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First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Hillary:

As you know, I am working on a book about you to be titled "Hillary's Choice" which will be published next fall by Random House. Whatever you may think of me and my journalism, I intend to write a fair and balanced book about you. I believe you to be one of the most significant political figures of this (and probably next!) century. I have supported, and expect to continue to support enthusiastically, most of your goals. And as a New Yorker, I am rooting for you to be our first woman senator.

Given Margaret Mead as my mentor, I am taking an anthropological approach to researching your life story, an attempt to trace the sources and oscillations of your intellectual, political, social and personal development. I have done close to 200 interviews. Some of your mentors and closest supporters and defenders have talked with me because they know I can be trusted.

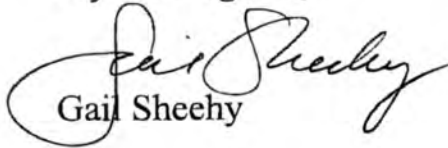
Now I would like to have the chance to talk with you.

Also, I know you are very interested in going to Albania/Macedonia to survey the conditions of the Kosovo refugees. As one of the founders of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children with Catherine O'Neil, I would love to be included in your press contingent. The Commission sent a delegation to Albania three weeks ago; their report is just being finalized. Two members just left for Macedonia. Since the Commission is celebrating its 10th anniversary in May, I will have the chance to be a media spokesperson for its work -- and, I hope, yours.

(I accompanied Rosalyn Carter on her trip to survey the plight of Cambodian refugees in 1980, a trip that activated aid from around the world and fostered the idea of a "landbridge" which was able to get food and medical supplies through the Khmer Rouge/Vietnamese lines to internal refugees trapped inside Cambodia -- a situation very similar to that in Kosovo now.)

I hope you will consider both my requests. Perhaps the two objectives could be combined. Meanwhile, I wish you Godspeed on all your good works.

My best regards,


Gail Sheehy