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PRESERVATION

**NEWSCLIPPINGS FROM THE TRIP OF
THE FIRST LADY TO SOUTH ASIA
MARCH 24 - APRIL 6, 1995**

Hillary embarks on Asian tour

WASHINGTON, March 24 (UPI) Hillary Rodham Clinton, falling back in the traditional role of American first ladies, embarked Friday on a five-nation, two-week journey to South Asia to highlight U.S. interest in Third World social issues.

The first lady will travel to Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka on her first major solo foreign swing.

She will be accompanied by her daughter, Chelsea, 14, who is on spring break from the Sidwell Friends private school in Washington.

Mrs. Clinton is taking along an entourage of staffers, security agents and members of the press corps.

The first stop on the Asian tour is the Pakistani capital Islamabad, where the first lady is scheduled to arrive late Saturday.

Mrs. Clinton is also going to the central Pakistani city of Lahore, but plans skipping Karachi, the nation's largest city, where unidentified gunmen have killed dozens of people this month in a wave of terrorism. Among the slain were two officials of the U.S. consulate general.

Although she spearheaded the unsuccessful efforts to reform the U.S. health care system early in the Clinton administration, the first lady has retreated from such high level of policy to previous interests the welfare of women and children, which was her preoccupation as first lady of Arkansas.

Mrs. Clinton's travels indicate the administration has decided her high profile was not acceptable to the electorate last November, when voters thrust Republicans into power on Capitol Hill.

The visit to India and Pakistan is not the first by a first lady in a goodwill ambassador capacity.

Jacqueline Kennedy caused a sensation when she visited the two countries in 1962 and Rosalyn Carter was her husband's personal emissary during his administration.

The Pakistani government, headed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, has arranged a sightseeing program for Mrs. Clinton and hopes the political heat gripping the country in recent weeks cools during her two-day stay.

Pakistani businessmen have called a general strike for Saturday to protest unrest and violence in Karachi. Authorities have moved to thwart the strike call and quell demonstrations in other cities.

Pakistani officials plan to take the first lady and daughter Chelsea to schools, mosques and villages where Mrs. Clinton intends to address the issues of women, education and health care.

President Clinton has said he was sending his wife abroad to show "a human dimension to politics, policy and diplomacy."

Although the government of Pakistan is casting the visit as non-political, officials in Islamabad are not shy about trying to squeeze some political mileage out of it.

There is a marked difference in the atmosphere in Pakistan since Mrs. Kennedy visited.

In 1962, Pakistan was a close U.S. ally and most Pakistanis were proud of their friendship with a powerful nation like the United States.

But now, Bhutto has noted strong anti-American feelings exist in the country. She blames a U.S. ban on assistance to Pakistan over its disputed nuclear program for increasing Islamic militancy.

Some of the political strains between the United States and Pakistan may not come up for discussion when Bhutto and the first lady meet, without their aides, on the lawn of the prime minister's house in Islamabad.

Bhutto, however, will be able to deal with substantive issues when she visits Washington next month.

India, which invited Mrs. Clinton to visit a year ago, will also roll out the red carpet for America's first lady, as will other countries on her itinerary.

BC-HILLARY-PAKISTAN

U.S. first lady begins South Asia goodwill tour

By Gene Gibbons

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (Reuter) - Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived in Pakistan early Sunday on the first leg of a 12-day goodwill trip to South Asia, focusing on efforts to improve the lives of women and children in five of the world's poorest countries.

Mrs. Clinton, accompanied by her and President Clinton's 15-year-old daughter Chelsea, was greeted by Pakistani and U.S. Embassy officials at a brief, rain-soaked, plane-side welcoming ceremony at Islamabad airport just after midnight local time.

"Our nations have enjoyed a long history of friendship and shared interests, and for that reason I am especially pleased to begin my visit to South Asia here in Pakistan," the First Lady said in an arrival statement.

"Two weeks is far too brief a time to absorb the full richness and vitality of this region of the world, but I hope my visit will help Americans and South Asians gain a greater appreciation of the opportunities and challenges that join us as a global family," Mrs. Clinton said.

During a refueling stop in Cairo on her 21-hour journey from Washington, Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea left the airport and spent nearly two hours touring the pyramids with Zahi Hawass, Egypt's Director of Antiquities, acting as guide.

The American visitors were especially impressed by an ancient boat used by one of Egypt's rulers about 4000 years ago which was unearthed in the mid-1950s and painstakingly restored.

It is now on display in a museum adjacent to the largest of the pyramids at Giza.

Mrs. Clinton was to begin her official schedule later Sunday at a luncheon hosted by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Afterward, she was to pay homage to Pakistan's Islamic identity by visiting Faisal Mosque.

It was built in the 1970s as a showcase of the Muslim faith and is named for Saudi Arabia's late King Faisal, who financed the project.

Mrs. Clinton, who will also visit India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka during her trip, said she looked forward to "seeing new places and making new friends and also to learning about the rich dynamic history and traditions" of the countries on her itinerary.

Humanitarian issues will be the primary focus of her two-day visit to Pakistan as it will be elsewhere.

The treatment of women is a serious human rights problem here, as is child labor and the lack of the availability of health care.

Mrs. Clinton will help lay the groundwork for a visit to the U.S. by Prime Minister Bhutto next month.

During Bhutto's talks in Washington, she is expected to seek U.S. help in fighting terrorism and the restoration of American aid programs, cut off in 1990 because of a dispute over Pakistan's nuclear weapons program.

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Hillary Clinton arrives in Pakistan

By ANWAR IQBAL=

ISLAMABAD, March 25 (UPI) U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived in the Pakistani capital Islamabad at about midnight Saturday local time on the first leg of her 10-day five-nation tour of South Asia.

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's husband, Asif Zardari, and her special assistant, Shahnaz Wazir Ali, received Mrs. Clinton at Islamabad's military airport.

Many Pakistani senior diplomats and parliamentarians, representing all of the country's major political parties, were present.

Mrs. Clinton, wife of U.S. President Bill Clinton, had an earlier four-hour stopover in Cairo.

A heavy rain welcomed the first lady as she deplaned in Islamabad. Ignoring the rain, she came forward to receive a bouquet from two children who waited for her on the tarmac. But further welcoming ceremonies had to be shortened due to the weather.

The first lady addressed the crowd at the military airport, and said she was pleased to begin her South Asian tour in Pakistan because of the close friendship between the U.S. and Pakistan.

"Our nations have enjoyed a long history of friendship and shared interests, and for that reason I am especially pleased to begin my visit to here," she said.

Mrs. Clinton continued by saying that two weeks were "far too brief a time to absorb the full richness and vitality of this region of the world," but she said hoped the visit would "help Americans and South Asians gain a greater appreciation of the opportunities and challenges that join us as a global family."

She said she was "seeing new places and making new friends on the tour, and this would allow her to learn more about the 'rich dynamic history and traditions that (South Asians) have lent the world.'"

Mrs. Clinton was driven straight to her hotel from the airport. Her formal engagements begin Sunday.

In most circumstances, visiting dignitaries use Islamabad's civilian airport, but Mrs. Clinton's plane landed at the military airport because of security concerns in a country gripped recently by ethnic and sectarian violence.

The visit is the first major solo trip overseas for Mrs. Clinton, who will highlight U.S. interest in South Asian social issues during stops in such developing countries as Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The first lady's 15-member delegation includes her 14-year-old daughter Chelsea, U.S. assistant secretary of state for South Asia, Robin Raphel, and an entourage of staffers, security agents and reporters.

Raphel's inclusion in a trip otherwise described as non-political has made some in Pakistan predict that Mrs. Clinton may discuss more than her declared agenda of education, health and women's issues when she meets with South Asian leaders.

The American first lady has a busy schedule during her Islamabad visit and a subsequent visit to the central Pakistani city of Lahore, but she plans on skipping Pakistan's largest city, Karachi, where unidentified gunmen have killed more than 200 people this year, including two U.S. consular workers.

Earlier on Saturday, business activity came to a halt in Karachi as shopkeepers went on strike to protest the government's failure to halt increasing violence in the city, which is Pakistan's commercial capital. Strikes were also reported in other major cities.

Her visit to India and Pakistan is not the first by an American first lady who was acting in the capacity of a goodwill ambassador.

Jacqueline Kennedy caused a sensation when she visited the two countries in 1962, and Rosalyn Carter was her husband's personal emissary during his administration in the late 1970s.

The Pakistani government has arranged a sightseeing program and visits to

welfare projects for Mrs. Clinton, and hopes the political heat gripping the country in recent weeks cools during her two-day stay. Chelsea will accompany Mrs. Clinton on some of her visits to schools, mosques and villages.

Mrs. Clinton will meet some of the world's most prominent woman leaders during her stay in the region. Three of the five South Asian nations she is scheduled to visit, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, are ruled by women.

Bhutto, the first woman ruler Mrs. Clinton is to meet, welcomes her amid growing anti-American feelings in her country. Bhutto has blamed increased Islamic militancy in her country on a U.S. ban on assistance to Pakistan over its disputed nuclear program.

The political strain between the U.S. and Pakistan may not come up for discussion when Bhutto and the first lady meet Sunday without their aides on the lawn of the prime minister's official residence in Islamabad.

Bhutto, however, will have her chance to deal with substantive issues when she visits Washington next month.

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AM-Mrs Clinton-Asia, 600

Hillary Clinton Visits Egyptian Pyramids, Travels to Pakistan

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) Launching a 12-day trek through lands struggling with poverty and overpopulation, Hillary Rodham Clinton expressed hope Saturday that her five-nation tour of South Asia would help all sides understand each other better.

Her mission is twofold: to support efforts to improve the dismal lot of many women and children in these male-dominated societies and to ease strained U.S. relations with a corner of the world that is becoming increasingly important, economically and otherwise.

The first lady and her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, arrived in Islamabad just before midnight in a driving rain after an 8,000-mile journey that included a side trip to the pyramids during a Cairo refueling stop.

After Pakistan, Mrs. Clinton is slated to travel to India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, a collection of countries struggling with illiteracy, overpopulation, poverty, poor health care and widespread human rights abuses, notably against women.

Mrs. Clinton dispensed with formal arrival ceremonies in Islamabad because of the late hour and released a written statement in which she said her two-week visit was "far too brief a time to absorb the full richness and vitality of this region of the world."

"But I hope my visit will help Americans and South Asians gain a greater appreciation of the opportunities and challenges that join us as a global family," she said.

The first lady will be meeting prominent women in each nation and visiting schools, clinics and businesses that are working to advance the station of women and children.

In a recent interview, Mrs. Clinton said she had no intention of taking her hosts to task for human rights abuses, a comment that has caused consternation among some human rights advocates.

James O'Dea, director of Amnesty Internal's Washington office, said Mrs. Clinton's statement "seems to reflect an idea that one can go in and have an educational process without demanding to ask and see certain things."

"But you really cannot take just a gentle stroll through a village and talk about development needs and so on without allying yourself with the oppressed," O'Dea said.

A senior administration official traveling with the first lady said that in the broadest sense, her whole agenda is human rights.

"It's people in the most fundamental sense," the official said. "It's not that she's not going to raise things at all, but that's not the central purpose of her trip."

As the first stop on Mrs. Clinton's tour, Pakistan offers an apt portrait of the compelling social problems the first lady will confront throughout the region. Some 40 percent of Pakistan's 130 million people live in poverty. Thirty-five percent are literate, but the figure for women is only 25 percent. The average woman bears six children. Fifty percent of children are malnourished.

It is a culture that inhibits women's participation in society and where Islamic law considers a women's life to be worth half that of a man's. Women continue to be subjected to murder, torture and rape without adequate prosecution of their persecutors.

Although Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has made a public commitment to address human rights concerns, particularly those affecting women, children and religious minorities, significant changes have yet to occur.

President Clinton is hoping his wife's visit will help repair frayed U.S.-Pakistani relations, and Mrs. Bhutto will travel to the United States next month to continue that effort.

One sore point is Congress' 1990 decision to cut off all economic and

military aid to Pakistan because of suspicion that it had the capacity to build a nuclear weapon. Pakistan believes the sanctions are unjust because they do not apply to its archrival India, which has a larger nuclear program.

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BC-PAKISTAN-HILLARY (PICTURE)

Hillary Clinton opens South Asian tour in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, March 25 (Reuter) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton arrived in Islamabad late on Saturday to start a high-profile visit aimed at soothing relations with Pakistan.

She flew into Islamabad airport at the end of a day marked in Pakistan by a partial business strike in protest at prolonged ethnic and sectarian violence in the industrial city of Karachi.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who plans to visit Washington next month to try to attract U.S. investment, denounced the strike as politically motivated in view of the Clinton visit, a charge denied by the organisers.

Relations between Pakistan and the United States have been edgy since Washington cut off military aid in 1990 over its suspicions that Islamabad was developing nuclear weapons. Pakistan denies this.

Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari and her special assistant for social affairs, Shahnaz Wazir Ali, greeted Clinton at the airport when the First Lady's plane landed in pouring rain shortly before midnight.

Clinton will be Bhutto's luncheon guest on Sunday and will visit Islamabad's large Faisal mosque, named after Saudi Arabia's late King Faisal.

She will go to the Punjab province capital of Lahore on Monday before leaving for India on the second stage of a South Asian tour which will also take her to Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The 12-day tour will focus on humanitarian issues and is intended to bolster the U.S. administration's often neglected ties with South Asia.

Earlier, during a brief stopover in Egypt, Clinton took her 15-year-old daughter Chelsea on a trip to the pyramids of Giza. Chelsea climbed on a camel and also rode an elaborately decorated Arabian horse.

REUTER

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BC-PAKISTAN (SCHEDULED, PICTURE)

Strike in Pakistan ahead of Hillary Clinton visit

By Amir Zia

KARACHI, Pakistan (Reuter) - Four Pakistani strike leaders were stripped of their posts Saturday as Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto sought to curb a traders' protest against mounting violence from spoiling a visit by Hillary Clinton.

Small businessmen and traders staged a strike to vent their outrage at spiralling violence in Karachi, Pakistan's commercial hub, where 362 people have died in ethnic and sectarian turmoil so far this year. Two Americans consular workers were among the dead.

In Lahore, traffic was near normal, but most factories and businesses were shut. In Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, only a few shops opened and traffic was much thinner than usual.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has bitterly criticized the strike led by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, saying it is politically motivated.

FPCCI leaders, who have gone into hiding, deny government charges they are in league with opposition leader Nawaz Sharif or are playing into the hands of the gunmen.

"This is a strike for solidarity and condolence with those who have been killed in Karachi," FPCCI President S M Muneer told Reuters by telephone Saturday.

Later an official delivered a Commerce Ministry order to the Karachi headquarters of the FPCCI saying Muneer, and three vice-presidents had been removed from their posts.

The FPCCI is leading the strike and wants troops sent in to Karachi with powers to hold summary trials in a drive to halt the violence that is alarming the city's traders. It also demands a night curfew and compensation for victims of violence.

The latest turmoil is likely to embarrass Bhutto, 41, who does not want displays of public discontent during the visit by President Clinton's wife, who was due in Islamabad later Saturday.

Mrs Clinton, who is not scheduled to go to Karachi, will spend Sunday in Islamabad and fly to Lahore Monday before leaving for India, with her daughter Chelsea.

Bhutto has said her opponents want to derail her planned visit to the United States, which starts April 5, and wreck her efforts to lure foreign investment to Pakistan.

Businessmen say investment projects cannot be implemented unless peace and security is restored in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city and its commercial hub.

Ambulance workers found two bullet-riddled bodies in the early hours, bringing this month's death toll to 119, two of them U.S. consular officials ambushed and killed March 8.

The killings of the Americans briefly raised fears for the safety of Mrs Clinton. But she insisted on continuing the planned trip.

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AM-Pakistan-Strike,0285

Strike By Businessmen Closes Karachi

By ZAHID HUSSAIN= Associated Press Writer=

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) Police and paramilitary troops patrolled deserted streets in Pakistan's business capital Saturday as workers and executives held a one-day strike to protest escalating violence.

Offices, shops and the Karachi port were all closed on what is a normal working day in Pakistan. Workers also struck in other cities across Pakistan. The country's leading business association, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, called the strike to protest what it called governmental indifference to growing violence and terrorism in Karachi.

About 500 people have been killed in political, religious and ethnic violence in Karachi over the last three months. Two American employees of the U.S. Consulate were shot and killed on March 8.

The turmoil has disrupted businesses, sent the stock market plunging, and scared away potential foreign investors.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was scheduled to visit the United States next month, in part to drum up foreign investment. U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton was to arrive in Pakistan on Saturday night as part of a five-nation trip to discuss health care, education and ways to combat poverty.

Ms. Bhutto's administration condemned Saturday's strike, calling it politically motivated.

Strike organizers accused the government of harassment. The president of the business association, S.M. Muneer, said 50 police officers surrounded his home, and officials barred him from holding a news conference at the group's headquarters.

Strikes are common in Pakistan. Last month, Ms. Bhutto called a one-day, nationwide strike to show solidarity with Muslim separatists who oppose Indian rule in Kashmir, a disputed Himalayan territory claimed by both Pakistan and India.

**** filed by:APE(--) on 03/25/95 at 12:33EST ****

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(Ed: adding quotes, byline, details on police action against strikers)
Pakistan businesses close for strike

By SHAHID IQBAL=

KARACHI, March 25 (UPI) Business activity came to a halt Saturday in Karachi as shopkeepers went on strike to protest the government's failure to halt increasing violence in the Pakistani port city.

Strikes were also reported in other major cities.

The Federation of Pakistani Chambers of Commerce and Industry had called the strike to draw attention to the plight of the business community in the face of daily ethnic and sectarian violence in Karachi, the country's largest city and its financial capital.

"The success of today's strike shows to the government that the entire business community wants peace in Karachi," Federation President Munir told a news conference via telephone from an undisclosed location.

Beginning April 1, all private businesses will stop giving advertisements to official newspapers, and radio and television stations to protest the government's failure to maintain law and order, he said.

On Thursday, the government disbanded the federation and fired its president in a bid to foil the strike.

Earlier in the day, police raided the news conference, claiming that since the leaders of the federation had been fired, they could not speak with reporters.

"Instead of chasing us, the government should chase the gunmen who are killing innocent civilians," Munir said.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto condemned the strike as "politically motivated" and warned it would scare away potential foreign investors who have shown interest in Pakistan's liberalization program.

A 50-member delegation of British investors is currently visiting Pakistan, while U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton was due to arrive in Islamabad Saturday night on the first leg of her South Asian visit.

Karachi came to a virtual standstill Saturday as stores remained closed.

Most shopkeepers in Lahore, the country's second largest city and a major business center also kept their shutters down.

Partial strikes were observed in the provincial capitals of Peshawar and Quetta and the towns of Hyderabad and Multan.

Gunmen have killed over 200 people, including two employees of the U. S. consulate general, in Karachi this year.

The government has arrested hundreds of people, though none of them have been charged so far.

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AM-Egypt-Mrs Clinton,0220

First Lady Shows Her Daughter Egypt's Pyramids

AP Photo CAI101

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) Hillary Rodham Clinton, en route to Pakistan, took advantage of a fueling stop in Cairo to take her daughter, Chelsea, on an impromptu tour of the pyramids today.

The previously unscheduled trip was arranged at the request of Mrs. Clinton, who saw the 4,500-year-old monuments during a visit with President Clinton last October.

Zahi Hawass, the Egyptian archaeologist in charge of the Giza plateau just outside Cairo, quoted Mrs. Clinton as saying she wanted to show her daughter the ancient wonders.

They spent about an hour there and saw the pyramids and the nearby Sphinx and Solar Boat, a vessel that had been intended to carry an ancient Pharaoh's body to the afterlife.

Asked which she liked best, Mrs. Clinton replied: ``All of them.''

Chelsea, 15, took a brief ride on a camel while U.S. Embassy officials tried to block photographers from taking pictures of her.

After the tour, the Clintons returned to Cairo airport to continue on to south Asia, where they will spend 12 days visiting Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh.

On Mrs. Clinton's agenda will be health care, education and anti-poverty programs, all with special emphasis on the needs of women.

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(ED: complete writethru adds details of bhutto's meeting with clinton)
Bhutto discusses U.S. policy with Hillary
By ANWAR IQBAL=

ISLAMABAD, March 26 (UPI) Pakistan Sunday has presented to visiting U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton a laundry list of grievances affecting relations between Pakistan and the United States.

The presentation by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto included calls for the U.S. to release 38 F-16s or return money Islamabad has paid for the fighters, and criticism of the Pressler Amendment, which limits U.S. economic and military aid to Pakistan.

Officials said Bhutto briefed Mrs. Clinton and officials travelling with her on the agenda of issues the prime minister would raise during her upcoming visit to Washington. The 20-minute meeting took place prior to a luncheon in honor of Mrs. Clinton.

"Bhutto discussed the damage the discriminatory Pressler law had caused to the security of Pakistan and asked that either the U.S. should release the F-16s or return the money," said one official.

Bhutto also detailed alleged atrocities being carried out in Kashmir by Indian security forces and told Mrs. Clinton Kashmiris must be given the right to self-determination.

"Your glow and your presence warms us today and on behalf of 130 million Pakistanis it is my honor to welcome you into our homes and into our hearts. The name of Hillary Rodham Clinton has earned a special place of honor in our history. Mrs. Clinton is the symbol of all women everywhere, both in the East and the West that women can run corporations and run households, they can be great lawyers and still be great mothers," Bhutto said in welcoming Mrs. Clinton.

Bhutto said Islamabad is training thousands of female health workers to visit villages and towns to educate rural women, in an effort to implement her vision of a well-planned family.

Responding to Bhutto's speech Mrs. Clinton, said she was especially pleased to be here to reaffirm the partnership and friendship between Pakistan and the United States.

"There's much more in keeping us (women) in common than keeping us separate. I find so much keeps us in common as we move together to find our lives and it is a great privilege for me to be here with all of you," Mrs. Clinton said.

Praising Bhutto's emphasis on children, Mrs. Clinton said, "the work you are doing from extension of primary schooling, to the eradication of polio is being looked at with great interest and admiration"

"On behalf of the women of our country, it is a great privilege to be here and see opportunities. I wish my visit was longer, but I feel those of us in this room particularly as women have been blessed with a full range of opportunities and now we are here to listen and learn from what the prime minister of this country can do for the women."

Expressing her delight to have met 50 leading professional Pakistani women, Mrs. Clinton said: "I am happy to meet some of the women who are breaking new ground and giving a new meaning to the opportunity."

Bhutto drew chuckles when she told Mrs. Clinton that the Pakistani press says her husband, Asif Zardari, is Pakistan's de facto prime minister. "As the first lady, you can appreciate it is not true," said Bhutto.

"As a political spouse, I have a great sense of identity with him," Mrs. Clinton responded.

Bhutto introduced Mrs. Clinton to women from various walks of Pakistani society and also entertained her to a cultural show on the grounds of her official residence.

After the cultural show, the first lady drove to Islamabad's Faisal Mosque where her daughter Chelsea impressed many with her knowledge of Islam. She asked several questions on the Islamic faith and the holy book and later told her Pakistani hosts she had studied Islamic religion at school.

Mrs. Clinton's aides said Chelsea brought a copy of the Koran with her and offered to help her mother find a proper verse to use in her speech.

Later in the evening, Mrs. Clinton hosted a reception at the U.S. Embassy where she welcomed everyone individually. She wore a stunning Pakistani-style black velvet dress with gold work on it.

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AM-Mrs Clinton-Asia, Bjt,820

Mrs. Clinton Discusses Women's Issues with Pakistan's Bhutto

AP Photos ISL102, XISL103

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) Meeting as one tough woman to another, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto pledged a mutual determination Sunday to help women improve their lot in life.

One on one and in public, two of the world's best-known women displayed what appeared to be a genuine kinship as Mrs. Clinton began her 12-day tour of South Asia with a trip to the prime minister's sprawling white hillside residence.

"I know that much remains to be done in every society, in both of our countries, to ensure that women assume their rightful place and are given the opportunities to exercise their rights, but I am very optimistic by what I see happening in the world," Mrs. Clinton said at a five-course luncheon for prominent women hosted by the prime minister.

The Harvard-educated Mrs. Bhutto said her government is making "a frontal assault on institutional discrimination against women in our society."

Neither woman is without her share of critics, however, and Mrs. Bhutto wryly took note of that when she told Mrs. Clinton, "women who take on tough issues and stake out new territory are often on the receiving end of ignorance. I can personally attest to that."

She added: "You are both tough and a great leader."

The opulence of the prime minister's residence and the prominence of her women guests businesswomen, politicians, judges and doctors among them stood in stark contrast to the place of most impoverished Pakistani women.

Bhutto's critics say her government has failed to live up to her lofty words and that there has been no significant progress in improving the situation of women in this male-dominated society. Many Pakistanis also are disappointed in her failure to revive a stagnant economy and contain violence and corruption.

"Mrs. Bhutto has been an incompetent leader and her government is having a negative effort on most Pakistanis, especially women," said Abida Hussein, an opposition leader who was not among those included in the prime minister's luncheon.

Setting such criticism aside, the first lady and Mrs. Bhutto sought to emphasize the positive, including Pakistan's efforts to reserve government jobs for women, establish a women's development bank, set up special women's police stations and train women health-care workers.

Meeting with Mrs. Clinton privately before the luncheon, Mrs. Bhutto previewed the broader agenda she will bring to Washington when she meets with President Clinton next month, restating Pakistan's longstanding refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, aides said.

Publicly, the two kept their focus on the needs of women and children.

Renewing a theme she has voiced often in recent days, Mrs. Clinton argued that by investing in women and girls, "We invest in men, we invest in the future, we invest in our society."

The magnitude of the challenge facing women differs sharply between the United States and Pakistan. Where women in the United States want more opportunities for advancement in the work world, many Pakistani women lack access to basic health care, education and family planning and are allowed only limited participation in society.

Since most Pakistani girls marry in their teens and bear an average of six children families often put low priority on seeing that that girls are educated, focusing instead on preparing them for housework. Only about 25 percent are literate.

The first lady and her daughter, Chelsea, also paid a visit Sunday to the Faisal Mosque, an airy and looming white structure built in the 1970s to showcase Pakistan's Islamic identity.

The first lady's visit was meant to send a political statement as well as

to be informative. Administration officials said Mrs. Clinton hoped to demonstrate respect for Islam and communicate that Americans do not equate devotion to Islam with extremism.

``We've work hard ... to make it clear that with all our struggles with terrorism, we are not meaning to equate extremism with religious observance,'' a senior administration official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. ``There is a lot of misunderstanding.''

Religious intolerance nonetheless remains an important human rights problem in Pakistan, where Islamic zealots discriminate against and persecute religious minorities, according to the State Department. Religious and ethnic-based rivalries have resulted in many murders, bombings and civil disturbances.

Mrs. Bhutto and Mrs. Clinton shared a laugh over the inevitable speculation that is directed at the spouses of world leaders. Referring to her husband, the prime minister said that ``according to newspapers in Pakistan, Mr. Asif Zardari is de facto prime minister of the country. He says only the first lady can appreciate it's not true.''

Mrs. Clinton clearly identified with the remark, saying, ``I must say that as a political spouse, I feel a great sense of identity with him as well.''

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Hillary Clinton meets with Pakistani leader

By ANWAR IQBAL=

ISLAMABAD, March 26 (UPI) Visiting U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Sunday expressed their hopes that women will be able to find a more prominent role in society.

Mrs. Clinton is in Pakistan on the first leg of her 10-day tour of five South Asian nations.

"When you invest in women and girls, you are investing in society," the U.S. first lady said in response to Bhutto's welcoming remarks at a reception at the prime minister's official residence.

Bhutto echoed Mrs. Clinton's sentiments, saying Islamabad has opened "(all-women) banks, police stations run by women and is encouraging women to come forward in non-conventional sectors."

The two also spoke of their dreams for a world where women and children enjoy a better life.

"When I spoke at the world population summit in Cairo (last year), I spoke of a society where every pregnancy is planned and every child is nurtured, loved and supported," said Bhutto.

Bhutto said Islamabad is training thousands of female health workers to visit villages and towns to educate rural women, in an effort to implement her vision of a well-planned family.

"When we invest in our children, we are saying our future is worth while," Mrs. Clinton added. She emphasized the need for the creation of a society "blessed with full range of opportunities."

The two also traded compliments. Bhutto told Mrs. Clinton Pakistan is utterly fascinated by your heroic efforts to redefine the role of women in the United States; the U.S. first lady responded by calling the Pakistani leader's role in politics "a beacon for all of us."

During their brief remarks, Bhutto and Mrs. Clinton discussed the difficulties women face in society. Bhutto spoke of a double standard, quoting former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher: "When a woman is tough, she is strident while when a man is tough, he is a great leader."

Bhutto drew chuckles when she told Mrs. Clinton that the Pakistani press says her husband, Asif Zardari, is Pakistan's de facto prime minister. "As the first lady, you can appreciate it is not true," said Bhutto.

"As a political spouse, I have a great sense of identity with him," Mrs. Clinton responded.

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BC-PAKISTAN-HILLARY (SCHEDULED)

U.S. first lady meets Pakistani prime minister

By Gene Gibbons

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (Reuter) - Hillary Rodham Clinton Sunday launched a 12-day South Asian tour with a set of ceremonial events and talks with Pakistan's beleaguered Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on social issues.

The ceremonies included a women's luncheon hosted by Bhutto in Mrs. Clinton's honor and a visit by the American first lady and her 15-year-old daughter Chelsea to a mosque.

Before the luncheon, Mrs. Clinton and the prime minister met privately for 30 minutes. U.S. officials said the two discussed a wide-ranging social agenda, including education, family planning and other health care issues and rural development.

Asked if either woman had talked about U.S. efforts to curb the spread of nuclear arms -- a source of friction with Pakistan -- one U.S. official said: "The Prime Minister made her views known and the first lady listened."

Pakistan has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and says it will not do so until its regional rival India signs.

Bhutto later praised Mrs. Clinton, who is trying to expand the traditional role of U.S. first ladies without seeming to usurp power reserved for presidents, as a trailblazer for women everywhere.

"Women who take on tough issues and stake out new territory are often on the receiving end of ignorance. I can personally attest to that," said Bhutto, whose political career has been turbulent.

Mrs. Clinton, reflecting the delicacy of her visit to this gender-conscious region, responded with an upbeat assessment of the progress that has been made by women.

She is the first U.S. first lady to visit South Asia since the late Jacqueline Kennedy, who came here in 1962.

"I know that much remains to be done in every society, in both of our countries, to assure that women assume their rightful place ... but I am very optimistic by what I see happening in the world," Mrs Clinton said.

Afterward, she and Chelsea spent 25 minutes visiting Islamabad's huge Faisal Mosque, built in the 1970s and named after Saudi Arabia's late King Faisal, who financed the project.

"I love all the light. It's so beautiful, the natural light and the chandeliers," she said of airy main hall in the sprawling white marble place of worship.

Mrs Clinton, who will also visit India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, plans to focus on efforts to improve the lives of women and children throughout her goodwill tour.

The treatment of women is a serious human rights problem in Pakistan, as is child labour and scarce health care.

It was the first time Mrs. Clinton and Bhutto had met and "they very much connected," Mrs Clinton's spokeswoman said.

During her visit to the United States, starting April 5, Bhutto is expected to seek U.S. help in fighting terrorism and progress in settling a dispute over Pakistan's nuclear weapons.

U.S.-Pakistan ties have been edgy since Washington cut off military and economic aid in 1990 over suspicions Islamabad was developing nuclear weapons. Pakistan denies this.

Bhutto is beset by domestic economic and political problems, particularly violence in the southern port city of Karachi, which is not on Mrs. Clinton's itinerary.

Mrs Clinton will go to the Punjab province capital of Lahore on Monday before leaving for India.

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Hillary Clinton denounces Pakistani mayhem

By ANWAR IQBAL=

LAHORE, Pakistan, March 27 (UPI) Visiting U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday that violence afflicting people in Karachi saddened her, as did the recent slaying of two Americans who worked at the U.S. Consulate there.

"I join your prime minister in condemning violence and terrorism across the globe wherever it occurs," Mrs. Clinton said in an address to students at Lahore's University of Management Sciences, which was recently established with U.S. support.

"The violence of terrorism, the ugly face of bigotry, and the ignorance that breeds intolerance of those of a different religion or ethnic background are all exacerbated by the fear of change," she said, adding that the world was "struggling to adapt to new challenges without giving up a sense of who we are and where we belong.

"We are all struggling to define a new balance in our lives as we decide which traditions and beliefs to reject or reinforce, what changes and challenges to be embraced or discarded," she said.

Although diplomatically phrased, her remarks on the issue of violence surprised many in Pakistan.

Mrs. Clinton avoided controversial issues during her first two days in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad. And she conspicuously stayed away from the subject of violence in Karachi, the nation's largest city.

Although Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has vowed to fight terrorism, she does not acknowledge that violence in the southern port city is a major issue. Two days before Mrs. Clinton's arrival, Bhutto told a group of reporters violence in Karachi was confined to a few areas and it was not an issue.

Mrs. Clinton's remarks followed local media reports, based on briefings by senior officials, that Bhutto presented a laundry list of grievances affecting relations between Pakistan and the United States when the two met in Islamabad on Saturday.

She reportedly urged the United States to release 38 F-16s or return money Islamabad has paid for the jets and to alter an amendment that limits U.S. economic and military assistance to Pakistan.

Mrs. Clinton's remarks on terrorism and violence were skillfully concealed in a speech that touched on a variety of world problems, ranging from human development to women, children and health.

