton** proclaimed her tour of North Africa a welcome escape and a success for U.S.-Arab relations.

"I always like getting away from Washington," the **first lady** said Wednesday as she and her daughter Chelsea wrapped up their 12-day tour - part sightseeing, part U.S. diplomacy - through **Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco**.

"I hope for our country this has also been a **trip** that has helped to move the agenda forward as to how we relate to people in this region of the world," the **first lady** said in a brief news conference.

Particularly, she said she hoped her tours helped to erase the "stereotypes and negative images" that some Arabs and Americans harbor toward one another.

Preparing to depart Thursday for Washington, Mrs. Clinton sounded reluctant to face decisions about whether to seek the Democratic nomination for Senate in New York in 2000.

"I've really tried to put it out of my mind the last 10 days," she said.

She focused instead on the headlines at hand, joining Western leaders in condemning Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic for the Serbs' treatment of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

But her husband did not mind musing on what the responsibilities of a husband of a senator might be.

"I don't know, but I am willing to fulfill them," Clinton said with a laugh during an interview with CBS anchor Dan Rather that focused largely on the crisis in Kosovo. "You know, I would fill in at dinners, make speeches when she



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had to vote. I'd be the main caseworker at the New York state office. I'd do whatever I was asked to."

The **first lady** said she's been "horrified" by the news she has seen on TV from Kosovo and the "propaganda" from the Serbs. She accused Milosevic of "a kind of perverted political decision-making."

Mrs. Clinton nodded at a reporter's suggestion that her forcefulness on such a national security crisis was unusual for a **first lady**.

"It was important for me to speak out and, of course, I made clear that my husband knew that I was going to do that," Mrs. Clinton said.

Almost daily telephone calls from President Clinton have allowed the **first lady** to keep abreast of world developments while she was encountering adoring villagers, flattering foreign leaders and ancient wonders.

While protesters outside the White House accused the president of starting World War III in Kosovo and new polls showed New Yorkers cooling to the idea of the **first lady** as one of their senators, in North Africa she found only enthusiastic receptions.

"May God repay you for this. May God glorify you," an elderly Moroccan woman repeated over and over as Mrs. Clinton toured the run-down squatter community of Koudia.

From King Hassan came this word, according to U.S. Ambassador to Morocco Edward Gariel: "We will not only treat her as a head of state, but as a member of my family."

For example, the king dispatched to Mrs. Clinton's five-star hotel a pile of silk robes and invited her to his dynasty's mausoleum at Rissani. Never before had the mausoleum been opened to a non-Islamic visitor.

Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali turned the **first lady's** 15-minute courtesy call into an hourlong summit on tough issues, including his country's "shortcomings" on human rights.

"That really is going to be her greatest legacy - calling attention to human rights, violations against women," historian Carl Anthony said.

On this **trip**, coming at the close of her husband's sex-and-impeachment scandal, the **first lady** showed a certain exuberance - laughs shared with diplomats and tour guides, the bounce of her hips as she clapped and flailed her arms to the beat of a Berber drummer.

She also endeavored to normalize relations with reporters, many of whom covered her husband's impeachment. She held two small news conferences, included the press in her "let-her-hair-down" desert sleepover, and had two off-the-record dinners with reporters.

Still, she offered few clues about her plans, political or otherwise.

Clearly, though, she welcomes the chance to give her views on certain issues, such as the rights and health of women and children around the globe.



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The Associated Press, March 31, 1999

"I don't believe that my one voice is in any way sufficient to speak out on some of these issues, but I will continue to add it no matter what decision I make about my own future."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 31, 1999



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FM: Reuters

a2546

^BC-CLINTON-HILLARY-TRIP

^Hillary Clinton shows stateswoman mode in N.Africa

By Randall Mikkelsen

MARRAKESH, Morocco (Reuters) - First lady Hillary Rodham

Clinton returns home Thursday after a tour that has taken her from Egypt to Morocco in a bid to improve American relations with the Islamic world.

The 12-day trip across North Africa has given Clinton a chance to promote her policies on an international stage as she weighs up whether to run for the U.S. Senate next year -- a decision she said she would resume working on when she gets back to Washington.

"There are strategic and human interests both that I hope have been advanced by this trip," Clinton said Wednesday during a brief meeting with reporters accompanying her. "I hope that I have done something to increase the understanding between these countries and the people who live here, and our country and Americans."

She said that during her trip she had made little progress in her deliberations on whether to run for a New York Senate seat. Among other options she is considering is an international career after President Clinton leaves the White House at the end of his second and final four-year term.

"I'm still weighing all this in my own mind, and I've really tried to put it out of my mind," she said. "I've wanted to be fully in this experience."

On Tuesday, one of the two women members of Morocco's parliament cautioned Clinton about the difficulties of elective politics.

"Undoubtedly the political arena is one of the most hazardous arenas for women to practice (in)," said parliament member Badia Skalli during a meeting between the first lady and women leaders.

Aides to Clinton said she has given as little indication in private as she has in public about which way she was leaning.

"I think she is still very conflicted," said one aide.

But the aide said she hoped speculation would ease now that the Kosovo crisis has dominated government and media agendas.

Clinton during her trip toured ancient and holy sites of Islam, Judaism and Coptic Christianity. She spoke out for religious tolerance, women's rights and education for girls, and discussed human rights concerns privately in meetings with the leaders of Egypt and Tunisia.

She saw numerous examples of people working to solve basic development problems, such as providing money to start a business or clean water.

In addition, she responded to the launching of NATO's air offensive against Yugoslavia with a condemnation of Serbian

President Slobodan Milosevic that was unusually strong for a president's spouse addressing a major developing crisis.

On Wednesday she explained that her horror over Serbian ethnic cleansing in Kosovo outweighed the traditional reserve of U.S. first ladies.

"I'm just horrified by what I have seen, but I am particularly horrified by the use of propaganda and the manipulation of the truth and the revision of history that the Serbian government is engaged in right now," she said.

"It was important for me to speak out, and of course I made clear that my husband knew that I was going to do that," she said. She had pointed out Tuesday that most of Kosovo's ethnic Albanians are Muslims.

Clinton was welcomed by Muslims throughout her trip, many of whom had been thrilled by her May 1998 statement endorsing the idea of Palestinian statehood. Although the White House quickly said she was expressing her own opinion and not U.S. policy, and she has not reiterated the idea since, she was received as a friend of the cause.

"This is a struggle you have taken on to assert the rights of the Islamic and Arab people. Let me pay tribute to your support to the Palestinian people," said Mohammed El Yazghi, Morocco's minister of regional planning, environment, urban development and housing, in introducing her Tuesday.

Clinton leaves for Washington Thursday evening, after spending the day in Fez visiting a hospital, meeting with a group of nonprofit organizations and paying a call on Prime Minister Abderrahmane El Youssoufi.

^REUTERS

RB-- 03/31/99 14:43:00

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EGYPT

Divider Title: _____

FM: Reuters

a4140

^BC-EGYPT-HILLARY

^Mrs Clinton to visit Egypt's Valley of the Kings

By Randall Mikkelsen

LUXOR, Egypt, March 24 (Reuters) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who cited the spiritual beliefs of the pharaohs in appealing for religious tolerance, sets out on Wednesday to view glories of the ancient Egyptian kings.

She flew up the Nile River to Luxor after delivering a speech in Cairo on Tuesday aimed at bridging the gulf between Islam and the West in a changing world.

She will spend Wednesday touring King Tutankhamen's tomb and other ancient sites in the royal burial valleys in the mountains west of Luxor, and visit Egyptian scholars to learn more about modern research into the dawn of civilisation.

She also will visit Hatshepsut Temple, site of the November 1997 massacre of 58 foreign tourists by Egypt's biggest Islamic militant group. She decried such violence in her speech at American University in Cairo, saying societies gripped by religious and ethnic hatred cannot progress.

The first lady is on a 12-day tour of North Africa that began on Sunday.

Mrs Clinton and daughter Chelsea got an introduction to Luxor's monuments on Tuesday afternoon when they strolled among the towering columns, monumental statuary and epic hieroglyphics of the 3,500 year-old Luxor Temple.

"It marks the site where civilisation was born, the big bang," Ray Johnson, field director of Chicago House, a University of Chicago-affiliated Egyptology project in Luxor, said as he showed Mrs Clinton the temple's "rejuvenation room."

She watched with detachment as Johnson stood before an ancient carving explicitly depicting the creation of the world as a man in sexual climax.

In her Cairo speech, Mrs. Clinton cited the ancient Egyptian practice of filling pharaohs' tombs with supplies for the afterlife, and said values such as religious tolerance were now essential items worth preserving.

"Think if you will about the values you would take to the next world," she said.

"We have to bring forward those lessons in tolerance and understanding that truly do stand the test of time and we have to reject the calls to violence and prejudice and discrimination," she said.

She also referred to Christian, Jewish and Islamic holy places she saw in Cairo. "These three great monotheistic religions have so much to give one another and people everywhere. That can only happen if we respect, we listen and we care about the traditions and values that each of us hold



dear," she said.

World leaders were more challenged than ever to prevent dissemination of prejudice because of new methods of communication, including the Internet, she added.

``We now have new tools of communication that can stir up divisions in the blink of an eye. Someone can go in the Internet and put out a message of hate that with a press of a button can be everywhere in the world," she said.

RB-- 03/23/99 20:00:00

LEVEL 1 - 97 OF 99 STORIES

The Associated Press

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March 20, 1999, Saturday, AM cycle

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 707 words

HEADLINE: **First lady, Chelsea foster U.S.-Arab ties on North Africa trip**

BYLINE: By SANDRA SOBIERAJ, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Hillary and Chelsea Clinton set off this weekend on an "Arabian Nights" spring-break tour of camel rides across Saharan dunes and visits to the wonders of North Africa - both ancient and modern.

In advance of her Saturday departure, the **first lady** said she intended her 12-day **travels** through **Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia**, whose populations total almost half of all the Arabs, to dispel distrust that has strained relations with some Arab states since the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

"For too long, our close ties with the Arab world have been compromised by negative stereotyping on both sides. It is my hope that this **trip** will help strengthen the bonds of friendship among our nations," Mrs. Clinton said.

Aides said she would make no announcement on her political future or the Senate candidacy in New York some Democrats are pressing her to pursue.

Mrs. Clinton planned to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, **Tunisia's** remarkable record of educating women and girls and **Morocco's** experiment with political pluralism and religious tolerance.

To many Americans, Arabs are "all bandits, bombers and billionaires," said Wallace Sanders, development director for the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations. He said he is counting on Mrs. Clinton to "disseminate the truth."

This **trip**, her 19th overseas journey without President Clinton, was to have included stops in Israel and Jordan, partly to balance Arab interests with attention to the special U.S.-Israeli relationship. But diplomatic sensitivities to the upcoming Israeli elections and mourning over Jordan's King Hussein forced postponement of both visits until later this year, Mrs. Clinton said.



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The Associated Press, March 20, 1999

Aides and administration officials were careful to underscore that Mrs. Clinton's meetings with President Hosni Mubarak of **Egypt** and **Morocco's** King Hassan II and Prime Minister Abderrahmane Youssoufi were courtesy calls, "not to negotiate Middle East peace."

Officials from the White House National Security Council, State Department, three U.S. embassies and three foreign governments were marshaled in service to the mother-daughter tradition of making Chelsea's spring break from school (she is a sophomore at Stanford University) an exotic adventure combined with U.S. foreign policy.

