

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts)

For Immediate Release
September 5, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON THE DEATH OF MOTHER TERESA

Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts

4:30 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: With the passing of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the world has lost one of the giants of our time. She served the poor, the suffering and the dying, and in so doing she served as an inspiration and a challenge to all the rest of us. With the power of her humble and unconquerable faith, she touched the lives of millions of people in India, here in the United States, and throughout the world.

Like anyone who ever met her, I was profoundly moved by her conviction and her courage. Hillary had the privilege of working with Mother Teresa and her community to open a home for abandoned babies in Washington, and later she and Chelsea had the opportunity to see her and her community work firsthand in India.

The home for the dying she opened in Calcutta almost 50 years ago is called Nirmal Hriday — pure heart. If ever there was a pure heart, it was hers. Mother Teresa is gone, but the Gospel teaches us that faith, hope and love endure. She had them in abundance and they will stay with us forever.

Q Mr. President, this has been quite a week for the loss of meaningful women. Any comment —

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know Hillary is going to leave in just a — well, a couple of hours now, maybe even shorter, to fly to London to the funeral of Princess Diana. And I think the world has been profoundly moved by that. And obviously, hundreds of millions of people around the world looked up to Mother Teresa and admired her. I think it will be a time of great reflection, and I hope a time of rededication.

I think all of us were deeply moved by the pictures today from London of Princess Diana's sons and Prince Charles and the Royal family greeting the mourners and beginning the sort of

public healing process, along with the private one. And I think tomorrow will be a sad, but a very important and positive day.

Q Do you think there might be a chance the First Lady might go to Mother Teresa's funeral?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I just heard.

END

4:35 P.M. EDT

9/11/97

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
STATEMENT FOR FUNERAL OF MOTHER TERESA
CALCUTTA, INDIA
SEPTEMBER 13, 1997**

On behalf of the President and the American people, I have come to Calcutta to express our deep sadness at Mother Teresa's passing and to celebrate her life and work.

For the last half century, it has been both a blessing and a challenge to know that Mother Teresa was somewhere on this Earth -- a blessing to know that she was working to heal the wounds of humanity; a challenge to all of us to do the same.

First in India and then around the world, Mother Teresa watched over orphaned and abandoned children. She cared for the dying. Before many others would, she reached out to those suffering from AIDS. Mother Teresa gave people of all faiths a living lesson in the power of compassion and humility.

To honor the memory of Mother Teresa is to continue her work. That is why I have come to Nirmala Shishu Bhavan -- one of the homes for children started by her. For in this building, though Mother Teresa has gone on, her mission continues. It continues when an infant is fed, when a crying child is soothed by a warm hand, when a girl or boy leaves this place to join a loving family.

There are many ways to repair the world. Mother Teresa took one path -- a hard one. Guided by God, a pure heart, and a luminous soul, her course was true. She made a difference.

As this extraordinary day of remembrance ends, let us take comfort from the knowledge that just as the warmth of the sun stays on the Earth after night has fallen, so will the light of Mother Teresa's life continue to show us the way for a long time to come.