She said whenever she looks into a child's eyes, she saw "so much promise and hope...and then felt my heart sink, knowing the child may have little chance of fulfilling his or her promise because of great obstacles limited access to education, health services and jobs."

She also stressed the need for educating women, saying "girls and women are vital to the economic, social and political life of every country."

She said that although women make up 52 percent of the world's population, "they continue to be marginalized and abused in many societies."

She also spoke on the need for population control, but did so in a very careful manner, knowing that it was a sensitive issue in Muslim societies like Pakistan's. Still, she told the students that when people used birth control, they saw improvement "not only in the lives of individuals but in the economic well-being of their countries."

She said Washington plans to soon begin implementing an assistance program in conjunction with non-governmental Pakistani organizations aimed at strengthening family planning and child survival services and expanding educational opportunities for girls.

The U.S. first lady drew warm applause from the students when she quoted Islamic mystic poetry and verses from Pakistan's national poet, Allama Iqbal.

Earlier in Islamabad, she visited a women's college and donated five computers. She and daughter Chelsea toured the campus, and met teachers and a select group of students. The Clintons answered students' questions in the college library for about an hour. Later, they attended a student fashion show depicting various regional costumes.

BC-INDIA-HILLARY (SCHEDULED, PICTURE)

Hillary Clinton arrives in India on goodwill tour

By Gene Gibbons

NEW DELHI (Reuter) - First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived in India early Tuesday saying she wanted to exchange ideas on how to help women, children and the poor.

Clinton, on the second leg of a 12-day goodwill tour of South Asia with her 15-year-old daughter Chelsea, was greeted by junior foreign minister Salman Khursheed and U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner at a low-key airport welcoming ceremony.

In a written arrival statement, she said she was ``extremely pleased'' to visit India and help strengthen U.S. ties with the world's second most populous country.

``The great Indian traditions of democracy and cultural pluralism have much to teach the world,'' she said. ``And during my stay here, I look forward to learning as much as I can from the Indian experience.''

Clinton, whose tour is focused on social issues, said she also looked forward to exchanging ideas with organizations devoted to helping India's women, children and the poor.

During her three-day visit, she is to tour an orphanage run by Christian missionary Mother Teresa and visit a number of other projects including one in a New Delhi slum designed to generate income for poor people.

Mother Teresa, currently in Vietnam, was not scheduled to join the First Lady in the tour of the orphanage.

Clinton was to meet President Shankar Dayal Sharma Tuesday and Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Wednesday. She planned to visit the Taj Mahal Thursday before leaving for Nepal Friday.

Clinton began her tour with a two-day visit to Pakistan. Wearing a salwar kameez, the native garb of Pakistani women, she was guest of honor Monday at a candlelight dinner at Lahore's ancient Red Fort attended by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Earlier Monday, she visited a clinic in Burki village near Lahore where she observed a four-month-old boy being given oral polio vaccine and briefly attended mathematics and English classes at a local school for girls.

Afterward she talked with a group of local residents about the problems of women.

``The problem of taking care of your own family and children, and going out and working...that causes double time, double duty,'' Clinton said.

At the mathematics class, she introduced the students to her daughter and, gesturing at algebraic equations on a blackboard, said: ``She will understand this better than I do.''

Several of the women complained of insufficient opportunities for girls and lack of access to contraception.

REUTER

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AM-Mrs Clinton-Asia, Bjt,660

First Lady Up Close and Personal With Pakistanis

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) Hillary Rodham Clinton perched on the courtyard bedstead of 70-year-old Burkat Ali and got the full rundown on his household: wife, three sons with wives, four cousins with wives and 21 children.

Then she trooped inside for a tour of his mudcake ``middle class'' home while one of the women kept busy outside shaping dung into discs for fuel.

Over and over on Monday, the first lady interacted on a very personal level with the people of Pakistan.

She traded thoughts on marriage vs. jobs with MBA-bound college women: ``You don't want to give up one for the other.''

And answered the questions of curious schoolgirls interested in her favorite color: ``All shades of blue.''

She sympathized with poor women overwhelmed by their many children (a mother of 10 wished she'd had access to contraceptives) and lamented with high-school girls about the religious and ethnic divisions in society. ``I have no answers,''' the first lady said.

Mrs. Clinton came to Pakistan for two days pledging to listen and learn, and came away with more than a mountainous heap of jewelry, clothing and other gifts.

``To know about the world, one must know about people's deepest yearnings and anxieties,''' she said in a speech to women at the Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan's premier business school.

Wherever she went, Pakistanis were ready to oblige.

Human rights activists grumbled that Mrs. Clinton should have taken Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government to task for failing to crack down on human rights abuses, but the first lady chose to emphasize the positive.

She devoted Monday to education, particularly for girls. She visited an affluent urban girls school in Islamabad, a dusty Punjab village classroom for girls and the Lahore University campus.

``Investing in the health and education of women and girls is essential to improving global prosperity,''' she told the business students.

A worried mother in Burki village put it more simply.

``If you don't get educated, you're nobody,''' she said.

Mrs. Clinton responded: ``I think it is important that people know the mothers of Pakistan want their daughters educated.''

Pakistan's crying need to better educate its people is evident in the numbers: almost 40 percent of children have no access to education; the literacy rate is 35 percent, 10 points lower for females; primary school enrollment is about 46 percent, still lower for girls.

Bhutto has pledged to put more resources into social programs, including health and education, but critics say she has failed to make progress or set a clear course.

The country's social needs will continue to grow with its burgeoning population. Pakistan's 130 million population is the world's seventh-largest and is expected to double over the next 20 years.

Mrs. Clinton visited with Mrs. Bhutto at both the beginning and end of the Pakistan leg of her five-nation tour of South Asia, praising the prime minister's effort to improve opportunities for women and girls.

Both women were honored guests Monday night at a candle-lit dinner amid the towering ruins of the 11th-century Mogul Fort in Lahore, Mrs. Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, donning traditional flowing silk tunic and pants for the occasion.

The sprawling courtyards were strewn with lush carpets of rose petals and arrayed with artisans and musicians, none of them topping the dancing camels and horses who drew the delight of both Clintons.

From Lahore, Mrs. Clinton flew to New Delhi, India, arriving shortly after midnight.

In a written arrival statement, the first lady said India's ``traditions of democracy and cultural pluralism have much to teach the world.''' While in India, she will visit an orphanage, school projects, community groups and cultural sites, including the Taj Mahal.

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BC-PAKISTAN-HILLARY (PICTURE)

First Lady, in Asia, urges greater role for women

By Gene Gibbons

LAHORE, Pakistan (Reuter) - First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, on the second day of an extensive goodwill mission, urged gender-conscious South Asia Monday to give women a greater role.

Speaking at the Lahore University of Management Sciences, a famed business school in Pakistan, the first lady said: ``If women don't thrive, the world won't thrive.''

Clinton's message stated the theme of her 20,000-mile trip to five of the world's poorest countries: improving the lives of women and children by giving them more education, health care and opportunity is a global social necessity.

She is visiting Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in 12 days.

``Investing in the health and education of women and girls is essential to achieving global prosperity. We have seen in parts of Asia and South America that the education of girls can help lift whole populations out of poverty,''

she said. ``Investing in human capital, building the human infrastructure and enhancing human productivity ought to be our common concern,''

she said. Clinton, accompanied on her trip by her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, delivered the speech after touring a clinic and school for girls and visiting a family in a village 12 miles from Lahore.

She showed a sense of humor about the controversy surrounding her effort to expand the traditional role of U.S. first ladies when a student asked her if she had a nickname.

``My nickname? Well, it depends on who you talk to,''

she said. ``Some people, I would imagine, have quite rude nicknames for me.''

Before leaving Islamabad earlier Monday, Clinton conducted a seminar with more than a dozen young women at a college for girls on the problems of women in the modern world,

For nearly an hour, she and the students talked about how to mix careers and marriage, the importance of education and the raising of children. Asked what was the greatest challenge facing the United States, Clinton may have had her husband's battles with the Republican-controlled Congress over budgetary priorities in mind when she replied:

``It's like many countries. There is a constant struggle between what to do today and what to do in order to invest for tomorrow.''

She was to conclude her visit to Pakistan with a dinner and entertainment at Lahore's historic Red Fort, built by Mogul emperor Jehangir in 1550 as a palace for his family and government and now used only rarely for social functions.

Clinton was to fly on to New Delhi to start a three-day visit to India late Monday night.

REUTER

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PM-Mrs. Clinton-Asia,xx0

Mrs. Clinton Tours Girls' Schools In Pakistan

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) From an elite urban girls' school to a dusty village classroom, Hillary Rodham Clinton saw firsthand today the promise and enormous difficulty of educating Pakistani girls in a society that favors men.

At the affluent Islamabad College for Girls, the students themselves soft spoken at first, then gradually growing in voice laid out the challenges in clear terms.

"People in rural areas ... believe that maybe we're educating girls so they will do something really wild or do something that is not expected of them," one teen-age girl told the first lady.

Another young woman in a flowing white tunic told Mrs. Clinton, "A lot of effort has to be made to convince more people of the importance of education because that is the only way Pakistan can really change."

The first lady could only second their thoughts. "Educating girls is not seen as something to put in banner headlines, but educating girls ... is an issue that will change a country," she said.

The girls, assembled in a pink-carpeted library decorated with their art work spoke confidently of aspirations to become doctors, lawyers, teachers, diplomats. The scenes were far different at Mrs. Clinton's next stop at a rural Punjab village where she visited a girls' school and a health clinic.

At Burki's Government Girls High School, Mrs. Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, toured barren whitewashed classrooms and chatted in a dirt courtyard about the difficulty of educating their children.

One woman with 10 children said she had too many to educate them all, and that she wished she had had access to contraceptives, drawing nods of agreement from other women.

"If you don't get educated, you're nobody," another woman told Mrs. Clinton.

Both schools were atypical of Pakistan's overwhelmed education system, which is tilted heavily in favor of boys.

The country's crying need to improve the education of its people, particularly girls, is evident in a litany of statistics. Because of shortages of schools and qualified teachers, almost 40 percent of children have no access to education.

Pakistan's literacy rate is 35 percent, compared with 55 percent in average low income countries. Female literacy is below 25 percent.

Primary school enrollment is about 46 percent, still lower for girls.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government has pledged to put more resources into social programs, including education, but critics say she has failed to make progress or set a clear course.

The needs of the burgeoning population, meanwhile, only continue to increase. At 130 million people Pakistan is the world's seventh largest nation. And with women averaging six children each, the country's population is expected to double over the next 20 years.

Mrs. Clinton spoke of opportunity denied in a speech prepared for delivery at the Lahore University of Management Science, Pakistan's premier business school.

"I can't tell you how many times, in my travels around my country and overseas, I have looked into the eyes of a child and seen so much promise and hope ... and then felt my heart sink, knowing the child may have little chance of fulfilling his or her promise," she said.

"Every nation must do more for its own people, and especially for children," she said.

Before leaving Islamabad, Mrs. Clinton visited with the staff at the U.S. Embassy, many of them still shaken by the March 8 terrorist attack in Karachi that left two American consulate workers dead and a third injured.

The first lady expressed outrage at the killings and vowed that the United

States would not be deterred by terrorism. She also presented the embassy staff with an award for helping in the capture of a suspect in the New York World Trade Center bombing.

From Lahore, Mrs. Clinton was flying to India, the second country on her five-nation tour of south Asia.

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FIRST FAMILIES VISIT

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea line up for a photo with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, her son Bilawal and daughter Bakhtawar during visit to Islamabad, Pakistan. The first lady's visit to five South Asia nations will focus on women's and children's issues. Story on Page A13.

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First Lady Begins Tour Of South Asian Region

Trip Highlights Women's, Children's Issues

By Molly Moore
Washington Post Foreign Service

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, March 26—First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton today began a 10-day South Asian tour highlighting women's and children's issues in a region where oppression of women and girls is considered more prevalent than almost anywhere in the world.

The first lady's trip—which is to include visits to villages, schools and an orphanage run by Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity—is designed to put a more human face on U.S. policy in socially troubled South Asia after recent trips by Clinton cabinet members focusing primarily on national security and trade issues.

White House officials also hope the tour through Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will provide the first lady some political rehabilitation after the battering she took with the defeat of the health care reform program that she oversaw during her husband's first two years in the White House.

In a region where the United States has some of its weakest national security, business and social links, and where anti-American sentiment is always a component of domestic political agendas, the first lady is studiously attempting to avoid any potential controversies.

Her staff said repeatedly today that she does not plan to initiate discussions involving the sensitive issues of nuclear proliferation or human rights. In interviews prior to her departure from Washington, Clinton said, "I'm not about to go and try to tell anybody what to do."

That may prove difficult on a trip focused on women's issues to an area where three governments are led by women who are frequently criticized by women's organizations for doing too little to help the oppressed women of their

Third World nations. There are few parts of the world that can match South Asia for the pervasiveness of social discrimination against women, ranging from female infanticide, dowry deaths and bride burnings to the practice in Islamic Pakistan of jailing women on charges of adultery when they report they have been raped.

Even Clinton's low-key agenda is far more substantive than that pursued by Jacqueline Kennedy when she toured Pakistan and India as first lady in 1962. The local press commented primarily on Kennedy's wardrobe and camel-riding skills.

Today, the first day of her tour, Clinton basked in the symbolism of powerful women sharing mutual concerns. In a meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Clinton ate a lobster lunch with some of the most successful women politicians, artists and leaders of a country where repression of women is endemic. The first lady donned a scarf and discarded her shoes to tour one of the Islamic country's largest mosques.

In opening remarks at a lunch hosted by Bhutto, Clinton said she hoped her trip to Pakistan would "reaffirm the partnership and friendship between our two countries."

That friendship has been severely strained in the last several years by U.S. criticism of Pakistan's nuclear program and Washington's 1990 decision to sever all military and most social aid to a country that had served as its front-line facilitator in the 1979-89 Soviet-Afghanistan war. The U.S. State Department also has been highly critical of Pakistan's failure to control drug trafficking and terrorism, at one point threatening to declare its old ally a terrorist state.

Bhutto, who will visit the United States next month, has recently said she would welcome U.S. efforts to assist Pakistan in apprehending terrorists, especially in



REUTERS
Hillary Rodham Clinton and Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto talk at lunch in Islamabad. The first lady's visit to Pakistan was the first stop of a 10-day, five-nation tour of South Asia that will include visits to villages, schools and an orphanage run by Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity.

the aftermath of the shooting two weeks ago in Karachi in which two American consulate employees were killed and a third injured.

Today, however, Bhutto stressed her kinship with Clinton and the barbs both have endured in their roles as strong women in politics.

"Women who take on tough issues and stake out new territory are often on the receiving end of ignorance," said Bhutto, wearing over her head the trademark scarf her father warned her always to wear in public in this strict Muslim society that discourages women from assuming public roles.

Bhutto skipped references to other things the Bhutto and Clinton administrations have in common: Both are under extreme pressure from opposition parties and are in deep political trouble in their respective countries.

At the luncheon table, Clinton was sandwiched between Bhutto and her mother, Nusrat Bhutto. The two Bhutto women have engaged in an acrimonious public feud since the mother sided with Benazir Bhutto's brother—who opposes the prime minister politically—during Bhutto's election bid 1½ years ago.

At today's lunch, Nusrat Bhutto began devouring a salad with her fingers before the guest of honor sat down, and then made a show of reading the menu during Clinton's brief speech, drawing embarrassed

looks from others seated at the table.

According to White House and regional embassy officials, the Clinton journey across the subcontinent was conceived by Elizabeth Moynihan, the wife of Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), a former ambassador to India. Elizabeth Moynihan pressed the first lady for the past year to make a trip to India to examine women's issues.

In the protocol of regional U.S. diplomatic relations, however, Hillary Clinton could not visit India without calling on India's neighbor and longtime enemy, Pakistan. To those two stops, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were added.

Chelsea Clinton accompanied her mother, and the 15-year-old stole some of the show today. During a tour of the Faisal Mosque tucked against the Margalla Hills on the edge of the capital city, the Clintons' daughter peppered the tour guide with detailed questions about the mosque and Islam. The first lady explained that her 10th-grade daughter recently had been studying Islamic history at Sidwell Friends School.

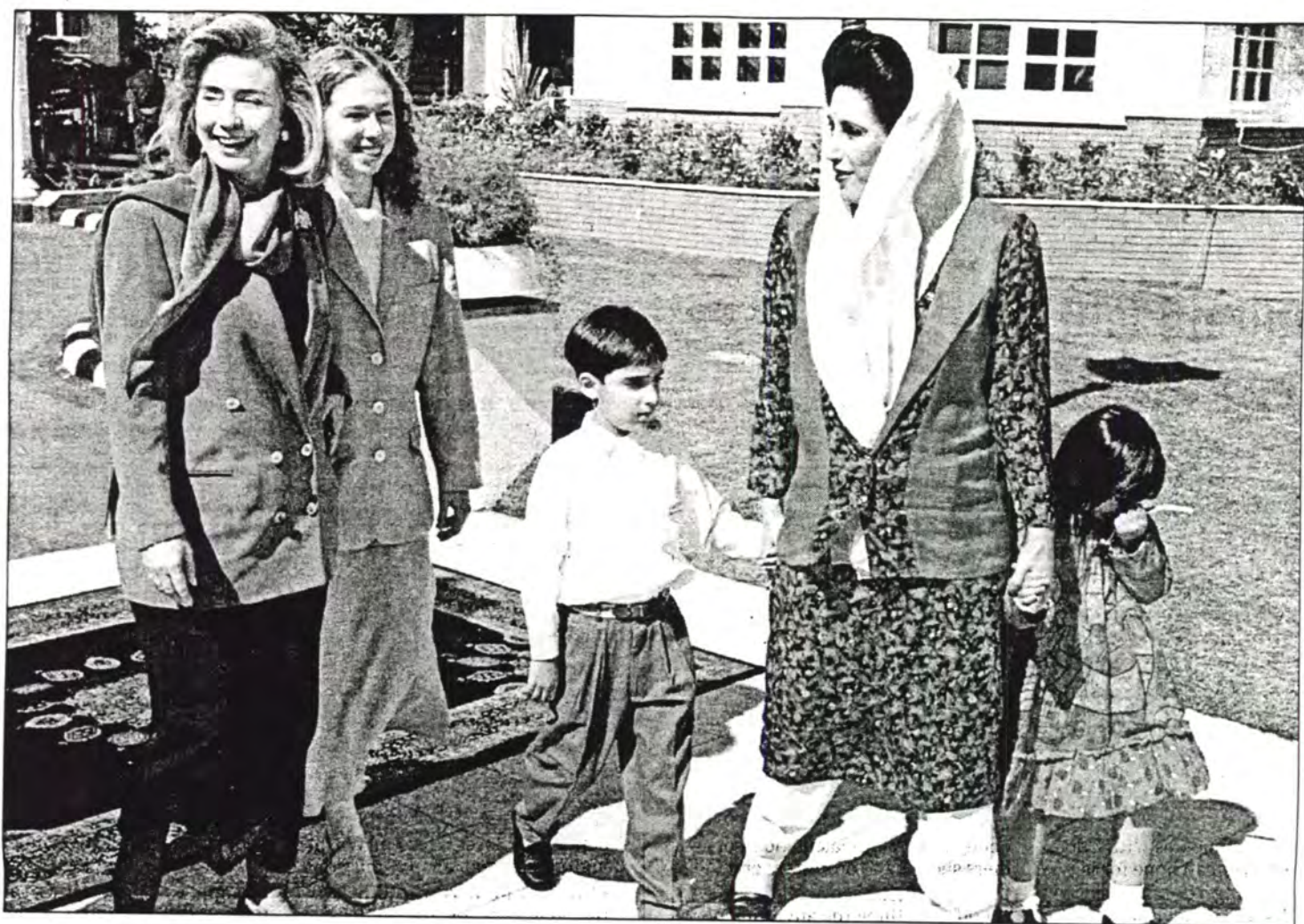
As for the first lady's homework, Hillary Clinton stayed up last night to read parts of Bhutto's autobiography, "Daughter of Destiny," before meeting the prime minister this morning.

When in Islamabad . . .



First Lady Hillary Clinton, right, and her daughter Chelsea wear traditional scarves to tour Pakistan's Faisal Mosque. Muslim law requires women to cover themselves to enter a mosque. Story, **A2**

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Associated Press

Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea with Benazir Bhutto and her children at the prime minister's residence after lunch.

Mrs. Clinton Finds Kindred Spirit in Bhutto

■ **Asia:** The two, alumnae of Yale and Harvard, share views on role of women and the hazards of political prominence.

By JOHN THOR DAHLBURG
TIMES STAFF WRITER

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—The venue Sunday was Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's sprawling hilltop mansion, the guest of honor First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, the topic the position of women in the world.

"I know that much remains to be done in every society, in both of our countries, to ensure that women assume their rightful place and are given the opportunities to exercise their rights, but I am very optimistic [about] what I see happening in the world," Mrs. Clinton said at the luncheon.

On the first full day of her five-nation trip across the subcontinent—a 12-day voyage that will focus on the status of women and children in the vast, largely impoverished region—Mrs. Clinton met with some of the female movers and shakers in Pakistani society: politicians, doctors, entrepreneurs and judges.

And for the first time, she made the acquaintance of the Harvard-educated Bhutto, who, to laughter from the guests, said she was honored to greet a "daughter of Yale."

Obviously sensing a kindred spirit in the Yale Law School alumna, the prime minister praised the wife of President Clinton "as both tough and a great leader."

"Women who take on tough issues and stake out new territory are often on the receiving end of ignorance. I can personally attest to that," Bhutto said.

Once the darling of Pakistanis who saw her as the best hope for democracy and

social justice after decades of military rule, Bhutto, 41, now faces a strident political opposition and criticism from some supporters that she has failed to check violence, terrorism and widespread corruption.

At the luncheon, she ticked off a list of her government's efforts in its "frontal assault on the institutional discrimination against women in our society." They included reserving 10% of the jobs in the federal bureaucracy for women, a bank run by women for women, special women's police stations and plans to train 100,000 female health care workers.

But many women's activists say Bhutto has done little since her election victory in October, 1993, to better the lot of most female citizens of a male-dominated country where the strains of Islamic traditionalism and feudalism run deep.

It is a critique Mrs. Clinton will no doubt hear again on her travels through South Asia, despite the fact that three of the five countries she will visit—Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka—are headed by women, all of whom are the daughters or widows of former rulers.

"Having a female prime minister may give the impression that progress is being made here," said Mehnaz Raffi, who chairs Pakistan's Women's Rights Commission and is an unabashed Bhutto critic, "but at the grass-roots level, nothing has really changed. The condition of women is the same, whether there is a man or a woman at the helm."

In Pakistan, only 20 women in 100 can read and write, and the average woman has had 0.7 years of schooling. In India, 39% of the women are literate, but two of every three people who cannot read are women.

The South Asian trip consolidates Mrs. Clinton's new role as a global advocate on women's and children's issues, which present less of a political minefield than her controversial efforts toward health care

reform last year.

Earlier this month, the First Lady appeared at a poverty summit in Copenhagen and a women's conference at the United Nations. At the luncheon in Islamabad, she told the guests, "As we invest in women and girls, we invest in men, we invest in the future, we invest in our society." Although well-to-do families in Pakistan and other countries of the subcontinent would concur, equal treatment for daughters is the exception rather than the rule.

"Boys are looked at as breadwinners, but girls aren't. Education, spending on the doctor, everything first goes to boys, and then to girls," said Noor Jehan Panezai, the first woman elected to Pakistan's Senate.

Mrs. Clinton's visit is the first to the region by a President's wife since Jacqueline Kennedy came to Pakistan and India in 1962.

Throughout the region, non-governmental organizations are working to better the lives and prospects of women and children. Mrs. Clinton plans to view a broad sample of the groups' efforts, including a women's school in Islamabad, an orphanage run by Mother Teresa's nuns in New Delhi, a women's trade union in Ahmedabad, India's textile capital, and a bank in Bangladesh that lends money to village women.

In Pakistan, Administration officials said Mrs. Clinton also will be seeking to demonstrate respect for Islam and make it clear that Americans do not equate the Muslim faith with extremism or terrorism.

Accompanied by her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, the First Lady spent 35 minutes after lunch touring Islamabad's white marble Faisal Mosque, whose immense prayer chamber, designed to resemble a desert tent, rises more than 130 feet in the air.

"I love all the light. It's so beautiful, the natural light and the chandeliers," Mrs. Clinton said.



Reuters

Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, wore traditional Islamic scarves yesterday during their visit to Faisal Mosque in Islamabad, Pakistan, after meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

A Clinton and a Bhutto Share a Joke in Pakistan

By TODD S. PURDUM

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, March 26 — Hillary Rodham Clinton, admired and attacked as a strong woman in her own country, came to Pakistan today to admire and consult with another one: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who greeted the First Lady at a luncheon for prominent women with a sisterly joke on the perils of power.

"The First Lady does not know it, but according to newspapers in Pakistan, Mr. Asif Zardari is de facto prime minister of the country," Ms. Bhutto said, referring to her husband, who is often painted as a sinister threat behind the throne and who had met Mrs. Clinton's plane on her arrival in a driving rain 12 hours earlier. "He says, 'Only the First Lady can appreciate it's not true.'"

In fact, Mrs. Clinton's first stop on her 12-day, five-nation official visit to South Asia was a study in the subtle role of spouse without portfolio. In her biggest solo venture since the collapse of her health care plan last year, she is re-introducing herself as a First Lady not only of the land but also of the world, wading into a region thick with the geopolitical goo of nuclear proliferation, financial aid and human rights abuses.

Mrs. Clinton's aides said most of those issues had come up, at least elliptically, in a 25-minute private talk with Ms. Bhutto, but Mrs. Clinton did not raise them. And the First Lady's staff made it clear that such an agenda is the stuff of Ms. Bhutto's scheduled meeting with Mr. Clinton in Washington next month. The Prime Minister is likely to try once again to assure Washington that her country is not trying to develop nuclear weapons, the possibility of which has been the main irritant in American-Pakistani relations and has led to a Congressional ban on any new aid since 1990.

On this trip to Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, Mrs. Clinton is determined to emphasize what she calls "the human issues" of health, education and social progress, especially for women and children in a place of dreadful poverty. Those causes are no less complex if slightly less controversial than some others she has taken on, and consistent with her interests over the last 25 years.

After praising the uphill efforts of Ms. Bhutto (Radcliffe, '73) to improve the lot of women and encourage family planning in a country



The New York Times

Islamabad was the first stop on Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit.

where the average woman bears six children and is restricted to the role of wife and mother, Mrs. Clinton (Wellesley, '69) added "a particular word of thanks for your emphasis on children."

"It is an emphasis that is the most important in my personal opinion because by investing in the education and health of children, we are saying that the future is worthwhile that every child will be given the opportunity to live up to his or her God-given potential," Mrs. Clinton told the group of about 60 women in the Prime Minister's official residence in the shadow of the Margalla Hills above the city.

Minutes later, as if to make the point, Mrs. Clinton strolled the grounds with her daughter, Chelsea. Ms. Bhutto and two of her children. Then the Clintons paid their respect to Islam by visiting the cavernous Faisal Mosque, financed by the Saudi royal family beginning in the 1970's, where Secret Service agent in stocking feet kept a respectful distance and Chelsea, who is on spring vacation from school where she has been studying Islam in 10th grade history class, asked well-informed questions.

For her part, Ms. Bhutto said: "and the rest of the people of Pakistan have been utterly fascinated by the First Lady's heroic efforts to substantively restructure the responsibilities of the office of First Lady and to provide caring and sensitive leadership on the key social issues of the modern era. Women who take on tough issues and stake out new territory are often on the receiving end of ignorance."

First lady, daughter in Pakistan



By Win McNamee, Reuters

TOUR: First lady Hillary Clinton and daughter Chelsea wear the required Islamic scarves during a tour of an Islamabad mosque. Clinton, on a 12-day South Asian tour, earlier met with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.



Reuters

Leading ladies do lunch

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton lunch with other prominent women at Mrs. Bhutto's residence as Mrs. Clinton begins a goodwill trip to South Asia to urge health, education and social progress for women and children.

AM-Mrs Clinton-Asia,570

First Lady Focuses Asian Tour on Children

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

NEW DELHI, India (AP) It was more than a social nicety when Hillary Rodham Clinton placed her palms together and dipped her head Tuesday to greet a class of slum children assembled in very proper school uniform.

At each stop on Mrs. Clinton's tour of South Asia, children have been a prime focus, and she devoted much of her first day in India to the cause of some of the world's neediest. It seemed only natural that they were among the first to whom she extended the traditional namaste Indian greeting.

Mrs. Clinton's first public appearance in India was a tour of Mother Teresa's orphanage, where the first lady and her daughter, Chelsea, eagerly picked up two babies in pink lacy dresses and rocked them soothingly in their arms.

The two went room to room in the crowded children's home, bending over to stroke and pat babies crowded into orderly rows of metal cribs lined up side by side and two deep in places.

"The good news is that the children are constantly moving" into permanent homes, the first lady said.

Indeed, a group of 15 youngsters who had planned to sing for the first lady were gone by the time she arrived, leaving nuns from the Missionaries of Charity to sing for Mrs. Clinton themselves.

Mother Teresa, based in Calcutta, was unable to greet the first lady personally because she was in Vietnam. But she and the first lady have been corresponding about setting up a transitional facility in Washington for children awaiting adoption, aides said.

"It's important to realize that with a lot of love and good organization and planning, you can take care of a lot of children well," Mrs. Clinton said. "But it's never going to be a substitute for a permanent family."

The only other public event on Mrs. Clinton's schedule Tuesday was a visit to the Prayas school project in the shadow of South Delhi's slums.

Started by a faculty wife at the Indian Institute of Technology who decided to teach five slum children to read, the program now educates more than 200 children and trains women in literary, nutrition, health and how to earn money for their skills.

The children meet in the university's outdoor amphitheater and dressing room, where Mrs. Clinton visited science and English class and watched a yoga demonstration, joking, "I tried to remember all of the exercises ... because I need to work on my heart and my arms and my waist."

Founder Rashmi Mishra told the first lady the teaching effort was "sustained and inspired by the unstinting love and shared hopes and dreams" of the women and children who benefit from it.

Mrs. Clinton called it "a marvelous example of how people working together can take care of each other." She has placed particular emphasis during her trip on the importance of nongovernmental organizations in helping to meet social needs.

The first lady also visited Tuesday with prominent women of Indian society at a luncheon hosted by Christine Wisner, wife of the U.S. ambassador. She was the dinner guest of Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma at his official residence, Rashtrapati Bhavan, once the elegant home of the viceroy of India.

**** filed by:APE(--) on 03/28/95 at 13:27EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 03/29/95 at 08:53EST ****

BC-INDIA-HILLARY 1STLD (PICTURE)

U.S. First Lady cuddles orphans on Indian visit

By Gene Gibbons

NEW DELHI, March 28 (Reuter) - Down a narrow, newly paved alley on the edge of teeming slums, tiny four-month-old Cecelia sat in a nursery crib hiccupping on Tuesday as an American visitor stroked her hand with a finger and fussed over her.

"Oh, hello. You're the only one awake, the only one awake. You're so cute," Hillary Rodham Clinton cooed.

The wife of U.S. President Bill Clinton and her daughter Chelsea, 15, had come to an orphanage run by Christian missionary Mother Teresa, and little Cecelia was among more than 150 infants and children living in the cramped, three-room institution in Delhi.

Mother Teresa did not greet them because she was travelling in Vietnam, but a U.S. official said she had faxed a message apologising for her absence.

Mrs Clinton toured the orphanage at the start of her visit to India, the second of five stops on a 12-day goodwill swing through South Asia.

She arrived with Chelsea from Pakistan, and was to travel from India to Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka before returning to Washington on April 6.

Her visit to Mother Teresa's orphanage, one of two the Nobel prize winner operates in New Delhi, underscored the theme of her trip -- that the United States cares about one of the world's most heavily populated and impoverished regions.

U.S. aid to India totals about \$150 million this year, with all but a tiny fraction being spent to provide food. Many of the biggest American firms are rushing to invest billions of dollars in the newly opened Indian market.

Mrs Clinton and her daughter spent nearly an hour with the orphans, cuddling many and asking questions of the nuns and volunteers who care for them.

"It's important to realise that with a lot of love and good organisation and planning, you can take care of a lot of children well. But it's no substitute for a permanent family," Mrs Clinton told reporters.

Orphanage workers said most of the children would eventually be placed in homes. "The boys go first and then the pretty girls, they go," one nun said.

Later, Mrs Clinton went to the elite Indian Institute of Technology to see a rapidly expanding programme to educate children of slum families and train their parents for work.

There she witnessed a yoga demonstration by a group of eight-to-10-year olds. When a teacher told her that one stretching exercise was good for reducing the waistline, the First Lady quipped: "I must try it."

Sandwiched between her demonstrations of concern for India's poor was a luncheon at the U.S. embassy with more than a dozen leading Indian women.

Mrs Clinton said she had found "great energy" in dealing with social problems in the world's second most populous country and was eager to learn "how we can build on what each of us is doing and caring about" during her three-day stay, which was to include a visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra on Thursday.

She is the first U.S. president's wife to visit India since the late Jacqueline Kennedy, who came in 1962.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 03/28/95 at 09:13EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 03/29/95 at 08:53EST ****

U.S. First Lady arrives in India

By SCOTT NEUMAN=

NEW DELHI, March 28 (UPI) U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton spent her first day in India Tuesday visiting an orphanage run by Mother Theresa and meeting with prominent women in New Delhi.

The wife of President Bill Clinton is on the second leg of her two-week South Asian tour.