As tents befitting an Ottoman sultan went up half a world away for the **first lady's** overnight stay deep in the Moroccan desert, her staff in Washington worked with the State Department on daily schedules tying Mrs. Clinton's sightseeing to themes of her official appearances:

-An address on peace and religious tolerance will follow two days of touring the alabaster mosque of Muhammad Ali within the walls of Islamic Cairo's citadel; viewing Old Testament scrolls in Ben-Ezra Synagogue, **Egypt's** oldest; and visiting the nearby Coptic Museum and other sites of **Egypt's** minority Christian community.

-A women's rights speech at **Tunisia's** parliament building, where women hold 7 percent of the seats, is tucked among stops at the half-ruined El Djem coliseum, where women in the Roman era watched the gladiators from segregated seating, and at a modern family-planning clinic.

In 1995, the Clintons' mother-daughter crusade to boost the status of women and children swept through southeast Asia. When Chelsea, now 19, was on spring break the next year, they dropped in on U.S. troops in Germany, Bosnia, Italy, Turkey and Greece. In 1997, the pair dazzled sub-Saharan Africans with a six-nation swing laying ground for the president's own **trip** to the continent last year.

The **first lady's** twin themes are human rights and the vitality of U.S. foreign aid despite its political unpopularity in Congress. As Brian Atwood, director of the U.S. Agency for International Development, told Mrs. Clinton last week: "More than anyone, you have helped us tell our story."

During her husband's six years in the White House, Mrs. Clinton has visited 75 nations, venturing to corners as far-flung as Katmandu, Nepal, and Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

"In Mrs. Clinton, women all over the world have a friend and role model," said Edith Grace Ssempala, Uganda's ambassador to the United States. "This **first lady** has eloquently spoken to the needs of every human being."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 20, 1999



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^BC-EGYPT-HILLARY 3RDLD

^Mrs. Clinton tours monuments, mosques and mummies

(adds more details on tour of mosques and monuments)

By Randall Mikkelsen

CAIRO, March 21 (Reuters) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham

Clinton toured mosques and monuments and had a close encounter with a mummy on Sunday to open her 12-day North Africa trip billed as a bridge-building visit to the Islamic world.

"We are delighted to start our visit here in Egypt, and here in the heart of old Cairo," said Mrs Clinton as she visited Islamic antiquities with her daughter Chelsea, who is on break from her studies at Stanford University in California.

Asked by a reporter how it felt to be abroad, Mrs. Clinton said: "It feels wonderful." Aides have said Mrs. Clinton would take a break during her trip from consideration of a run for a U.S. Senate seat in 2000, the object of intense speculation in America.

Starting a 12-day tour of Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, Mrs. Clinton was aiming on her first day to highlight Islamic contributions to culture as a way to help dispel suspicions between East and West.

She was to visit the Coptic Christian area of Cairo on Monday to call attention to Egypt's tradition of religious diversity, ahead of a speech the following day urging religious tolerance.

As Mrs. Clinton arrived at the Citadel, which has towered over Islamic Cairo since 1176, she apologised for running late because her plane was delayed by engine trouble in Washington and by poor weather in Ireland, from where her plane was forced to divert to England to refuel.

The two Clinton women donned headscarves as a mark of respect and visited the Mohammed Ali mosque, a many-domed, alabaster-walled splendour which was built at the Citadel by Mohammed Ali, the 19th century founder of modern Egypt. They were guided by the head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, Gaballah Ali Gaballah.

Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea emerged from the mosque to gaze over the minarets and other buildings of the city through a dusty haze that dulled a heavy late-afternoon sun.

At the al-Sahlih Tala'i mosque, built in 1160, she dedicated a painstakingly restored, 700-year-old "minbar," or high pulpit of intricately tooled wood. She also strolled under the 11th century Bab Zuweila gate, once used as an execution site. U.S. assistance is helping to restore such sites of historical importance.

Mrs. Clinton got an after-hours tour of the world-renowned Egyptian Museum. There, she saw the solid-gold coffin and headdress of King Tutankhaman, and walked through the museum's

mummy collection. One of ancient Egypt's greatest pharaohs, Ramses II, lay at rest in a wooden coffin, his leathery toes and fingers poking through a linen burial wrapping, and his arms crossed peacefully over his chest.

Clinton spokeswoman Marsha Berry said Sunday's visits also underscored the importance of preserving cultural treasures, one of Mrs. Clinton's favourite causes.

Mrs. Clinton is also expected to use her North African tour to promote the rights of women and children, call for religious tolerance and encourage democratic advances.

On Monday, she is to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and visit the New Horizons programme for young women, which deals with issues such as reproductive health and female genital mutilation. Although such ritual mutilation is officially discouraged, it is widespread in Egypt.

Mrs. Clinton also will discuss ``microcredit" lending to small businesses in a Cairo marketplace.

^REUTERS

RB-- 03/21/99 17:48:00

FM: AP/East

a0454

^PM-Mrs Clinton,550<

^First lady, daughter begin tour at preservation site<

^Eds: Lead prospects uncertain<

^By SANDRA SOBIERAJ=

^Associated Press Writer=

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) First, the Stars and Stripes. Now, the Mosque of Salah Talai.

Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign for historic preservation swept across 5,800 miles Sunday to the heart of Old Islamic Cairo, where she and her wide-eyed daughter, Chelsea, visited treasures the United States is helping to restore.

The American first lady, beginning a 12-day tour of North Africa, added a foreign flavor to the drive she began last year at home with the restoration of the original Star-Spangled Banner: to rally public and private funds for the preservation of historic landmarks and artifacts.

"I am here on behalf of my husband and of the American people to strengthen the bonds of friendship and partnership between our two countries, deepen our dialogue and see firsthand how Egyptians are moving toward the future while preserving their extraordinary culture and heritage," Mrs. Clinton said in a statement distributed as she and Chelsea, 19, disembarked from their 13-hour flight from Washington.

Struggling against the wind to tame a gauzy beige scarf over her hair, Mrs. Clinton indulged Egyptian news photographers clamoring for a pose at the hilltop Citadel and then entered the Mosque of Muhammad Ali in her stocking feet, as is required by Islamic tradition.

The Ottoman mosque, with alabaster walls and cylindrical minaret was built and named for the founder of modern Egypt. It is one of dozens of restoration projects under way by the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

USAID, whose cause Mrs. Clinton is here to champion, has at least \$15 million invested in Egyptian antiquities' preservation, with an additional \$771 million dedicated to helping Cairo eliminate sewage flooding into homes, mosques and other historical sites.

At the Mosque of Salah Talai, Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea were given to use "as paperweights or coasters," their tour guide offered samples of the intricately carved balsam pieces of a 1290 minbar, Egypt's second-oldest surviving pulpit, from which a Muslim imam preaches at Friday prayers.

"You know all about conservation. I'm preaching to the converted," Gaballa Ali Gaballa, head of Egypt's antiquities council, told Mrs. Clinton.

Across a narrow street and through the Bab Zuweila Gate, another restoration project and the spot where defeated sultans in the

1500s were nailed to the doors, the American visitors poked through the stone and wood cubbyhole where cupsful of water were once distributed through bronze grilles to passers-by.

Mrs. Clinton suggested to Dr. Gaballa that the antiquities council sell ``books and other souvenirs for tourists'' to raise additional restoration funds.

The Clinton women, who were traveling during Chelsea's spring break from Stanford University while President Clinton remained in Washington, had a full day of appointments today.

They were calling on President Hosni Mubarak, saluting small businesswomen at the Khan al Khalili marketplace, discussing education at a youth center in Cairo's Telal Zeinhom neighborhood, touring the Ben-Ezra Synagogue and visiting the Coptic quarter of the minority Christian community.

APE- 03/22/99 01:08:00

FM: Reuters

a3394

^BC-CLINTON-HILLARY-EGYPT 2NDLD

^Mrs Clinton dodges Senate issue in Egypt

(Recasts, adds further events in day's program)

By Randall Mikkelsen

CAIRO (Reuters) - With Egypt's bazaars buzzing with talk about her possible bid for the U.S. Senate, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton finally discussed the issue Monday but left nobody any wiser about her plans.

Answering questions publicly on the issue for the first time, she told reporters: "I do know that I want to continue speaking out on behalf of the issues that I've spent more than 25 years working on.

"But the form that will take I really can't predict at this time," Mrs Clinton said after a speech at a women's health center in Cairo.

She announced at the center a \$24.5 million U.S. donation for family planning and maternal health programs in Egypt, on the second day of a 12-day tour through North Africa to promote social issues and closer relations with the Islamic world.

Also Monday, she toured a synagogue and a 5th century Coptic Christian church in Cairo, expressed what aides said was concern in a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak about Islamic militants' attacks on minority Copts, and discussed with a group of women a videotape project they were involved in to spread awareness of women's issues.

In addition, she traipsed along a narrow alleyway of the Khan El-Khalili tourist bazaar area of Cairo to visit shopkeepers, some of whom were aware of her Senate deliberations and said they were eager for her to run.

"I will nominate her for sure," artisan Mona Abdel-Mageed told reporters as she readied a strand of ceramic beads to give the first lady.

At the health center, Mrs Clinton took the rare step of answering questions from reporters about her Senate plans.

"I've talked to a lot of people in the last month and I will continue that when I return home, but right now I want to focus on the issues that are really at the base of this very important partnership and friendship between the United States and Egypt," the first lady said.

Her comments on her political future were her first since she acknowledged in a written statement in February that she was considering a run for a New York Senate seat in 2000. She has consulted busily with political advisers in weighing a race.

But President Bill Clinton said in a news conference on Friday "I literally don't have a clue" whether she would run.

That didn't stop some Egyptians from forming an opinion. Wahiba El-Sayed, standing in her shop as she awaited a visit from Mrs Clinton, called her "a very strong woman" and said

she should run for the Senate seat.

"If she wants to do something she can do it," El-Sayed said.

The first lady visited shops to highlight a U.S.-supported "microcredit" lending program that has helped small business operators, many of them women, to get started.

"I've seen programs like this all over the world. They're very successful and people take it seriously," Mrs Clinton said as she toured the shops. "I'm so proud of the women borrowers."

She told reporters she was focusing on issues like "improving the lives of children, and giving more opportunities to people, particularly women, and improving relations around the world among democracies, and making it clear that we have a lot to learn and give one another in the world."

Abdel-Mageed and other shopkeepers declined to discuss their views of the Clintons' relationship in the wake of the president's sexual affair with Monica Lewinsky.

But veteran columnist Anis Mansour, in a commentary printed Monday in the English-language Egyptian Gazette, declared that "their relationship is completely over."

"The divorce proceedings will go very smoothly because the judge will not have to summon witnesses. Almost all the globe's population are witnesses on Clinton's infidelity," he wrote.

^REUTERS

RB-- 03/22/99 17:47:00

FM: Reuters

a3722

^BC-CLINTON-HILLARY-TRIP 2NDLD

^Mrs. Clinton to tour sands, souks of North Africa

(Updates with Clinton comments, paras 6-8)

By Randall Mikkelsen

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton leaves Saturday for the sands and souks of North Africa, where she will take a break from speculation on her political plans and pursue a broad international agenda.

During a 12-day visit to Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco, Mrs. Clinton will promote the rights of women and children, education and an expansion of democracy, while seeking to bridge suspicion between the Islamic world and the West.

As she takes in a sunrise from a desert encampment and the sunsets of Marrakesh, the first lady will relegate to the back of her mind her deliberations on whether to run for a New York Senate seat, aides said. Those deliberations have prompted intense interest among the American public.

"She's going to be concentrating on this trip ... There's a lot of issues that she's got to focus on," said Mrs. Clinton's spokeswoman, Marsha Berry. "Whether she will muse (about her Senate possibilities), one never knows."

Friends of Mrs. Clinton have said that long before she began entertaining the idea of a Senate run, she had an interest in serving in an international capacity, such as United Nations ambassador, after President Clinton leaves office in 2001.

President Clinton said Friday he had no idea if his wife would run for the Senate, but told a news conference the couple had discussed moving to New York after he leaves office in January 2001.

"I literally don't have a clue," Clinton said, adding: "She told me ... over a year ago ... that she thought we should move to New York when I left the White House."

As for the state of their marriage in the face of rumors of marital tumult after his affair with Monica Lewinsky, Clinton said that "we're working hard" to strengthen their union.

Mrs Clinton has taken some 20 foreign trips solo as first lady, in addition to her travels with the president. She canceled plans to travel to Central America with the president last week, fueling speculation about the state of their marriage after his impeachment trial. But aides said she needed to nurse a bad back ahead of her North Africa trip.

The Clintons' daughter, Chelsea, will accompany her mother to North Africa.

In a speech Tuesday in Washington, Mrs. Clinton said she hoped to bring America and the Arab world closer together.

"For too long, our close ties with the Arab world have been compromised by negative stereotyping on both sides," she said.

"With populations that total almost one-half of the Arab

world, these countries represent a diversity of cultures, ethnic groups, and histories, and provide us an opportunity to learn more about what they are doing, about their history, and to become closer friends and partners in building a better future," she said.

To this end, she will tour historic Islamic areas of Cairo and Egypt's ancient Valley of the Kings, visit a mosque and Roman ruins in Tunisia and explore the casbahs of Morocco. She will camp out in the Moroccan desert and visit rural villages.

The first lady will also deliver speeches promoting her international goals, as well as meet privately with leaders of the countries she visits, U.S. officials said.

On Tuesday in Cairo, she will talk about her experience with Islam in calling for religious tolerance, after a stop to highlight Egypt's minority Coptic Christians, who have faced attacks from Islamic fundamentalists.

In Tunisia next Friday, she is expected to cite the advanced status of women's rights in the country. She also is likely to subtly nudge Tunisia toward allowing greater political expression, aides said.

And in Morocco on March 29, she is to speak about the country's opening political system and religious tolerance.

Mrs. Clinton will also use stops at schools, health clinics and U.S. aid projects to highlight the importance of expanding education, particularly for girls, and of creating economic opportunities for women.

She will touch only gingerly on the Middle East peace process, mostly by commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. In May, Mrs. Clinton stunned many in the Israeli government and inspired Palestinians by endorsing the idea of an eventual Palestinian state.

A State Department official said Mrs. Clinton would not revisit the subject on her trip, and that she agreed with Clinton administration policy that the issue is to be decided in "final status" talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

During her stay in Morocco, Mrs. Clinton will have a chance to indulge in a travel fantasy she and the president have long shared. "The first lady and the president have always wanted to see the sunset in Marrakesh, so she'll get a chance to do that," a U.S. official said.

^REUTERS

RB-- 03/19/99 20:16:00

First Lady Confirms Talks on N.Y. Senate Bid

By HOWARD SCHNEIDER
Washington Post Foreign Service

CAIRO, March 22—First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton confirmed today that she is consulting friends and advisers about a possible run for the Senate in New York, saying that is just one option she is exploring to stay involved in public life when President Clinton's second term ends. Talking to reporters on the second day of a trip to Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco, Hillary

Clinton said she intends to find some way to continue working on the issues she is most interested in after leaving the White House in January 2001.

Whether that means delving into electoral politics or something else remains to be seen. But the first lady indicated she is serious about exploring a run for the seat held by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), who is retiring.

"I do know that I want to continue speaking out on behalf

of the issues that I've spent more than 25 years working on," Clinton said. "The form that will take I really can't predict at this time."

"I've talked to a lot of people in the last month, and I will continue that when I return home," she said of her consultations with advisers and friends.

The comments marked the first time Clinton has responded directly to questions raised by her strong showing in polls pitting her in a hypothetical Senate race against New York Mayor

Rudolph W. Giuliani, a Republican.

She agreed to the rare question-and-answer session following her tour of a Cairo health center, apparently in an effort to dispense with the issue while she is traveling and turn the spotlight to the issues of religious tolerance and historic conservation that are the centerpieces of her North Africa trip.

"Right now I want to focus on the issues that are really at the base of this very important part-

nership and friendship between the United States and Egypt," she told the audience of reporters, doctors and hospital staff.

Touring here with her daughter Chelsea during Chelsea's spring break from Stanford University, the first lady has divided her time among Cairo's ample mix of Muslim, Christian and ancient historic sites, weaving together an effort to reach out to the Islamic world with her personal interest in historic preservation.

She is also trying to call attention to the money being invested here by the U.S. Agency for International Development in sewer and other

public works projects critical to maintaining some of Cairo's most important architecture.

On Sunday, for example, she visited the Salih Talsi Mosque in one of Cairo's oldest Islamic neighborhoods, an elegant, open-air building that until a few months ago was surrounded by pools of open water that threatened to erode the foundation.

That problem has been fixed, and, in conjunction with Egyptian authorities, a 700-year-old, intricately carved beechwood minbar has been restored.

The minbar is a pulpit-like platform at the top of a short staircase for the mosque's prayer leader.

LEVEL 1 - 55 OF 99 STORIES

The Associated Press

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March 23, 1999, Tuesday, AM cycle

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 715 words

HEADLINE: Mrs. Clinton treads carefully with talk of religious tolerance

BYLINE: SANDRA SOBIERAJ, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: CAIRO, Egypt

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton visited some of Egypt's most important Muslim, Christian and Jewish sites Tuesday, then exhorted the people of the Middle East to "reject the calls to violence and prejudice and discrimination."

The American first lady's appeal for tolerance came in a country where Islam is the state religion, but the largely secular government has been under fire for years from Muslim militants.

Mrs. Clinton said before she left on a 12-day trip through Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia that she was counting on news coverage to spread her message beyond North Africa's borders. Her touring in Cairo generated news photos of Egypt's religiously diverse history.

With daughter Chelsea at her side, the first lady marveled at the air shaft of a pulpit used to keep the Muslim imam cool as he preaches in a 700-year-old mosque. She stepped into the cellar of the Ben Ezra Synagogue, Egypt's oldest, whose foundations were laid in the 11th century on the site where, tradition holds, baby Moses was discovered among bulrushes. And she peered into the mildewed crypt of St. Sargius Church, where Mary and Joseph were said to have sheltered the Baby Jesus as they fled into Egypt from King Herod's soldiers.

In her address at the American University in Cairo, Mrs. Clinton seemed careful not to offend diplomatic sensitivities. Several times in her 40-minute speech, she noted that the United States is "not perfect" and that church burnings and hate crimes back home give evidence of intolerance.

"We have to reject the calls to violence and prejudice and discrimination," Mrs. Clinton said. "In every religion, there are those who would drape themselves in the mantle of belief and faith, only to distort its most sacred teachings - preaching intolerance and resorting to violence against believers of



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The Associated Press, March 23, 1999

other faiths."

Egyptian Christians, known as Copts, were frequent targets of the insurgent Muslims at the height of their violent unrest in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The government contends its strong and often-violent tactics have succeeded in quelling the domestic terror.

At St. Sargius Church, with its unmarked, basement-level entrance off an alley in Cairo's Old Coptic Quarter, Bishop Yohanna cast the best light on the situation for his American visitors.

"We feel that we are brothers and friends," he said. "We are one unit and one country. We love them, and they love us."

Troublemakers, he said, are "just a few religious fanatics."

From Cairo, Mrs. Clinton flew south to Luxor, another trove of ancient treasures on the Nile. She and Chelsea spent more than an hour poking through massive Luxor Temple, then posing for tourists and news photographers alike at the feet of a colossus of Ramses III.

On Wednesday, the women planned to tour the temple of Queen Hatshepsut in the Valley of the Kings, where in November 1997 a band of militant Muslims killed 58 foreign tourists.

In her Cairo address, Mrs. Clinton also celebrated the U.S.-mediated Israeli-Egyptian peace accord, reached in 1978, that led the next year to the first treaty between Israel and an Arab country. But the **first lady** shied away from the complicated issues that have hampered the peace process since.

Last year, in a satellite hookup with a youth conference in Switzerland, Mrs. Clinton caused an international stir with her comment: "I think it will be in the long-term interests of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state." She called the goal "very important for the Palestinian people" and for the "broader goal of peace in the Middle East." U.S. policy holds that the Palestinians must negotiate their future with the Israelis.

Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton said only, "We will never and must never give up on the dream of peace that was really ignited by the Camp David accord."

Tom Farkas, coordinator of the Cairo American University's English language program, called Mrs. Clinton's soft approach predictable. But he said: "She's quite well-known here for her comment on Palestine, so I was hoping for a little more, something definitive."

In a meeting Monday with President Hosni Mubarak, which was scheduled as a 15-minute courtesy call but stretched to an hour, Mrs. Clinton voiced concern about the treatment of **Egypt's** 6 million to 10 million Coptic Christians.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 23, 1999



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FM: Reuters

a1496

^BC-EGYPT-HILLARY 1STLD (PICTURE) (RPT)

^Hillary Clinton urges religious tolerance

(Adds speech at American University in Cairo)

By Christine Hauser

CAIRO, March 23 (Reuters) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham

Clinton drew on two days of touring Christian, Moslem and Jewish holy sites in Egypt to call on Tuesday for religious tolerance.

"These three great monotheistic religions have so much to give one another and people everywhere," she said at the American University in Cairo.

Students, professors and other invited guests stood and applauded Mrs Clinton at the start and end of her 45-minute speech, billed as one of her major policy addresses during her 12-day trip to North Africa which began on Sunday.

Mrs Clinton called for religious tolerance and a democratic society, stressing the importance of solid education and health care opportunities for all, especially women and girls.

She did not mention her own political aspirations, nor say whether she will run for the United States Congress.

At a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Monday, Mrs Clinton expressed concern about attacks on Coptic Christians. She and daughter Chelsea visited the 5th century Coptic Church of St Sergius and toured Ben Ezra Synagogue.

During her speech, she described visiting the church and nearby synagogue against the backdrop of the city's many mosques, some of which she toured on Sunday.

"It gave me a vivid sense of the diversity that exists in this great country," she said. "Now that (diversity) can either be a source of division or a blessing. That is certainly how I view it in my own country."

Mrs Clinton said even in the United States it had been necessary to fight intolerance shown in burnings of churches and racial discrimination. "Democracy is never perfected," she said.

Mrs Clinton later left Cairo for Luxor for a three-day visit to the Valleys of the Kings and Queens and the Hatshepsut Temple, site of the November 1997 massacre of 58 foreign tourists by Egypt's biggest Islamic militant group.

Mrs Clinton's spokeswoman said her speech was aimed at Egypt and the Arab region in general, citing Egypt's tradition of religious tolerance and alluding to more recent concerns, such as violence by Islamic militants against minority Coptic Christians and foreigners.