"There is great energy in India on behalf of the women's community," Mrs. Clinton said at a luncheon meeting. "I have enjoyed greatly the opportunity to visit with women all over the world about issues that really are in our hearts as to how we can help one another."

India and the first lady's next stop, Nepal, are the only two countries on her five-nation visit that do not have female heads of state.

Visiting a Mother Theresa orphanage located in Delhi, Mrs. Clinton lifted several infants from their cribs and chatted briefly with some of the older orphans.

Observing a shortage of beds and hot water heaters, the first lady promised the White House would provide the items as a gift to the orphanage.

Mrs. Clinton and daughter Chelsea arrived early Monday morning from Lahore, Pakistan, where the first lady met with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Although Mrs. Clinton had hoped to avoid politics on the tour of South Asia, in her meeting with Bhutto, the prime minister is reported to have brought up the issue of the so-called Pressler Amendment, a congressional resolution that prevents conventional arms sales to any country suspected of building nuclear weapons.

The U.S. sale of 38 F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan has been held up indefinitely because of the amendment.

Mrs. Clinton is not the first wife of a U.S. president to visit India; both Rosalyn Carter and Jacqueline Kennedy have preceded her.

But the climate in India is much different now than it was when the two former first ladies visited the country.

As cold war tensions mounted in the 1960s, Indo-U.S. relations became strained.

Washington believed New Delhi had fallen into the Soviet Union's sphere of influence, while India viewed U.S. support of rival neighbor Pakistan as a direct threat to its security.

But following a thaw in relations between East and West and India's recent efforts to open up its economy to foreign investment, the United States has emerged as the country's number one investor.

Since the beginning of this year, there have been two high-level visits to India by Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and Secretary of Defense William Perry.

Mrs. Clinton rounded out her schedule Tuesday with a private meeting and dinner with Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma.

On Wednesday, she will present a speech to the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Foundation and have lunch with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

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BC-INDIA-HILLARY-HUMOUR

Hillary Clinton takes time for a laugh in India

NEW DELHI, March 28 (Reuter) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton took time out on the first day of a whirlwind tour of India on Tuesday to poke a bit of fun at herself.

Clinton said she was so excited by her trip that she was thinking of returning to India some day -- but promised to give weary U.S. embassy staff and diplomats time to catch their breath after organising the current three-day visit.

"I'm very excited by the chance I have to be here, although it is much too short, and because it is so short I'm already thinking about returning at some future date," she said in brief remarks at the embassy compound.

"Don't worry, that's not going to happen any time soon," she added quickly, drawing laughter.

Many embassy workers postponed vacations coinciding with school holidays last week to work grueling hours planning Clinton's visit to India, one of five countries she will see during her 12-day tour of South Asia.

The First Lady acknowledged the work that goes into preparing foreign jaunts by her and her husband, President Bill Clinton.

"And I know there is a collective sigh of relief when people like me leave," she said with a smile.

"I understand that, I don't take it personally -- I don't take anything personally anymore," she said, interrupted by applause. "I just keep rolling right along."

It was the second stab at self-deprecation in two days by the First Lady, who generated much criticism for the ambitious policy role she carved out after her husband was elected president in 1992 but who has since adopted a lower profile.

In Pakistan on Monday, Mrs Clinton showed a sense of humour about the controversy surrounding her effort to expand the traditional role of U.S. First Ladies when a student asked her if she had a nickname.

"My nickname? Well, it depends on who you talk to," she said. "Some people, I would imagine, have quite rude nicknames for me."

REUTER

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PAKISTAN: Editorial Welcomes Hillary Clinton's Visit BK2803075995 Islamabad
PAKISTAN in Urdu 28 Mar 95 p 10

Editorial: "Impressions of the First Lady of the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lauding very much the policies of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the Government of Pakistan toward the welfare of women, the U.S. first lady, Hillary Clinton, has stated that President Clinton highly values the principled stand adopted by the prime minister against terrorism and violence. She also has said that there is a very good impression in the United States about Pakistan's economic policies and that American investors have expressed great interest in investing in Pakistan. Speaking at the luncheon hosted in her honor by the prime minister, Mrs. Hillary Clinton said that she is visiting Pakistan to rebuild cooperation between the United States and Pakistan as well as between its people. Referring to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's address at the summit conference in Cairo on population and development, she said it was quite significant. Outstanding issues between the two countries also came under discussion during the meeting between Mrs. Hillary Clinton and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Mrs. Hillary said she and President Clinton very much appreciate the prime minister and like the policies of her government. Mrs. Clinton's visit will prove a cause for further strengthening the existing traditional friendly relations between the two countries.

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PAKISTAN: Bhutto Lauded for Restating Policies Before First Lady

BK2803080495 Lahore JANG in Urdu 28 Mar 95 p 10

Editorial: "Reaffirmation of Pakistan's Stance Before the First Lady of the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Discussing Pakistan-U.S. relations during her meeting with the U.S. first lady, Hillary Clinton, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the Pressler Amendment has very much affected the relations between Pakistan and the United States. The United States should either deliver F-16 aircraft to Pakistan or refund the amount paid for them.

As far as the Pressler Amendment is concerned, now the U.S. authorities themselves have admitted that it not only affected the relations between Pakistan and the United States, but also has not helped, in any way, to eliminate an arms race in South Asia. And the amendment has also vitiated the efforts of the United States to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. On the basis of this amendment, Pakistan was discriminated against India by the United States and attempts were made to impose unilateral restrictions on Pakistan's nuclear program, which was always resisted by Pakistan. Pakistan remained steadfast in its stance and now, it has, to a great extent, overcome all kinds of U.S. pressures. Despite collecting the amount for F-16 aircraft, the United States halted the delivery of the aircraft. Now, Pakistan demands that when the United States itself has admitted the failure of the Pressler Amendment and has recognized Pakistan's stance on the nuclear policy as well, it should either refund the amount collected for F-16's or deliver the aircraft to Pakistan. During her talks with the first lady of the United States, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has fulfilled her responsibility by reaffirming Pakistan's stance. This also negates the impression circulated by certain quarters that through some of her steps, the prime minister wants to please the United States prior to her visit to that country. It is expected that the prime minister will put up the same stance before President Clinton also and will emphasize the need for finding a just solution to the problem. There is no ambiguity in Pakistan's stance that the U.S. authorities should not find it hard to understand.

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PAKISTAN: Paper Views Bhutto Hillary Clinton Talks BK2803064295 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 28 Mar 95 p 10

Editorial: "Hillary Clinton's Visit"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The First Lady of the United States of America, Hillary Clinton, declared in her arrival statements that the purpose of her 2-week tour to the countries of South Asia is to gain a first-hand knowledge of development activities in the region. While Pakistan's concern at issues like Kashmir as well as the irritants between the Pakistan-U.S. relations, particularly the held-up F-16 planes and the Pressler Amendment, was forcefully voiced, the talks mainly focused on matters that stood for special interest in the context of Mrs. Clinton's present visit. Hillary Clinton's has shown interest in what is being done positively in Pakistan to promote education for women and girls and to deal with violence against them, as also the role of Pakistani women in national development -- Mrs. Clinton's credentials as an advocate for the cause of women, children, families and communities in her own country make her an ideal emissary to explore human dimensions of politics, policy and diplomacy. While apprising Mrs. Clinton of the advancements made in the areas of her interest, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto enlisted her government's achievements in putting administrative curbs on the prevalent institutional discrimination against women, in which context she referred to measures such as the establishment of the First Women's Bank, special Women's Police Stations, induction of women in judiciary, and the ten percent quota for women in all bureaucratic jobs. In the context of social development, the U.S. visitor was informed of government's efforts to control drug trafficking and contain the menace of terrorism.

While the U.S. First Lady expressed admiration for the government of Pakistan's efforts to better the existing state of affairs, the rift within our own ranks was quite evident as attempts were made by some quarters to equate the trouble in Karachi with human rights violations in Kashmir. This was quite unwarranted -- whatever valid criticism of government policies needs to be made -- for it amounts to providing India with an opportunity to undermine Pakistan's stand on that issue. Not many will disagree to the fact that whatever achievements either in the area of human rights or social development the government claims the credit for are far from adequate and in significant ways have yet to filter down to the grass-roots level. It is equally true that the government has not been able to handle the Karachi situation in a desirable way. However, greater effort needs to be made to address such issues in a non-partisan spirit rather than making every possible effort to run down whatever little has been achieved.

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PM-Mrs Clinton-Asia, 640

First Lady and Daughter Visit Mother Teresa's Orphanage

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

NEW DELHI, India (AP) There were no children singing at Mother Teresa's orphanage when Hillary Rodham Clinton came calling today, and the first lady couldn't have been happier about that.

The youngsters who had been preparing to perform were gone all adopted. So Mrs. Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, instead joined in as nuns from the Missionaries of Charity gave a heartfelt but unpolished performance of their own.

At one point during the tour, mother and daughter Clinton each picked up babies in pink frilly dresses and cuddled them like seasoned experts.

Admiring two tots of about 8 months who napped through the hubbub, Mrs. Clinton laughed and declared, "They'll sleep through anything." Rubbing the gums of another infant, she asked, "Do you have any teeth yet?"

The orphanage was Mrs. Clinton's first public appearance on a three-day visit to India that is part of a South Asia tour in which she has already been to Pakistan and is still to see Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The first lady is focusing her attention on the needs of women and children in this impoverished, over-populated corner of the world.

She went room to room in the crowded children's home, bending over brightly dressed babies crowded into metal cribs lined up side-to-side and two deep in some places. She stroked babies' hands and rubbed their backs as she made her way through the aisles.

In this male-dominated society, 80 percent of the youngsters left at the orphanage are girls. But at least there is a waiting list to adopt children from the home, and nuns say more Indians are beginning to accept girls.

Mother Teresa, based in Calcutta, was unable to greet the first lady personally because she was in Vietnam. But the first lady met her last year at a Washington prayer breakfast and they have been corresponding about setting up a transitional facility for children awaiting adoption in Washington, aides said.

"It's important to realize that with a lot of love and good organization and planning, you can take care of a lot of children well," Mrs. Clinton said. "But it's never going to be a substitute for a permanent family."

The White House presented the children's home with 20 iron beds, two hot water heaters, bottles and blankets, Mrs. Clinton declaring that "they always need things, don't they sister?"

With 164 children, the New Delhi home is the Missionaries of Charity's second-largest orphanage in India. Only the Calcutta home is larger.

In New Delhi, the sisters also run a home for severely handicapped children, a hospice for the dying and destitute and a hospital-rehabilitation center for leprosy victims.

A key focus of Mrs. Clinton's South Asia tour is an emphasis on the work being done by private groups to meet social needs and help women and children develop their potential.

To that end, Mrs. Clinton also visited the Prayas School Project, founded in 1985 by Rashmi Mishra, a campus housewife who took in five children from a nearby slum to teach them to read nine years ago.

The school that evolved now teaches 200 children on the Indian Institute of Technology campus. In addition, women now receive training in literacy, enterprise development, nutrition and health through the Prayas Foundation for Integrated Learning.

Mrs. Mishra told the first lady the effort was "sustained and inspired by the unstinting love and shared hopes and dreams" of the women and children who participate in the program.

Mrs. Clinton called it "a marvelous example of how people working together can take care of each other."

The first lady also visited today with prominent women of Indian society at a luncheon hosted by Christine Wisner, wife of the U.S. ambassador, at their residence.

PM-Mrs Clinton-Asia, 620

U.S. First Lady Defends Emphasis on 'Women's Issues'

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

NEW DELHI, India (AP) Hillary Rodham Clinton today rejected suggestions that her focus on the health and education of women and girls is ``soft'' and of secondary importance to larger problems facing the world.

The first lady acknowledged that such concerns are sometimes ``labeled dismissively as women's issues belonging at best on the edge of serious debate'' but argued that they were central to larger political and economic concerns.

``Governments, businesses and citizens must recognize and act upon that truth for the betterment of nations, and our global family,'' she said in a speech at the Rajiv Ghandi Foundation.

The first lady is stressing the needs of women and children during her 12-day trek through South Asia, attracting some grumbling that she has not more directly confronted sensitive subjects such as widespread human rights abuses in the region.

Mrs. Clinton did not respond directly to such criticism, but said, ``I recognize that discussion of such problems as education and health care for girls and women is viewed by some as soft.''

The first lady has been stressing women's needs with renewed emphasis this year after pulling back from the policymaking role she played last year on the administration's failed health reform effort.

Women's concerns have special import in the male-dominated cultures of the Indian subcontinent, where women lag behind men in education, literacy and a variety of health statistics.

In India, for example, girls are four times more likely than boys to suffer acute malnutrition but 40 times less likely to be taken to a hospital, according to the U.N. Population Fund.

Mrs. Clinton got a firsthand glimpse of such biases on Tuesday, when she visited an orphanage overseen by Mother Teresa where 80 percent of the abandoned babies are girls.

``Deeply rooted attitudes about the value of girls are hard to change, but we must try to persuade mothers and fathers to invest love, attention and resources in their girls, starting with education and health care,'' she said.

``We must develop a new language to replace the deafening silence that still sounds too often when women's concerns are raised.''

The first lady said government, business and individuals all have a role in expanding opportunities for women, giving special emphasis to the importance of non-governmental organizations that work to ``give voice to the aspirations of people who are left out.''

She said the first installment of a new \$100 million U.S. program to educate women and girls around the world would come in a grant to groups working expand girls' education in India.

Mrs. Clinton also met privately today with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao as part of a broader effort by the Clinton administration to strengthen U.S. ties with India, the world's second-largest nation and its most populous democracy.

Once regarded as an ally of the Soviet Union, India's relations with the United States have warmed with the end of the Cold War and free-market reforms launched in 1991. The United States considers India, with its rapidly growing middle class, one of the 10 biggest emerging markets for American goods.

Significant differences between the two countries remain, however, including U.S. concern over human rights and India's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Critics complain that widespread abuses, including torture, extrajudicial killings and rape of prisoners, are being overlooked by the United States as it tries to improve relations with New Delhi. In addition, they say India's government has failed to enforce laws to protect the rights and safety of women, with rape, kidnapping and ``dowry deaths'' on the rise.

WHEN IN PAKISTAN ...



Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto walks with Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton after the three, all wearing Pakistani

dressess, attended a reception yesterday in Lahore. Earlier, the first lady spoke at a business school to urge a greater role for women. Story, A13.

Reuters

1/2



Hillary Rodham Clinton (right) chats with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at a dinner in Lahore. Reuters

First lady makes a pitch for women

In Pakistan, Hillary stresses importance of opportunity

By Gene Gibbons
REUTERS NEWS AGENCY

LAHORE, Pakistan — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, on the second day of an extensive goodwill mission, urged gender-conscious South Asia yesterday to give women a greater role.

Speaking at the Lahore University of Management Sciences, a famed business school in Pakistan, the first lady said: "If women don't thrive, the world won't thrive."

Mrs. Clinton's message stated the theme of her 20,000-mile trip to five of the world's poorest countries: Improving the lives of women and children by giving them more education, health care and opportunity is a global social necessity.

She is visiting Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in 12 days. She was preparing to visit India last night.

"Investing in the health and education of women and girls is essential to achieving global prosperity.

We have seen in parts of Asia and South America that the education of girls can help lift whole populations out of poverty," she said.

"Investing in human capital, building the human infrastructure and enhancing human productivity ought to be our common concern," she said.

Mrs. Clinton, accompanied on her trip by her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, delivered the speech after touring a clinic and school for girls and visiting a family in a village 12 miles from Lahore.

She showed a sense of humor about the controversy surrounding her effort to expand the traditional role of U.S. first ladies when a student asked her if she had a nickname.

"My nickname? Well, it depends on who you talk to," she said. "Some people, I would imagine, have quite rude nicknames for me."

Before leaving Islamabad earlier in the day, Mrs. Clinton conducted a seminar with more than

a dozen young women at a college for girls on the problems of women in the modern world.

For nearly an hour, she and the students talked about how to mix careers and marriage, the importance of education and the raising of children.

Asked what was the greatest challenge facing the United States, Mrs. Clinton may have had her husband's battles with the Republican-controlled Congress over budgetary priorities in mind when she replied:

"It's like many countries. There is a constant struggle between what to do today and what to do in order to invest for tomorrow."

She was to conclude her visit to Pakistan with a dinner and entertainment at Lahore's historic Red Fort, built by Mogul emperor Jehangir in 1550 as a palace for his family and government and now used only rarely for social functions.

2/2

AM-Mrs Clinton-Asia,530

First Lady Laments 'Deafening Silence' on Women's Issues

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

NEW DELHI, India (AP) Hillary Rodham Clinton has been talking about the importance of giving women a stronger voice at each stop on her tour of South Asia, but it was with the words of a college student that she best expressed her feelings.

The first lady ended her speech at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation on Wednesday with a poem entitled ``Silence,' ' written for her by Anasuya Sengupta, a young Indian woman just completing her last year of college.

``Too many women in too many countries speak the same language silence,' ' the poem begins.

It ends: ``We seek only to give words to those who cannot speak. ... I seek only to forget the sorrows of my grandmother's silence.' '

Mrs. Clinton was given the poem on Tuesday and stayed up late to incorporate it into her address. ``I just was overwhelmed by it,' ' she said later.

In her speech, the first lady rejected suggestions that her focus on the health and education of women and girls was ``soft' ' and of secondary importance to larger problems.

She said concerns ``labeled dismissively as women's issues belonging at best on the edge of serious debate' ' are in fact central to larger political and economic concerns.

``Deeply rooted attitudes about the value of girls are hard to change, but we must try to persuade mothers and fathers to invest love, attention and resources in their girls, starting with education and health care,' ' Mrs. Clinton said.

``We must develop a new language to replace the deafening silence that still sounds too often when women's concerns are raised.' '

That message is particularly pertinent in the male-dominated Indian subcontinent, where women lag behind men in education, literacy and a variety of health statistics.

Little value is placed on the household and farm work they perform, contributing to high levels of child marriage, female infanticide and inferior care for young girls. Female bondage and forced prostitution are widespread in some parts of Indian society, and violence against women is rising.

Mrs. Clinton used her appearance to announce that the first \$500,000 of a new \$100 million U.S. program to educate women and girls around the world would come in a grant to groups working expand girls' education in India.

She also met privately Wednesday with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao as part of a broader effort by the Clinton administration to strengthen U.S. ties with India, the world's most populous democracy.

Once regarded as an ally of the Soviet Union, India's relations with the United States have warmed with the end of the Cold War and free-market reforms launched in 1991.

However, significant differences between the two countries remain, including U.S. concern over human rights and India's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Human rights groups have been critical of the first lady for not speaking out more vocally about human rights during her five-nation swing through South Asia.

**** filed by:APE(--) on 03/29/95 at 12:55EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 03/30/95 at 09:46EST ****

BC-INDIA-HILLARY-POEM

Indian student's poem publicized by U.S. first lady

By Gene Gibbons

NEW DELHI (Reuter) - A young Indian woman who sent a poem to Hillary Rodham Clinton found her verse publicized Wednesday by the deeply moved U.S. first lady.

"It expresses the feelings that all of us share that women's voices should be heard," Clinton told reporters after rewriting her only speech in India to make the poem by Anasuya Sengupta, 20, its centerpiece.

Entitled "Silence," this is the young woman's poem:

"Too many women in too many countries speak the same language of silence. My grandmother was always silent -- always aggrieved -- only her husband had the cosmic right (or so it was said) to speak and be heard.

"They say it is different now (After all, I am always vocal and my grandmother thinks I talk too much). But sometimes, I wonder.

"When a woman gives her love, as most do generously -- it is accepted.

"When a woman shares her thoughts, as some women do, graciously -- it is allowed.

"When a woman fights for power, as all women would like to, quietly or loudly, it is questioned:

"And yet, there must be freedom -- if we are to speak. And yes, there must be power -- if we are to be heard. And when we have both (freedom and power) let us not be misunderstood.

"We seek only to give words to those who cannot speak (too many women in too many countries). I seek only to forget the sorrows of my grandmother's silence."

Sengupta, a resident of Bangalore now in her final year at Lady Sri Ram College in New Delhi, said she wrote the poem for Mrs. Clinton at the request of her college dean after the White House decided against having the first lady visit its campus.

"I admire her a great deal and I really felt it was an incredible gesture she made to take the trouble to read it, be moved by it, and use it in her speech," the economics student said.

Sengupta, who has never met Mrs. Clinton, said she was aware of the "tremendous backlash" the 47-year old lawyer has encountered in trying to expand the traditional role of first lady and admired her courage.

"I was glad she appreciated the poem and that was enough for little old me," Sengupta said.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 03/29/95 at 10:35EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 03/30/95 at 09:47EST ****

Hillary Clinton announces aid for Indian girls

NEW DELHI, March 29 --

U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton announced Wednesday that India will be the first country to benefit from Washington's promised multimillion dollar grant support for the education of young girls in Asian and African countries, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The United States will work with various nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to improve the status of the girls in these countries, she said in an address at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation.

She had announced Washington's intention to set aside 100 million dollars for the education of girls in developing nations at the recent world summit for social development in Copenhagen.

Making a fervent plea to governments, businesses and society, the wife of President Bill Clinton said social development must be put at the center of political and economic development, and stressed the particular need to care for women.

"We need partnerships to overcome the challenges of expanding economic growth and markets, and no one can remain idle when faced with these challenges to fulfill the aspirations of people for a better world," she said.

Clinton was welcomed earlier by Sonia Gandhi, widow of India's assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi after whom the foundation is named.

Gandhi, in her welcoming address, said the U.S. first lady was an inspiration to those who sought to make public policy responsive to people's needs.

She said crucial issues like poverty and inequality among people could not be ignored in this era of economic growth and productivity.

Hillary Clinton said governments must continue to expand society and market economies, and make social services more accessible to women, else it will curb their development.

Governments must invest more resources in child care through motivation centers and schools, she added, and also called on businesses to assume some social costs along with their economic growth.

She also said her visit to India was the culmination of a lifetime's desire and hoped it would be one of many. She was addressing a packed auditorium of members of parliament, ministers, diplomats and social workers.

She arrived in India on Monday night as part of a five-nation tour of South Asian countries from March 24 to April 6. She has already visited Pakistan and will leave for Nepal on Friday, and will later visit Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

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**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 03/29/95 at 08:57EST ****

BC-INDIA-HILLARY (SCHEDULED)

EU.S. First Lady says new aid to benefit India

By Gene Gibbons

NEW DELHI, India (Reuter) - Hillary Rodham Clinton, basking in the role of goodwill ambassador, announced Wednesday that India would be the first country to benefit from a \$100 million U.S. program that will help educate girls and women.

In a speech at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, a policy development institute named after the Indian prime minister assassinated in 1991, Mrs. Clinton praised this country's economic reforms, but said that here and elsewhere educating women was essential for sustainable growth.

"At the Social Summit in Copenhagen two weeks ago, I announced a new 10-year \$100 USAID girls and womens education initiative. I am happy to announce that India will be the first country to benefit from this program," President Clinton's wife said.

She said the money would be funneled through American and Indian charitable and civic organizations to "expand girls' education in this country."

Mrs. Clinton, on the second leg of a five-country tour of South Asia with her 15-year-old daughter Chelsea, is trying to show that the United States cares about more than defense and trade arrangements in this gender-conscious part of the world.

She began her trip in Pakistan, and is to go on to Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka before returning to Washington April 6.

Her visit to India, the first by an American first lady since the late Jacqueline Kennedy visited in 1962, is receiving the kind of front-page news treatment usually reserved for world leaders.

"I recognize that such problems as education for girls and women is viewed by some as soft, labeled dismissively as a womens' issue, belonging, at best, on the edge of serious debate about all the problems that we confront on the cusp of the 21st century," she said in her speech.

Mrs. Clinton, who afterwards met with Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, said she believed strongly, however, that improving the treatment of women was "at the center of our political and economic challenges."

"Where women lack access to education, health care and economic opportunity, children tend to be less educated, less well-nourished and families tend to be both larger and poor," she said.

"Where women are illiterate, experience has shown that the environment is often poorly managed and democracy remains fragile. One lesson that the experience of the last several decades teaches is that where women prosper countries prosper," Mrs Clinton said.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 03/29/95 at 03:22EST ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 03/29/95 at 08:56EST ****

Mrs. Clinton touts women's issues in India
By SCOTT NEUMAN=

NEW DELHI, March 29 (UPI) U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, on the second full day of her official visit to India, Wednesday urged more attention to women's and children's issues, which she said are inextricably linked to economic growth and population control.

In a speech before the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Mrs. Clinton warned against the tendency to view issues such as education for women as less important than other problems facing the world in the 21st century.

"Where women are illiterate, experience has shown that the environment is often poorly managed and democracy remains fragile," Mrs. Clinton said. "One lesson the experience of the last several decades teaches us is that where women prosper, countries prosper."

When mothers lack education, "Children tend to be less educated, less well nourished and families tend to be both larger and poorer," she said. The first lady is on the second leg of her five-nation tour of South Asia. Mrs. Clinton arrived in New Delhi from Pakistan, where she met with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The first lady's speech was presented in the context of a country whose rapidly expanding population is second only to China's and where poor women and children do not have access to primary education.

But Mrs. Clinton said India had begun to take some positive steps to address its problems.

The first lady praised the work of non-government organizations to empower women and children in Indian society. She also pointed to the country's recent efforts to open up its economy to Western investment as a step toward solving India's deep-rooted poverty.

"Such reforms are essential," Mrs. Clinton said, "But they are rarely sufficient to achieve sustainable development. Where social services and women's access to those services remains limited, growth will prove uneven and unsustainable."

The first lady encouraged India to invest additional resources in education and health care, but acknowledged such social programs remain contentious in the United States.

"My own country is debating vigorously the role of government in supplying social services because of the recognition that a significant number of our own citizens are not equipped to share in the rewards of the newly emerging economy," Mrs. Clinton said.

The first lady concluded her speech by quoting a poem written by a student at the all-women's Lady Sri Ram College in New Delhi. "When a woman fights for power, as all women would like to, quietly or loudly, it is questioned," the poem said.

On the final day of her visit to India on Thursday, Mrs. Clinton is scheduled to visit the country's most famous monument, the Taj Mahal in Agra. She will then visit a women's labor cooperative in Ahmedabad, Gujarat before leaving for Nepal.

**** filed by:UPI(--) on 03/29/95 at 03:54EST ****
**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 03/29/95 at 08:57EST ****

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(MONITORED INDIAN MEDIA HAVE NOT BEEN OBSERVED TO REPORT THE FOLLOWING)
INDIA: Police Break Up Protest During Hillary Clinton Visit BK2903072495
Hong Kong AFP in English 0703 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, March 29 (AFP) -- Several dozen supporters of an Indian opposition party were briefly detained here Wednesday during a protest called to coincide with a visit by U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton, police said.

About 60 demonstrators were herded into police vehicles after some pushing and shoving near an auditorium where Clinton, who arrived here on Tuesday [28 March], was scheduled to address the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, police said.

The demonstrators, who were chanting slogans such as "Mrs. Clinton go home" and "Stop killing Iraqi women and children," were driven away from the site and released, police said.

The protest was organized by the Samata Party led by George Fernandes, a member of parliament who helped drive Coca-Cola out of India while in the cabinet in 1977 and is opposed to the entry of multinational corporations.

Fernandes is an outspoken critic of the economic reform policies of the government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, who has opened the door to foreign investment since taking power nearly four years ago.

The United States is among the leading foreign investors in India and Clinton's four-day visit is the first by a wife of an U.S. president since Jackie Kennedy came to India in 1962.

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**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 03/29/95 at 08:56EST ****



Reuters

Babes in arms

On the second leg of her 12-day goodwill tour of South Asia, Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, tour Mother Teresa's orphanage in New Delhi, India, where they eagerly cradled and rocked two babies in pink dresses. Sister Priscilla (right) was their guide yesterday as Mother Teresa was in Vietnam.



Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea meet children and chat with one of the nuns at an orphanage run by Mother Teresa.

A Tour of Newer Delhi

Clean Teams Precede Clintons' Motorcade

By Molly Moore
Washington Post Foreign Service

DELHI, March 28—Yesterday, anonymous visitors walked a dusty, garbage-strewn lane to reach Mother Teresa's orphanage in the heart of Old Delhi.

Today, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton strolled down a newly paved road to visit the same orphanage.

Call it the Sanitizing of South Asia. Wherever the first lady goes, the governments of some of the poorest nations in the world are a few hours ahead—paving roads, camouflaging garbage dumps, clearing urban streets of cows and shoveling sewage and dung.

Members of Mrs. Clinton's advance party and U.S. embassy staffs

have been marveling at the new, improved Pakistan and India that have emerged in the few days between their scouting tours and the arrival of the first lady and daughter Chelsea on their five-nation tour.

When the Clinton motorcade whisked through the Pakistani countryside yesterday, a long fence of brightly colored fabric shielded it from a sprawling, smoldering garbage dump where children combed through trash and several poor families had built huts from scraps of cardboard, rags and plastic.

At Burki, a middle-class village outside the eastern city of Lahore where Mrs. Clinton visited a school and health clinic, workers dug out

See INDIA, B6, Col. 1

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Preparing For the First Lady

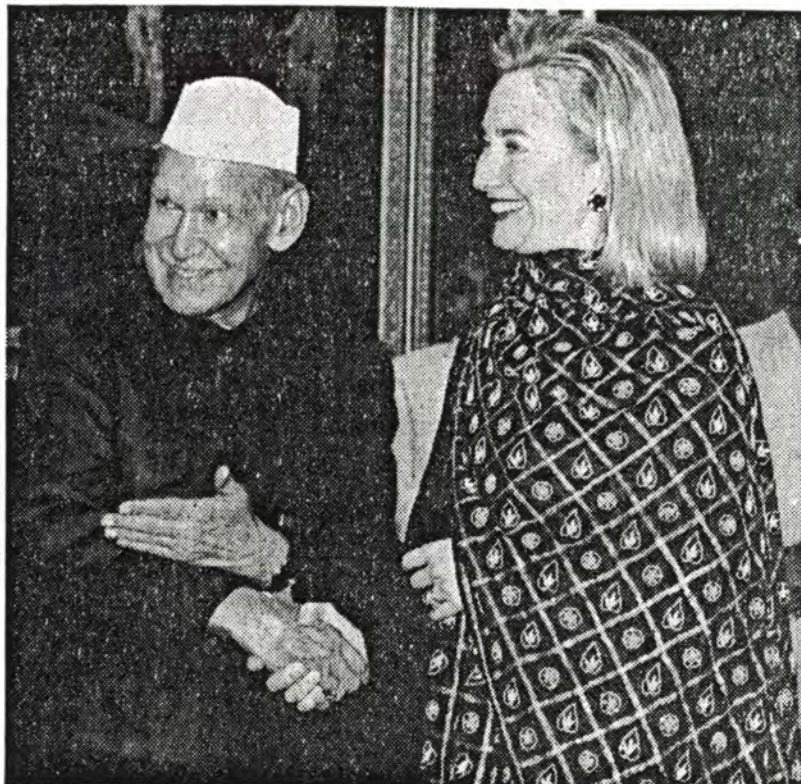
INDIA, From B1

open sewers that had been clogged with smelly sludge and swept away the ubiquitous heaps of rubbish and cow dung that are part of every village landscape.

"This is probably the cleanest village in Pakistan," one Pakistani newspaper reporter said sarcastically while poking the wet mortar of a newly constructed brick wall.

In another instance, Pakistani officials, having heard rumors that the first lady might take a hike into the scenic Margalla Hills overlooking the capital of Islamabad, rushed out and paved a 10-mile stretch of road to a village in the hills. She never took the hike (the Secret Service vetoed the proposal), but villagers got a paved road they'd been requesting for decades.

Security concerns in this region, where assassinations, shootings and bombings are all too commonplace, have also contributed to the distorted and sanitized version of South Asia being shown to the first lady and Chelsea.



First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton meets Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma in his official residence in New Delhi.

Burki, whose entire population would normally turn out to greet any foreigner who arrived for a look around, was eerily quiet during the Clinton visit: Residents of the town's mud houses had been pushed out of sight by a battalion of security forces. While a group of students and teachers met with the first lady in the village square, most residents were con-

finied to distant rooftops or corralled behind police lines.

When a Pakistani government official was asked about the absence of villagers, she replied that most were "napping." Few residents of any rural South Asian village would be caught napping at the same time the American president's wife was rolling into town in a black bulletproof Cadillac flown in from the United States.

The Clintons also missed the adventure of driving one of Old Delhi's busiest stretches of road, where hundreds of pedestrians and cars vie with cows, rickshaws, ox carts and trucks for space in a chaotic tangle of traffic that can best be compared to a scene from a Mad Max movie. Today the street was deserted except for the Clinton motorcade, which raced past

intersections where cars, buses, rickshaws and pedestrians were backed up as far as the eye could see.

"The Clintons don't like it, but it's part of the protocol," said one member of the first lady's travel team.

Meanwhile, back at Mother Teresa's Delhi orphanage, babies who normally wear nothing but thin cotton diapers that do little but promote rashes and exacerbate the reek of urine had been outfitted for the morning in American Pampers and newly stitched floral pinafores.

Even the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi got caught up in the face-lift fever. Ambassador Frank Wisner's wife flew a mural artist from overseas to redecorate the dining room of the embassy residence in time for a luncheon she hosted for Mrs. Clinton today. The artist was still putting the finishing touches on the walls at midnight.

The staff at the Maurya Sheraton Hotel in New Delhi, where the first lady and her entourage are bunking for the next three days, filled its vases with sprays of yellow blossoms in the belief that yellow is the first lady's favorite color. Alas, Mrs. Clinton revealed in an exclusive scoop to schoolchildren on Sunday that her favorite color is, in fact, blue.