Mrs Clinton emphasised how a country's ethnic or religious diversity can either work for or against it, citing examples of how neighbours turned against neighbours in Bosnia.

She said ensuring freedom of religion and other basic rights and recognising the "diversity of humanity" was a "daily

struggle" in a democracy.

World leaders were more challenged than ever to prevent dissemination of prejudice because of new methods of communication, including the Internet, she added.

Mrs Clinton said the White House now marked Islam's holy fasting month of Ramadan, just as the first family recognised Christmas and Hanukkah with trees and a menorah.

RB-- 03/23/99 09:28:00

First Lady Treads Carefully Through Egypt's Politics

By HOWARD SCHNEIDER
Washington Post Foreign Service

CAIRO, March 23—In a country that has banned some political parties, arrested human rights workers and detained thousands of suspected Islamic radicals without trial, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton surveyed Egypt's progress toward democracy and civil society in a speech today and decided it was doing pretty well.

In a carefully worded, half-hour address, Clinton avoided even implicit criticism of an important U.S. ally where security concerns are paramount and the government historically has been hesitant to turn any operations over to businesses or other

organizations. Instead, she praised the government for expanding opportunities for nongovernmental organizations involved with health care and women's rights. She said she was looking forward to visiting a "democracy school" in Luxor that teaches people about citizenship, and that reductions in the rates of population growth and infant mortality showed progress is being made.

An aide told the Associated Press that Clinton did express concern to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak about the treatment of the country's Coptic Christian minority—an issue Egyptian officials say has been greatly distorted by Western politicians and journalists.

But such worries largely have been consigned to

the background during her trip to North Africa with her daughter, Chelsea, who is on her spring break from Stanford University.

Capping a three-day visit to the Arab world's largest city, Clinton shied away from controversial themes.

Rather, she asked her audience to imagine—they were ancient Egyptians assembling cargo for their journey to the afterworld—what they will need on the journey to a new life in the 21st century.

It was a metaphor that let her stick to such safely neutral themes as religious tolerance and education—appropriate to a trip that has been light on substance and heavy on sightseeing.

FM: UPI

a0634

(UPI Focus)<

Hillary undecided on future role<

By ELIZABETH BRYANT=

CAIRO, Egypt, March 22 (UPI) As she tours Egypt's hospitals, youth programs and training centers for women, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is glimpsing a culture of profound contrasts, where the minority of women who hold positions of authority is overshadowed by the vast majority who do not.

Family planning methods have yet to make a sizeable dent on birth rates, even as Egypt's 62 million people are severely straining the country's resources. Less than half Egyptian girls finish high school, development experts say, and women continue to go without basic health and family planning services.

Moreover, Egyptian women are often ignorant of the rights they do have, according to Julie Hanson Swanson, director of the Centre for Development and Population Activities, a U.S. group working with Egyptian teenage girls.

" Oftentimes, women don't know their rights, don't know that they're entitled to have a birth certificate, that they're entitled to have a voting card," Hanson Swanson said. " And also their legal rights, as far as marriage and divorce is concerned. Ignorance in the sense of not knowing their rights is a major problem in Egypt."

Although the Egyptian government includes two women ministers and several female members of parliament, few women hold powerful jobs. Lawyer Fatima Lashin has battled for 10 years to become a judge. Rights granted to women by law such as alimony and child support are a struggle to obtain in practice. And Egyptian women must still ask permission from their husbands to leave the country.

Perhaps most troubling for many development workers here is the painful and highly controversial practice of female circumcision. A 1995 Egyptian government survey still considered the most authoritative source today found more than 95 percent of all married women had been circumcized, although some experts say that number has likely dropped.

The fallout reaches doctors like Dr. Nadia el Affi, who has been offering health and family planning advice to poor women in Cairo and rural southern Egypt for the past 25 years.

" For some of women, they insist on circumscizing their daughters," said AIAffi, an internist, who does not circumcize women, and is strongly against the practice. " They say it is a tradition, it's part of their marriage. But I argue their points one by one."

But experts are also quick to point out recent success stories. Since Egypt hosted a 1994 United Nations population conference, female circumcision is no longer a taboo subject. An array of Muslim and Coptic Christian clergy have publicly come out against it, saying it is not espoused by either religion.

One small town, Der el Barsha, in southern Egypt, has stopped the practice altogether, after a campaign led by religious leaders in this Coptic Christian community.

Hanson Swanson points to another success story. In another southern village, Beni Suef, fathers are pushing their daughters to go to school.

``The girls that are becoming educated are now, in fact, more marriageable," Hanson Swanson said. ``Men want to marry educated women. Men want to marry women that take care of their families."

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UPI- 03/22/99 14:40:00

FM: Reuters

a3919

^BC-EGYPT-HILLARY 2NDLD

^Mrs. Clinton hears woes of Egyptian queen

(adding planned announcement on water initiative, paras 18-22)

By Randall Mikkelsen

LUXOR, Egypt (Reuters) - First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton reflected on the political struggles of the only female pharaoh to rule ancient Egypt and mused over her post-White House career while touring tombs and temples Wednesday.

Late in the day, Mrs Clinton learned of NATO air strikes against Yugoslavia while at an Egyptian government dinner in the 3,500 year-old Luxor temple. Her spokeswoman Marsha Berry said the first lady had no plans to alter her 12-day goodwill journey to North Africa, which continues Thursday with her traveling to Tunisia.

During the fourth day of her trip Wednesday, Mrs. Clinton and her daughter Chelsea inspected the massive Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, nestled in the golden desert cliffs where members of Egypt's royalty were buried above the river Nile.

The temple honoring Hatshepsut, who ruled Egypt 1,500 years before the birth of Jesus and was the only female pharaoh during the glory years of ancient Egypt's Old, Middle and New Kingdoms, was the site of a 1997 massacre of 58 foreign tourists by Egypt's biggest Islamic militant group.

The first lady was told of the queen's rivalry with a stepson who tried to erase all depictions of her from the temple after she died.

"Why the animosity?" asked Mrs. Clinton, who in the past has blamed President Clinton's political scandals on the animosity of his opponents.

One of her guides said the ill will was "not out of spite, but politics."

Mrs. Clinton was heard responding "sometimes it looks the same."

Although security in the area had been increased sharply since the 1997 attack, sentinels standing high on the cliffs above the Valley of the Kings gave evidence of even greater security for the first lady's visit.

As well as touring the temple, she stepped down into the tomb of King Tutankhamen in the Valley of the Kings and was given a rare look at the many-chambered tomb of pharaoh Seti I, normally closed while experts study how to preserve it, but opened to a visitor for the first time in 10 years.

She also visited the vividly decorated tomb of Queen Nefertari in the nearby Valley of the Queens.

Mrs. Clinton has said she would take a break during the trip from her deliberations on whether to run for a Senate seat in New York, but the issue was clearly on her mind.

In the Hatshepsut temple, she was complimented by her tour

host, head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, Gaballah Ali Gaballah, on her observations regarding a ceiling painting.

"Perhaps you should be one of us, an archeologist," he said.

"Well, I am looking for a new career," she said.

She also waxed philosophical about a ceiling painted with a deep blue sky and stars and another depiction of Hatshepsut adopting a man's form to enhance her authority.

"It's probably a contradiction, like all things -- men, women, night, day," she said.

Mrs. Clinton will announce new U.S. aid to help fight water pollution and preserve ancient monuments in Egypt before traveling to Tunisia.

Mrs. Clinton's office said the first lady will announce a \$45 million aid package to improve the sewage-treatment system of Luxor, which will have a side benefit of limiting destruction of some of ancient Egypt's great monuments caused by rising water tables.

Throughout her travels in Egypt since Sunday, Mrs. Clinton has witnessed damage to ancient sites caused by leaching of salts from groundwater into building stone.

Experts said the completion in 1970 of the Aswan High Dam on the upper Nile river, because it ended the Nile's annual flooding that washed away built-up salts, has greatly accelerated the problem.

A spokeswoman for Mrs. Clinton said the improved sewage system in Luxor, home of the imposing Luxor and Karnak temples, will help fight the problem by removing minerals from the waste water before it is discharged.

^REUTERS

RB-- 03/24/99 18:58:00

LEVEL 1 - 1 OF 1 STORY

The Associated Press

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March 24, 1999, Wednesday, AM cycle

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 528 words

HEADLINE: REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK: Mrs. Clinton, tourist - or guide

BYLINE: SANDRA SOBIERAJ, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: LUXOR, Egypt

BODY:

In the Valley of the Queens, Hillary Rodham Clinton may have found her calling.

"Well, I AM looking for another career," she quipped.

The first lady and her daughter, Chelsea, were touring the 3,400-year-old temple of Queen Hatshepsut on Wednesday with archeologists and conservationists in tow.

"Look," she instructed in the innermost chamber, where the ceiling was painted blue with stars. A combination, she concluded, of day and night. "Like all things - men, women, night, day."

"You should be one of us," said Gaballa Ali Gaballa, head of Egypt's antiquities council.

Mrs. Clinton, ever more willing to muse aloud about her own future after her husband's presidency is over, chuckled when she spoke of shopping for a new career.

While she's not yet sure about a run for the Senate in 2000, to walk among the queens on Wednesday, Mrs. Clinton wore her running shoes.

The ancient political turmoil of Hatshepsut rang familiar to Mrs. Clinton.

Shown one of the temple's few remaining reliefs of the queen, most of whose images were defaced or erased by stepson Thutmose III, Mrs. Clinton marveled: "Why the enmity?"



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The Associated Press, March 24, 1999

"It was not out of spite, but politics," explained restorationist Ray Johnson.

"Sometimes they look the same," Mrs. Clinton reflected.

Sounds like President Clinton is feeling left out.

"My husband is a little jealous," Mrs. Clinton reported to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak after a call from Washington on her first morning.

Day Two, the president also checked in by phone.

"When I spoke to the president this morning, he reminded me that he had yet to even see the pyramids except through the window of an airplane," Mrs. Clinton told an audience at the American University in Cairo.

She had a suggestion for her husband come Jan. 20, 2001:

"I assured him he could return perhaps when he no longer travels with 800 or 900 people and see the city and the sights and meet the people for longer than a day."

Public whispering about the Clintons' marriage is not only an American tabloid preoccupation.

One day before Mrs. Clinton's arrival in Cairo, Al-Ahram, Egypt's largest daily newspaper, editorialized that she should divorce the president.

But before every audience she's addressed in Egypt Mrs. Clinton has left little doubt that the two remain very much connected.

At a Cairo maternal health clinic: "I mentioned that to the president in my meeting with him this morning. ..."

At a youth center: "As I mentioned to the president this morning. ..."

Opening her university address: "When I spoke to the president this morning. ..."

And, what do the two of them talk about in these daily chats?

"Just catching up on things," she said. "I know it's raining back in Washington."

Security agents in black with high-tech weapons perched atop the ancient cliffs around the valley.

But the obviously tight security for Mrs. Clinton's tour was the only



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suggestion of any concern.

In November 1997, a band of Muslim militants stormed the Temple of Hatshepsut and killed 58 foreign tourists there. As Mrs. Clinton and her daughter wandered the site Wednesday, no mention was made of that attack.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 24, 1999



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LEVEL 1 - 33 OF 99 STORIES

The Associated Press

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March 25, 1999, Thursday, PM cycle

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 319 words

HEADLINE: Mrs. Clinton announcing U.S. grant to Egypt for wastewater system

BYLINE: By SANDRA SOBIERAJ, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: LUXOR, Egypt

BODY:

Water is turning Egypt's ancient wonders and modern tourist attractions - the great pylon gateways of Karnak Temple, the colossi of Ramses II - from stone to sand.

The United States, represented here this week by Hillary Rodham Clinton, is giving Egypt \$ 45 million for a wastewater system in Luxor. Archeologists hope the improved treatment of wastewater will not only improve the health and safety of today's people but also retard damage to yesterday's treasures.

The first lady, traveling with her daughter Chelsea, was announcing the grant at a school here this morning before going on to Tunisia.

Water damage has been a recurrent theme at each of Mrs. Clinton's stops since she arrived in Egypt on Sunday - from the rotted foundation of a 10th-century church in Cairo's Coptic quarter, to the salt residue threatening the brilliant colors of King Tut's tomb.

"You do have a lot of problems with groundwater that I didn't really understand until I was preparing for this trip," Mrs. Clinton told conservationists in Cairo at the start of her 12-day tour.

Archeologists say Egyptian tombs and temples that have survived for thousands of years are actually very fragile because of a rising water table. The problem was exacerbated in 1970 by the construction of the new High Dam on the Nile south of Luxor.

Higher groundwater is constantly absorbed into the sandstone walls of the temples, trapping salts in the stone that crystallize and gradually slough away the outer layer of the structures.



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The Associated Press, March 25, 1999

"Before, dryness preserved everything," said Ray Johnson, an American preservation expert working here. "Today, **Egypt** is getting wetter, there are more people, more irrigation, and saltwater eventually turns stone to sand."

Over the past 20 years, the United States, through the Agency for International Development, has provided nearly \$ 3 billion for the water and wastewater systems of **Egypt**.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 25, 1999



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FM: UPI

u9206

(UPI Focus)<

Hillary calls for peace in Kosovo<

LUXOR, Egypt, March 25 (UPI) Hillary Rodham Clinton called for a swift end to the airstrikes over Yugoslavia, and said she was praying for those conducting them.

"As my husband the president explained last night to the American people, the U.S. and its NATO allies have acted to stop the brutal killing in Kosovo, and avert a broader humanitarian crisis," she said, during a stop at a health clinic in southern Egypt.

"My prayers and the prayers of peace loving people around the world are with these brave men and women and their families," she added of the NATO troops that began pummeling the Serb-ruled Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Wednesday. Clinton's remarks came as she wound up the first leg of a North African trip that aims to promote democracy, women's rights and religious tolerance in Tunisia, Morocco as well as Egypt.

At a Luxor primary school, this morning, the first lady announced a \$45 million grant from the United States Agency for International Development to improve waste water treatment in this tourist town, where flooding has caused health problems and damaged the area's world-renown pharaonic monuments. The money is in addition to \$34 million in new assistance the first lady earlier announced for family planning and mother and child-care programs in Egypt.

Clinton praised the Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development, a Coptic Christian-run school in Luxor, where Muslim and Christian students elect student leaders and write letters demanding service from the area's elected officials. "That is what creating a healthy environment really means," she said.

Keeping in line with earlier remarks during her trip, Clinton refrained to comment directly on religious tension in southern Egypt, where hundreds of Coptic Christians have been killed by Islamist extremists in recent years.

But Shaheen Abo Shanab, whose two twins are among the Muslims students attending the school, denied there was any tension between Copts and Muslims in Egypt. "Any Copt or Muslim that makes problems does so because he doesn't understand religion 100 percent," he said, adding his friends and work colleagues were primarily Copts. Besides the school, the first lady also visited a family planning clinic today. Both sites receive development assistance from USAID. She left Luxor for Tunis midday.

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FM: Reuters

a4110

^BC-CLINTON-HILLARY-TRIP 1STLD

^Hillary Clinton defends NATO attacks

(recasts, edits throughout)

By Randall Mikkelsen

TUNIS (Reuters) - U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, preparing on Thursday for the second leg of her goodwill trip to North Africa, defended NATO military strikes against Yugoslavia.

"The United States and its NATO allies have acted to stop the brutal killing of people in Kosovo and avert a broader humanitarian crisis," she said at a women's clinic in Luxor, Egypt before flying to Tunisia.

"We are hoping and praying that the brave men and women in the military action who have undertaken this mission will be able to carry it out safely and will bring it to as swift an end as possible."

Drawing a contrast between the work of the clinic and the armed confrontation over Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic's refusal to accept a peace deal for Kosovo, she said:

"Today we are in a place that is celebrating life."

On the fifth day of her 12-day North African goodwill journey Thursday, Mrs. Clinton emphasized women's rights, after advocating religious tolerance and closer ties with the Islamic world during a stay in Egypt which began Sunday.

At the clinic in Luxor, she said women needed to have choices over birth control and other health issues, and hailed an Egyptian government effort to involve clinics in other activities such as literacy programs.

In Tunisia, she toured a small business lending program that targets women. She then talked with nine prominent women, including an opposition member of parliament and a human rights activist.

In a speech on Friday, Mrs. Clinton is expected to call attention to the advanced state of women's rights in Tunisia since the country's 1957 independence, which the United States believes can serve as an example to other Islamic countries. "I am impressed by the progress that women have made in Tunisia," she said.

The United States regards Tunisia, an Islamic country, as having advanced women's rights, but U.S. officials say political expression in general there is sharply restricted.

"No matter where we as women live we have many of the same interests and concerns," Mrs. Clinton said. "So to create a dialogue around the world about women's roles and rights and responsibilities is one way of us learning more from each other."

^REUTERS

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TUNISIA

Divider Title: _____

FM: AP/East

a0465

^PM-Mrs Clinton,380<

^Mrs. Clinton praises Tunisia's achievements on women's rights<

^Eds: Speech scheduled for 5 a.m. EST; lead planned<

^By SANDRA SOBIERAJ=

^Associated Press Writer=

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton told Tunisians she came ``to learn more about (their) extraordinary achievements" on women's rights. She also got a lesson on this authoritarian nation's clamp on political expression.

Preparing for today's address on women's rights at the Congressional Palace in the Tunisian capital, Mrs. Clinton sat down Thursday with a dozen of this nation's prominent female activists, including a film director, a human rights advocate and an opposition-party member of Parliament.

But the ladies' discussion at the cliff-top residence of U.S. Ambassador Robin Raphel, overlooking Carthage and the Gulf of Tunis, was hastily closed to reporters after participants said they feared having their views broadcast in the media.

Tunisia, a sliver slightly smaller than Missouri wedged between the volatile Libya and Algeria, keeps a tight rein on political opposition.

It has no practical rights of freedom of speech or political expression, said one U.S. official.

But the first lady, holding to the nonconfrontational style of her 12-day North Africa tour to date, said she was here mostly to celebrate the country's record of investments in women and children.

``I am delighted to be in Tunisia, one of the United States' oldest allies and a trailblazer in the fight for women's rights," the first lady said in a statement released at the Tunis airport.

There, she and her daughter Chelsea were greeted by a saber-wielding honor guard of elaborately cloaked military officers. The first lady's plane, getting in a bit early, was asked to circle the verdant coastline a half-dozen times while the red-carpet greeting was assembled.

The Tunisian government spends 20 percent of its annual budget implementing a program of health, education and employment rights for females.

Ninety-nine percent of Tunisian girls old enough for the first grade are in school, and 45 percent of college students here are women.

Family-planning services are widely available and abortion is legal. Tunisia, a predominantly middle-class nation, is the only Arab state to outlaw polygamy.

APE- 03/26/99 02:18:00

FM: Reuters

a1394

^BC-CLINTON-HILLARY-TUNISIA (PICTURE)

^Hillary Clinton speaks up for women rights

By Randall Mikkelsen

TUNIS, March 26 (Reuters) - U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, in Tunisia on Friday on the second leg of her goodwill trip to North Africa, spoke up for women rights in the world and decried violence against them in Algeria and Afghanistan.

"We must use our voices to speak up for women around the world who are still suffering in silence," she said in an address to hundreds of women and representatives of women's organisations in Tunis in presence of Tunisian first lady Leila Ben Ali.

"Seven years are enough...It is time for the political classes (in Algeria) to include all who oppose the use of violence and it is time for the violence to end, so that Algerians can once again be free to work in peace and in safety in their homes, their streets and their country," she said.

Algerian women have not been spared in the violence gripping Algeria in the past seven years. Thousands of them have been reported killed, many having had their throats cut or been burned to death by Moslem rebels trying to topple the largely secular army-backed government and impose a puritanical state.

"We also must speak up for the women of Afghanistan who are being brutalised by the Talebans, once again in the...misused name of religion," Clinton said.

"There had been advances. We have seen the circle of human dignity expand in the (North Africa) region and through the world," she said. But she added that there was always a risk that women would lose rights they had gained.

On the sixth day of her 12-day North African goodwill journey on Thursday, Mrs. Clinton called attention to the advanced state of women's rights in Tunisia since the country's 1956 independence, which the United States believes can serve as an example to other Islamic countries.

"I am impressed by the progress that women have made in Tunisia," she said.

"We must speak out when women are stopped from organising non-governmental organisations, from freely expressing their views or participating in the political process," she added.

U.S. officials said that that portion of the speech was a reference to the Tunisian government's low tolerance for political expression.

RB-- 03/26/99 09:18:00

FM: AP/East

a0748

^AM-Mrs Clinton, 1st Ld-Writethru, a0679,440<

^First lady condemns Islamic radicals in Algeria, Afghanistan<

^Eds: SUBS 2nd graf to CORRECT day to Friday, sted Thursday<

^By SANDRA SOBIERAJ=

^Associated Press Writer=

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) Girls whose legs are burned with acid because ankles peek from beneath their skirts. Teen-agers raped and pressed into slavery. Trained professional women denied jobs and forced to beg for food.

Hillary Rodham Clinton decried such snapshots from Algeria and Afghanistan on Friday, and condemned Islamic fundamentalists there who brutalize women in the name of religion.

"Those who perpetrate these hateful deeds pervert the great religion in whose name they claim to act," the first lady said at a women's rights conference in the Tunisian capital, less than a three-hour's drive from the Algerian border.

The tens of thousands of Algerians killed by Islamic radicals over seven years of fighting "were victims of a war that is civil in name only," Mrs. Clinton said, noting that she spoke on behalf of her husband and the American people.

She exhorted her audience of about 1,000 mostly professional Tunisian women, who enjoy a progressive variety of rights, also to speak out against Afghanistan, where women "are being brutalized by the Taliban once again in the name the misused name of religion."

In keeping with the non-confrontational style she's adopted toward her host governments on this 12-day North African tour, now at its midpoint, Mrs. Clinton made only a thickly veiled reference to Tunisia's tight clamp on political freedoms.

The government in this tiny country wedged between volatile Libya and Algeria maintains stability by imprisoning its critics and restricting the creation of political parties and nongovernmental organizations.

"We must speak out when women are stopped from starting NGO's, from freely expressing their views, or participating in the political process," Mrs. Clinton said.

From Tunis, the first lady and her entourage ventured 100 miles south to the old Muslim holy city of Kairouan. She toured one of the nation's 23 family-planning and abortion clinics.

Contraceptives and abortions are provided free to Tunisian women.

"Tunisia's far-sighted and successful family planning policies have played an important role in advancing the status of women," Mrs. Clinton said.