For the first lady, however, nothing has matched the spectacle created by Pakistani government officials at a farewell dinner staged at the 12th-century Lahore fort on Sunday night.

In a medieval fairyland created by her hosts, the grounds of the red sandstone and white marble Mogul fort were aglow with the flickering of thousands of tiny oil lamps and the air was perfumed by an altar blanketed with red rose petals. Clad in a red silk *shalwar kameez*—the long tunic and pantaloons that are the native dress of Pakistani women—the first lady reviewed dancing camels, dancing horses and dancing tribesmen in a setting that would have rivaled the most lavish celebrations of its former royal occupants.

ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

Up close to Third World



By John Gaps III, AP

IN NEW DELHI, INDIA: Chelsea Clinton cuddles orphaned toddlers Tuesday as she tours the Mother Teresa Orphanage with her mother, Hillary Rodham Clinton. The two are on a tour of south Asia.

First Lady Visits India Orphanage



Reuters

Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter Chelsea hold infants during a visit to Mother Teresa's orphanage in New Delhi. The Clintons, pictured with a nun from the Missionaries of Charity, are on a three-day visit to India. Mother Teresa was unable to meet with Clinton, because she was in Vietnam. The two have been corresponding about setting up a center in Washington for children awaiting adoption.

PM-Mrs Clinton-Taj Mahal, 340

Mrr. Clinton Awed by Taj Mahal

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

AGRA, India (AP) Awed by an enduring monument to love, Hillary Rodham Clinton explored the shimmering Taj Mahal today and declared wistfully, ``I think I'll just stay right here.''

``I don't think I want to leave,' ' she said. ``This place is just haunting.''

The 17th century pearl-white tomb was built by the Mogul Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died giving birth to their 14th child. Its graceful domes and spires are known around the world and visited by 3 million tourists a year.

Mrs. Clinton's 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, said the building has always been ``the embodiment of the fairy tale palace for me.''

``I would see pictures of it and I would dream I was a princess or whatever, and now that I am here it's spectacular,' ' she said.

After strolling the manicured grounds and marbled pavilions, mother and daughter slipped into purple and brown booties, respectively, and ventured inside to view the inlaid marble tombs encircled by filigreed screens of marble.

``This just takes your breath away,' ' Mrs. Clinton said. ``It's gorgeous.''

The Clintons' guide, Kuldeep Narain, told them the monument ``celebrates the death of a queen. It gives pleasure though it's a place of burial.''

Quoting the Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore, Narain called the building, ``A teardrop on the cheek of time.''

The Indian government earlier this month began a campaign to better protect the monument from damage caused by pollution and vandals. The plan calls for stricter anti-pollution standards in the area and a greater police presence to keep vandals at bay.

From Agra, the first lady flew to Ahmadabad to visit a onetime retreat of Mahatma Ghandi, the leader of the Indian independence movement. She also met with members of the Self-Employed Women's Association, a trade union for poor women that has nearly 150,000 members.

**** filed by:APE(--) on 03/30/95 at 09:15EST ****

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PM-First Lady's Spoils, 1st Ld-Writethru, a0424,660

MRS. CLINTON NOTEBOOK: They'll Need an Elephant To Haul This Stuff Home

Eds: INSERTS new graf 7, Under, with rule on gifts

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

NEW DELHI, India (AP) One of the hardest-working aides to Hillary Rodham Clinton on her tour of South Asia is turning out to be the "gift officer" who keeps track of all the booty she attracts along the way.

From heads of state to children of the slums, it seems everyone has a present or two for the first lady and a few more for her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea.

They've gotten loads of traditional clothing, scarves, jewelry, baubles and trinkets, and enough artwork and handicrafts to redo the White House twice over. And then there are the more lofty "official gifts" from official bigwigs.

From Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto came two Victorian-style chairs with arms of silver for Mrs. Clinton and a silver dressing table for Chelsea. Bhutto also presented both with shalwar kameez, the traditional flowing tunic and pants worn by Pakistani women.

From Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma, add a rosewood panel and chair with inlay work, a silk rug and a Rajasthani table, along with a host of other smaller items.

During a stop at a New Delhi crafts museum on Wednesday, every artisan had a gift for the Clintons. Mother and daughter passed everything to a nearby aide whose arms were bulging by the time the tour ended.

Under federal law, the Clintons can only keep presents valued at under \$250, with the rest belonging to the government. Maybe that's why Mrs. Clinton has been squeezing in some shopping of her own along the way.

Given that the Clintons still have three more nations to go in their 12-day tour of South Asia, the big question is how all this loot will make it back to the White House.

They may have to try Jacqueline Kennedy's solution.

The gifts she received on her 1962 tour of India and Pakistan included an Indian carpet, spinning wheel, handmade saddle, baby elephant, a pair of tiger cubs and a thoroughbred bay gelding named Sardar.

The gelding was flown home aboard a Military Air Transport Service plane, prompting a Republican congressman to complain that he couldn't get passage on a military flight from Pakistan to Greece because the plane had been reserved for Mrs. Kennedy's new horse. The other animals eventually made it to U.S. zoos.

As Mrs. Clinton reciprocates the generosity of her hosts, she is managing to get in a plug for her home state.

To Ms. Bhutto, she presented a limited-edition Pilgrim cameo crystal vase entitled "Moon Over Arkansas." To Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, she presented an Arkansas-made mahogany musical instrument.

Mrs. Clinton's visit hasn't attracted the same multitudes who lined the streets for Mrs. Kennedy's appearance two decades ago, but she's clearly winning converts.

A cartoon in The Premier this week pictured one man asking another, "What will become of Indo-U.S. relations after Mrs. Clinton's visit?"

The response: "Hilarious!"

The Times of India countered by running a "Visitor Watch" containing an index to the importance of Mrs. Clinton's visit, as assessed by the Times of India editorial team.

She collected respectable grades:

Political importance: 7.0.

Impact on India's image: 7.0.

Personality: 8.0

Rating Average: 7.3.

The first lady is having such a good time in Asia she told U.S. embassy staffers at a New Delhi reception that she'd love to return.

But not to worry, she told them, "that's not going to happen anytime soon."

"I know there is a collective sigh of relief when people like me leave," the first lady deadpanned. "I understand that, I don't take it personally. I don't take anything personally anymore. I just keep rolling right along."

Next stop, Nepal.

**** filed by:APE(--) on 03/30/95 at 09:22EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 03/30/95 at 09:44EST ****

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INDIA: Clinton Visit Called 'All-American Confection' (Take 1 of 2)

BK3003082295 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 29 Mar 95 p 11

Article by Sona Thakur under the rubric "U.S. First Lady's Passage Through India": "Hillary Leaves a Trail of Empty Coke Cans"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, March 28 -- Some 30 years after Jacqueline Kennedy brought a visionary whiff of Camelot to India, another First Lady of the United States came visiting with another dream. Only, this time, it was an all-American confection of fast cars and diet coke.

Ms Hillary Rodham Clinton -- with a well-scrubbed Chelsea in tow -- began her three-day goodwill visit on a cliché. She cuddled babies, made the appropriate noises over a display of handicrafts and said the politically correct things about how she loved India today, tomorrow and the day after."

All those expecting a suitably electric glimpse of that fiery feminist-activist-administrator -- often described as the President- by-proxy of the U.S.A. -- were disappointed. All Ms Clinton had to offer was a ritualised rite of a passage through India -- marked by a trail of empty Coke cans.

For someone billed as one of the most able and sensitised minds of the American Administration, Ms Clinton was singularly insensate and solely decorative today. She did speak a few sentences at Prayas, a nongovernmental organisation, she visited. But it could just as well have been Lady Diana, Jane Fonda or Aishwarya Rai speaking.

"It's marvelous how people working together can help each other," she bubbled. "I'm happy to be in your ancient and exciting country," she gushed.

"Children are the most important resource of any family, community or country," she prosed.

Though the First Lady herself presented an anaemic persona, the fun lay elsewhere. All around Ms Clinton in fact. Her securitymen and women -- all-American prototypes in Raybans and lightweight jackets -- put up a hyper-hysterical show. Frenzied as only Americans can be over security, they spent the day rushing round and about every venue, muttering urgently into their cuffs where they had tucked their minute transmitters.

Outside Mother Teresa's local establishment, one harried secret serviceman rushed out and hurriedly shuffled the parked cars. Five minutes later another equally harried one, dashed out and re-shuffled the cars. A couple of minutes later, the first man was back, talking to his shirtsleeve -- "Where's Chelsea's car? I want Chelsea's car here." Another shuffle.

The security procedures Ms Clinton's team put into place bordered on the paranoiac. They flew in two cars -- a Cadillac limousine and Rover, both bearing the inexplicable legend "Celebrate and Discover" on the Washington D.C. number plates -- from the United States; they debarred all Indian security agents from the inner cordon thrown around the two Clintons; they sanitised a kilometre wide arc around each venue visited; and even insisted on going through the files at Mother Teresa's orphanage.

The tag about Americans being nothing but a nation of overgrown children might well have been written with Mr Clinton's staff in mind. At every stopover, one of the first items on the agenda was the unloading of massive ice-boxes. Chilled cans of Coke and its clones were passed around, swigged, and tossed away.

more)

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**** filed by:FBIS(--) on 03/30/95 at 05:19EST ****
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The Reliable Source

By Lois Romano

Verse Ladies

First lady Hillary Clinton made a young Indian woman's day yesterday in New Delhi when she revamped her prepared speech at the last minute to feature the 20-year-old student's moving poem.

"It expresses the feelings that all of us share that women's voices should be heard," Mrs. Clinton told reporters, according to Reuter. The focus of her 10-day trip has been the status of women and children in South Asia. Anasuya Sengupta wrote the poem, "Silence," for the first lady after a visit to her college campus was struck from Mrs. Clinton's jam-packed Asian schedule.

Its plea, in part, is this:

*When a woman gives her love, as most
do generously—it is accepted.*

*When a woman shares her thoughts, as
some women do, graciously—it is
allowed.*

When a woman fights for power, as all



Mrs. Clinton in New Delhi yesterday with Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

*women would like to, quietly or
loudly, it is questioned.*

*And yet, there must be freedom—if we
are to speak. And yes, there must be
power—if we are to be heard. And
when we have both let us not be
misunderstood.*

Said Sengupta, who has never met Mrs. Clinton: "I admire her a great deal and I really felt it was an incredible gesture she made to take the trouble to read it."

Hillary Clinton's Trip: Women's Voice

By TODD S. PURDUM

NEW DELHI, March 29 — Halfway around the world from the battles that haunt her, an outspoken American woman found a new voice today in the words of an Indian schoolgirl, who composed a poem called "Silence" and sent it to Hillary Rodham Clinton with the handwritten exhortation: "More power to you."

"Too many women in too many countries speak the same language — of silence," Mrs. Clinton said in a speech, quoting the poem by Anasuya Sengupta, a senior at the Lady Sri Ram College here. "My grandmother was always silent, always aggrieved, only her husband had the cosmic right (or so it was said) to speak and be heard."

"They say it is different now," Mrs. Clinton read on, her voice catching just a bit at the end of her speech at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, a research institute here. "But sometimes, I wonder. When a woman gives her love, as most do, generously, it is accepted. When a woman shares her thoughts, as some women do, graciously, it is allowed."

"When a woman fights for power, as all women would like to, quietly or loudly, it is questioned," Mrs. Clinton continued, still quoting the poem. "And yet, there must be freedom, if we are to speak. And yes, there must be power, if we are to be heard. And when we have both (freedom and power), let us not be misunderstood."

The poem had special resonance here in the world's largest democracy, where the birth of a daughter can still be an occasion for dread, where brides are beaten or burned if their families resist in-laws' demands for a higher dowry and where sexual harassment is commonplace.

But the First Lady, who has so often felt misunderstood and who has kept her own counsel in the months since the collapse of her health care drive, seemed to be speaking as much to herself and her fellow Americans as to the students in the balcony who exploded in applause.

"I read it and I was just overwhelmed by it," Mrs. Clinton said later of the poem, which was given to her by the college's principal, Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath, at a women's luncheon at the American embassy on Tuesday. "And so I was thinking last night about the speech today, and I rewrote large parts of it so that I could use the poem. I think it expressed the feelings that all of us share, that women's voices should be heard and that silence is not appro-

A schoolgirl in India looks at the plight of women.

priate for women in their own lives, and women in the larger world."

Silent is one thing Mrs. Clinton has not been on this official goodwill visit to five South Asian countries, a journey that her Wellesley classmate Martha Teichner, who is covering the tour for CBS News, described jocularly on the air as a "chick trip." It blends the giddiness of a sorority spring break with the sober feel of a graduate seminar on the responsibilities of sisterhood.

Traveling with her entourage of senior aides, almost all of whom are women, the First Lady has sought to straddle the dichotomies of a region where most women remain subjugated, and where others have become pioneers in high political office only at the price of widowhood or parental assassination.

Mrs. Clinton has steered clear of some policy problems like nuclear proliferation that have long bedeviled United States relations with India and Pakistan, focusing instead on the importance of educating girls and women. An hourlong meeting today with Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao produced only the word that they had discussed how to improve Government performance and economic development.

In her speech today she said that the first installment in a new ten-year international aid program for educating girls and women would come to India, and the amount, \$500,000, was modest enough that she did not even mention it.

At the same time, the First Lady has appeared both freer — and a good deal funnier — than she has seemed at home in some time, even if the South Asia she has seen is a freshly paved, tightly secured and somewhat sanitized version of the real thing.

In Pakistan, the First Lady, a Midwestern-born Methodist, awoke at dawn to the prayer call of a muezzin sounding over the loudspeaker of a mosque, and shared with schoolgirls her thoughts on the politics of meaning and her worries that the "rampant materialism and consumerism" of Western countries is now poised to threaten developing ones.

Asked to name her idol by one ninth-grade English student in the

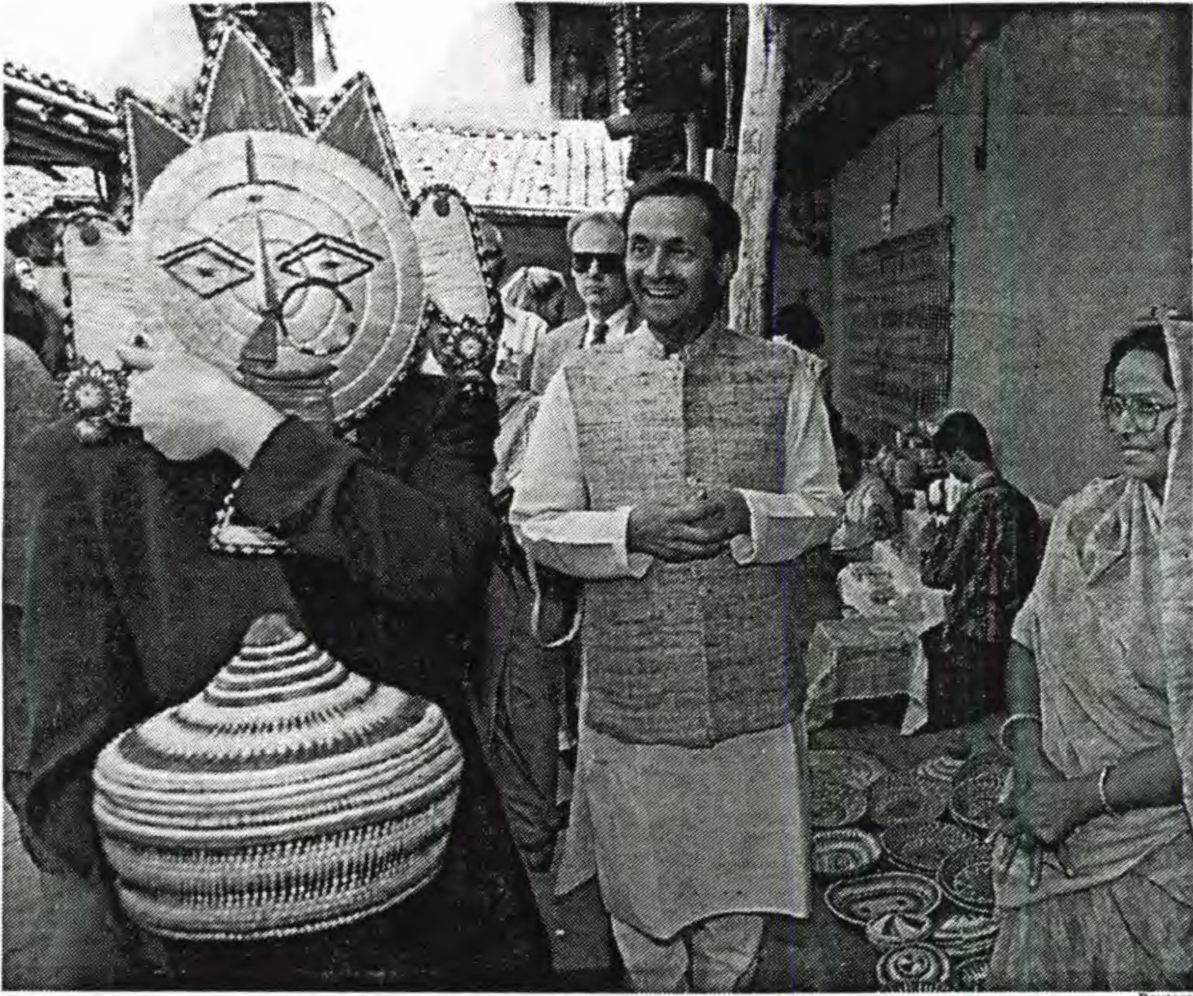
middle-class village of Burki, outside Lahore in eastern Pakistan, Mrs. Clinton replied, "At my age, I don't think I have anyone anymore." Asked by another girl if she had any nicknames, the First Lady replied dryly: "Some people have, I would imagine, quite rude nicknames for me."

Radiant in a billowy red silk shalwar kameez, the traditional Pakistani pajama-style pants suit, she joked to reporters after a moonlight official dinner in the red stone ruins of the Mogul fort at Lahore that she was thinking of experimenting with such a wardrobe back home, in place of the much-remarked past changes in her hairstyle.

In Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity orphanage in New Delhi, she cuddled and cooed at months-old babies with the ease of an experienced mother, never blanching when one little girl tugged at the large gold-and-pearl eagle pinned on her lapel. If she misses a sight or misremembers a story, her 15-year-old daughter Chelsea is there to point it out or correct her with exquisite poise and an air of friendship that would be the envy of most mothers.

"Educating girls is not something that is seen as something to put in banner headlines," she told a group at the Islamabad College for Girls in Pakistan, but "it is something that will change a country if it is done."

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Reuters
Hillary Rodham Clinton tried on a mask that she received yesterday at the Crafts Museum in New Delhi.

BC-NEPAL-HILLARY (PICTURE)

Hillary Clinton promotes health in Nepal

By Gene Gibbons

KATHMANDU, Nepal (Reuter) - U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton brought her diplomatic push for better treatment of women on Friday to the mountain kingdom of Nepal, one of the world's poorest countries.

At an airport welcoming ceremony in the shadow of the Himalayas, she was greeted by Queen Aishwarya and her daughter Shruti.

She then plunged into an agenda that included a visit to a health clinic, a luncheon with leading women and an audience with King Birendra.

Nepal, with a population of 20 million is one of only three countries in the world where women have a shorter life expectancy than men.

Their literacy rate is less than 20 percent, compared to about 55 percent for men, and in rural areas they work longer hours than men.

The wife of President Clinton, on a 12-day goodwill visit to South Asia with daughter Chelsea, also planned some recreation in Nepal -- a private weekend safari at Royal Chitwan National Park, 66 miles south of Kathmandu.

She said the purpose of her two-day visit to Nepal was "not only to experience the natural beauty of this majestic country, but also to gain a deeper understanding of its people and its culture."

Of the 10 highest mountains in the world, nine including the 29,028-foot Mount Everest, are entirely or partly within Nepal's borders. It is one of the world's 10 poorest countries.

"Because the status of women and children around the world is of special concern to me, I hope to learn more about the experience of those groups in Nepal and to exchange ideas with women leaders here," Clinton said in a statement.

Clinton, introduced at the luncheon by U.S. ambassador Sandy Vogelgesang as "our quite incredible champion for change," is politely pushing gender-conscious South Asia to become less of a man's world.

She visited Pakistan and India before Nepal and was to go on to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka before returning to Washington on April 6.

At Kalimati Clinic, in the center of temple-studded Kathmandu, Clinton watched squealing infants being inoculated and helped launch a program to reduce infant and maternal mortality, which is very high because most births occur at home under primitive conditions.

The program involves making available a simple, affordable and easy to use "safe birth kit" that would significantly reduce two causes of maternal and neonatal death -- tetanus and sepsis.

To provide for a hygienic birth in poor Nepali homes, the 40-cent kit contains soap, a plastic sheet, a new razor blade, a small clean coin-like disc that serves as a cutting surface, and umbilical cord ties.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 03/31/95 at 09:00EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 03/31/95 at 10:12EST ****

PM-Mrs Clinton-Asia, 1st Ld-Writethru, a0517,440

Mrs. Clinton Visits Clinic Dispensing Lifesaving Delivery Kit

Eds: Subs last graf to CORRECT king's name

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) In a remote Himalayan nation where 10 out of every 100 babies die in infancy, Hillary Rodham Clinton visited a clinic today where women can get a lifesaving little red box to help protect mothers and children.

The "safe home delivery kit" little larger than a pack of cigarettes contains a sheet of plastic, a piece of string, a razor blade and soap for use by Nepali women who traditionally give birth at home.

"Something like this, as we know around the world, can make an enormous difference if it is available," the first lady said.

Mrs. Clinton, whose 12-day tour of South Asia is centered on the needs of women and children, listened attentively as health experts at the Kalimati Clinic described the sorry conditions under which Nepali mothers often deliver babies.

"All the deliveries are done in unclean situations, and when we say unclean situations, it is really dirty," said Rukmini Charran Shrestha, managing director of Maternal & Child Health Product.

The women-owned company was set up to assemble and distribute the delivery kits, which were developed with support from the Nepali government, aid from the United States and help from private relief groups.

Mrs. Clinton said that was just the kind of cooperative effort that needs to be encouraged around the world.

The first lady scheduled two days in Nepal during her five-nation tour of the Indian subcontinent.

The difficulties for women here are staggering.

The maternal mortality rate of 8.5 deaths per 1,000 births is one of the highest in the world and women bear an average of 5.7 children.

Literacy for children is 18 percent, compared with 52 percent for men; trafficking in women is a serious problem and women in rural areas work considerably longer hours than do men.

Nepal is one of three countries in the world where women die sooner than men, with a life expectancy of 53 years.

The first lady also met with prominent Nepali women and visited a women's craft exhibit to showcase a program that is allowing the poor to turn traditional skills into a source of income.

Mrs. Clinton told the artisans, "What you are doing is what I am trying to encourage, help women gain independence and income."

The first lady also was meeting with Nepal's communist prime minister, Man Mohan Adhikari, and with King Birendra, who four years ago yielded to a pro-democracy movement and accepted a constitutional monarchy.

**** filed by:APE(--) on 03/31/95 at 07:57EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 03/31/95 at 10:12EST ****

Hillary Clinton arrives in Nepal

KATHMANDU, March 31 --

U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton began a three-day trip to Nepal on Friday by visiting a health care center run by American women in Kathmandu.

She also visited an exhibition of Nepalese handicrafts at a local hotel before meeting Nepalese Marxist-Leninist Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari.

Earlier, Clinton flew in from India on the third leg of her Asian tour to be greeted by Queen Aishwarya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah and Princess Shruti Shah.

Clinton's visit to Nepal is the first by the wife of a serving U.S. president. It is also the first time the Nepalese queen has personally received a visiting dignitary on arrival.

Nepal's communist government is giving Clinton red-carpet treatment, having feared it would be boycotted by the United States.

In two places, however, she was greeted by staunch communists waving black flags and placards reading "Yankee go home" and "Down with U.S. Imperialism." About 35 protesters were bundled into police vans.

**** filed by:JAPN(--) on 03/31/95 at 05:21EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 03/31/95 at 10:13EST ****

BC-INDIA-HILLARY (PICTURE)

U.S. First Lady tours Taj Mahal, project for poor

By Gene Gibbons

AHMEDABAD, India, March 30 (Reuter) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday toured the Taj Mahal, India's fabled monument to a husband's love for his wife, and cheered on a much-acclaimed project to help poor women.

"I don't think I want to leave. I think I'll just stay right here. I think this place is just haunting," Mrs Clinton said after spending an hour with her daughter Chelsea, 15, marvelling at the splendid white marble mausoleum at Agra.

Built by the Mughal Emperor Shahjehan in the 17th century in honour of his wife, who died giving birth to their fourteenth child, the monument was once hailed by an Indian poet as "a teardrop on the cheek of time."

After posing for pictures like millions of previous tourists in front of the great domed edifice that looks as though it is floating on air, Mrs Clinton and Chelsea went inside and were shown around by tourguide Kuldeep Narain.

When Narain showed U.S. President Bill Clinton's wife and daughter the delicate inlaid stonework that surrounds the tombs of Shahjehan and his empress, Mrs Clinton exclaimed: "That's incredible. I've never seen anything like it."

Chelsea was equally awed.

"When I was little, this was sort of the embodiment of the fairy tale palace for me. I would see pictures of it, and I would dream I was a princess or whatever, and now that I'm here, it's spectacular," she said.

Afterwards, Mrs Clinton flew to this western Indian business capital where she placed flowers at a retreat on the bank of the Sabarmati River once used by nationalist leader Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1948.

But the main reason for her visit was to get a first-hand look at the work of the Self-employed Women's Association (SEWA), which tries to help poor women gain independence.

Founded 24 years ago by Indian social activist Ela Bhatt, SEWA has organized women involved in such menial labour as garbage-picking and fish-vending into 74 trade associations.

It also operates a bank to provide credit for poor women that has 61,000 customers and assets of \$4 million.

"I have long been interested in what SEWA was doing. The word of your work has travelled many thousands of miles," Mrs Clinton told several hundred sari-clad members of the movement who gathered to greet her.

Mrs Clinton, who was winding up a three-day visit to the world's second most populous country, told the women that "we are working to catch up with SEWA in the United States."

India, with 950 million people, has over 40 percent of the world's poor and a 50 percent illiteracy rate.

After visiting the SEWA bank in a drab, bustling storefront where she was given her own passbook, Mrs Clinton talked with SEWA women for over an hour in a dusty, sunbaked tent outside.

When she asked them to tell her what SEWA had done for them, one shabby member who described herself only as a villager said she was "afraid of everything" until she joined.

"I was afraid of my husband and my mother-in-law and the police and everybody. But since joining SEWA, I'm no longer afraid of anybody," she said through a translator.

Mrs Clinton, in the midst of a 12-day goodwill mission to South Asia, Friday was scheduled to fly to isolated Nepal where a leftist group threatened to demonstrate against her.

She began her trip in Pakistan, and was to visit Bangladesh and Sri Lanka before returning to the United States on April 6.

REUTER



Chelsea Clinton and her mother at the Taj Mahal.

REUTERS

The First Daughter's Passage Through India

By Molly Moore

Washington Post Foreign Service

quickly and briefly exploded into her mom's press secretary's biggest nightmare.

The press—horrors—wanted to *quote* the first daughter's reaction to one of the world's best-known landmarks. No, absolutely not, declared the protective press secretary, Lisa Caputo. Chelsea doesn't give interviews, doesn't answer questions and isn't quoted in the press. Even—

See CHELSEA, D2, Col. 4

AGRA, India, March 30
Chelsea Clinton at the Taj Mahal:

"When I was little, this was sort of the embodiment of the fairy-tale palace for me. I would see pictures of it and would dream I was a princess or whatever. Now that I'm here, it's spectacular."

Chelsea's fairy tale today

Chelsea In India

CHELSEA, From D1

tually, under protest, she relented. This once, she said.

Despite White House characterizations to the contrary, Chelsea Clinton is having something of a coming-out party on a 12-day sweep across the subcontinent with her mother. She stands attentively and confidently at the first lady's side at almost every event.

She cuddled babies with Mom at Mother Teresa's orphanage; she sat beside Mom in a hot village square and listened to a poor Pakistani woman relate the woes of having 10 children; she has charmed tour guides with her insightful and informed questions.

In fact, on a carefully staged trip in which Hillary Clinton's official schedule revolves around women's and children's issues, Chelsea Clinton may be the most interesting untold story.

The Clintons have been rigorous in keeping their 15-year-old daughter out of the spotlight in an effort to allow her as normal a childhood as possible.

On this trip, the cameras have followed every move of both mother and daughter, and Caputo has issued strict instructions for American coverage of Chelsea. When she's with her mother, the events are on the record and can be reported. When she's not with her mother, the press traveling on the

plane with the Clintons cannot report any of her activities.

As a result, the local press in New Delhi can report that Chelsea was seen at a popular local restaurant one night with students from the American school there, but reporters traveling on the plane cannot.

But far more important and interesting is Chelsea's symbolic role: a young woman with a bright future standing before young South Asian women who may not be allowed to finish school because they are needed at home, who will be married off at a young age to boys they have never met and who face lives of drudgery and misery.

Throughout Pakistan and India, young women have related enthusiastically to Chelsea as they accompany her through their schools, villages and homes. Today she appeared at ease sitting amid a crowd of about 250 impoverished women—ragpickers, vegetable vendors and garment makers—during a visit to a branch of the Self-Employed Women's Association, a union of poor working women.

Many of the questions from young girls have been similar to those young girls anywhere would ask each other. At a rural village school in Pakistan where few girls will ever graduate, one student asked Chelsea her favorite subjects in school.

"That's difficult," replied the Sidwell Friends student. "I like history and science."

Chelsea impressed a local official at a mosque in Islamabad with her knowledge of Islam. At the Red Fort in Lahore, Pakistan, she retained minute historical details that she later relayed to less attentive adults in the White House party.

And while the Chelsea of the first year of the administration often appeared intimidated by the crush of cameras and the curious stares that follow any of the Clintons wherever they go, she now takes it all in stride, casting frequent shy smiles toward the crowds.

According to local embassy officials throughout South Asia, Chelsea rejected a long list of "kid-oriented" programs offered at each of her mother's stops—such as puppet shows and appearances at local American schools—opting instead for the same tours, interviews and speeches that the first lady is making.

She usually participates in separate activities only when Hillary Clinton is conducting official meetings or meals with heads of state. And she has even participated in some of those.

In Islamabad, she joined her mother at a lunch hosted by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto because Hillary Clinton said she'd always hoped Chelsea would be able to meet Bhutto; the first lady said she considers the Pakistani leader a strong role model.

The trip has also demonstrated a mother-daughter relationship between Hillary and Chelsea Clinton that would appear to be the envy of any mother: They are respectful and attentive to each other and seem to genuinely enjoy each other's company.

Still, teenagers will be teenagers the world over. What do inquiring young Indian girls with straight dark hair want to know about Chelsea?

Are her curly blond locks real or permed?

Answer: They're real.

South Asia's problems overwhelm the senses

But Mrs. Clinton likely to be shielded

By Ben Barber
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

It is unlikely that Hillary Clinton on her March 24-April 6 trip will pierce the veil of religion, poverty and culture that keeps close to a billion South Asian women and children in poverty.

Despite attempts in Pakistan and India to shield Mrs. Clinton from the stench of poverty, most Westerners need but the drive from the airport into town to notice that people have torn and filthy clothing, children lack shoes or suffer from untended illness and emaciated cows graze on weeds.

And when a woman from the prosperous kingdom of Thailand first visited Nepal a few years ago, within half an hour she turned to me and said: "What kind of a king do these people have? Doesn't he know how they live?"

A few months later an uprising restored democracy and left the king a constitutionally limited monarch.

After nearly three decades of visits to Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka—many of them as a reporter for U.S. newspapers—I have seen pictures of human misery that surpass imagination: mutilated beggar children exposing their deformities for the profit of what is basically a beggar-pimp; open fields where the entire village goes to defecate each morning; and young children turning lathes in the carpenter shop or scrubbing pots with black mud by the public tap.

There are bright spots in the picture. In Bangladesh, a Dhaka reporter told me of a meeting

where an old, poor woman had stood up to criticize the agriculture minister and demand improved services.

"I had never seen a woman of her caste speak to the authorities like that," recalled the Bangladeshi reporter. "Something had given her the courage and strength to do it."

He found she belonged to a group linked to the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), which had organized 40,000 villagers back in the middle 1980s.

BRAC worked with the poorest of the poor, landless laborers, and offered free literacy classes. They helped villagers form groups that paid for one member to be trained as a medic, another as a farmer and a third as a weaver. When the medic returned, he or she treated the group for free and charged the rest of the village, using the proceeds for medicine.

Landowners who lost their source of cheap labor as the group found they could rent land and grow their own crops, attacked the members as communists and drove them from their mosque. Among their supposed offenses was giving women an equal voice.

In Peshawar, Pakistan, where the women wear black burkas covering them from head to toe, I asked students at the university what they—presumably the more educated elements in society—thought about women's rights.

They had little sympathy for their sisters. At age 8 the girls are pulled out of school and thereafter remain inside the family compound. "They are like a dog," said one student. "They look out the window and that is all they can do."

Enjoying India



Reuters

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and 15-year-old Chelsea Clinton pose for photos before visiting the Taj Mahal. Mrs. Clinton, who is to fly to Nepal today, also visited the Self-Employed Women's Assn. in Ahmadabad, where she spoke with trade union members.



Reuters

A trip and a fall

Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, moving on to India as part of their 12-day tour of South Asia, are startled as a photographer falls down while taking their picture yesterday in front of the Taj Mahal.