Inside the spotless clinic, she smiled and nodded when gynecologist Rached Nagra said he encourages men to consider vasectomies instead of looking to women to take care of contraception.

“I agree with that,” Mrs. Clinton said. “You are the first health clinic I’ve visited anywhere in the world that has recognized that. I’m very impressed.”

APE- 03/26/99 19:20:00

FM: Reuters

a3528

^BC-CLINTON-HILLARY-DESERT

^Mrs Clinton to take a break in the desert

By Randall Mikkelsen

TUNIS, March 27 (Reuters) - U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will take a weekend break to go camping and camel-riding in the Sahara desert before resuming more official tasks during her 12-day North African journey.

The first lady is to travel on Saturday to a desert encampment at the massive Merzouga dunes in south central Morocco.

She will make the last leg of the trip over a sandy track and ride camels up a sand dune on Sunday to watch the sun rise.

Resuming her official schedule in Morocco, Mrs Clinton is expected to emphasise education for girls.

Before she leaves Tunisia, Mrs Clinton will on Saturday meet President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, who since 1987 has presided over a period of economic liberalisation and advances in women's rights, while maintaining a low tolerance for political dissent and free expression.

A U.S. official said what is perhaps an "overstated" fear of Islamic political fundamentalism is in part behind the tight hold the government keeps over political groups and the press.

"The government doesn't like to encourage associations or groups that they know are getting together for the purpose of being critical of Tunisia," the official said.

"It's a peculiar kind of censorship that both the government and much of the population subscribe to."

"They've taken a zero-tolerance approach toward Islamists (fundamentalists)," she said.

Ben Ali was reelected with 99.9 percent of the vote in 1994.

On Saturday, Mrs. Clinton praised Tunisia's advances in women's rights, which the United States believes can serve as a model for the Islamic world.

Later in the day, she highlighted this with a visit to a women's health centre in the town of Kairouan on the Tunisian steppeland, which provides mobile medical service to remote areas and dispenses free contraceptives and abortions to women.

But she also gave what her aides said was a gentle nudge to Tunisia that reflected U.S. disappointment over its government's low tolerance for political expression.

"We must speak out when women are stopped from ... freely expressing their views or participating in the political process," she said in a speech to about 1000 women at a regional conference in Tunis.

^REUTERS

PREC: RUSH CLASS: WASHINGTON DATELINE DOCID: A0149214

FM: AP/East

a0535

^AM-Mrs Clinton-Tunisia,250<

^Tunisian president admits human rights 'shortcomings'<

^By SANDRA SOBIERAJ=

^Associated Press Writer=

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) Hillary Rodham Clinton met for more than an hour Saturday with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who assured the first lady human rights problems "will be properly addressed," an administration official said.

In what was to have been a 15-minute courtesy call at the presidential palace at the close of Mrs. Clinton's two days here, the president and Mrs. Clinton talked privately. According to a U.S. official present, Ben Ali acknowledged "shortcomings" in his government's record on political freedoms but said a tight rein on dissidents in Tunisia helps keep Islamic extremists from making inroads from neighboring Algeria and Libya.

"The greatest bulwark against them is a strong citizenry," the official quoted Ben Ali as saying.

The Tunisian president expressed concern about the latest State Department report on human rights, which faulted Tunisia for restricting political expression. The U.S. official said Ben Ali invited the United States through its ambassador in Tunis or members of Congress to bring human rights allegations directly to the president, and "he will personally ensure that they get properly addressed."

From Tunis, Mrs. Clinton headed to Morocco, where she visited a school in rural Er Rachidia and announced a \$1.6 million U.S. grant to help Moroccan schools educate girls.

APE- 03/27/99 11:57:00

LEVEL 1 - 25 OF 99 STORIES

The Associated Press

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March 27, 1999, Saturday, AM cycle

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 708 words

HEADLINE: Mother and daughter: A dynamic of devotion and inspiration

BYLINE: SANDRA SOBIERAJ, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: TUNIS, Tunisia

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton told the story of a Tunisian widow with six daughters who shocked her neighbors by leaving the "women's work" in olive groves to start a carpet business and put her girls through college.

"She persevered, withstanding taunts and scorn, working hard and inspiring her daughters to do the same," the first lady recounted with admiration to a women's rights convention.

The story of a mother-daughter dynamic of devotion and inspiration finds a reflection in the relationship that Mrs. Clinton appears to share with her daughter.

After an excruciating and embarrassing year of scandal in the White House - a year in which Mrs. Clinton held her head up and her family together - Chelsea Clinton, 19, emerged during a 12-day trip with her mother through Northern Africa as poised, polite, curious and open as ever.

A shy but indulgent smile was her reward to Egyptian photographers in Cairo's walled Coptic quarter who clucked their tongues and called out "Girlie! Girlie!" to get her to turn their way.

One of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's security agents, who were at the Clintons' service last week, said Chelsea, after poking around the tombs at Luxor's Valley of the Kings with her mother, was "so enthralled with the pharaohs" that she asked to return on her own - if the Egyptian agents wouldn't mind.

At the El-Djem Coliseum in Kairouan, Tunisia, Chelsea ducked behind walls to study the Roman structure and knelt to peek into the pit where wild ostriches, antelope and leopards once waited to do battle with gladiators.



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She was apologetic to photographers who asked her to stand still and pose beside her mother. "I was just wandering around," she said.

The Stanford University sophomore's spring break offers the most lingering glimpse in more than a year of the Clintons' much-sheltered only child.

But only a glimpse.

While Chelsea herself seems not to have withered at all during her father's scandal, the protective layers around her have thickened.

In her best-selling "It Takes a Village," Mrs. Clinton likened the sheltering of Chelsea to the successively larger dolls that cradle the smallest in a set of Russian folk-art nesting dolls.

It is a metaphor borne out in practice.

At least one member of Mrs. Clinton's staff is almost always at Chelsea's side.

And the staff, on orders from the **first lady**, instructed eight reporters traveling with the Clintons that Chelsea's casual remarks - even her gestures - are strictly "off the record" unless she appears purposefully before news cameras, as at El-Djem.

Press secretary Marsha Berry explained: "She is not a public figure. ... The fact that she is on this trip is not news."

A People magazine cover story on Chelsea this year, on top of gossip tabloid articles last fall, appear to have strengthened Mrs. Clinton's determination to shelter her daughter.

Chelsea is **traveling** in a spare seat on Mom's Air Force jet and bunking with her mother at hotels. None of her expenses are being paid by taxpayers, Berry said.

On earlier spring-break tours to Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, the **first lady** often held up her companionship with Chelsea as evidence of how families should treasure daughters. And in a youth discussion in Tanzania, Mrs. Clinton even turned the microphone over to her daughter while TV cameras rolled.

Not on this trip.

In a half-dozen public remarks, many focusing on girls' self-esteem, mother-daughter relationships or the empowerment of young women, Mrs. Clinton has, almost pointedly, made no reference to Chelsea.

At the **trip's** final stop, in **Morocco**, Mrs. Clinton made an exception from that practice Saturday, singling out her daughter in order to put at ease a shy sixth-grade girl made silent by the spectacle of news cameras and security agents.

As Naima Nuari struggled to say she wanted to be a doctor when she grows up,



The Associated Press, March 27, 1999

Mrs. Clinton leaned forward, put her hands on the little girl's arms and smiled.

"You just have to ignore all these problems and all these lights," she said. Then, gesturing to Chelsea in a far corner of the classroom, Mrs. Clinton said, "I have a daughter, she is here with me over there."

Chelsea also leaned forward expectantly and gave the girl an encouraging smile.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 27, 1999



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FM: Reuters

a4453

^BC-CLINTON-HILLARY 1STLD

^Mrs Clinton remembers World War Two U.S. soldiers

(Adds meeting with Ben Ali and departure, 7th para)

By Randall Mikkelsen

TUNIS, March 27 (Reuters) - U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton paid a sombre visit to a military cemetery in Tunis on Saturday to remember fallen American soldiers from the World War Two North African campaign.

At the memorial in a northern suburb of Tunis, Mrs Clinton laid a bouquet of yellow roses at the Star of David-topped marker of the grave of woman Army Corps Private Celia Goldberg, the only enlisted woman killed in the campaign.

A U.S. Navy bugler played taps. Mrs Clinton paused several moments at the grave marker, one of 2,833 at the cemetery, then stood up and slowly walked away with a saddened expression on her face.

The North African campaign in 1942-1943 represented America's entry into fighting against German and Italian Axis forces.

About 6,000 Americans were killed in the North Africa campaign and 2,000 were missing, a U.S. military official said.

The liberation of Tunis represented the Allied victory in North Africa with the surrender of more than a quarter of a million of Axis troops and allowed the Allies to enter Europe through Italy.

Later on Saturday Mrs Clinton met Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali before setting out for a desert encampment at the massive Merzouga dunes in south-central Morocco for a camping and camel-riding break in the Sahara desert.

She will make the last leg of the trip over a sandy track and ride camels up a sand dune on Sunday to watch the sun rise.

A note to the White House staff on the delegation advised that the walls of the tents would be thin, and to "keep the noise down to a minimum so that people and camels can get the rest. Camels are known to be ornery and we would like them to get the rest they need."

Mrs Clinton is on a 12-day North African journey. Resuming her official schedule in Morocco, she is expected to emphasise education for girls.

^REUTERS

RB-- 03/27/99 06:28:00

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FM: Reuters

a7851

^BC-CLINTON-HILLARY-SENATE

^Hillary Clinton's choice U.S. or world stage

By Randall Mikkelsen

MARRAKESH, Morocco, March 29 (Reuters) - First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton emerged from a desert encampment on Sunday with a vivid illustration of the difficulty she faces in deciding whether to run for a U.S. Senate seat.

The first lady spent Saturday night at the Merzouga dunes in the Sahara desert, where she was treated to a rousing evening of feasting and high-energy Berber entertainment as a guest of the Moroccan government.

She arose early on Sunday for a camel trek with daughter Chelsea to watch a brilliant, multi-hued sun rise from the sand dunes.

An exotic adventure, and one of many highlights of her 12-day goodwill tour across North Africa, the desert stay made clear the attractions for Clinton of a career in international relations.

Associates of the first lady say she has long considered such a calling after President Bill Clinton leaves the White House.

Possible ambitions include serving as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, a notion that predated her recent consideration of a run for the Senate in New York in 2000. Former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who Clinton has often cited as an inspiration, was appointed as a U.S. delegate to the United Nations.

"That's the dilemma she finds herself in," Clinton's spokeswoman, Marsha Berry, said. "There are a whole series of options that are available to her and she's going through the process of weighing all that."

Asked if her North Africa trip was having an influence on her deliberations, Berry said. "You can't help but think what the possibilities are."

With the start of the NATO air offensive in Yugoslavia, Clinton is unlikely to face the same intense media speculation over her Senate decision once she returns to the United States late on Thursday that she did before she left.

Clinton has pressed on with her trip despite the offensive, and shown herself to be comfortable in her role as a stateswoman, goodwill ambassador and tourist.

She has promoted closer ties with the Islamic world, pressed leaders she has met on issues including human rights and religious tolerance, and held "round-table" discussions with members of the elite as well as poor villagers on issues such as education and women's rights.