Hillary Clinton Talks to Poor Working Women's Group in India

AHMADABAD, India, March 31 (AP) — In a sweltering tent, Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke today with vegetable vendors, embroidery workers and other poor women who said they were no longer afraid to organize for better treatment in India's marketplace and society.

Mrs. Clinton's visit to the Self-Employed Women's Association could well be the defining moment of her 12-day tour of South Asia, a trip centered on promoting better health, education and opportunity for women and girls throughout the world.

"I will never forget what I have

seen and heard and learned here today," Mrs. Clinton told a group of 200 women. "I know how this kind of solidarity and effort can change lives."

S.E.W.A. is a union of 143,000 women formed in 1972 to help those in the largely invisible "informal" economy of agricultural workers, vendors and other self-employed women. It was organized by 62-year-old Ela Bhatt, a follower of Mohandas K. Gandhi who wanted to ensure better treatment for the often oppressed, illiterate women who struggle to provide for their families.

From a modest beginning, the association has grown into the country's leading women's organization. It set up a bank that offers credit to women who otherwise could not get loans, organizes cooperatives to build up business and create jobs, offers skills training and health insurance and provides legal aid.

Mrs. Clinton, who first met Mrs. Bhatt at the White House last year, said the United States could learn from the association's example on expanding access to credit and other matters, and praised the group's efforts to give women "a better life

without fear."

Earlier today, Mrs. Clinton laid a wreath at a monument to Gandhi and toured the Ahmadabad retreat where he lived from 1918 to 1930. She also toured the Taj Mahal with her 15 year-old daughter Chelsea. The 17th-century tomb was built by the Mogul Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died giving birth to their 14th child.

On Friday Mrs. Clinton is scheduled to fly to Nepal. She has already visited Pakistan and is to visit Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Clintons go on wildlife tour

By BHOLA RANA=

KATMANDU, April 1 (UPI) First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea got a tour of exotic plants and animals Saturday during a visit to Nepal's Royal Chitwan National Park.

The Clintons toured the park, home to endangered Bengal tigers and the one-horned Asian rhino, as part of their five-nation South Asian visit that so far has taken them to Pakistan and India.

Earlier Saturday, Clinton and her 15-year-old daughter took a brief walk in the countryside, taking in the mountainous landscape and terraced fields in the foothills of mountains where farmers eke out a living in this poor, Himalayan kingdom.

They also toured temples and carved-wood homes in Bhaktapur, a city east of the capital Katmandu.

On Friday, the first lady arrived for her two-day visit and met the country's first Communist prime minister, who emphasized the need for friendly relations between the nations.

"I explained the pragmatic and democratic policies of the government. I said we need the help of the United States and friendly relations were necessary," Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari told reporters after his 20-minute meeting with Clinton.

"She was responsive," said Adhikari, who came to power in November elections.

Adhikari said he also pressed upon the wife of the U.S. president the need for U.S. companies to engage in joint business ventures in Nepal.

Clinton met separately with King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya at the royal palace.

The Clintons also visited a Katmandu clinic, where the first lady talked to mothers as they were feeding their babies and presented them a 40-cent "safe birth kit."

The simple kit consists of a plastic shell, a bar of soap, a blade and a small sheet of plastic and aims at helping clean deliveries at homes where 90 percent of births are registered.

Nepal, with a population of 20 million and annual per capita income of \$210, is one of the most impoverished nations in the world. Experts hope the kit will help save millions of lives in Nepal, where the rate of mortality among women is the highest in the world 850 per 100,000 and life expectancy at birth among the lowest.

The Clintons head for Bangladesh on Sunday and they will visit Sri Lanka before returning to the United States.

**** filed by:UPI(--) on 04/01/95 at 05:01EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(MAN7) on 04/03/95 at 09:32EST ****

bc-clinton-hillary

(wap) (ATTN: Foreign editors)

First Lady Reverts to Traditional Role During Asian
Tour (Katmandu)

By Molly Moore= (c) 1995, The Washington Post=

KATMANDU, Nepal At the most lavish event of her South Asian journey, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton surveyed her palace dinner guests earlier this week from a raised, white marble pavilion that once served as the emperor's public audience hall.

In the Mogul emperor's day, she'd have been peeking at the scene from behind a marble screen at the rear of the pavilion with the other women, barred from participating in the men's festivities.

And while women have made progress in the 370 years since the Mogul royalty reigned at the Red Fort in Lahore, Pakistan, Clinton

who has been both vilified and admired for her role as a non-traditional first lady has reverted to the most traditional of first lady vocations on her five-nation tour of the subcontinent.

She has toured schools, health clinics and an orphanage. She has been the guest of honor at innumerable teas, luncheons and receptions. She has met with women whose positions in life range from leader to student to ragpicker. She has shopped, played tourist and goodwill ambassador and, on Saturday, will ride an elephant into a Himalayan wildlife park.

But she has avoided any semblance of controversy and has declined to engage in discussion of substantive issues beyond women's and children's agendas.

"For someone billed as one of the most able and sensitized minds of the American administration, Ms. Clinton was singularly insensate and solely decorative today," the Calcutta Telegraph newspaper wrote this week during her journey through India. "She did speak a few sentences at Prayas (school). ... But it could just as well have been Lady Diana, Jane Fonda or (Miss World) Aishwarya Rai speaking."

The newspaper continued: "It's marvelous how people working together can help each other," she bubbled. "I'm happy to be in your ancient and exciting country," she gushed. "Children are the most important resource of any family, community or country," she prosed."

Clinton, who has made two substantive speeches and given no interviews to the local media during the first week of her 12-day tour, defended her agenda at a speech before the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation in New Delhi this week.

"I recognize that discussion of such problems as education and health care for girls and women is viewed by some as 'soft,' labeled dismissively as a women's issue belonging, at best, on the edge of serious debate," Clinton said. "I want to argue strongly, however, that the questions surrounding social development, especially women ... are at the center of our political and economic challenges."

That is particularly true in the overpopulated, Third World countries she has chosen to visit, where women are often subjected to a lifetime of discrimination with little or no hope of relief. Female infanticide is practiced in cultures that consider women burdens to the family. Female children are fed less, denied education, refused medical care and forced into early marriages. If they are widowed, they are denied inheritances and often banished from the homes of their own families.

Clinton, however, has trod delicately in presenting her messages to South Asian audiences. In India, she issued this gentle admonishment:

"Deeply rooted attitudes about the value of girls are hard to change, but we must try to persuade mothers and fathers to invest love, attention and resources in their girls, starting with education and health care."

While the Indian press berated Clinton as presenting "an anemic persona," the criticism is taking darker overtones in Bangladesh, which she will visit Sunday, and in Nepal, where she landed Friday.

In the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka, an estimated 2,000 Muslims

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representing strict fundamentalist views marched Friday in protest of the work of non-governmental organizations that are helping women. The fundamentalist groups accused the women's aid associations of trying to lure local women away from traditional Islam.

One of the primary targets of fundamentalist groups in recent months has been the Grameen Bank, one of the stops on Clinton's Bangladesh tour. The bank has achieved international fame as an institution that provides loans to poor, landless women.

"We shall wave torn shoes at her if she tries to promote the non-governmental organizations," Faisal Hug Amini, one of the group's leaders, said at a rally today, according to the Associated Press.

In many South Asian cultures, waving or throwing shoes accessories of the lowest part of the body is considered a grave insult. Friday, several dozen demonstrators protesting the Nepalese government's policies of openness to Western countries threw shoes and rocks at the first lady's motorcade as she left the airport. One protester waved a sign upside-down that read, "Go home Imperialists."

Katmandu police said 23 people were jailed on charges of throwing objects at the motorcade. As the vehicles, including Clinton's black bullet-proof Cadillac, rolled through the street, police could be seen wrestling some protesters to the ground.

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BC-NEPAL-HILLARY (PICTURE).

Hillary Clinton meets Edmund Hillary in Nepal

KATHMANDU, April 2 (Reuter) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on Sunday met Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to climb the world's highest mountain Everest located in Nepal.

"She is a charming lady. I enjoyed the meeting," Sir Edmund, a 75-year-old New Zealander, told Reuters.

The meeting dubbed a "Hillary-meets-Hillary" encounter was Clinton's last engagement before she left the Himalayan kingdom for Bangladesh, the next leg of a South Asian tour that has already taken her to Pakistan and India.

Clinton returned from a jungle safari weekend in Nepal's foothill forests to meet the man who scaled the 8,848-metre (29,028 feet) Everest in 1953 with Nepal's Tenzing Norgay Sherpa.

June Hillary, the mountaineer's wife, presented Clinton with a book on Sagarmata, a local name for Everest.

Her husband now runs a trust that does work to help the Sherpa community, the famed Himalayan porters and shepherds, in the district where Everest is located.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 04/02/95 at 05:09EST ****

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BC-NEPAL-HILLARY-NOTEBOOK (PICTURE)

U.S. first lady meets mountaineer on ``chick trip''

By Gene Gibbons

KATHMANDU, Nepal (Reuter) - First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on Sunday met the man for whom she is named -- Sir Edmund Hillary, the New Zealand mountaineer who was first to climb Mount Everest.

Hillary, 75, was waiting at Tribhuvan International Airport to see Mrs. Clinton as she left for Bangladesh after a three-day stay in Nepal.

He said it was ``sheer coincidence'' that their paths happened to cross. The soft-spoken adventurer runs a foundation that builds schools and clinics in the Himalayas, the mountain range that made him world famous, and he had just come to Nepal on a visit.

Mrs. Clinton later said that her mother, Dorothy Rodham, read an article about Hillary while she was pregnant with her, and that this was the reason for the unusual spelling of her first name.

``She read an article in 1947 and that was before he climbed Everest. So when I was born, she called me Hillary and she always told me it was because of Sir Edmund Hillary,'' the wife of President Clinton told reporters.

Sir Edmund climbed the world's highest peak in 1953, explaining he did do ``because it was there.''

Nowadays in the United States, Mrs. Clinton's fame exceeds his own, he said.

``In America, before if anybody recognized the name Hillary, it was always me, and now they say, ``Oh, you must be a lady,'' he said.

During her goodwill tour of South Asia, Mrs. Clinton has been showered with gifts, but she will be able to keep only a few.

Under American law, gifts to a president and his family must be surrendered and appraised at U.S. market value. Anything worth more than \$250 becomes property of the U.S. government.

Mrs. Clinton and her travelling companion, daughter Chelsea, 15 have been given native dresses, beautiful handwoven shawls and scarfs and all sorts of jewelry.

``You'd be surprised at how much these things sell for in the United States,'' a U.S. official said. The official predicted that almost all the gifts from leaders and people of the countries on Mrs. Clinton's itinerary -- Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka -- would wind up in the U.S. national archives.

Mrs. Clinton, 47, has not seemed to suffer jet-lag during her 12-day, 20,000 mile trip, nicknamed the ``Chick Trip'' because of all the women on it, but the long hours and lack of sleep is beginning to take a toll on others in her travelling party.

Despite almost obsessive efforts to avoid tainted food and unsafe drinking water, several White House officials and members of the 16-person traveling press contingent have had intestinal complaints.

Two of the press people -- a photographer who lost his footing and took a bad fall at India's Taj Mahal and a Reuter reporter who blacked out and vomited at a dinner for Mrs. Clinton in the Nepali jungle -- required medical attention from

a White House doctor and Secret Service medic in Mrs. Clinton's entourage.

Both are now all right.

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 04/02/95 at 07:03EST ****
**** printed by:WHPR(MAN7) on 04/03/95 at 09:33EST ****

Bangladeshi child labor takes spotlight

DHAKA (UPI) Bangladeshi human rights activists greeted the arrival of U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in the capital with a plea for the U.S. president's wife to get a first-hand look at the fate of children ousted from garment factories under U.S. pressure.

Speakers at a workshop in Dhaka said only a handful of the 50,000 children thrown out of Bangladesh's 1,500 garment factories in recent months has a chance to go to school.

The children were laid off in the wake of a proposed U.S. legislation that would ban the import of goods manufactured in factories employing children younger than 15.

"We hope Mrs. Clinton will see for herself the condition of the children here and help in their well being," said Nazmul Huda, a member of parliament and former minister who is also a well-known human rights advocate.

Some 7,000 of the 50,000 children laid off by garment factories since October of 1994 have been rehabilitated, a workshop organized by the Garment Workers Federation was told.

Those children are being provided education at school set up by Dhaka, UNICEF, and BGMEA, an international labor organization and garment owners' association, said Garment Workers Federation chief Khurshid Alam.

BGMEA claims all children from the garment sector, which currently employs some 1 million workers, have been laid off.

But human rights groups suspect between 10,000 and 30,000 children may still be working in factories that don't export to the United States.

Huda severely criticised the U.S. legislation proposed by Sen. Tom Harkin of Idaho and questioned its motives.

"The Harkin bill is not designed to protect children's human rights, but to serve vested interest", he said.

Bangladeshi human rights groups believe the bill was sponsored by U. S. labor unions that fear massive loss of jobs in the textile and apparel industry due to stiff competition from Third World producers such as Bangladesh.

Ready-made garments account for 60 percent of Bangladesh's annual export revenue of \$2.4 billion. The United States is the largest single market for Bangladeshi garments, accounting for nearly 50 percent of all the nation's garment exports.

**** filed by:UPI(--) on 04/02/95 at 08:09EST ****
**** printed by:WHPR(MAN7) on 04/03/95 at 09:34EST ****

U.S. first lady arrives in Bangladesh

By SABIR MUSTAFA=

DHAKA, April 2 (UPI) U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived in the Bangladeshi capital Sunday, saying she hoped to learn more about the nation's programs to eliminate poverty.

"I hope to learn more about the special efforts being made to help women and children achieve their full potential in life", Mrs. Clinton, who is traveling with her teenage daughter, Chelsea, said in a brief statement.

Bangladesh is the fourth stop on a five-nation South Asia tour for the wife and daughter of U.S. President Bill Clinton. The entourage arrived around midmorning at Zia International Airport aboard a U.S. Air Force Boeing 707.

"Mrs. Clinton is very excited about her visit to Bangladesh," a White House spokesman said earlier.

In her airport statement, the U.S. first lady said she has always been an admirer of the people of Bangladesh for the "determination and creativity they have shown in building a free society."

"This nation has always been a model of self-reliance and resilience, one whose success in building a free society and a vibrant economy have much to teach the world," she said.

Mrs. Clinton, who was received at the airport by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Asm Mostafizur Rahman, did not speak to the press.

But the press spoke loudly, welcoming the first lady in language that bordered on sycophantic.

"Hillary Clinton is coming", screamed a multicolored headline atop a front-page story in "Ittefaq," Bangladesh's largest-selling newspaper.

But this treatment was comparatively restrained. Others dug into history and compared the Clintons with the Kennedys.

"The Clinton couple's commitment to affirmative action programs like that of the Kennedys endear them to us. We welcome her visit in our midst with all warmth and sincerity," wrote former diplomat Mohiuddin Ahmed in the op-ed column of Sunday's Financial Express.

The Clintons drove directly to Dhaka's lone five-star hotel, the Sonargaon Pan-Pacific, around which U.S. Secret Service agents threw a tight security cordon.

The presidential palace was the first official stop for the U.S. first lady. Mrs. Clinton met briefly with President Abdur Rahman Biswas before driving to the residence of U.S. Ambassador David N. Merrill at the other end of the city.

Early Monday, Mrs. Clinton will begin the portion of the trip for which, according to Foreign Ministry officials, she undertook the tour of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka examining the plight of women and children.

She will fly to Jessore, 156 miles (250 km) west of Dhaka to visit villages in which women have made a life through the Grameen Bank's credit program. The Jessore trip will include sever miles (kilometers) of walking along dirt tracks through some of the most backward rural landscape of Bangladesh.

ward rural landscape in Bangladesh. She also plans to visit schools run by Bangladesh's rural advancement committee, a non-governmental organization that has made a name through innovative primary education for girls.

The U.S. first lady is scheduled to meet 25 of Bangladesh's most prominent women, ranging from lawyers and businesswomen to human rights activists. Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea are set to fly to Sri Lanka Tuesday morning.

BC-NEPAL-HILLARY (PICTURE)

U.S. first lady takes elephant ride in Nepalese jungle

By Gene Gibbons

ROYAL CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK, Nepal (Reuter) - ``All elephants and agents, Evergreen is on pachyderm, signal depart, depart.''

That coded U.S. Secret Service radio message is fanciful, but U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, codenamed ``Evergreen,' ' did in fact ride an elephant during a weekend safari in this Napalese game preserve 75 air miles southwest of Kathmandu.

Not only that, she and her daughter Chelsea, 15, were preceded and followed by elephants bearing bodyguards during their two-hour excursion into the jungles of this remote Hindu kingdom.

Mrs. Clinton's overnight visit to the 360-square-mile park, which is home to the rare Bengal tiger and hundreds of other wildlife species, was arranged to give her a respite from the pomp and ceremony of her 12-day goodwill tour of South Asia.

Before resuming her journey on Sunday with a two-day visit to Bangladesh, the most densely populated large country in the world, the wife of President Clinton took time out to unwind at a rustic jungle camp with only one telephone and no electricity.

Once a royal tiger-hunting preserve, Chitwan is now considered to be one of the finest game conservation areas in Asia.

Mrs. Clinton began her safari experience after a day of events in the Napalese capital, Kathmandu, which were designed to politely push for better treatment of women in a country that is still very much a man's world.

She was the third important foreign visitor to Nepal in recent weeks -- preceding her to the constitutional monarchy where a communist government is now in power were a senior North Korean diplomat and the foreign minister of Cuba.

During her elephant ride and a subsequent boat trip, the First Lady and her daughter saw rheinoceros, deer, monkeys and wild boar. But the closest they came to a tiger was seeing some pawprints.

Before dining by kerosene lantern Saturday night, she and Chelsea got full-scale briefings by a U.S. official and a tiger expert on efforts to improve Nepal's environment.

Mrs. Clinton was in the midst of a 20,000-mile journey that began last Sunday in Pakistan. India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were the other counties on her itinerary.

In Bangladesh, she was to get a first-hand look at a bank for poor, landless women in the southwest region of the country that has gained international acclaim.

She also planned to visit a world-renowned center for research into the treatment and prevention of diarrhea, a major killer of infants and children in this part of the world.

Mrs. Clinton was to go on to Sri Lanka Tuesday and return to Washington April 6.

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AM-AR- Arkansas Welcome-Hillary, Ark Bjt,330
Arkansan to Greet First Lady in South Asia
phphcon

ENOLA, Ark. (AP) An Arkansan will greet first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, as they continue their tour of South Asia this week.

Penny Lindsey, formerly of Enola, was chosen from among 10 people to welcome the Clintons to Sri Lanka.

Mrs. Lindsey is a registered nurse and a volunteer at the American Embassy in Sri Lanka. She and her family have lived in Colombo, the largest city in Sri Lanka, for three years. Her husband, Phillip Lindsey is an employee at the Ansell Ed Mont hospital in the island country.

Mrs. Lindsey lived in Enola until she was about 4 years old. She attended Harding College in Searcy and nursing school, then worked in Little Rock before moving to Sri Lanka. Her father, the late Thomas L. Hoggard of Enola, was killed in the Titan II missile silo explosion in 1965.

Her mother, Lois Jean Hoggard of Enola, said Mrs. Lindsey has actually met Chelsea before. She said Mrs. Lindsey dressed a newborn Chelsea to go home while working in an Arkansas hospital. Mrs. Lindsey didn't tell that to the people interviewing her for the visit, her mother said, but her Arkansas connections were a big plus in the selection process.

The first lady and Chelsea will also meet with the Lindseys' children, Luke, 12, Kate, 10, Colin, 8, and Patrick, 6. The meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sri Lanka time about 2 a.m. Wednesday in Arkansas.

Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea are on a 12-day, five-nation tour of South Asia to better understand the problems of illiteracy, poverty and civil rights abuses in those countries.

Sri Lanka, about 20 miles off the southeast coast of India, was formerly known as Ceylon. The country has been struggling with civil unrest since 1983 when Tamil guerillas began to fight against the Sinhalese government. Thousands have been killed in the violence.

**** filed by:APW-(AR) on 04/02/95 at 13:46EST ****
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Despite the overflow crowd, there was one sought-after guest missing from the Tiger Tops scene.

Sir Edmund Hillary, the first person to reach Mount Everest's summit in 1953, had hoped to drop in for a visit but was foiled by a cancelled flight out of Auckland, New Zealand.

Hillary, a frequent visitor and benefactor of Nepal since his historic trek, did make it to Katmandu for a brief Hillary-to-Hillary handshake at the airport before Mrs. Clinton departed for Dhaka on Sunday.

At 75, the world's best-known mountain climber admits he's having to get used to sharing his last name with the first lady's first.

"To be honest with you, in America before, if anybody recognized the name it was always me," he said. "Now they say, 'Oh, you must be a lady.'"

And now we know why Hillary Rodham Clinton has that double L in her first name.

The first lady said her mother had read an article about the famous climber, and knew that his name had two L's.

"So when I was born, she called me Hillary and she always told me, 'It's because of Sir Edmund Hillary,'" Mrs. Clinton reported.

**** filed by:APE(--) on 04/02/95 at 14:50EST ****
**** printed by:WHPR(MAN7) on 04/03/95 at 09:35EST ****

AM-First Lady's Getaway, 750

SAFARI NOTEBOOK: Who's That Lumbering Through The Elephant Grass?

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

ROYAL CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK, Nepal (AP) When Hillary Rodham Clinton wants to get away from it all, she doesn't mess around.

Taking a weekend break from official duties on her Asian tour, the first lady escaped already-remote Katmandu and traveled two hours by prop plane, land rover and rowboat to the Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge.

Hidden in the tall elephant grass of the Royal Chitwan National Park, the ever-so-rustic lodge offers no phones, no electricity, no locks on the doors. Just kerosene lamps, solar-heated water and plenty of elephants to ride on safari.

Mrs. Clinton, clad in a full-skirted khaki dress, hiking boots and straw hat, was high atop 10-foot-tall Shamsher Bahadur before she knew it, sharing her rosewood perch on the Asian elephant with daughter Chelsea and an aide.

Of course, a sunset safari requires special accoutrements when one of the passengers is the first lady: Her elephant entourage included a pachyderm packed with Secret Service agents.

As Shamsher Bahadur and his charges headed off into the brush, agents could be seen furtively whispering into the microphones running up their sleeves.

Mrs. Clinton's safari retreat was meant to be a respite from the whirlwind schedule of her 12-day march across South Asia, and that meant special ground rules for the 14 reporters and photographers traveling with her.

Aides declared her visit to Chitwan would be off the record, with one exception a "photo opportunity" atop the elephant.

"Fancy meeting you here," Mrs. Clinton quipped to photographers as Shamsher Bahadur dutifully lumbered over to the designated spot and posed for the cameras.

Making small talk while the cameras clicked, the first lady asked for a report on game-sightings. When reporters said they'd spotted three mother-daughter rhinoceros pairs, Mrs. Clinton momentarily slipped back into her official role of woman's advocate, declaring, "Mothers and daughters! Are they sending their girls to school?"

Tiger Tops, billed as an environmentally responsible wildlife retreat, has attracted its share of dignitaries, royalty and celebrities over the years.

Everyone from Queen Elizabeth, for whom a jungle airstrip was built in 1961, to former President Carter, who brought along special communications equipment in 1986 that allowed him to wish daughter Amy a happy birthday back in the United States.

Stars from Mick Jagger to Goldie Hawn turn up with regularity, so the lodge staff has learned to take its big-name guests in stride.

That blase attitude notwithstanding, Mrs. Clinton's visit was something of an oddity, given her traveling party of roughly 60 including aides, security agents and press.

With the overflow crowd pushing some Tiger Tops staff into tents, lodge spokeswoman Lisa Choegyal reported, "Mrs. Clinton wins the prize for the largest entourage."

Mrs. Clinton was ready to rough it at Tiger Tops but only to a point.

She brought along a shortwave radio in hopes of tuning in the NCAA basketball tournament game between her beloved Arkansas and the University of North Carolina.

No luck there. But she did manage to get the score (Arkansas won) after aides used a special satellite phone to check in with the president's entourage in Little Rock, Ark.

And Mrs. Clinton caught reruns on TV when she reached Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Sunday.

On the Road in Hillaryland

By TODD S. PURDUM

HERE in the shadows of Mount Everest this weekend, the burning questions are these: Will the world see America's No. 1 Democratic woman on that Republican icon, the elephant? And when Hillary Rodham Clinton sets out on a safari, who will win — the First Lady or the tiger?

Halfway through her 12-day official visit to South Asia, Mrs. Clinton has paused below the peak conquered by that other Hillary in search of a vanishing breed. So far, the view isn't bad. Mrs. Clinton's good will tour has been animated by an air of high moral purpose as she stresses the importance of educating women in a region that is home to some of the most oppressed, and most resourceful, women in the world. She has visited families, schools, a worker's union, government officials and even one of Mother Teresa's orphanages (yes, an orphanage).

The stream of photo-ops, shopping stops and short hops aboard the old Boeing 707 that serves as Air Force One and a Half has also produced its share of low comedy, as a planeload of White House aides and reporters joined Mrs. Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, on the journey into what the First Lady herself calls "Hillaryland." What follows is a strictly selective collection of impressions from along the way.

Candlesticks Are Nice

March 25. A refueling stop in Cairo turns into a surprise visit to the pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza, combining the serendipity of a trip to the Dairy Queen with the logistics of a Napoleonic campaign. The First Lady's entourage whizzes through downtown Cairo at midday with every intersection blocked off. Mrs. Clinton declines the offer of a camel ride, and a bit over two

hours later is back in the air.

March 26. A luncheon with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan in Islamabad begins a seemingly endless series of gift exchanges. Mrs. Clinton gives: a limited-edition crystal vase titled "Moon Over Arkansas" and a pair of silver candlesticks. Mrs. Clinton gets: two Victorian-style chairs with silver arms.

March 27. The First Lady meets a group of 16-to-20-year olds at the Islamabad College for Girls, where one offers a clear-eyed view of marriage. "You're never going to find the proper person or the ideal man," the girl says. "You have to be a lot more realistic." A few minutes later, Mrs. Clinton offers her own sober summary: "It's not a partnership that's 50-50. It's a partnership that's 100 percent and 100 percent, because that's what you have to give to it."

That's Entertainment

March 28. The traveling party is still agog from an official dinner the night before in the ruins of the red sandstone mogul fort at Lahore, Pakistan, where meandering paths were lit by thousands of tiny oil lamps and the entertainment included dancing camels. The glow fades just a bit when word spreads that the Secret Service had been worried about cobras in the garden.

March 29. After a day crowded with a speech on women's rights, a lunch with the Indian Prime Minister and an evening reception at the American Embassy in New Delhi, Mrs. Clinton undertakes a midnight economic development mission: She buys several chain-stitched rugs at the National Cottage Emporium in the Sheraton Hotel. The Kashmiri proprietor, Manzoor Wangnoo (a salesman straight from Central Casting) coins a new title worthy of a major Memsahib: "Her Ladyship." Mrs. Clinton's Deputy Chief of Staff, Melanne Verveer, becomes "Her Deputy Ladyship."

March 30. Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea visit the white marble meringue of a mausoleum that is the Taj Mahal.



Associated Press

It was Saturday, so it must have been Egypt. During a refueling, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton visit Giza.

Inside, Chelsea says: "When I was little, this was sort of the embodiment of the fairy-tale palace for me. I would see pictures of it and would dream I was a princess or whatever. Now that I'm here it's spectacular."

Mrs. Clinton's press secretary, Lisa Caputo, plays a tape of the comment for reporters who did not hear it. But after television correspondents asked if Chelsea, whose privacy is zealously guarded by the White House and respected by reporters, will repeat the remarks on camera, Ms. Caputo declares the words off the record

altogether. After some pointed discussions about genies and bottles and a consultation with Mrs. Clinton, Ms. Caputo relents.

April 1. Bound in a few minutes for a safari in the Chitwan National Forest, aboard a fleet of lumbering elephants. No phone, no fax, some fuss. The quarry: the elusive and endangered royal Bengal tiger. The real trophy: a picture of Mrs. Clinton on an elephant. So far her office has resisted that mightily. But the forest has a thousand eyes.

N.Y. Times
Sunday, April 2, 1995

Sri Lanka prepares for U.S. first lady

COLOMBO, April 3 (UPI) Officials in the Sri Lankan capital Monday were preparing for U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton's arrival on a 36-hour whistle-stop visit.

The first lady and 15-year-old daughter Chelsea are scheduled to arrive in Colombo Tuesday as part of President Bill Clinton's efforts to bolster ties with South Asian countries.

Sri Lanka is the last stop on Mrs. Clinton's ambitious goodwill tour, which began in Pakistan before moving on to India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

While in Colombo, Mrs. Clinton is scheduled to meet with Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga for informal talks.

An advance team of U.S. Secret Service officials has already arrived in Colombo to help with the tight security arrangements for the Clintons.

Security officials are taking no chances in Sri Lanka, which has been locked in a bitter ethnic civil war between the country's minority Tamil population and the majority Sinhalese.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in the conflict, including scores of civilians caught in waves of terrorist bombings and other seemingly random acts of violence.

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**** printed by:WHPR(MAN7) on 04/03/95 at 09:36EST ****

BC-BANGLADESH-HILLARY (PICTURE)

Bangaleshi asks Hillary ``Do you have cattle?''

By Gene Gibbons

MOISHAHATI, Bangladesh, April 3 (Reuter) - In this sunbaked village on Monday, a woman in a homespun sari posed a question to Hillary Rodham Clinton that showed the huge gap between the poor of South Asia and the people of the affluent West.

``Do you have cattle in your home?'' the woman shyly asked the visiting U.S. first lady.

In Moishahati, women are buying cattle and taking a first step toward better lives for themselves and their families in this overpopulated, dirt-poor country.

They are doing this with money borrowed from the Grameen Bank, an institution that makes small loans to the poor, especially women, in villages throughout Bangladesh.

Mrs Clinton, on a goodwill tour of South Asia that previously took her and her daughter, Chelsea, 15, to Pakistan, India and Nepal, travelled to the southwest Bangladesh district of Jessore on a hot, noisy C-130 military transport to see how the bank operates.

During a whirlwind four-hour visit that attracted the largest, friendliest crowds she has seen on her trip, the wife of U.S. President Bill Clinton also toured one of the non-formal schools organised by the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC).

Before returning to the capital, Dhaka, she also glimpsed the work of a family-planning clinic and a food-distribution centre partially financed by U.S. foreign aid.

Mrs Clinton, who Tuesday was to fly to Colombo, Sri Lanka, the last stop of her 12-day, 20,000-mile (32,000-km) journey, was accompanied by Bangladesh banker Muhammed Yunus, Grameen's founder.

He said he launched the operation, which has been copied in Africa and in the United States, in an effort to convince financial leaders that the poor deserve dignity and are good credit risks.

``Any human being who has money in his hand commands respect,'' said Yunus, who told reporters that he had encountered resistance from the U.S. foreign aid agency USAID and the World Bank.

``After Bill Clinton, everything changed,'' he said.

Her forehead adorned with a teep, the small colored dot that in most South Asian countries signifies marital status, the first lady looked at handicrafts made by the women to repay their loans and heard about indigenous opposition to the Grameen Bank.

It comes from money-lenders out to preserve their monopoly and fundamentalist Islamic clerics who want to limit the freedom for women, she was told.

One villager told Mrs Clinton the mullah in her mosque warned Grameen borrowers that ``if their children die, they will not pray for them.''

Speaking through a translator, the woman said she planned to send her son to religious school ``so he'll become a decent mullah, not the other kind of mullah.''

Mrs Clinton said during a brief give-and-take with the women, ``No, we do not have cattle in our home.''. But she said she believed strongly that it was important for women to earn their income ``like you are doing'' and that she would resume doing so herself after her husband left the White House.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 04/03/95 at 08:18EST ****

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PM-Chelsea's Coming Out, 1st Ld-Writethru,a0438,690

Chelsea Clinton Emerges, on the Indian Subcontinent

Eds: Inserts 1 graf after 4th graf, bgng: Her wonderment xxx to update with touring today; subs 13th graf pvs, bgng: The worldwide xxx to CORRECT that Chelsea is in 10th grade.

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) Spring break is turning into an international coming-out party for 15-year-old Chelsea Clinton.

The only child of Bill and Hillary Clinton, protectively shielded from the spotlight at home, is emerging as a poised junior diplomat on her mother's tour of the Indian subcontinent.

Photos beamed home from the other side of the world show her side by side with her mother in every setting from the top of an elephant to opulent official dinners, clearly fascinated at all she is seeing.

Her wonderment comes through in the questions she asks and the careful eye with which she studies her surroundings.

Touring the dusty village of Moishahati today, both mother and daughter found themselves surrounded by adoring women and children who decorated their foreheads with the traditional teep a red dot for Mrs. Clinton, green for Chelsea. The mark once signaled whether a woman was married or single but now is worn for decorative purposes.

Visiting Mother Teresa's orphanage in New Delhi, India, Chelsea quietly questioned the nuns about adoption procedures before expertly cuddling a baby in front of the cameras.

Touring the splendor of the pearl-white Taj Mahal, she described the building as "the embodiment of the fairy-tale palace" of her younger days.

"I would see pictures of it and I would dream I was a princess or whatever," she recalled, "and now that I am here it's spectacular."

Visiting the sprawling Faisal Mosque in Islamabad, Pakistan, it was Chelsea who asked the most detailed questions.

Having studied Islam in history class at school, she engaged one of the scholars one-on-one while her mother conversed with another guide. And when White House aides working on a speech needed to double-check a reference in the Koran, it was Chelsea who readily produced one she had brought from home.

The first daughter sometimes breaks off on her own security guards in tow to explore these exotic Asian settings at her own pace. She headed off on an elephant Sunday morning while her mother went hiking. More often than not, though, she has elected to accompany her mother from one official event to the next, to the delight of their hosts.

At the Self-Employed Women's Association in Ahmadabad, India, organizers of the trade group introduced Chelsea to great applause as "a potential future member of SEWA."

At the Islamabad College for Girls, adoring teen-age girls gathered around her in their outdoor cantina while the first lady chatted with school officials elsewhere.

The worldwide exposure is an abrupt change of pace for a tenth-grader who attends private school and has been surprisingly protected from the spotlight during the first two years of her father's presidency.

The Clintons made it clear even before the inauguration that they were anxious to give Chelsea a "normal" teen-age upbringing, and they rarely involve her in public appearances.

Such sensitivities are clearly evident, even as mother and daughter make this very high-profile march across South Asia.

Reporters had to dicker with White House aides over whether Chelsea's remarks about the Taj Mahal could be quoted the aides finally relented.

And when TV correspondents asked if Chelsea could repeat her observations about the Taj Mahal on camera, Mrs. Clinton abruptly steered her daughter elsewhere and insisted, "No, no."

White House aides then laid out ground rules under which Chelsea can be quoted when she is heard speaking in public but not when engaged in

conversation by reporters.

Spokeswoman Lisa Caputo, who gets caught in the middle of the tug-of-war over coverage of Chelsea, said the eye-opening experiences of the Clintons' visit to Asia easily outweighed concerns about the increased public exposure for Chelsea.

"It's a learning experience of a lifetime," she said. "This is a remarkable experience for anyone to have no matter what age."

**** filed by:APE(--) on 04/03/95 at 05:22EST ****
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The elephant walk



By Win McNamee, Reuters

RIDING HIGH: Hillary and Chelsea Clinton's weekend break from a well-received Asian goodwill tour included an elephant ride near Nepal's Tiger Tops Lodge. Chelsea is winning praise for her poise and interest in international issues; Hillary met climber Sir Edmund Hillary and revealed her mom put two f's in her name after reading about him.

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1995



First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, daughter Chelsea and two guides take in the sights atop an elephant over the weekend in Nepal's Royal Chitwan National Park. See story, Page D1.

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4 Far-Reaching Expedition

First Lady Touts Issues and Raises Smiles on South Asia Trip

By Molly Moore
Washington Post Foreign Service

ROYAL CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK, Nepal, April 2—Imagine, for a moment, Secret Service officers atop elephants lumbering into the forest to protect first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, one agent bending to speak into the radio microphone protruding ever so slightly from the cuff of his shirt sleeve. Or officers in stocking feet padding after her at a mosque.

Or agents peeking uncomfortably into the crib of Mother Teresa's orphans in search of hidden hazards.

It's all in a day's work during what the first lady's staff has dubbed the Hillaryland Tour: Mrs. Clinton's 12-day journey through the women's empowerment organizations and prime ministers' residences of South Asia.

Over the weekend she took a day off to ride elephants and hike at one of Nepal's most popular wildlife preserves—home to rare Bengal tigers

See CLINTON, D7, Col. 1



Sir Edmund Hillary meets Hillary Rodham Clinton in Nepal yesterday. The first lady told the explorer that she was named for him.

The First Lady's Trip

CLINTON, From D1

(which she didn't see) and endangered greater one-horned rhinoceroses (which she did see).

But the trip, which is providing the first lady with a chance to promote what have become her main causes—women's and children's issues—is also giving her a crack at proving she has a humorous, human side after a grim year of health care reform failure and such scandals as Whitewater.

Not that you'd bust a gut laughing,

but some who have observed her up close for the past few years say they haven't seen her so relaxed since she assumed the role of first lady.

After spending more than a week harping on the importance of educating girls in cultures that place little value on girls and women and where female illiteracy is extraordinarily high, she had but one response when told that several mother-daughter pairs of rhinos had been spotted in her vicinity at the wildlife preserve:

"Are they sending their girls to school?"

In New Delhi she watched schoolchildren demonstrating yoga exercises designed to strengthen the heart and arms. Afterward, she told the youngsters, "I'll try to work on my heart and my arms—and my waist."

When a student at a village school in rural Pakistan asked the first lady, "What is your nickname?" Mrs. Clinton paused momentarily. She then replied: "My nickname? Well, it depends upon whom you talk to. Some people have, I would imagine, very rude nicknames for me."

On this trip, she has acquired at least one new one. A carpet wallah, or

salesman, at the Islamabad, Pakistan, hotel where her party stayed rolled out carpet after carpet, beseeching "your ladyship" to purchase a sample of his goods. Her ladyship did.

Not that she's wanted for souvenirs. Her take has been so great that a State Department protocol "gift officer" is accompanying her just to handle it all.

She's been draped in a half-dozen handmade shawls, presented with antique Victorian armchairs by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and plied with armloads of crafts and crates of souvenirs. First daughter Chelsea Clinton, who is traveling with her mother, accumulated enough

pearl, gold, emerald and ruby jewelry from Pakistani government officials to sustain the dowry of a wealthy South Asian bride.

In fact, the Clinton women have received so many goodies that the cargo hold of their plane was overflowing, so the crates were transferred to the automobile cargo plane that is ferrying their bulletproof black Cadillac from stop to stop.

(Not that they'll get to keep it all: Federal law mandates that all the gifts be catalogued; those valued at more than \$250 must be turned over to the National Archives to be placed in Bill Clinton's presidential library when he leaves office.)

The protocol officer has sent word back to Washington for advice in handling what she believes are two ivory carvings given to Mrs. Clinton by Bhutto. It is illegal to bring ivory into the United States because the poaching of elephants for their tusks has endangered the pachyderms.

While the region's government leaders have been lavishing Mrs. Clinton with elaborate gifts, she's been reciprocating with such items as a crystal vase titled "Moon Over Arkansas" and gold, silver and bronze coin collections commemorating the 1996 Summer Olympics.

The trip has also given her new tastes in fashion. Bhutto gave the first lady a red silk shalwar kameez—the elegant knee-length outfit of tunic and billowy pants favored by many women in South Asia—which she wore to an elaborate dinner given in her honor at the Red Fort in Lahore, Pakistan.

Mrs. Clinton was so taken by the long, flowing style that when she arrived in New Delhi the next day, she told her staff to find her a new one to wear to dinner with the Indian president. An embassy staffer contacted a Delhi shopkeeper, who brought racks of the outfits to Mrs. Clinton's hotel. She selected a black one with gold embroidery.

Today the first lady met the person responsible for her name—Sir Edmund Hillary, 75, who led the first expedition to climb Mount Everest. Mrs. Clinton said her mother read an article about Hillary in 1947 before he scaled the world's highest peak.

"So when I was born, she called me Hillary and she always told me it's because of Sir Edmund Hillary," Mrs. Clinton said.

The mountain climber's response: "When people used to hear the name Hillary, they always thought of me. Now they think of a woman's name."

The first lady has something else in common with Hillary—a large expeditionary force. As one director of the resort where she stayed inside the Royal Chitwan National Park rattled off the celebrities who have visited the hotel in the past—the Prince of Wales, Robert Redford, Richard Chamberlain, Goldie Hawn—she added, "But no one has come with as large an entourage as the first lady."

Mrs. Clinton's group, which numbers well over 30, includes media, Secret Service, White House staffers and others.

And, as usual, the cameras have captured a few moments on the trip that went unnoticed by the first lady.

At a health clinic in a Pakistani village, she watched a nurse give a young boy an oral polio vaccination. Mrs. Clinton then bent over the youngster and warbled, "Good boy."

The minute she turned around to leave, he spit up the vaccine.

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By TODD S. PURDUM

DHAKA, Bangladesh, April 2 — Hillary Rodham Clinton has practiced law, raised a daughter and tried to change one-seventh of the American economy by reshaping health care. But in the last 24 hours she has ridden a bull elephant with Secret Service radio escort, and met the man responsible for making her a Hillary with two l's.

At an airstrip in Katmandu, Nepal — just after an overnight tiger safari and just before her departure for this poverty-ridden pocket of South Asia — Mrs. Clinton shook hands with Sir Edmund Hillary, the New Zealander who conquered Mount Everest with Tenzing Norgay in 1953. He was passing through town on his way to visit schools and a hospital in the Himalayan highlands financed by a foundation he heads.

"To be honest with you, in America, before if anybody recognized the name Hillary, it's always been me," Sir Edmund, 75, told reporters just before greeting Mrs. Clinton. "And now they say, 'Oh, you must be a lady!'"

For her part, Mrs. Clinton confessed that her mother, Dorothy Rodham, had read an article about the intrepid Edmund Hillary, a one-time beekeeper who had taken to mountain climbing, when she was pregnant with her daughter in 1947 and liked the name.

"It had two l's, which is how she thought she was supposed to spell Hillary," Mrs. Clinton told reporters after the brief meeting on the tarmac, minutes before her Air Force



Hillary Rodham Clinton met Sir Edmund Hillary in Katmandu.

"Fancy meeting you all here," Mrs. Clinton called out to reporters from under a wide-brimmed straw hat as her elephant approached a river bank for a picture-taking session that had been negotiated with her reluctant staff in the plaintive entreaties and blunt demurrers generally reserved for nuclear disarmament talks.

Informed that the reporters, aboard their own fleet of rolling trunks and giant toenails, had seen three mother-daughter pairs of armor-plated Asian rhinos, Mrs. Clinton quickly brought the topic around to the business of her trip: encouraging the education of girls and women.

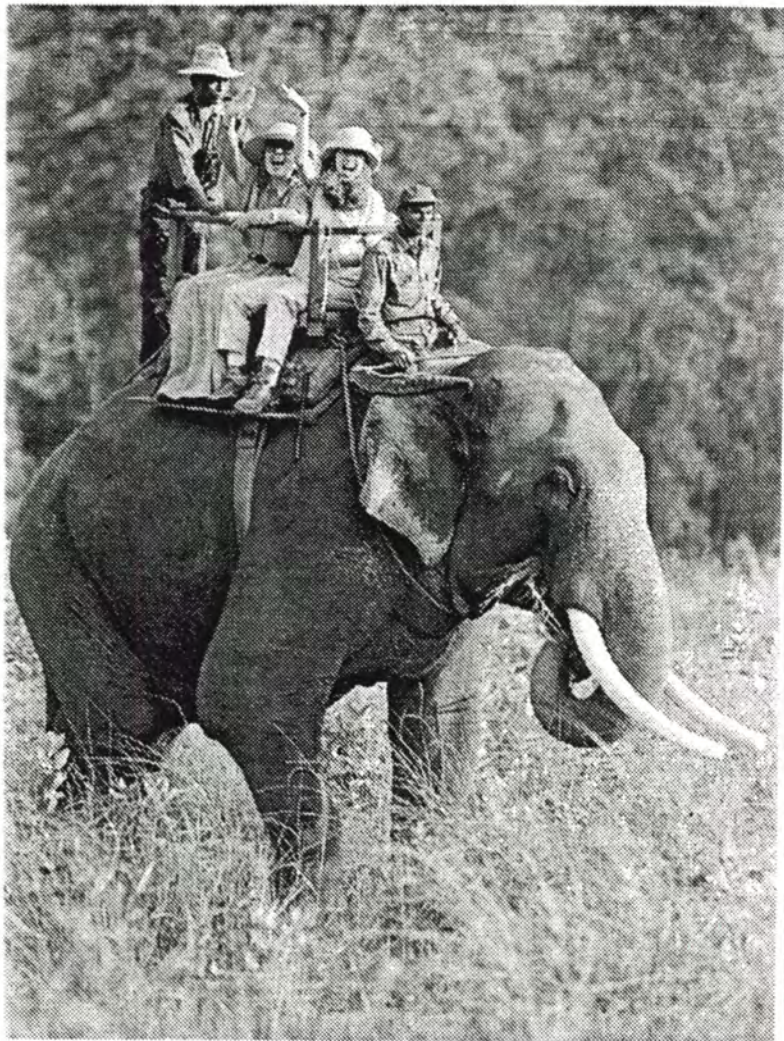
"Mothers and daughters?" she exclaimed. "Are they sending their girls to school?"

In fact, it must be reported, Mrs. Clinton's day off — sandwiched between 12 overloaded days of visits to schools, clinics and the leaders of five nations — induced in the captive press corps traveling with her a degree of sympathy rare for traveling journalists.

So it was all the more puzzling that her aides had ever resisted letting her be photographed in such a quintessential subcontinental setting. Some suggested they were reluctant to invite comparisons with Jacqueline Kennedy, the last American First Lady to make a solo trip to this region. She rode an elephant in Jaipur, India, 33 years ago last month.

One ride of an hour and a half was enough for Mrs. Clinton, though Chelsea went out again this morning. Neither spied the big quarry, the endangered royal Bengal tiger, but they did see rhinos, spotted deer and a peacock perched in a tree.

The forest was also thick with wild hogs, whose cousin, the Arkansas Razorbacks, impelled Mrs. Clinton's attempt at contact with the outside world from the remote lodge: she brought a short-wave radio, hoping to catch word of the game between the University of Arkansas and North Carolina, but couldn't find any broadcasts in English. In the end, the White House communications staff traveling with the First Lady reached the President's entourage in Little Rock and learned that Arkansas had won.



Reuters

On their visit to Nepal, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton and their guides rode atop a 9-foot, 8½-inch elephant whose name means Brave Tiger.

Hillary Clinton Meets Man Who Gave Her 2 L's

Dorothy Rodham named her daughter after Sir Edmund Hillary.

jet flew past the peak of Everest itself. "So when I was born, she called me Hillary, and she always told me it's because of Sir Edmund Hillary."

Sir Edmund was to have joined Mrs. Clinton overnight at the Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge, a rustic hotel in the Royal Chitwan National Park that has played host to guests from Queen Elizabeth II to Goldie Hawn. But mechanical problems delayed his plane from New Zealand and he barely made it in time for the airport handshake today.

So he missed the sight of Mrs. Clinton and her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, ensconced in a padded howdah atop Shamsheer Bahadur, a 9-foot, 8½-inch elephant whose name means Brave Tiger, in a sunset search for a tiger in the grass on Saturday. They were trailed by three Secret Service agents — with sunglasses, wrist walkie-talkies, earphones and all.

Hillary meets her namesake

KATHMANDU, Nepal (Reuters) — Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday met the man she is named for — mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary, the conqueror of Mount Everest.

The wife of President Clinton, who is on a goodwill tour of South Asia, was greeted by Mr. Hillary, 75, at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport when she arrived to take a plane out of Nepal after a three-day stay.

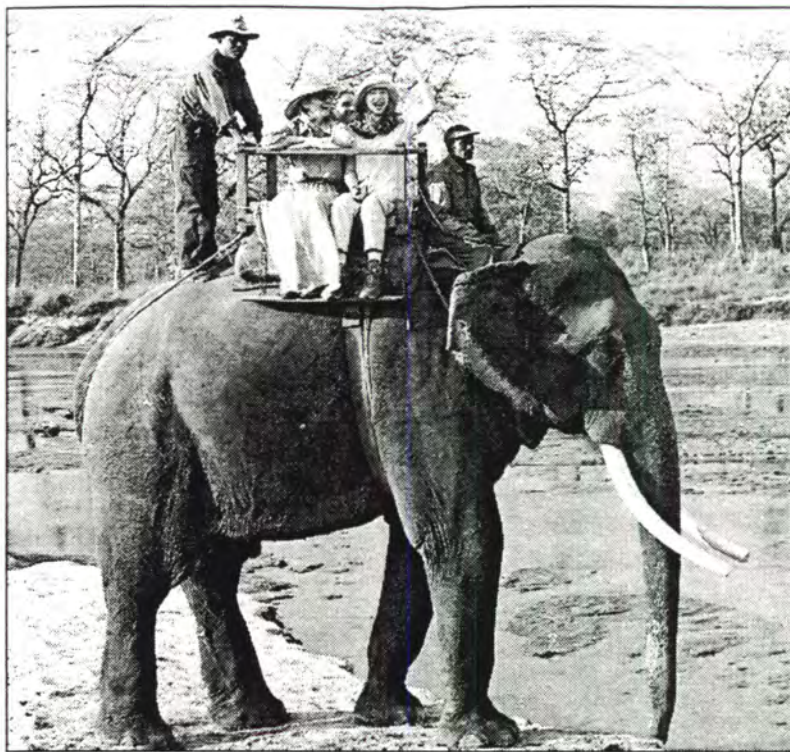
She flew to Dhaka for a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Mrs. Clinton, 47, told reporters in Nepal that her mother, Dorothy Rodham, read an article about Mr. Hillary while she was pregnant.

"She read an article in 1947 and that was before he climbed Everest. So when I was born, she called me Hillary and she always told me it was because of Sir Edmund Hillary," she said.

Mr. Hillary said it was "sheer coincidence" that their paths had happened to cross. The soft-spoken adventurer runs a foundation that builds schools and clinics in the Himalayas and he had come to Nepal on a visit.

The New Zealander, who



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea (waving) enjoy a bipartisan-sort of outing in the Chitwan National Forest in Nepal.

climbed the world's highest peak in 1953, saying he had done so "because it was there," noted that Mrs. Clinton's fame now exceeded his own.

"In America before, if anybody recognized the name Hillary it was always me, and now they say, 'Oh, you must be a lady,'" he said.

Mrs. Clinton and her 15-year-old

daughter, Chelsea, relaxed on a weekend safari in Nepal's Royal Chitwan game preserve.

The two rode an elephant on an excursion into jungle where rare Bengal tigers roam.

Once a royal tiger-hunting preserve, Chitwan is now considered to be one of the finest game conservation areas in Asia.

U.S. first lady ends Bangladesh trip

SABIR MUSTAFA=

DHAKA (UPI) U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton left Dhaka at the end of a two-day visit to Bangladesh, saying she was deeply impressed with what she had seen in this poverty-stricken south Asian nation.

"I leave deeply impressed with the strength and determination of the Bangladesh people," Clinton said in a written statement prior to her departure from the Zia International Airport.

Bangladesh officials were left elated by the visit and said it would help boost the image of the mostly agrarian nation of 119 million people.

"For the first time, an important personality has taken the trouble to go out into the countryside," Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Farook Sobhan said in a reference to Clinton's visit to the southwestern village of Mashihata on Monday.

"The face of rural Bangladesh has changed, and the first lady spoke in glowing terms about the country," Sobhan told reporters at the airport.

Clinton and her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, have been traveling in Asia, touring cultural sites and visiting women's and children's clinics. Their next stop is Sri Lanka and they earlier visited Pakistan, India and Nepal.

In Bangladesh, they visited anti-poverty programs, including one sponsored by the Grameen Bank, which has been widely praised for its loan policies and development efforts.

Since 1976, Grameen has distributed more than \$1.3 billion in collateral-free loans to 2 million rural poor in an effort to alleviate poverty affecting half of Bangladesh's population.

"The success I witnessed here are models for the rest of the world," Clinton said.

Calling the people of Bangladesh "true pioneers in the fields of health care, education, economic development and population," Clinton said she would not forget the visit.

"This visit has been fruitful, this is certain to boost Bangladesh's image in the United States," Sobhan said.

Bangladesh, despite its development efforts, is one of the world's poorest countries, with nearly 70 percent of the country employed in agriculture, a volatile industry because of its vulnerability to monsoons.

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**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 04/04/95 at 09:11EST ****

PM-Message From Asia,560

TRIP NOTEBOOK: First Lady Plugs For Foreign Aid

EDS: diarrhoeal is cq By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) Winding down her tour of South Asia, Hillary Rodham Clinton today served up a message tailored as much for domestic consumption as for her international hosts.

Before flying to Colombo, the first lady turned a visit to the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Dhaka, Bangladesh, into a defense of embattled foreign aid.

The center treats 114,000 patients a year, conducts ground-breaking medical studies and trains health workers from more than 60 countries.

Filing slowly past row after row of infants spilling over into hallways and a driveway, Mrs. Clinton was told that most of the youngsters are able to leave the hospital within 12 hours after being spoon-fed a rice-based rehydration solution. The therapy was developed at the center and saves millions of lives each year.

The non-profit center has received \$60 million in assistance from the United States since 1960. With foreign aid a prime target for potential GOP budget cuts, Mrs. Clinton had a message that seemed aimed at the Republican Congress.

"I'm particularly pleased that much of our aid has gone to support this kind of enterprise," she said. "Too many people at home don't know the positive results that come from investments like this and don't know that something developed in Bangladesh can save lives in Louisiana."

Mrs. Clinton's visit hasn't produced the same kind of fashion bulletins that emanated from South Asia when Jacqueline Kennedy visited two decades ago, but the first lady has enthusiastically dabbled in a range of exotic dress.

She brought a stable of Asian outfits with her from home and collected plenty more at each stop along the way.

In Pakistan, she and daughter Chelsea instantly put to use the bejeweled silk shalwar kameez flowing tunic and pants that had been presented to them by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. In Bangladesh, giggling villagers happily draped the first lady in a sari after she confessed she didn't know how to wear one.

Asian newspapers enthusiastically chronicled the first lady's sartorial experimentation, but with considerably more restraint than was accorded Mrs. Kennedy.

John Kenneth Galbraith, former ambassador to India, recounted in his memoirs a futile campaign to dampen all the attention to Mrs. Kennedy's attire.

"This effort promised to be the biggest failure since Stassen tried to ditch Nixon," Galbraith wrote on the day after she appeared in a shimmering turquoise dinner gown. "Last night's dress was adequate explanation."

Beyond its political implications, the first lady's trip may have marked a turning point in her sometimes frosty relations with the press.

Mrs. Clinton for the first time consented to allow a small cadre of reporters to travel with her on this 20,000-mile journey, and gradually developed a sort of rapport with the mostly female press corps.

Hopping from one country to the next, her Air Force jet was declared off the record, allowing for more casual give and take all around.

Newsweek's Joe Klein, one of the few men in the crew, wrote that the marathon march across Asia eventually produced a sort of "Stockholm Syndrome."

"She was our captive and we were hers and the atmosphere became downright convivial," he wrote.

**** filed by:APE(--) on 04/04/95 at 05:51EST ****

AM-Mrs Clinton-Asia,760

First Lady Hears Tales of Success in Bangladesh

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

MOISHAHATI, Bangladesh (AP) Hillary Rodham Clinton said she came to the Indian subcontinent to learn, and her teachers on Monday were the women of a tiny Hindu village.

They taught her how to drape a sari, they taught her how to wear the teep a decorative red dot on the forehead and they taught her about how their lives have changed for the better.

Moishahati is a Grameen Bank village, one of 35,000 in impoverished Bangladesh where the rural poor can get small loans to make fish nets, keep bees, buy cows, or maybe one day get enough land for a house.

Women in a rainbow of saris gathered in the village courtyard for a testimony meeting of sorts, eager to tell Mrs. Clinton about their success stories and the opposition they had overcome.

One woman proudly told Mrs. Clinton that where once she had nothing to eat, "now I have built a house for myself with a Grameen Bank loan, I have my bed, I have chickens ... I have cattle, I can eat enough, I send my children to school, I keep everything clean."

These are no small feats in a country where 45 percent of the population lives in poverty, malnutrition is high and only 20 percent of women are literate.

The first lady and her daughter, Chelsea, made a fashion statement of their support for the effort by wearing "Grameen check" cotton outfits of the kind commissioned by the bank to encourage business for handloom weavers.

Grameen is a very unconventional bank, serving almost as a way of life and a declaration of independence for women in this male-dominated culture.

It was started in 1976 by an economics professor, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, who decided that the best way to help the landless poor of Bangladesh was to lend them small sums of money to help them earn more on their own.

The bank now serves more than 2 million people, with a repayment rate of 98 percent on loans averaging little more than \$100. About 94 percent of the borrowers are women.

When the first loan is repaid, the borrower "becomes a different woman," Yunus said. "This is the way you start believing in yourself."

The quiet self-confidence of the villagers was evident in their questions for the first lady.

"We earn our own income and that's how we make our families," one woman told Mrs. Clinton. "Whose income do you live on?"

The lawyer-first lady drew giggles when she told the women that although she doesn't earn money now, "there were some years when I earned more income than my husband."

"Do you have cattle in your home?" another woman asked. No, came the answer.

"Can you wear a sari? Do you know how to wear it?" asked a third.

No, again, was the answer. But not for long. As Mrs. Clinton toured a display of fabrics and crafts made by the villagers, the women carefully draped her in a sari and decorated her forehead with a teep.

Mrs. Clinton, focusing on the needs of women and children during her tour of South Asia, also visited a rural family planning clinic Monday and a school run by the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, the country's largest voluntary group.

All of this is anathema to some religious fundamentalists, who maintain that Grameen, the rural advancement committee and other voluntary programs that help poor women are anti-Islamic because they encourage women to come out of their homes, deal with men and get involved economically.

At a rally last week, Muslim fundamentalist leaders said Mrs. Clinton would not be welcome if she came to support such groups. Yunus dismissed the critics as "big mouths" who are not taken seriously.

But in the village, women told Mrs. Clinton that religious leaders and

other critics try to keep them from joining Grameen by telling wild stories that they will lose their religion or be thrown into the Bay of Bengal.

With her visit to Grameen, Mrs. Clinton was coming full circle in a way.

The bank's model has been replicated in more than 40 countries, including a project launched in the hardscrabble Arkansas delta by Mrs. Clinton and her governor husband in 1988.

``She is the one who jumped right up and said `We need it,`` Yunus recalled.

**** filed by:APE(--) on 04/03/95 at 13:58EST ****

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Bengali Women Are Candid With Hillary Clinton

By TODD S. PURDUM

DHAKA, Bangladesh, April 3 — A group of women of the untouchable class reached across a gulf of language and culture today to pepper Hillary Rodham Clinton with questions about her status and self-reliance as a woman.

"Do you have cattle in your house?" asked one woman in Moishahati, a dusty hamlet in southwest Bangladesh that has been transformed by the Grameen Bank, which makes small loans to poor people without collateral in exchange for promises of productive work and monitoring by other borrowers.

"No," Mrs. Clinton smiled in acknowledgment of a world in which the difference between one cow and a few cows in a household is the difference between night and day. But the next question was trickier, touching on many of the compromises Mrs. Clinton, a lawyer and the first First Lady to have a professional career before entering the White House, has had to make.

"We earn our income and that's how we make our families," another woman said at a meeting under a bamboo and tin-roofed hut built for Mrs. Clinton's visit. "Whose income do you live on?"

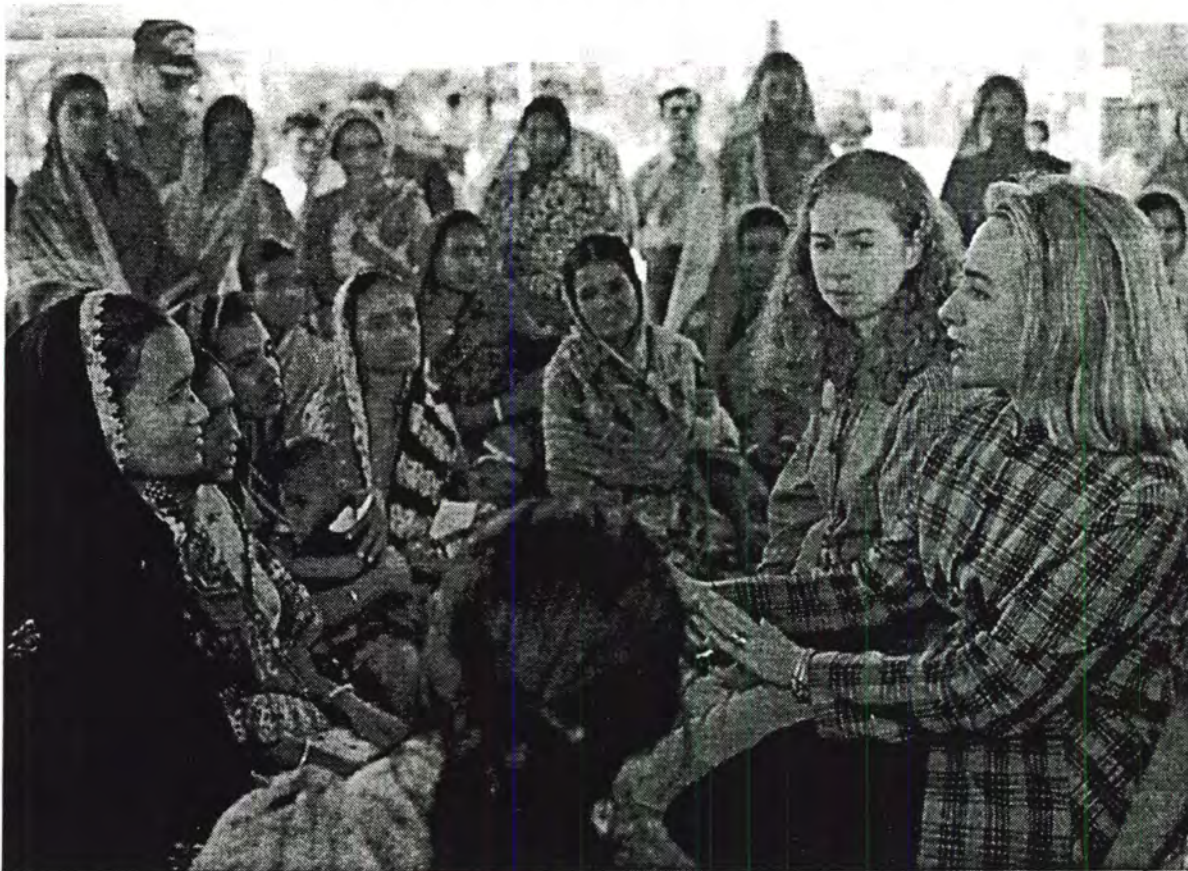
Mrs. Clinton answered evenly: "I started to work when I was 13 years old, and I always earned my own money. And there were some years when I earned more income than my husband. Now that my husband is President, I am not earning my own income. But I will later, again, earn my own income."

Mrs. Clinton seemed to relish the moment as she answered questions with her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, at her side.

"Do you intend to have any more children?" another woman asked, reflecting a pressing concern in a country where 120 million people are crammed into an area about the size of Wisconsin.

"I would have loved to have had one or two more children," Mrs. Clinton replied, putting her arm around Chelsea.

In a 12-day tour encompassing tightly scripted photo opportunities, visits to schools and clinics and ceremonial handshakes with heads of state, today's encounter, while still laborately choreographed, stood



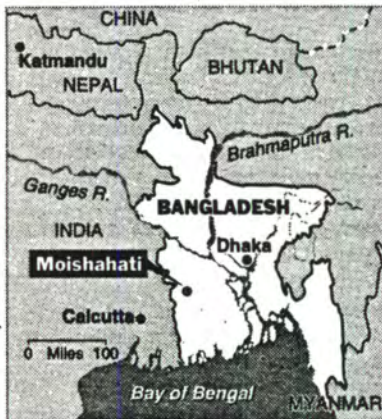
Hillary Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, meeting with women in Moishahati, Bangladesh, yesterday.

In a scripted tour, some moments of authenticity.

out for its authenticity.

With the bank's 54-year-old founder and guiding light, Muhammad Yunus, an economist trained at Vanderbilt University, interpreting at her side, Mrs. Clinton heard a Bengali version of "It's a Wonderful Life," with Dr. Yunus in the role of Jimmy Stewart.

The idea for Grameen (the Bengali word for rural) was born in the mid-1970's, when Dr. Yunus was teaching at Chittagong University in southern Bangladesh and found himself implored for money by beggar



The Grameen Bank has helped transform Moishahati's economy.

women. He decided the answer was access to enough capital to win a foothold on life, and in 1976 he made his first loans (\$30 divided among 42

people) from his personal money, eventually setting up an independent bank.

Now Grameen has more than 1,000 branches in 34,000 villages. Last year it made \$369 million in loans, the vast majority to women, with the largest loans being typically about \$600 for a home. Repayment rates are higher than those of commercial banks here and the idea has been copied in a handful of places across the United States, including Arkansas, where Bill Clinton helped start the Arkansas Development Bank when he was Governor.

"The woman who has completed the loan is completely different," Dr. Yunus said. "The whole world was telling her, 'You are no good, you are a woman.' Now comes the First Lady of the world to talk about it. It is a validation of what they are doing."

The eye-opening experiences of the Clintons' visit to Asia easily outweighed concerns about the increased public exposure for Chelsea.



Wearing a traditional Hindu teep on her forehead, Chelsea Clinton looks around her mother, Hillary Rodham Clinton, at a village in Bangladesh.

Chelsea moves out into media spotlight

Emerges as a youthful diplomat

By Nancy Benac
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Spring break is turning into an international coming-out party for 15-year-old Chelsea Clinton.

The only child of Bill and Hillary Clinton, protectively shielded from the spotlight at home, is emerging as a poised junior diplomat on her mother's tour of the Indian subcontinent.

Photos beamed home from the other side of the world show her side by side with her mother in every setting from the top of an elephant to opulent official dinners, clearly fascinated at all she is seeing.

Her wonderment comes through in the questions she asks and the careful eye with which she studies her surroundings.

Touring the dusty village of Moishahati yesterday, both mother and daughter found themselves surrounded by adoring women and children who decorated their foreheads with the traditional teep — a red dot for Mrs. Clinton, green for Chelsea. The mark once signaled whether a woman was married or single but now is worn for decorative purposes.