FM: Reuters

a2814

^BC-CLINTON-HILLARY-MOROCCO

^Hillary Clinton receives peace wish in Morocco

By Randall Mikkelsen

MARRAKESH, Morocco (Reuters) - Hillary Rodham Clinton brought gifts of health and progress in a visit to an oasis village Monday, and received a wish for world peace from a leader of Morocco's dwindling Jewish community.

But the escalating crisis in Kosovo and NATO air strikes against the Serbian province were not mentioned, in keeping with most of the first lady's goodwill trip to North Africa.

Jacky Kadosh, president of the Jewish community of Marrakesh, presented Mrs Clinton with a ceremonial "shofar" or ram's horn along with a message of peace for her and U.S. President Bill Clinton. He did not mention Kosovo.

"We can wish that it will come a day so the shofar would be blown for the for wide peace in the world," Kadosh said as he and Mrs Clinton made a sunset visit to his father's tomb in the old Jewish cemetery of Marrakesh.

Kadosh said he wished to recognize President Clinton for "the way he's taking care of peace."

Mrs Clinton accepted the shofar, also leaving Kosovo unmentioned, saying "that's a wonderful gift, and something we all hope for." She came to the ceremony as part of her aim to emphasize historical good relations between Jews and Muslims in Morocco, although most Jews have emigrated since Israel was founded.

The NATO offensive against Yugoslavia and the growing humanitarian crisis has had little impact on the first lady's tour through North Africa, during which she has promoted women's rights and closer ties with the Islamic world.

In her only comments on the crisis, Thursday, Mrs Clinton defended the attack and offered prayers for the safety of allied soldiers.

At a desert encampment Saturday night and Sunday, staff members and journalists covering Mrs Clinton tried to keep up with developments in the downing of a NATO jet via satellite television links in camping vans brought in to serve as mobile bathrooms.

Also Monday, Mrs Clinton visited the riverine oasis village of Tasselmante, in the shadow of a 400-year-old mud-walled fortress, where residents have been working with a group of aid agencies to improve their standard of living through education, conservation and small commercial development.

She announced a \$2 million U.S. program to establish a provincial small business lending center in the region, and a grant of \$100,000 to fight the blindness-causing disease trachoma.

^REUTERS

FM: AP/East

a0438

^PM-Clintons' Desert Jamboree,660<

^Clinton women feted in 'Arabian Nights' soiree<

^Eds: Also moved for AMs<

^AP Photos AMOR101, AMOR102, AMOR103 of March 28<

^By SANDRA SOBIERAJ=

^Associated Press Writer=

THE DUNES OF MERZOUGA, Morocco (AP) In the dark chill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton mounted camels and plodded a snaking trail toward the Saharan sunrise a hushed finale to a clanging Berber jamboree of song, dance, fire and beasts.

The first lady and her daughter retreated to the desert Saturday and Sunday as the Muslim hosts of this week's Moroccan leg of a North African odyssey slaughtered lambs for one of the religion's most holy events, Eid el-Adha, "Feast of the Sacrifice."

King Hassan lavished extravagances on the Clinton women and their entourage of 50, erecting specially for them a modern "Arabian Nights" set in the crook of the shifting red dunes.

Claps, chants and drumbeats of Berber tribal troupes from the Middle Atlas Mountains and Ouarzazate province in the south greeted the party and kept up a clamor for more than four hours, from sunset to bonfire.

In a giddy, predinner rite reminiscent of a gaggle of bridesmaids before the wedding, tribal women wrapped the Americans in traditional Berber costume.

Mrs. Clinton wore that of an honored lady: the "ahrouy," a silvered white, elaborately wrapped robe, and "tahrouyt," a black silk headscarf and shawl decorated with bangles.

Chelsea, 19, opted for a shepherd's azure robe and head wrap.

In green-and-white striped tents, staffed by white-robed servants wearing the traditional maroon fez, course after course came on gold-edged Bavarian dinner china and French silver.

Whole quartered lambs, curried chickens, prune-stewed beef, rice, fresh fruit, hot green tea, sweet wine and, finally, champagne.

Throughout Saturday night's dinner, Mrs. Clinton held court at a center table. Under her laughing watch, almost everyone in the party took a turn on the sand with the Ahidous and Ahouach troupes, whose flailing arms and hopping feet followed neither rules nor rhythm.

Women sat cross-legged on the red Berber carpets to have their palms, wrists and ankles elaborately dyed with henna. By midnight, the fortunetellers arrived.

Eight reporters covering the first lady's 12-day tour of North Africa were among the party, on condition that the more personal details of Mrs. Clinton's and Chelsea's recreation be kept "off the record."

Spokeswoman Marsha Berry said they just wanted to relax and enjoy the night.

Aides who worked with the Moroccan government to plan the extravaganza said they had to restrain the king's largesse or else ruin the rustic ``camp-out'' feel that Mrs. Clinton wanted.

They failed.

Hassan, who remained at his palace 260 miles away to observe Eid, ordered electricity and cell phone service installed for the encampment.

Refrigerated Coke machines supplied the sleeping tents and a half-dozen heated RV's each with a television broadcasting CNN offered toilets and showers.

Hassan even bulldozed something of a dirt road to ease the Clintons' caravan of more than 40 Land Rovers across 15 miles of rutted sand, rocks and dirt.

Newly painted and planted pistachio-green posts marked the way.

An American diplomat estimated the spread's cost in the ``upper six figures.''

Just a handful of miles from the open Algerian border, the encampment was widely circled by uniformed sentries from the Moroccan military. A lone man stood here and there, ramrod straight in the sun, watching an empty horizon that stretched for miles.

Past midnight, quiet fell too on the camp, as the party awaited a 5 a.m. wake-up shout for Sunday's sunrise camel rides.

Read a memo to the first lady's staff:

``Try to keep the noise down to a minimum so that people and camels can get their rest. Camels are known to be ornery, and we would like them to get all the rest they need.''

APE- 03/29/99 01:21:00

FM: Reuters

a5773

^BC-CLINTON-HILLARY 3RDLD (PICTURE)

^FOCUS-Mrs. Clinton, Chelsea camp in Sahara desert

(releads, updates with First Lady arriving at desert camp)

By Randall Mikkelsen

MERZOUGA DUNES, MOROCCO,, March 27 (Reuters) - First Lady

Hillary Rodham Clinton travelled deep into the Sahara desert on Saturday to spend the night amid towering sand dunes after a traditional Moroccan feast.

The First Lady, on a 12-day North African safari, arrived here in a motorcade of four-wheel-drive vehicles that kicked up plumes of dust as it sped along a dirt track across barren plains to the edge of a range of towering dunes.

The air was filled with the sounds of drums and horns as Mrs. Clinton arrived at her desert encampment. The music continued into the evening.

Mrs. Clinton's party strolled out onto the dunes as the sun set, then returned to the compound. Ground rules for accompanying reporters specified that the First Lady's non-working activities could not be reported in detail.

Two dozen canvas tents with wool carpet floors were pitched on the desert for Mrs. Clinton's party. There were some modern conveniences, too, including Coca-Cola machines interspersed among the tents. Camping vans parked behind the encampment had flush toilets and cellular phone service for callers to reach the outside world.

Mrs. Clinton arrived here after stopping at a Peace Corps project in the town of Siffa, where she thanked American volunteers who displayed for her their henna-dyed hands decorated in a local custom for the Moslem holiday of Aid al Adha.

She visited a school in the town of Aoufous, where she worked hard to coax a painfully shy young woman into sharing her dream of growing up to be a doctor. Mrs. Clinton leaned over, put her hand on the knee of the girl, and offered encouragement.

"Most young people are shy, but you know I have a daughter.

She's here with me over there," Mrs. Clinton said, pointing at Chelsea. At that, the girl broke the ice and in answer to a question from Mrs. Clinton, said she had been in school for six years.

Mrs. Clinton acknowledged the girl's fear of speaking in public in front of television cameras and dignitaries. "When I was your age, I would never have been able to do that," she said.

Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea laid a wreath at the tomb of Moulay Ali Cherif, founder of the birthplace of the Alaouiti dynasty of Morocco's King Hassan II that has lasted four centuries.

Mrs. Clinton arrived in Morocco from Tunisia, where she held a lengthy meeting earlier on Saturday with President Zine

al-Abidine Ben Ali to discuss the North African country's human rights situation.

Ben Ali acknowledged a need to improve Tunisia's record but also said the perception of his country's intolerance had been too harsh, a U.S. official said.

Mrs Clinton also visited a military cemetery in Tunisia to honour fallen U.S. soldiers from the World War Two North African campaign.

At the memorial in a northern suburb of Tunis, Mrs Clinton laid a bouquet of yellow roses at the Star of David-topped marker of the grave of woman Army Corps Private Celia Goldberg, the only enlisted woman killed in the campaign.

A U.S. Navy bugler played taps as Mrs Clinton paused several moments at the grave marker, one of 2,833 in the cemetery.

During her stay in Morocco, Mrs Clinton is expected to emphasise education for girls in a country where the rate of illiteracy among women is around 70 percent.

Before starting her official schedule, she set out for a desert encampment at the Merzouga dunes in the south-central Moroccan province of Errachidia for a camping and camel-riding break in the Sahara.

Besides Morocco and Tunisia, Mrs Clinton's North African journey has already taken her to Egypt.

RB-- 03/27/99 15:58:00

FM: AP/East

a0663

^AM-Mrs Clinton-Kosovo,590<

^First lady says Milosevic driven by ego to wage war, kill kids<

^By SANDRA SOBIERAJ=

^Associated Press Writer=

MARRAKECH, Morocco (AP) Hillary Rodham Clinton castigated Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic on Tuesday for what she cast as an ego-driven agenda to fuel war and execute Albanian boys "in cold blood."

Delivering in measured tones a carefully scripted lecture on tolerance, Mrs. Clinton forcefully defended NATO's bombing of Yugoslavia and said Milosevic has been plotting the crisis over the last decade in order to prop up his power.

Earlier Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton ducked a volatile issue of Middle East peace one her critics have used to try and complicate her Senate prospects in New York when she ignored a Moroccan official's tribute to her as an advocate for Palestinian statehood.

Her remarks on tolerance, to an Arab audience in the ruins of the 17th-century El Badi Palace, framed Mrs. Clinton's first expansive defense of the NATO bombing that is consuming her husband's attention back home.

The first lady charged that Milosevic was never interested in peace with the ethnic Albanians of Kosovo province, not even as Serb representatives sat down to negotiate a Kosovo peace this month in Rambouillet, France.

"While the Kosovar representatives were saying yes to peace, the Serbians were planning a campaign of massive and systematic destruction," Mrs. Clinton said.

She sketched a methodic ethnic-cleansing drive by Serb military and police forces, "burning homes and destroying entire villages, separating men and boys from their families and executing them in cold blood."

Mrs. Clinton said Milosevic started 10 years ago "fanning the flames of ethnic and religious division.

"He did it for his own personal political advantage. ... Exploiting the consequences of division, waging war on his neighbors and his people is what he thought was in his own personal interest."

Mrs. Clinton is nearing the end of a 12-day tour of **Egypt**, **Tunisia** and **Morocco** that she intended to strengthen U.S.-Arab friendship.

It has been apparent that some Arabs here view that friendship in especially personal terms with the first lady because of her offhanded remark last year that "it will be in the long-term interests of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state."

In a squatter community along the road to Casablanca, Arabs newly earning titles to their homes cheered Tuesday as Mohamed el-Yazghi, **Morocco's** minister for regional planning, introduced Mrs. Clinton as a champion for Palestinian statehood.