Visiting Mother Teresa's orphanage in New Delhi, Chelsea quietly questioned the nuns about adoption procedures before expertly cuddling a baby in front of the camerās.

Touring the splendor of the pearl-white Taj Mahal, she described the building as "the embodiment of the fairy-tale palace" of her younger days.

"I would see pictures of it, and I would dream I was a princess or whatever," she recalled, "and now that I am here, it's spectacular."

Visiting the sprawling Faisal Mosque in Islamabad, Pakistan, it was Chelsea who asked the most detailed questions.

Having studied Islam in history class at school, she engaged one of the scholars one-on-one while her mother conversed with another guide. And when White House aides working on a speech needed to double-check a reference in the Koran, it was Chelsea who readily produced one she had brought from home.

The first daughter sometimes breaks off on her own — security guards in tow — to explore these exotic Asian settings at her own pace. She headed off on an elephant Sunday morning while her mother went hiking.

But more often than not, she has elected to accompany her mother

from one official event to the next, to the delight of their hosts.

At the Self-Employed Women's Association in Ahmadabad, India, organizers of the trade group introduced Chelsea to great applause as "a potential future member of SEWA."

Adoring teen-age girls at the Islamabad College for Girls gathered around Chelsea in their outdoor cantina, while Mrs. Clinton chatted with school officials elsewhere.

The worldwide exposure is an abrupt change of pace for a 10th-grader who attends private school and has been kept from the public spotlight during the first two years of her father's presidency.

The Clintons made it clear even before the inauguration they were anxious to give Chelsea a "normal" teen-age upbringing, and they rarely involve her in public appearances.

Such sensitivities are clearly evident, even as mother and daughter make this very high-profile march across South Asia.

Reporters had to dicker with White House aides over whether Chelsea's remarks about the Taj Mahal could be quoted; the aides finally relented.

And when TV correspondents asked if Chelsea could repeat her observations about the Taj Mahal on camera, Mrs. Clinton abruptly steered her daughter elsewhere and insisted, "No, no."

White House aides then laid out ground rules under which Chelsea can be quoted when she is heard speaking in public but not when engaged in conversation by reporters.

Spokeswoman Lisa Caputo, who gets caught in the middle of the tug-of-war over coverage of Chelsea, said the eye-opening experiences of the Clintons' visit to Asia easily outweighed concerns about the increased public exposure for Chelsea.

"It's a learning experience of a lifetime," she said. "This is a remarkable experience for anyone to have — no matter what age."

The Reliable Source

By Lois Romano



REUTERS

The Clintons speak with Bangladeshi women.

Where's the Beef?

Hillary Clinton, nearing the end of her South Asia trip, sat on a wooden bench under a tin-roofed shed in a rural Bangladesh village yesterday, questioning poor Hindu women about their lives and problems.

The village women, draped in their best saris, then turned the tables and asked if they could pose a few questions to the first lady.

"Certainly," Mrs. Clinton replied.

One woman stood boldly and queried, "Do you have cows in your home?"

Taken aback for a moment, the White House resident then responded with proper gravity in her voice, "No, we do not have cattle in our home."

Hillary Clinton's Mother Lode

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1995

In an exotic setting, Hillary Rodham Clinton found something familiar in her morning paper, a critical article about herself. The novelty about the Calcutta Telegraph story was the nature of the complaint. The imperious policymaker, the militant feminist, was accused of suppressing substance during her Asian tour. Commenting on a "gushing" speech at a girls' school, the writer sniffed, "It could just as well have been Lady Diana, Jane Fonda or [Miss World] speaking."

Indians had found her noncontroversial, that status she craves at home. She was there as an ambassador of good will, an advocate of the rights of women and children and an entranced sightseer who ate up the dancing camels and accommodating elephants. But the real image-remaking was going on at home: Hillary Clinton coming through as a mother.

This was her daughter Chelsea's debut, and the mother-daughter team was a big hit. Hillary Clinton has famously rubbed the psyche of the Angry White Male the wrong way, but Mrs. AWM for the past week was looking at Chelsea Clinton and maybe saying, "You gotta admit she did a good job with the kid."

Hillary Clinton has, in short, accomplished the most enviable thing of all. She has brought up a nice child. The president may get some credit, too.

Chelsea has been under wraps since her father began the race for the White House. Her parents have never cheated on that score, except when her hard-pressed father, seeking desperately for closure on the Gennifer Flowers episode, gave the Democratic National Convention a sound bite, garnered he said, from a post-"60 Minutes" conversation: "I think I'm glad you're my parents." It was icky and not blindingly credible.

But for the past week, Chelsea has been speaking for herself, and although the first lady's staff panicked when she was quoted about the Taj Mahal, she has been giving a good account of herself. On their home screen Americans have seen mother and daughter exchanging smiles all along the route—at Mother Teresa's orphanage, dandling babies, at the Taj Mahal, in Pakistani dress, aboard the symbol of the party that gives her father much trouble. She seems to like her mother, which at her age is almost as important as loving her.

By all accounts, Chelsea is a gentle and mannerly young woman. She has done her homework and, according to Washington Post correspondent Molly Moore, impressed her guides with her learning. Fifteen is deep in the dark heart of

adolescence. It is an age when children are at their least delightful, given to rejecting their parents and all they stand for, given to storms and sullen silences. Americans have discovered, finally, something they can admire unequivocally in Hillary Clinton, who is, of course, a total heroine to the put-upon women of her swing through Asia, where female infanticide is still practiced.

Says Republican Rep. Nancy L. Johnson of Connecticut, who qualifies as an expert, having three teenage daughters of her own, "This woman is a mother."

Americans are terribly fussy about their first ladies. They find them dowdy or too clothes-conscious; they think they have too much influence (Nancy Reagan and her horoscopes) or too little (Pat Nixon). They say they want them just to look after their husbands but they really expect exemplary hard work. Jacqueline Kennedy, initially written off as a high-society fashion plate, redeemed herself at the time of the assassination with her heartbreaking dignity and her shattering sense of what was due a fallen president.

The favorite first lady of the past 25 years was Barbara Bush, who eschewed policy but aimed poisoned darts at her husband's enemies. The combination of matronliness and malice seemed to satisfy the public.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), forced into civility by his mother's televised indiscretion about Hillary Clinton, pronounced himself "delighted" with Clinton's excursion. He compared her to Eleanor Roosevelt, said she was carrying on a tradition established by Mrs. Roosevelt, "who pioneered as an ambassador of good will."

Hillary Clinton loves being compared to Eleanor Roosevelt, who scorned the world for information to bring home to her husband. Now that she has been seen by so many touring clinics and elementary schools in Asia, Clinton may be expected to do more of the same here, particularly in the District of Columbia, the city that is falling apart at her feet.

Mrs. Roosevelt was savagely criticized at the time as a left-wing meddler. She paid no heed. Unlike Hillary Clinton, she never brooded about it or complained about the press. She wrote her own column. Maybe now, buoyed by her Asian success and sustained by her new identity as Chelsea's mother, Hillary Clinton will set about renewing her domestic efforts for women and children and let her critics chase their tails.



AP

All smiles

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton faces photographers with Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga after arriving in Colombo, the last stop on her 12-day tour of five countries in South Asia.

Sri Lanka greets U.S. first lady

By IQBAL ATHAS=

COLOMBO, April 4 (UPI) Sri Lankan security forces and police blanketed Colombo in a tight security web Tuesday as U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea arrived on a 36-hour goodwill visit.

A United States Air Force jet carrying the first lady and 15-year-old Chelsea touched down 20 minutes before its scheduled arrival at Colombo Airport, where the seasonal high temperatures hit nearly 93 F (34 C). She was greeted by Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar and senior government officials.

After a brief ceremony in which Mrs. Clinton signed the Golden Book for Visitors, she was whisked off in a bulletproof, U.S.-built limousine flown to Colombo for the purpose. Police sealed off the 18-mile (29-km) route from the airport town of Negombo to Hotel Taj Samudra, a five-star hotel overlooking Colombo's Galle Face Promenade and the Indian Ocean.

Earlier today, Colombo's Traffic Police imposed a ban on movement of container transports along the motorcade route and towed away vehicles parked by unwitting motorists. Police squad cars with sirens wailing cleared roads while security forces increased checkpoints at city entry and exit points.

Defense Ministry officials said tougher security precautions were underscored by two unrelated incidents that were widely publicized by newspapers. One was newspaper reports that Japanese cult Aum Supreme Truth operated a secret cell in the southern coastal town of Galle. Reports said the group had containers of sarin gas, but police Inspector General Frank De Silva told reporters no such discovery had been made.

More disturbing was the discover of an intruder inside ``Temple Trees,'' the official residence of President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga along Colombo's main Galle Road and across the road from the U.S. Embassy. The break-in was the second breach of security in two months. Earlier, an Army commando was found in possession a quantity of plastic explosive, which led to a complete overhaul of the Temple Trees presidential guard.

Police said a 23-year-old youth was found hiding under a Temple Trees staircase by a policeman who was escorting Kumaratunga upstairs. When he was spotted, the youth attacked the policeman and wounded him. Police said he gained entry after telling presidential security men at a sentry point that he was visiting the kitchen. The youth was held for observation after he claimed ``the lord'' told him to visit the presidential residence.

Mrs. Clinton, who met members of the U.S. community at the Taj Samudra Hotel, later drove to Temple Trees for a meeting with Kumaratunga. Elite Police Special Task Force commandos surrounded Temple Trees from early today and conducted a thorough search of the premises. In a bid to restrict the number of visitors, the Government Information Department restricted even the number of journalists covering the Temple Trees meeting.

Defense officials said security considerations were foremost in accommodating Mrs. Clinton and her entourage at Hotel Taj Samudra. The hotel is adjacent to Sri Lanka Army headquarters and the Defense Ministry, areas declared high-security zones.

On Wednesday, Mrs. Clinton and her party are scheduled to visit a historic Buddhist temple Kelani Vihare in the northern suburb of Colombo and later the Semata Sarana, a community development project in the same area. Later, she is due to leave for the southern coastal resort Triton for lunch before returning to the airport for her departure.

Mrs. Clinton and her entourage of nearly 50, including officials and media representatives, are concluding a 12-day, five-nation South Asian tour, part of U.S. efforts to strengthen ties. Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Robin Raphel is among the senior officials accompanying the U.S. first lady.

**** filed by:UPI(--) on 04/04/95 at 11:00EST ****

BC-HILLARY-BANGLADESH (PICTURE)

Hillary sees South Asian successes as tour nears end

By Gene Gibbons

DHAKA, Bangladesh (Reuter) - Even the hallways were crowded with cots when First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited the cholera hospital Tuesday, but in the midst of human misery, what she saw was a South Asian success story.

Formally known as the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, the hospital saves more than 100,000 lives a year by treating poor, malnourished, mostly young people who fall victim to what in the West is more embarrassment than illness.

For some reason, the disease hits epidemic levels in this part of the world in April and November. Doctors said 487 patients were admitted overnight, forcing the use of hospital hallways.

Mrs. Clinton, on the second-to-last day of a goodwill tour of South Asia with her daughter Chelsea, 15, saw Bangladeshi mothers giving oral rehydrating solution to dull-eyed youngsters sprawled helplessly on ``cholera cots.''

The cots were covered with forest green plastic sheets and had a hole in the middle with a bucket below to permit the runoff of bodily wastes.

Untreated, the rapid loss of fluids can kill an adult in six hours, a child in a fraction of that. But the oral rehydrating salts, developed at the U.S.-built and partially financed center, is literally a miracle cure.

Dr. George Fuchs, a pediatrics professor at Louisiana State University Medical School on loan to the center, said use of the same therapy in the United States could save millions in annual health care costs.

At present, most U.S. patients stricken with acute diarrhea are treated with much more expensive intervenous medication.

``I'm particularly pleased that much of our aid has gone to support this kind of enterprise,' ' Mrs. Clinton told reporters.

``Too many people at home don't know the positive results that come from investments like this, and don't know that something developed in Bangladesh can save lives in Louisiana.' '

Afterward, Mrs. Clinton flew to Sri Lanka, last stop on her 12-day, 20,000 mile tour as a goodwill ambassador, for an overnight visit.

Though plagued by high unemployment and ethnic strife, the Buddhist island nation is far more advanced than Bangladesh and the other countries Mrs. Clinton visited -- Pakistan, India and Nepal.

In the last 30 years, infant mortality has been cut in half.

Mrs. Clinton said in a written arrival statement that the United States and Sri Lanka ``share a belief that investing in human potential is essential to the health and prosperity of any nation.' '

Mrs. Clinton was to depart for the United States Wednesday after a whirlwind round of activities, including a courtesy call on Sri Lanka's President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and a visit to a Buddhist temple.

Shortly after arriving in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo, the first lady reflected on her nearly-completed trip in a 20-minute interview with several reporters travelling with her.

``I hope that I have been able to demonstrate to the countries I visited our interest in them, and perhaps serve as a bridge of perception back to the United States,' ' she said.

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 04/04/95 at 11:44EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 04/05/95 at 08:31EST ****

AM-Mrs Clinton-Asia,750

First Lady Winds Up 12-Day Visit to Indian Subcontinent

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) Winding up a 12-day journey through the storied lands of the Indian subcontinent, Hillary Rodham Clinton said Tuesday the poverty and promise she saw along the way had reinforced her determination to help women gain a stronger voice.

Mrs. Clinton said she and her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, came away "overwhelmed ... by the conditions that some of the people we saw and met were living in, but also very moved by how people were attempting to make the most of whatever situation they found themselves in."

Their travels through Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka took them from the grandeur of presidential palaces and the splendor of the Taj Mahal to the slums of New Delhi and the grit of remote villages.

Professional women told Mrs. Clinton of the obstacles they had surmounted in this male-dominated society; vegetable vendors told of their yearning to send their daughters to school.

"It's been a remarkable combination of experiences for me," Mrs. Clinton said in an interview with the American reporters who had traveled with her, adding that it would take some time to sort out its full meaning.

The first lady defended her decision to avoid confronting her hosts directly about widespread human rights abuses in the region, saying her effort to improve the lot of women and girls was itself a campaign for human rights.

"I don't think girls and women get as much attention on a regular basis as some of the well-publicized other instances of human rights concerns," she said. "I believe we have to emphasize as much as possible that the denial of education, the denial of basic health care, the denial of basic choices to girls is a human rights issue."

It was a demonstration of the fine diplomatic line Mrs. Clinton tried to walk during her visit that it drew muted grumbling from both ends of the spectrum: from activists disappointed that she tried to steer clear of controversy and from religious fundamentalists who believe that women should remain in their homes, subordinate to men.

The first lady spoke admiringly of programs she visited in areas such as education and lending that give poor women "the confidence and courage to claim a life of their own and to develop a voice of their own."

She seemed to acknowledge parallels with her own situation, as she tries to speak out in a way that both reflects her beliefs and with which the American people are comfortable.

"You have to keep true to your own beliefs about what is important and you have to say it over and over again, but you always have to be open to new ways of saying it that perhaps are understood better," she said.

More broadly, though, Mrs. Clinton said she is taking from her trip a "reinforcement of my own sense of how important it is to equip women with the capacity to make the best decisions they can make for themselves."

The first lady said it had been a delight to have her daughter accompany her, adding that Chelsea's presence on the trip was itself a demonstration of "our fundamental commitment to young people and particularly to girls in a very obvious way."

She said the trip also had vividly demonstrated to her the importance of U.S. aid to developing nations, a concept that is under attack from some Republicans in Congress.

Looking forward, the first lady said she hopes to attend the huge international women's conference scheduled for September in Beijing to continue her efforts to highlight the needs of women and girls.

Mrs. Clinton added that regardless of whether she attends, she hopes the conference will produce some sort of "statement of principles" that would be a call to action on behalf of women and girls.

Acknowledging that it would be difficult to achieve unanimity on such a

statement, the first lady displayed a bit of the outspokenness that helped make her a lightning rod for criticism during the health-care debate last year.

``There are people who still don't think the Earth is round but you can't worry about that,'' she said. ``I always assume 20 percent of the people will be against you whatever you do.''

Mrs. Clinton ends her five-nation tour on Wednesday after a visit to a community development center and a Buddhist temple.

**** filed by:APE(--) on 04/04/95 at 12:51EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 04/05/95 at 08:31EST ****

BC-PAKISTAN-BHUTTO

Pakistan's Bhutto leaves for U.S. tour

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (Reuter) - Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Tuesday left for a visit to the United States, hours after praying at the grave of her executed father, former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, airport officials said.

Bhutto, who is accompanied by government ministers and parliament members, is due to meet President Clinton on April 11.

Her departure comes a week after Clinton's wife Hillary Rodham paid a two-day visit to Pakistan as part of an Asian tour.

Earlier in the day, Bhutto visited her father's grave at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh in the southern province of Sindh to mark the anniversary of his hanging 16 years ago after being toppled as prime minister in a 1977 military coup.

Pakistani officials said Bhutto, during her April 5-14 tour, would seek U.S. mediation in Pakistan's dispute with India over Kashmir region, repeal of a law penalizing Islamabad for its nuclear program, fulfilment of a jinxed arms deal and private sector investment in Pakistan.

"This journey is the heartbeat of Pakistani masses...who want to see a strong Pakistan," she in a speech to a large meeting of her followers near her father's grave.

"Pakistanis want that I should go the United States with honor and return to Pakistan with honor," she said. "We will never bargain on principles."

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 04/04/95 at 17:18EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 04/05/95 at 08:32EST ****

PM-Mrs Clinton-Asia, Bjt,780

Mrs. Clinton Delivers a Message to Asia Girls Matter

Eds: Predawn EDT lead expected

By NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) In the teeming cities and dusty villages of the Indian subcontinent, Hillary Rodham Clinton spent much of the last 12 days cuddling babies, encouraging schoolchildren and listening to mothers.

In traditional settings and with measured tones, she ever-so-gently delivered a message to South Asia that she hopes will help to reshape its society the notion that girls matter.

To see that this concept needs reinforcing, she had only to visit an orphanage in New Delhi where 80 percent of the abandoned infants were girls or a hospital in Dhaka where two-thirds of those lucky enough to get care were boys.

Even as she avoided the diplomatic pitfalls of directly confronting governments over abuses of women, Mrs. Clinton put the spotlight on underlying issues of equality.

"We have to emphasize as much as possible that the denial of education, the denial of basic health care, the denial of basic choices to girls is a human rights issue," the first lady told reporters Tuesday as she looked back over her tour of South Asia.

Mrs. Clinton found plenty of allies during her visit to Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, where vibrant private groups are well ahead of their governments in promoting opportunity for women.

Professional women who had overcome great obstacles and poor villagers seeking a better life for their daughters were eager to tell the first lady of their successes and their struggles.

She will not soon forget the image of 200 poor Indian women in colorful saris raising their voices in an unfamiliar tongue to sing "We Shall Overcome."

Nor will she soon forget the words of a poor villager in Pakistan who said simply, "If you don't get educated, you're nobody."

Mrs. Clinton said she was taking home as many lessons as she brought, clearly moved by "how people were attempting to make the best of whatever situation they found themselves in."

"The courage ... that we saw in so many of the children and adults that we met is just invaluable," she said.

Activists welcomed the first lady's efforts to improve the status of women, but some were disappointed she did not more directly confront human rights abuses affecting women and children.

From the other end of the spectrum, Mrs. Clinton encountered resistance from religious fundamentalists arguing that women should remain in their homes, subordinate to men.

Regan Ralph, acting co-director of the Human Rights Watch women's project, said abuses "could have been raised more visibly" by the first lady.

James O'Dea, director of Amnesty International's Washington office, said Mrs. Clinton's "soft diplomatic touching of the issue of women's and children's human rights ... will hopefully be only the first step in a process whereby she really gets into the trenches on these issues."

He characterized her approach as "a soft and gentle evocation of these issues in a trip that had a lot of pictorial fluff to it."

The first lady's trip neared a close today with a scheduled visit to a community development center and a Buddhist temple. Women's advocates already were focusing their sights on an international women's conference scheduled for Beijing in September.

Mrs. Clinton said she hoped to attend the conference to continue her efforts to highlight the needs of women and girls. She hoped the conference would produce some sort of "statement of principles" that would be a call to action on behalf of women and girls.

O'Dea said human rights advocates were hopeful the first lady would be

ready to take a more forceful stand in Beijing, adding, ``We're looking for her to gracefully take off the satin gloves and get in the ring.''

On a personal level, the first lady's tour of South Asia known as ``Hillaryland'' by aides served as a coming-out of sorts for her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, who was at her mother's side through much of the trip and who clearly was fascinated at the eye-opening scenes around her.

For Mrs. Clinton, there appeared to be parallels between the struggles of South Asian women seeking to find their voice in society and her own efforts to speak out in a way that both reflects her beliefs and with which the American people are comfortable.

``You have to keep true to your own beliefs about what is important and you have to say it over and over again, but you always have to be open to new ways of saying it that perhaps are understood better,' ' she said.

**** filed by:APE(--) on 04/05/95 at 00:34EST ****

**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 04/05/95 at 08:33EST ****

BC-SRILANKA-HILLARY

Hillary homeward bound from South Asia tour

By Gene Gibbons

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 5 (Reuter) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton met Sri Lankan slum dwellers and paid homage to the country's Buddhist tradition on Wednesday before heading home from an extensive goodwill tour of South Asia.

Accompanied by daughter Chelsea, 15, the wife of U.S. President Bill Clinton started the last day of her 20,000-mile (32,000-km) trip by visiting the Kelaniya Temple, one of Sri Lanka's most sacred shrines, on the outskirts of Colombo.

There, shaded by an umbrella from a broiling tropical sun, she and Chelsea walked in a procession led by two gaudily-decorated elephants to place flowers at a statue of Buddha.

As they walked slowly in stocking feet toward the 19th century shrine, temple dancers in colourful costumes whirled around them while horn-playing musicians created a clamorous din.

Afterwards, Clinton, continuing her emphasis on U.S. concern for the poor in this region, went to a sprawling complex in Colombo's slum district to meet women helped by a programme partially financed by the United States.

Emblazoned over the entrance to one of the buildings was the legend: ``All of us long to see God someday, but meanwhile we are blind to his presence in our daily midst.''

The organisation that runs the complex is headed by Sister Bernie de Silva, a Roman Catholic nun.

She took Clinton on a tour of the cafeteria, classrooms and clinic for the poor during the hour-long visit and the First Lady also saw on-site employment provided for some 60 women.

Throughout her goodwill trip, Clinton has focused on private sector efforts like Samata Sarana, which in English means Relief for All, to alleviate some of the human misery that abounds in South Asia.

While she has carefully avoided being drawn into a discussion of budget-cut pressure in the United States that threatens to gut U.S. foreign aid programmes, the unspoken message of her journey has been that America's humanitarian efforts are important.

``The United States has been of great assistance in this region of the world for many, many decades, and I'm pleased to see the results of those years of effort. The kinds of investments we have made in the people of the countries I visited has produced results,' she said.

Clinton, who visited Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh before coming to Sri Lanka for an overnight visit, was due back in Washington early on Thursday.

REUTER

**** filed by:RB--(--) on 04/05/95 at 03:10EST ****
**** printed by:WHP(RJEL) on 04/05/95 at 08:34EST ****

BC-SRILANKA-HILLARY-DEPARTURE

Hillary leaves Sri Lanka, ending South Asian tour

COLOMBO, April 5 (Reuter) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton left Sri Lanka for the United States on Wednesday after an overnight stop during which she visited slum dwellers and paid homage at a Buddhist temple.

Accompanied by her daughter Chelsea, the wife of U.S. President Bill Clinton ended her 12-day, 20,000-mile (32,000-km) goodwill tour of South Asia which also took her to Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

In Sri Lanka, Clinton paid homage at the Kelaniya Temple on the outskirts of Colombo and visited a slum district to meet women helped by a programme partially financed by the United States.

Clinton also had discussions with leading Sri Lankan women and met President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, who hosted a reception for her on Tuesday night.

REUTER

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**** printed by:WHPR(JEL) on 04/05/95 at 08:34EST ****

Mrs. Clinton Stresses Rights Of Women on Visit to India

At the end of her first visit to India and the South Asian region, Hillary Rodham Clinton left a positive imprint as she discreetly projected herself as an international face of a new women's movement for gender equity, **Mayank Chhaya** writes. During her visit, the first by a U.S. First Lady in over 30 years since President John F. Kennedy's wife visited India, Mrs. Clinton left no one in doubt that she wanted to be heard

seriously during the run-up to the women's summit in Beijing later this year. She traveled in an aircraft from the U.S. presidential fleet with an entourage of 60, including White House aides and security and Secret Service personnel.

The First Lady met with President Shankar Dayal Sharma and had a one-hour meeting with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao during which they discussed women's empowerment and economic reforms.

Mrs. Clinton lunched with women leaders and had a lively dialogue with a number of working women, ranging from roadside grocers to small-scale embroiderers, who have to struggle against heavy odds. Mrs. Clinton was so moved by a poem on women written by a Delhi college student that she quoted it at the end of her address at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies in Delhi.

The First Lady did not go through too many changes of clothes and avoided making any strong sartorial statement. She visited the Taj Mahal in Agra and the capital's exclusive crafts museum, where she was amused by a "whistling walking stick."

On the third leg of her South Asian journey, Mrs. Clinton devoted her time in Nepal to health care, specially for women and children, **Ashok Easwaran** writes.

Earlier, Pakistan brought up Kashmir and the Pressler amendment during Mrs. Clinton's visit to that country. Pakistan seemed to hope its views would reach President Clinton ahead of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's coming trip to the U.S., **Tariq Butt** writes.

Mrs. Clinton's South Asia trip, **Ela Dutt** writes, earned her the most favorable coverage in the American press since she arrived in Washington as the First Lady.



U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton with President Shankar Dayal Sharma at the Presidential Palace in New Delhi on March 28. (Photo:Wide World)

India
Abroad
April 7,
1995

TOP OF THE WEEK

First Lady's Visit : Focus on Women

To Learn, Not Teach, and to Listen, Not Talk

By MAYANK CHHAYA

NEW DELHI

The visit was being seen here as more ceremonial than substance. But at the end of her maiden visit to India and this region, Hillary Rodham Clinton left a positive imprint as she discreetly projected herself as an international face of a new women's movement for gender equity.

However, contrary to news media speculation about the issues she would raise and even talk down to, the wife of the American President made it clear she was here to learn rather than teach and to listen rather than talk.

Although the visit — the first by a U.S. First Lady in over three decades since the visit by the wife of President John F. Kennedy — was spent more on understanding how women's issues are dealt with here, Mrs. Clinton did not leave anyone in doubt that she wanted to be heard seriously during the run-up to the women's summit conference in Beijing later this year. She found enough endorsement from India's leading women's rights champions, but more than that she received a lot of good advice from the country's seasoned campaigners.

Before her March 28-30 visit to India, spent in New Delhi and Ahmedabad, not much was expected to happen other than confirming her reputation as a "meddlesome" yet "credible" First Lady who exercises as much influence as her husband,

"It would have been like any other ceremonial visit had it not been for the fact that the U.S. administration attaches so much importance to her," said a senior official of the External Affairs Ministry.

President Bill Clinton. Even the choice of places that she was to visit, such as an orphanage run by Mother Teresa and a detailed 45-minute encounter with a trade union of women living and working on the margins of the Indian economy and society in Ahmedabad revealed her commitment to social and women's issues.

Ela Bhatt, founder of the union, the Self-Employed Women's Association, told *India Abroad*: "We had requested her not to take the line of giving aid during her visit here. We told her we don't need help of that kind. We asked that she should have a first-hand knowledge of how marginalized women, who are the core of the Indian economy, have organized themselves and offer a model to other countries including the U.S."

After her question-and-answer session with the union women, who included roadside greengrocers, small-time embroiders and other marginal workers, Mrs. Clinton seemed to have got a handle on an entirely different kind of activism.

Bhatt was asked if she got the sense that the First Lady was trying to build up a constituency for herself. she replied, "I don't know if she is trying to build up a political constituency, but she has certainly added a wholly new experience of activism by marginalized women to her thinking."

Her visit had some of the trappings of a state visit by a head of state. She came in an aircraft from the presidential fleet, a 707 once reportedly used by President Lyndon B. Johnson. She brought 60 people along, including White House aides and security and Secret Service personnel of about 60 people.

Two bulletproof special Cadillacs were also flown in. She was received at the airport by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Salman Khursheed, and the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Parliamentary Affairs, Margaret Alva. Alva was also her minister-in-waiting.

The First Lady had a one-hour meeting with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao during which they discussed women's empowerment and economic reforms. She also met with President Shankar Dayal Sharma. Sharma was her host at dinner and Rao gave her a special lunch.

Despite her reputation as having the U.S. President's ear on major policy issues, the Indian establishment did not quite attempt to talk bilateral diplomacy and politics with her.

"It would have been like any other ceremonial visit had it not been for the fact that the U.S. administration attaches so much importance to her," said a senior official of the External Affairs Ministry. But he said the visit provided a "welcome opportunity to enhance goodwill between the two countries."

He added that there was no attempt at talks on any of the critical issues between the two countries despite the presence in Mrs. Clinton's delegation of Robin Raphel, the Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.

Characteristically, the Indian response to the visit was in contrast to the reaction of the Pakistani government, which raised the Kashmir issue with her (see separate story). Contrary to news media speculations in the U.S., Mrs. Clinton completely avoided critical and sensitive issues such as human rights.

"She came with a clear idea of advancing her knowledge about ways to deal with women's issues, and the government is not keen to any other dimension to her visit," said one official. It was a measure of the non-controversial nature of her visit that only protocol officials were involved in it.

Quite evidently, Mrs. Clinton's main agenda lay outside government. Her speech at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation focused on women. She said she considered women "central to our common future."

"Women represent over half of the world's population," she said, "and yet in country after

country they lack access to education, to health services, to jobs, to political and civil rights...One lesson the experience of the last several decades teaches us is that where women prosper, countries prosper."

She linked issues related to women and children to the overall good of society, noting that very often such issues are dismissed as "soft."

"I want to argue strongly that the questions surrounding social development, especially women...are at the center of our political and economic challenges."

To applause from the elite audience, she announced that India would be the first country to benefit from the \$100 million U.S. aid for girls and women's initiative launched at the recent Social Summit in Copenhagen.

Then she took everyone by surprise by departing from her prepared text to read out a poem, called "Silence," written by a Delhi University undergraduate which mirrored the silent suffering of women.

The First Lady's comment at the meeting of the self-employed women's union meeting in Ahmedabad, about the time having arrived for women to break their long silence, was loudly applauded by the audience. At the union meeting Mrs. Clinton got into the mechanics of making a trade union movement targeted at marginalized women for larger societal good.

The overall impression among those who had a chance to meet her was remarkably upbeat and even flattering. Many of them thought, notwithstanding many jokes about it, that she has perhaps better presidential material than her husband.

Kartikaya Sarabhai, an environmentalist and trustee of the Gandhi Ashram, who met with her, said "she has got the stuff [to become president]." Sarabhai's sister Mallika, a dancer-choreographer

She linked issues related to women and children to the overall good of society, noting that very often such issues are dismissed as "soft."

and a publisher who attended Mrs. Clinton's luncheon, also thought that she had what it took to be a president. Mallika Sarabhai told Mrs. Clinton that she looked forward to her becoming the first stateswoman in the U.S.

Jaya Arunachalam, a prominent women's campaigner from Madras, also seemed to think the First Lady could make a good president but said she did not seem inclined to run for that office. Instead Arunachalam thought Mrs. Clinton was very keen to see that the declaration of the Beijing women's summit should produce a specific one-page document that could be internationally relevant (see separate story).

The more salutary aspect of her journey was a visit to Mother Teresa's orphanage in Old Delhi and "Prayas" (endeavor), a school for integrated child development run on the campus of the Indian Institute of Technology.

At the orphanage Mrs. Clinton spent half an hour talking to nuns about the children. "They are all very beautiful children," she said even as an American television reporter muttered to himself that "they look like animals in cages." The orphanage takes care of 167 children and saves them from a life of destitution.

The First Lady's experience at the Prayas was somewhat different. About 25 children dressed in brightly colored clothes danced to welcome her. There were charts and graphs about the school, including the need for fans and computers. The school, run by Roshni Misra, has 200 children, many of them disabled.

The school was little known before Mrs. Clinton's visit. Its choice was largely dictated by the fact that wives of American residents and diplomats do some voluntary work there.

"The school is a marvelous example of how people working together can take care of one another," Mrs. Clinton said.

Her five-nation South Asian tour of Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka was aimed, she said, at finding out the problems of people in this part of the world, especially women. She said President Clinton had wanted her to gain first-hand information about the work done by non-governmental groups in issues related to women and children.

Since January 1978, when President Jimmy Carter visited India, no U.S. President has come to this part of the world. It was not clear if sending the First Lady was President Clinton's way of making up to a region that accounts for one-sixth of the world's population.



US first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, at the Prime Minister's house in New Delhi, on Wednesday, March 29, during her visit to India. (Photo: Ramesh)



Mrs. Clinton with Sonia Gandhi, chairperson of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. Mrs. Clinton quoted a poem on women by a Delhi college student during her address to the foundation in New Delhi on March 29. (See story on page 6). (Photo: PTI)



In keeping with the holiness and tradition at the Mahatma Gandhi shrine, Hillary Clinton and her daughter Chelsea walked on bare feet inside the shrine complex in Ahmedabad, Thursday, March 30. Shrine official at right was unidentified. At center is a portrait of Gandhi. (Photo: Wide World)

Poem Moves First Lady

By a Staff Writer

NEW DELHI — Hillary Rodham Clinton was so moved by a college student's poem on women that she quoted it at the end of her address at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies here.