“This is a struggle you have taken on: To assert the rights of the Islamic and Arab people to dignity,” el-Yazghi said.

“Let me ... pay tribute to your support to the Palestinian people in terms of self-determination and building an independent state on their land.”

Taking the lectern next, Mrs. Clinton ignored the tribute and went ahead with her announcement that the United States would guarantee \$7.8 million in housing loans for Morocco.

Mrs. Clinton's spokeswoman, Marsha Berry, told a reporter off stage that the **first lady** takes no position on Palestinian statehood.

“She's supported the peace process and thinks the parties involved should be the ones to decide that,” Berry said.

As Mrs. Clinton mulls whether to run for a Senate seat from New York in 2000, her Republican opponents have tried to stir Jewish opposition by reviving the Palestinian comment she made last year.

APE- 03/30/99 15:48:00

FM: Reuters

a2131

^BC-CLINTON-HILLARY-WOMEN

^Mrs. Clinton says US women face obstacles to power

By Randall Mikkelsen

MARRAKESH, Morocco, March 30 (Reuters) - U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, considering a run for the Senate, said on Tuesday that American women have more difficulty reaching the top rungs of power than those in parliamentary democracies.

"It is more difficult, I think, for a woman to advance to the very top position in our country than perhaps it would be in a parliamentary system," Mrs. Clinton said.

She had been asked about the issue of women in politics, with a reference to her own future, during a discussion with a group of Moroccan women leaders as part of her 12-day North African journey that ends on Thursday.

Despite the difficulties, she said, "The opportunities for women in the American political system are opening up and broadening so that you will see many more women involved in American politics."

During the discussion, Badia Skalli, one of two women members of the Moroccan parliament, told Mrs. Clinton "the political arena is one of the most hazardous for women to practice (in)."

Mrs. Clinton said a woman in a parliamentary system has only to convince a "small group, primarily of men," that she is capable of leading. "In our system, or in any presidential system, but particularly in the United States, a woman has to persuade the entire society that she can be a leader," she said.

During her meeting, Mrs. Clinton also suggested that the Moroccan government consider an "affirmative action" programme of female-run boarding schools so that girls could get the education many in Morocco are deprived of out of social fears about mixing of sexes.

And she offered her support for continuing a U.S.-backed programme to distribute condoms to fight AIDS, winning the appreciation of the women.

"Thank you very much for the condoms," said Hakima Himmich, a member of the International AIDS society and other medical groups.

During a discussion on the impact of Islamic strictures on Moroccan family law, Mrs. Clinton heard a complaint about the unequal treatment between men and women who slay adulterous spouses. There was no mention made of President Bill Clinton's highly publicised infidelities.

"There is a provision that does not provide for leniency should (a woman) find her husband in a full state of adultery, whereas special circumstances, aggravated circumstances, are granted to men should they kill their women after adultery," said attorney Nezha Alaoui.

Mrs. Clinton also spoke of the crisis in Kosovo, saying it shows the vulnerability of women to war and the need for women everywhere to work for peace.

"The more women can express themselves both privately and publicly about the need to put old conflicts behind us, that to me is something that women should pay particular attention to no matter what other agenda we might have," she said.

She said building a stable society requires "a high degree of organised effort. "It is easier to march soldiers into Kosovo and engage in ethnic cleansing than it is to figure out how to build the economy of Yugoslavia."

RB-- 03/30/99 12:27:00

THE FIRST LADY

Hillary Clinton, in Morocco, Says NATO Attack Aims at Stopping Bloodshed

By JAMES BENNET

MARRAKESH, Morocco, March 30 — Hillary Rodham Clinton said tonight that the NATO bombing in Yugoslavia was necessary because of the Serbs had planned a "campaign of massive and systematic destruction" against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

Mrs. Clinton used a speech here on tolerance to add her voice to the NATO position that President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia bears responsibility for the bombing. She accused him of having prepared to kill or expel ethnic Albanians from Kosovo even as peace talks were under way earlier this month.

"That is why my husband and our NATO allies could not stand and look the other way," she said. "They could not permit this to go on with impunity until most of the Albanian population was either dead or displaced."

"It is also why my husband and our NATO allies are determined to persevere until Milosevic has embraced peace or NATO has significantly limited his ability to make war."

Mrs. Clinton is 10 days into a 12-day trip through North Africa to promote education, health care and human rights. Today she attended a roundtable with Moroccan women,

Milosevic wages war 'in his own personal interest,' the First Traveler says.

stopped at an orphanage and visited a housing development that gets help from the American Government.

She spoke before more than a thousand people — most of them Muslims — who gathered at sunset in the ruins of El Badi Palace, a 16th-century compound fragrant with orange trees and surrounded by towering adobe walls. Although she had previously expressed her support for American service personnel, her remarks this evening on the fighting were her most extensive.

Mrs. Clinton accused Mr. Milosevic of having tried for 10 years to fan ethnic and religious hatred in Yugoslavia. "He did it for his own personal political advantage," she said. "Tolerance, he thought, would not give him any advantage. But exploiting the consequences of division, waging war on his neighbors and his people, is what he thought was in his

own personal interest."

Now, Mrs. Clinton said, President Milosevic is pursuing the same sort of policy that he carried out in Bosnia, pointedly noting that most of the Albanians in Kosovo are Muslims.

Mr. Milosevic, she said, had found waging war easier than building a modern state. "It is difficult, very difficult in today's world to make some of the hard decisions that must be made in peace," she said.

Mrs. Clinton also attacked the treatment of women by the Taliban, the fundamentalist Muslim group that controls most of Afghanistan, and recalled the killings of hundreds of thousands of people in Rwanda in 1994. At the same time, she congratulated Morocco on a "tradition of tolerance" that included resisting Nazi persecution of the Jews.

On her stops in Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco, Mrs. Clinton, who is traveling with her daughter, Chelsea, has visited several mosques and repeatedly stressed American support for Islam, even as she has condemned its fundamentalist strain.

She has also stopped in several churches and synagogues, and she visited a 440-year-old Jewish cemetery here on Monday evening. "We are all children of God," she said this evening. "We are all children of Abraham."



Associated Press

Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is touring North Africa to promote education, chatted yesterday with Princess Lalla Fatima of Morocco.

FM: Reuters

a1244

^BC-CLINTON-HILLARY-FOG 1STLD

^FOCUS-Fog diverts Mrs Clinton's plane to Rabat

(Adds meeting with Morocco's PM, para 3, quotes, paras 7-9)

RABAT, April 1 (Reuters) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was forced to scrap her schedule on Thursday, the final day of her North African trip, after fog prevented her plane from landing in the Moroccan city of Fes.

Mrs Clinton's plane circled over Fes for some two hours and made a preliminary attempt to land, but the pilot was finally forced to give up and head to the capital Rabat, some 200 km (125 miles) to the west.

Moroccan Prime Minister Abderrahmane El Youssoufi, whom Mrs Clinton was due to see in Fes, followed her in a small plane for a brief meeting at Rabat airport. She later flew home to Washington.

The first lady was scheduled to visit a hospital and meet representatives of non-profit organisations in Fes before wrapping up her goodwill tour to Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco.

Mrs Clinton's started her tour on March 20 with an aborted take-off in Washington caused by a crosswind that shut off one of her plane's engines.

The U.S government regards the meeting with Youssoufi as an important recognition of expanding democracy in Morocco. Youssoufi, a Socialist, was appointed in 1998 by King Hassan II to lead the first government in four decades drawn largely from opposition groups.

"He (Youssoufi) is the most serious experiment in the expanded political participation" in Morocco," a U.S. official said.

"His progress is being watched very closely all over the Arab world, by governments and by different opposition parties throughout the Arab region," the official added.

Youssoufi, 74, was also a "secular alternative to political Islam," he added in an apparent reference Algeria where tens of thousands of people have been killed in seven years of horrific fighting between Moslem rebels and the army-led authorities.

Mrs Clinton met the Moroccan monarch on Wednesday.

^REUTERS

RB-- 04/01/99 10:25:00

FM: Reuters

a2811

^BC-CLINTON-HILLARY-TRIP

^Hillary Clinton returns from North Africa tour

By Randall Mikkelsen

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham

Clinton returned to Washington Thursday after a 12-day North African trip that gave her a chance to promote her causes on an international stage as she weighs whether to run for the U.S. Senate.

Clinton's trip was aimed at improving relations with the Islamic world.

A U.S. official said Thursday the tour let Clinton use her personal touch -- talking with ordinary citizens and showing respect for Islam with her visits to mosques and holy sites -- to put across an official U.S. openness to the Arab world that other officials in formal speeches have been unable to do as effectively.

"I think Mrs. Clinton is able to do it on a people-to-people level that's much more meaningful to the average folks out there," the official said. "It just has much more resonance to average people."

Clinton's trip ended as it began, with flight difficulty. She was forced to scrap the schedule for her final day in Morocco when heavy fog prevented her plane from landing in the imperial city of Fes. At the outset of the trip on March 20, her plane aborted takeoff from Washington due to engine failure.

Clinton's plane Thursday diverted to the capital Rabat, where she held a hastily rearranged meeting with Prime Minister Abderrahmane El Youssefi. Youssefi flew in from Fes on a smaller plane that was able to take off.

The trip also gave her a chance to promote her causes of women's rights and social development on an international stage as she considers a run for a New York U.S. Senate seat in 2000.

Clinton said Wednesday she would resume deliberations upon her return. Her aides said she has given no indication on which way she is leaning.

During her trip, she toured ancient and holy sites of Islam, Judaism and Coptic Christianity. She spoke out for religious tolerance, women's rights and education for girls, and discussed human rights concerns privately in meetings with the leaders of Egypt and Tunisia.

Clinton also saw numerous examples of people working to solve basic development problems such as providing money to start a business or clean water.

U.S. officials said her meeting Thursday with Youssefi was an important show of support. The United States regards Youssefi as a bulwark against Islamic fundamentalist politics and a standard-bearer for greater political openness in Arab governments.

Yousoufi, a Socialist who once was sentenced to death by King Hassan II, was named last year by Hassan as head of the first government in decades to be drawn largely from opposition parties.

^REUTERS

RB-- 04/01/99 19:27:00



*See
foreign*

United States Department of State

Chief of Staff

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 12, 1996

FL

Melanne Verveer
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

*Hillary
note re
difference.*

Dear Melanne:

Attached to this letter are the January 15, 1996, international and domestic editions of *Newsweek*. The contrasts are interesting. They include a completely different cover caption ("Hillary's World" versus "Saint or Sinner"). Additionally, in lieu of the Isikoff/Hosenball story on Whitewater, the international edition includes a story on the impact of the First Lady's trips abroad (describing her following outside the United States as "both large and enthusiastic"). I especially wanted to make sure that you had seen the story on the impact of the foreign trips.

All the best.

See you soon,

Tom Donilon

Attachments: 2

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Copied*

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BOSNIA: GETTING THE JOB DONE

Newsweek

THE INTERNATIONAL NEWSMAGAZINE

January 15, 1996



**America's First Lady Speaks
About Her New Troubles at Home
PLUS: Her Appeal to Women Overseas**

Hillary's World



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Newsweek

January 15, 1996 : \$2.95



**EXCLUSIVE: Excerpts
From Hillary Rodham Clinton's
New Book—And a Candid Interview
on the White House Scandals**

Saint **or** Sinner?