"I have never seen a better description of the reason why women's silence must end than in a poem I received from Meenakshi Gopinath, the principal of Lady Sri Ram College in New Delhi," Mrs. Clinton said.

The poem, "Silence," was written by Anasuya Sengupta of the class of 1995." It follows:

*Too many women in too many countries
speak the same language — of silence. My
grandmother was always silent, always aggrieved.
Only her husband had the cosmic right (or
so it was said) to speak and be heard.*

*They say it is different now (after all, I am
always vocal and my grandmother thinks I talk
too much), but sometimes I wonder.*

*When a woman gives her love, as most do
generously, it is accepted. When a woman
shares her thoughts, as some women do gra-
ciously, it is allowed. When a woman fights for
power, as all women would like to, quietly or
loudly, it is questioned.*

*And yet, there must be freedom if we are to
speak. And yes, there must be power if we are to
be heard. And when we have both (freedom and
power), let us not be misunderstood.*

*We seek only to give words to those who can-
not speak (too many women in too many coun-
tries). I seek only to forget the sorrows of my
grandmother's silence.*

Sengupta is studying for an economics degree and is in the final year of her three-year course.

TOP OF THE WEEK

First Lady's Visit : Focus on Women

Rewarding Talks With Poor Working Women

By MAYANK CHHAYA

AHMEDABAD

A trade union of women living and working on the margins of society offered Hillary Rodham Clinton more solutions to gender issues than she had expected.

The First Lady had what might have been the most substantive part of her five-nation South Asian tour during a lively, 45-minute dialogue with women who usually get a raw deal from an inherently unfair system.

Ranging from roadside grocers to small-scale embroiderers, they engaged her in what she described as a highly educational discussion.

The Self-Employed Women's Association (Sewa, meaning service in many Indian languages) was repeatedly defined by Mrs. Clinton as holding answers to many problems related to women that she and President Clinton were trying to address in the United States.

She said: "The word about your work has traveled very far to Arkansas, the state that my husband, the President, and I come from. We have followed what Sewa has done in creating credit opportunities for poor women. The President wants to extend that to poor women all over the U.S."

During a question session, Mrs. Clinton was asked by Rahima Sheikh, a Sewa official, what had inspired her to visit India. She replied:

"Ever since I was my daughter's age, I've wanted to come to India, and the opportunity came when my husband asked me to visit and find out about issues related to women and children, and whether we can learn something from the way you deal with these issues. I wanted to see women in India through Sewa."

What she saw in the form of brief presentations by Sewa volunteers "impressed and pleased" her. She said that "we in the U.S. need to catch up with Sewa," upon which the women in the audience, many of them illiterate, applauded her.

Ela Bhatt, founder of Sewa and a pioneer in organizing women at the lower end of the economy, said: "Poor women are central to the economy of our country, society and family. Our 20 years of experience says that women are capable of taking the lead in fighting poverty, of running economic organizations viably. Women are good investments, bankable, highly creditworthy, have a proven track record of excellence everywhere they have had opportunity and access."

"If we believe that productive employment is the key to combat poverty and social marginalization, then poor women are the answer, because among the poor, all women work whether paid or not."

Bhatt, who has received the prominent Magsaysay Award for her work, founded Sewa in 1972 as a trade union to mobilize women in the unorganized and informal sector of the economy. The sector, according to Sewa, encompasses 94 percent of the female working population.

The organization has a membership of 143,000 women, two-thirds of them from rural parts of Gujarat.

Among Sewa's major accomplishments is winning official recognition of women in these sectors as workers, and therefore entitling them to minimum wages and other benefits, something they had previously not received.

Other achievements include the creation of a bank that lends marginalized women modest credits to become economically independent, and providing a minimum legal education.

Sewa has pioneered such concepts as social security that means health care, child support and housing as part of full employment. Many of these ideas seemed to capture Mrs. Clinton's attention.

Bhatt told *India Abroad* that Mrs. Clinton had seemed interested in replicating some of the ideas in the U.S., specifically a community bank for the poor.

"We also spoke about health care, and I told her about self-financed health cooperatives that we run," Bhatt added. "We discussed migration from the rural areas to the urban and ways to stop that."

Mrs. Clinton said the problems that women faced were the same all over the world, and there was a need for consolidated action. At one point, she asked the women of Sewa what the organization had done for them.

Bashiruddin Bibi, a volunteer, replied: "We used to be scared of our husbands, mothers-in-law, police, government. We could not deal with any of these, but now we know how to stand up and fight for our rights."

The reply seemed to go down well with the First Lady, who said that many of the things Bibi had mentioned applied to women all over the world, and that Sewa's experiences could be crucial in dealing with them.

Mrs. Clinton was also asked about the high divorce rate in the U.S. and what it meant to children. She answered: "It's a very important question. It's true that 50 percent of our marriages end in divorce."

In many cases, she added, couples work out settlements that take care of the children, but when that is not done, the government wants to enforce penalties, such as canceling the driver license or work permit.

She also conceded that divorce was a serious problem with a bearing on American society.

Her four-hour visit was essentially to meet Sewa and visit the Gandhi ashram on the banks of the Sabarmati River. It was built in 1917, two years after Gandhi returned from South Africa. Many of his political, cultural, religious and economic ideas were refined there.

Mrs. Clinton appeared aware that she was at one of modern India's most important monuments.

She took off her shoes, a practice followed by visitors before going inside the rooms in which Gandhi lived and worked for 12 years.

Trustees of the ashram said she was moved by Gandhi's simplicity. She was given a plaque of the main cottage, Hriday Kunj, and a set of nearly a dozen books, many of them written by Gandhi and three, including "Gandhi on 'Women'" and "The Mind of Mahatma Gandhi," by others.

Kartikaya Sarabhai, an environmentalist and a

trustee of the ashram, who received the visitor, said she did not come as a tourist, but as a "pilgrim who knew what she was looking at." He and his sister, Mallika, had met Mrs. Clinton separately at a luncheon in Delhi. He said she seemed well read on Gandhi and his philosophy.

"She knew the significance of his work and noted how leaders all over the world, including Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela, had been influenced by Gandhi," he said. "She noted the universality of Gandhi's idea of nonviolence."

It was estimated that more than 100,000 people lined the road on Mrs. Clinton's six-kilometer (3.7-mile) drive from the ashram to Sewa's headquarters in central Ahmedabad, something she did not see in New Delhi.

At Sewa, she was made honorary holder of a savings account in the cooperative all-woman bank

and given a passbook that had her photograph and listed her vocation as lawyer and address as the White House. She and her daughter, Chelsea, were also given hand-embroidered wall hangings.

Mrs. Clinton seemed overwhelmed by the reception. She said:

"I will never forget what I have seen here and learned. Your faces, your beautiful clothes in all the colors of the rainbow. I will have lots of stories of your lives to tell when I go back."

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Hillary Clinton greets members of the Self Employed Women's Association, in Ahmedabad on Thursday, March 30. Mrs. Clinton addressed the gathering and hoped that women in the US start a similar organization as SEWA. (Photo: Wide World)



Hillary Clinton, right, and daughter Chelsea share a moment on a visit to the world famous 17th century Taj Mahal in Agra, some 124 miles south of New Delhi, on Thursday, March 30. According to a source, the trip was educative for Chelsea. She learned about one of the most ancient civilizations. (Photo: Wide World)

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Mrs. Clinton's South Asia Trip Earns Favourable U.S. Press

By ELA DUTT

WASHINGTON

Mrs. Clinton's South Asia trip earned her significantly favorable coverage in the American press. Most papers, even as they interpreted the trip as an attempt to reclaim some of her lost glory, credited her with having long espoused children's and women's welfare in the United States.

The coverage began as she took off on March 26. The *Washington Post* printed a long article in its "Outlook" section, entitled "Jewel in the Town." It was written by Elizabeth Bumiller, author of the book, "May You Be the Mother of a Hundred Sons."

Meeting Ela Bhatt, president of the Self-Employed Women's Association based in Ahmedabad, indicated that the organizers planned the right itinerary for her, Bumiller wrote.

"When 150,000 poor Indian women can organize and save, what does it mean for America?" she asked. "Everything. At a time when the U.S. is trying to end welfare as it now exists, Sewa provides a model."

It is through empowerment and control over their lives that entrepreneurship is generated, she added.

Bhatt, who had met Mrs. Clinton previously, was reported to have said that the First Lady was a serious person. In her typically earthy style, the activist leader was quoted as adding:

"Whatever questions she asks, you can tell that she is listening to your answers. Not like all those politicians whose minds are somewhere else."

A strike led by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce the day Mrs. Clinton landed in Islamabad was the subject of an article in the *Los Angeles Times*.

Even as the First Lady landed in a pouring rain, the strike crippled major cities, the paper reported. It said the federation's leader had been dismissed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto that day, and security forces were rounding up businessmen who had accused the government of not listening to their pleas to restore order in violence-ridden Karachi.

Mrs. Clinton appeared to be untouched by all that, however, as she lunched with the rich and powerful and visited a village, as evident by photographs and articles in the *Post*, the *Washington Times*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *New York Times* on March 28.

"Mrs. Clinton finds kindred spirit in Bhutto," said a headline in the *Los Angeles Times*. An accompanying article said that even though a woman was at the helm in Pakistan, activists in Pakistan accused Bhutto of a lack of effort to improve the lot of women.

Both women leaders, it added, share the experience of being criticized for taking an aggressive leadership role.

The article also cited Administration officials as saying that in Pakistan they were seeking to demonstrate respect for Islam and to make clear that Americans did not equate the Muslim faith with extremism or terrorism.

Mrs. Clinton had a scarf over her head, visited a mosque and she and Chelsea wore the traditional Pakistani salwar (pants) kameez (loose shirt).

The *Post* article on March 27 highlighted what it saw as the trip's attempt to put a more human face on U.S. foreign policy in the troubled region. It also contended that the trip to India was an idea that had been pushed by Elizabeth Moynihan, wife of Senator Daniel Moynihan of New York and former Ambassador to India.

In the State Department protocol, however, Mrs. Clinton "could not visit India without calling on India's neighbor and longtime enemy, Pakistan," said the writer of the article, Molly Moore said.

Chelsea, 15, appeared to have stolen some of the limelight with intelligent questions on Islam.

The *New York Times*, which ran a story on the visit almost every day, said Mrs. Clinton was a "study in the subtle role of spouse without portfolio."

Even though Bhutto was said to have raised the issues of the Pressler amendment, human rights and nonproliferation in their private meetings, Mrs. Clinton steered clear of them, emphasizing that they were matters to be discussed by the Pakistani leader when she came to Washington this month.

On March 28, most papers were carrying pictures rather than in-depth articles, except for the *Washington Times* and the *Boston Globe*. The first printed a 12-inch article, headed "First Lady Makes a Pitch for Women," with pictures of Mrs. Clinton, Chelsea, and Bhutto in silken clothes and enjoying a dinner.

It had a few funny sidelights, as when asked by a student if she had a nickname, Mrs. Clinton said: "It depends on who you talk to. Some people, I would imagine, have quite rude nicknames for me."

The March 28 *Miami Herald* had a photo of Mrs. Clinton at Lahore's Burki village, as did the *Los Angeles Times*. The *Chicago Tribune* had a short notice of her arrival in New Delhi. But the *Globe* carried a long article on details of the visit.

The next day the *Post* looked behind the scenes at the India and Pakistan visits — how residents of Burki were pushed out of sight by security forces, how Old Delhi's busiest streets was deserted, and how babies in Mother Teresa's orphanage were outfitted with American pampers and newly-stitched, floral pinafores.

It then added: "Nothing has matched the spectacle created by the Pakistani government officials at a farewell dinner staged at the 12th-century Lahore Fort."

In its March 31 issue, the *Post* had a headline, "The First Daughter's Passage through India." It said the American press was forbidden to report on any of Chelsea's activities when she was on her own, only when she was with her mother.

On March 30, the *New York Times* appeared to be emotional about the poem an Indian schoolgirl wrote for the First Lady. Mrs. Clinton not only recited the whole poem, entitled "Silence," but found a resonance in it for what she felt to be her often-misunderstood role as First Lady in this country.

In an accompanying speech, she announced that a new 10-year international aid program for educating women would come to India. But the amount was a modest \$500,000.

The First Lady traveled with an entourage of senior aides, almost all of women, the *New York Times* reported, and the group, it said, felt like a combination of a fun-loving sorority blended with a graduate seminar on the responsibilities of sisterhood.

The paper picked up an *Associated Press* report from Ahmedabad in its March 31 issue that found Mrs. Clinton under a sweltering tent talking to women vegetable vendors, embroidery workers and other of the poor, who told her they were no longer afraid to organize for better treatment in the marketplace and society.

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Crafts and Fare of the Country Give Delight

By MAYANK CHHAYA

NEW DELHI

Hillary Clinton, during her three days in this country, had occasional encounters with things peculiarly Indian — food, handicrafts or ordinary people — and she seemed to enjoy every bit of it. At the capital's exclusive Crafts Museum, which she visited on March 29, she was quite amused by a "whistling walking stick." The stick, made by a rural artisan, was hollow and would make a whistling sound when wielded. Mrs. Clinton swirled it several times and even asked the American media people to try it out.

At the museum she was also presented with an exquisitely woven mat by an artisan from Midnapore in West Bengal. The mat, with a light shade of green, was so finely woven that it could pass as a sari. Mrs. Clinton was highly impressed by the workmanship.

Her journey into India began with a particularly effusive welcome at the capital's Maurya Sheraton Hotel, which has lately come to specialize in hosting dignitaries, the last being U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. The 500-room hotel had nearly 100 rooms spread over three floors reserved for the first lady's entourage.

She was hosted in the hotel's most expensive suite, Chandragupta, named after the famous Indian king of the ancient Maurya period. The two-bedroom suite, that costs Rs. 24,000 a night (about \$770), was specially done up to suit Mrs. Clinton's "genteel" tastes, as one hotel spokesman described it. The 16th floor suite, which overlooks Delhi's thick green cover, has a lot of rust, off-white, "autumn" colors.

It had paisley patterned curtains and upholstery and the artifacts were typically bronze of the Chola age. There were the customary personalized stationary and light yellow ~~bathrobes~~ bathrobes with her full name inscribed on it. There were a lot of white and yellow flowers, including lilies.

There was no official confirmation from the hotel about the bill that the First Lady's entourage may have run up. But at an average of \$240 a room, exclusive of taxes, and food and drinks and other related expenses, the total could have been well between \$35,000 to \$50,000 for three nights. But sources in the hotel said very often dignitaries are offered hefty discounts.

"If normal guests were to occupy these rooms the hotel would have earned more,"

said Sona Adhikari, the hotel's public relations manager. "But with dignitaries money is not the consideration. What matters is our reputation."

Knowing Mrs. Clinton's reported liking for so-called "junk food," the hotel had stored a lot of crackers, chips, colas and so on. "But she did not touch any of it," Adhikari said. "Her meals came from the American Embassy. Even her breakfasts, which typically included croissants, had to be kept for 72 hours under instructions from her security staff before she could eat them."

What apparently prompted the First Lady to have at least one meal at the hotel's famous Bukhara restaurant was a word from her daughter Chelsea,



A traditional Indian drummer played for Hillary Clinton and daughter Chelsea during their tour of the Crafts Museum market in New Delhi, on Wednesday March 29. Inside the museum she was amused by a 'whistling walking' stick made by a rural artisan. (Photo: Wide World)

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who had eaten there earlier. Mrs. Clinton's menu was small but choice. It included sikhnadri raan or marinated leg of lamb, murg malai kebab or butter chicken kebab, daal bukhara or buttered black lentil and nan bukhara or giant sized nans. The single main course was followed by firni or rice pudding, which she particularly enjoyed, declining tea or coffee because she wanted to savor its taste a little longer. She went inside the hotel kitchen and inquired about the tandoor or

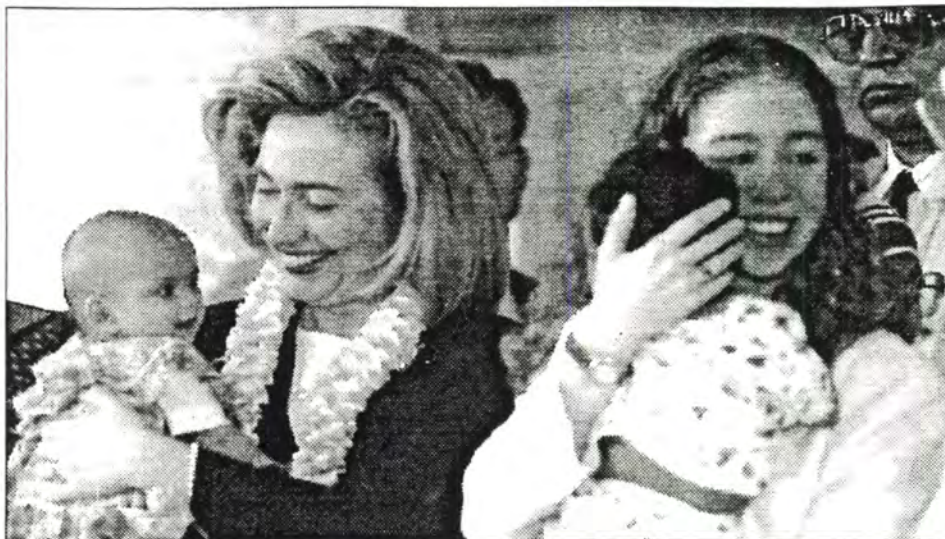
clay oven and the Indian way of cooking with the chef, Madan Lal Jaiswal.

Mrs. Clinton did not go through too many changes of clothes and she certainly stayed away from making any strong sartorial statement.

One point that many Indians, including some who met her, made was how "utterly young" she looked. On the day she visited the Taj Mahal in Agra, she wore a pink frock that prompted one guest to make the compliment, "The dress enhanced her figure enough for most people to notice it."

Chelsea, on the other hand, mixed with people of her age. She had a detailed three-hour tour of the Rashtrapati Bhavan or India's Presidential palace, along with granddaughters of President Shankar Dayal Sharma. Chelsea went through a veritable treasure trove of gifts that the occupants of the palace have received over the years and which are displayed in more than 100 rooms. She also struck up a friendship with Priyanka, Rajiv Gandhi's daughter.

One source, closely monitoring the visit, told *India Abroad*, "For Chelsea this trip has been full of education. She has learned a great deal about one of the most ancient civilizations, albeit fleetingly."



First Lady Hillary Clinton and daughter Chelsea hold orphaned children during a tour of the Mother Teresa Orphanage in New Delhi on March 28. (Photo: Wide World).

Bhutto Raises the Kashmir Issue With Guest

By TARIQ BUTT

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan brought up Kashmir and the Pressler amendment with Hillary Rodham Clinton on her visit, hoping that its views would reach President Clinton ahead of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's coming trip to the U.S.

"We attach great importance to Mrs. Clinton's visit, which has created warmth and goodwill in Pakistan-U.S. relations," said Foreign Minister Sardar Aseff Ahmad Ali. "It has created a good environment on the eve of the Prime Minister's visit to the U.S."

Most of the First Lady's engagements on the two-day trip (March 26-27) were cultural, social and nonpolitical. She tried to get across to the maximum number of people in the short time.

She watched cultural shows, met politicians, academics and women leaders in different spheres, and visited schools, a basic health unit and historical places in Islamabad and Lahore.

However, during a 20-minute meeting, Bhutto briefed her on "human rights violations in Indian-administered" Kashmir.

"There is a dire need to resolve the core issue of Kashmir between the two South Asian neighbors," Bhutto was quoted as telling her guest.

Another issue Bhutto touched on was the U.S. refusal, as a result of the Pressler amendment, to deliver 38 F-16 aircraft, for which Pakistan had paid over \$1.2 billion dollars.

Of the amendment, she said: "It is a blunt instrument and has not served the purpose. Therefore, it should go. Washington should either deliver the equipment or return the money."

At the same time, Ali emphasized that the visit "will create a better awareness among the U.S.

Administration and the people of the U.S. about Pakistan and its problems."

Mrs. Clinton made no public comment on any political, regional or international issue. She stayed clear of the problem areas, playing the role of a goodwill ambassador.

Bhutto apprised her of steps taken by the Pakistan government to undo institutional discrimination against women, improve conditions for children, improve health facilities and involve women in development activity.

Mrs. Clinton said: "What Mrs. Bhutto has done to recognize the great potential of this country as being tied with the great potential of its women is something that makes common sense and is giving all of us hope that as we invest in women and girls, we invest in men, we invest in the future, we invest in our society."

Pakistani officials hoped that Mrs. Clinton would convey to her husband what she had heard and the impressions she had gathered from her meetings here, and influence the President's opinion and U.S. policies toward Pakistan.

The killing of two American staffers of the U.S. consulate in Karachi by unidentified gunmen two weeks before her visit had embarrassed Pakistan. It was feared that Mrs. Clinton would put off her visit. That she did not was seen by officials as signaling Washington's desire for good relations.

The visit caused much excitement. Although Mrs. Clinton holds no public office, her trip was well covered by the media.

Many people who did not know much about Mrs. Clinton sought to compare her with the late Jacqueline Kennedy, who visited Pakistan 33 years ago.



First Lady Hillary Clinton, with daughter Chelsea, far left, looking on, receives flower on her arrival in Bangladesh capital Dhaka on April 2. (Photo: Wide World).

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Visit to a Bangla Self-Help Project

By ERSHADUL HUQ

DHAKA

Hillary Rodham Clinton told poor Bangladeshi women on the fourth leg of her South Asian swing that "I believe very strongly that it is important for women to earn their own income even when they are married."

The U.S. First Lady drove to Rishipara, a poor Hindu settlement 10 kilometers north of Jessore, in southwestern Bangladesh, after arriving here from Katmandu on April 2. She wanted to see for herself how a self-sustaining program of community lending to the poor by the Grameen Bank (literally meaning village bank) has lifted hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshis out of abject poverty to dignified self-sufficiency.

By visiting this town in the interior of Bangladesh, Mrs. Clinton was paying tribute — not only for herself but also for her husband, President Bill Clinton — to a path-breaking institution and its creator, Dr. Muhammad Yunus. He has become something of a legend in his country and has also been praised abroad for his work.

The bank is a private institution completely owned by its two million impoverished members. Already the envy of leading bankers, its approach to lending has caught on in many countries around the world. It has been replicated in President Clinton's home state of Arkansas in the shape of the Good faith Fund, started at Pine Bluff.

Grameen was also the model for Chicago's South Shore Bank, which is a pioneer of urban development loans in the U.S. for the deprived. Last year the United States Congress voted \$ 33 million to help set up Grameen-type small community enterprises all over the country.

In Rishipara, illiterate women belonging to families of tanners got loans from 4,000 taka to 6,000 taka (\$100 to \$150), which have been used for income-generating activities like buying livestock and poultry, selling milk and eggs, and other village businesses. The profits have been enough to repay the loan with something to spare.

Mrs. Clinton said she would go back to work to earn her own income when her husband leaves the office of President.

"My husband is the President of the U.S., I am not earning my own income," she said. "I started work when I was 13 years old and always earned my own income. There were some years when my income was more than my husband's."

The First Lady said she was happy to learn that many of the poor women she has seen, whose husbands left them because they had brought insufficient dowries, were reunited now that they were generating incomes for their families.

She said she was also gratified to learn that women, once on the receiving end of social and religious biases, now had representation in government councils and were involved in policy-making. "This is very important and it will benefit you in the long run," she told them.

Mrs. Clinton was to go to Sri Lanka on April 5 on the last leg of her South Asian tour.

Meeting With the Man She's Named After

By Reuters

KATHMANDU

Hillary Clinton met on April 2 the man for whom she is named — mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary, the conqueror of Mount Everest.

The wife of U.S. President Bill Clinton, who is on a South Asian goodwill tour, was greeted by Hillary, 75, at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport when she arrived to take a plane out of Nepal after a three-day stay.

She flew to Dhaka for a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Hillary Clinton, 47, told reporters in Nepal that her mother, Dorothy Rodham, read an article about Hillary while she was pregnant and that explained the unusual spelling of her name.

"She read an article in 1947 and that was before he climbed Everest. So when I was born, she called me Hillary and she always told me it was because of Sir Edmund Hillary," she said.

Sir Edmund said it was "sheer coincidence" that their paths had happened to cross. The soft-spoken adventurer runs a foundation that builds schools and clinics in the Himalayas and he had come to Nepal on a visit.

The New Zealander, who climbed the world's highest peak in 1953, saying he had done so "because it was there," noted that Hillary Clinton's fame now exceeded his own.

"In America before, if anybody recognized the name Hillary it was always me, and now they say, 'Oh, you must be a lady,'" he said.

Hillary Clinton, whose journey with her 15-year-old daughter Chelsea began last week with Pakistan and India, relaxed on a weekend safari in Nepal's Royal Chitwan game preserve planned as a respite from the 12-day tour.

She and Chelsea rode an elephant on an excursion into jungle where rare Bengal tigers roam and dined by kerosene lantern at a camp with only one telephone and no electricity.



First Lady Hillary Clinton meets Sir Edmund Hillary one of the first two men to climb Mount Everest, at the Kathmandu airport on April 2. Mrs. Clinton met Hillary while she was leaving Nepal and as he was arriving. (Photo: Wide World).

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Focus on Nepal Women's Health

By ASHOK EASWARAN

KATHMANDU

On the third leg of her South Asian journey, Hillary Rodham Clinton devoted her time in this Himalayan kingdom to health care, specially for women and children.

She had a packed schedule, with receptions by King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya, and a meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Adhikari, who heads Nepal's first Communist government, and the city's elite.

Her greatest interest was in women's organizations and projects run by them.

Soon after her arrival, Mrs. Clinton dropped in at the Kalimati Clinic run by local women and supported by a volunteer group, American Women of Nepal, consisting of wives of U.S. diplomats.

Nepal, it could be sold throughout South Asia, officials said.

The First Lady appeared impressed by the kit. In conversations with health officials, she praised the women's spirit of enterprise.

"Something like this, as we know around the world, can make an enormous difference if it is available," she said.

Nepal, one of the poorest countries according to the World Health Organization, suffers from a high infant mortality rate, largely due to unsafe birth practices. Nepalese women have a maternal mortality of about 850 per 100,000, officials here said.

Mrs. Clinton is the first First Lady to visit Nepal. She and her daughter, Chelsea, were received at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan Airport by Queen Aishwarya and Princess Shruti. Chelsea seemed to hit

Mrs. Clinton is welcomed by Nepal's Communist Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari at his office in Singa Darbar in Kathmandu on March 31. The Himalayan kingdom of Nepal is the third nation the first Lady visited on her South Asia tour.

(Photo: Wide World).



She inaugurated the distribution of a "safe birth kit." Said to be easy to use, it consists of basic materials needed in the home, where most Nepalese births occur, and is designed to help family members and traditional birth attendants insure that the mother and child stay well after delivery.

According to officials here, Mrs. Clinton was pleased that the kits were produced by a company operated by Nepalese women. If successful in

it off with Shruti and was seen in an animated conversation with her.

Mrs. Clinton visited the Dwarika Hotel, owned by one of Nepal's few women entrepreneurs, where she met women politicians, entrepreneurs and leaders of prominent nongovernmental organizations. In a relaxed atmosphere, she listened as they described their personal experiences in rising to the top of their professions and the challenges that women in Nepal faced.

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Women Activists Get a Favorable Impression

By MAYANK CHHAYA

NEW DELHI

Hillary Rodham Clinton, on her visit, was treated to a variety of Indian women activists who were assertive, poised and self-assured.

Her luncheon meeting with 12 women leaders may have influenced the First Lady's perspective on issues relating to women and children more than she anticipated.

Some of the women at the luncheon hosted by Ambassador Frank Wisner at his residence, Roosevelt House, said Mrs. Clinton seemed "very keen to learn" and was "amenable" to ideas to which she had perhaps never been exposed.

"She struck me as someone very bright, very pleasant and very well briefed," said Mallika Sarabhai, one of India's best-known dancers and choreographers, and a publisher.

Sarabhai, who attended the luncheon, told *India Abroad*: "The women she met represented a special Indian brand of feminism. They were progressive and also proud of being women."

Sarabhai said she had told Mrs. Clinton that Indian civilization had always been comfortable with and unquestioning of women in positions of power. She went on:

"I told her that unlike in the U.S., men here do not have any serious problem accepting women in leadership roles. I even pointed out that it was a pity that in the U.S. men have a problem accepting a woman as a president. She acknowledged that was indeed a problem."

Also present was Jaya Arunachalam, who runs the Madras-based Working Women's Forum that helps traditional weavers. She admitted having been "very skeptical" before attending the luncheon.

"I'm not given to such high-falutin' lunches, but must say I came back very pleased and impressed with her sincerity and grasp of women's issues," she said.

Also, she added, Mrs. Clinton was eager to incorporate what she learned from women's groups in India in the agenda of the Beijing conference on women later this year.

Mrs. Clinton particularly focused on improving women's status through education. She also asked about the high-school dropout rate among girls.

Asked how she felt Mrs. Clinton had come across, Arunachalam said: "She was very humble and made it clear that she was here to learn and not teach. At the same time, she knew what she was talking about."

Sarabhai and Arunachalam said they had the impression that Mrs. Clinton had "enormous influence" with President Clinton. They expressed the hope that her interactions in South Asia, especially India, would translate into policies of substance toward the region.

Sarabhai said she had told the First Lady it was a pity that to be accepted, she still had to use "Hillary Rodham Clinton," not just "Hillary Rodham." And she voiced the opinion that Mrs. Clinton would make an excellent president.

"An important thing about our meeting was that it might help correct a naive view that most Americans have about women in India," she emphasized. "They think we are oppressed and put down, but it is far from that, as she must have found out."

Arunachalam said Mrs. Clinton had expressed eagerness to visit southern India in future. There was some disappointment among southern non-governmental groups that the First Lady did not visit them, according to Nandini Azad, also of the Working Women's Forum.

Jan Peterson of Groots North America had written to Mrs. Clinton asking her to come to Madras while she was in India.

"The Working Women's Forum is an example of grass-roots women organizing for the sustainable development of their communities and families," said the letter, signed by Peterson and three other Groots activists.

It described the forum as a contemporary of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh (for helping the poor), which the Clintons have praised and emulated in Arkansas.

Arunachalam gave Mrs. Clinton a crimson silk scarf with gold inlay work, made by the famous Kanjeevaram weavers. Sarabhai said the First Lady had expressed a desire to watch her dance drama, "Sita's Daughter."

"She said I must let her know when I perform it in New York," Sarabhai added.

Others at the luncheon were Margaret Alva, Minister for Personnel and Parliamentary Affairs; film maker Mira Nair; Shobhana Bharatiya of *The Hindustan Times*; Urvashi Butalia of the publishing house Kali for Women, and activists Ranjana Kumari, C.P. Jayalakshmi and Bonani Kakkar.

India Abroad
April 7, 1995

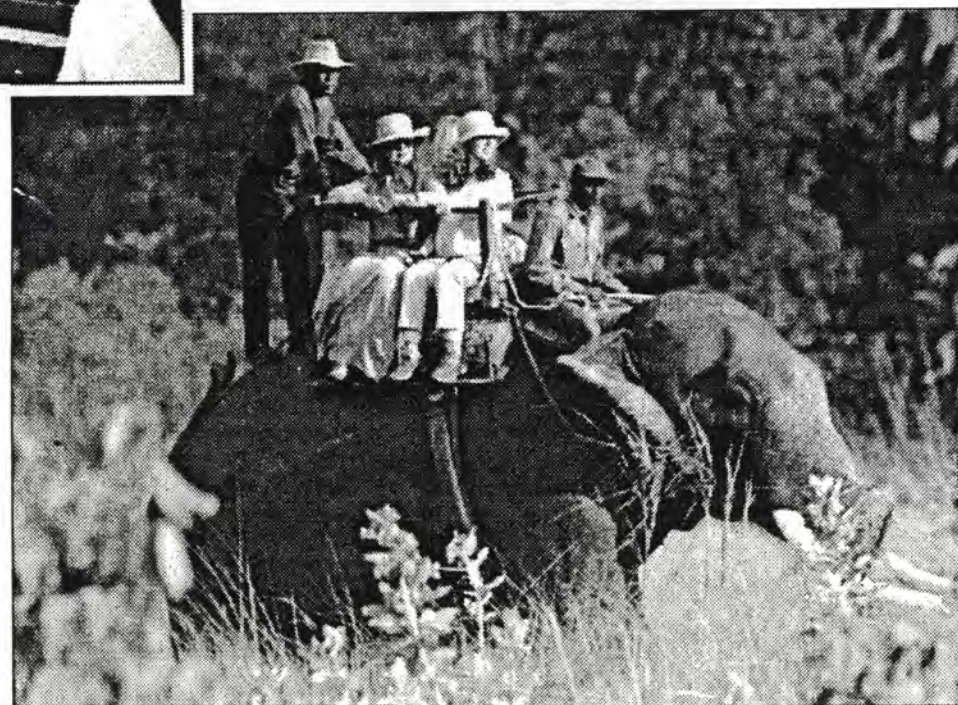
TOP OF THE WEEK**First Lady's Visit : Focus on Women**

Mrs. Clinton talking to a handicapped girl during her visit to "Prayas," a children's home, in New Delhi on March 28. (Photo: Ramesh)



Mrs. Clinton watches a Nepalese woman weaving during a demonstration of local crafts, shortly after her arrival in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu on March 31. Mrs. Clinton told the artisans: "What you are doing is what I am trying to encourage, help women gain independence and income."

(Photo: Wide World).



Mrs. Clinton and her daughter Chelsea ride an elephant during a visit to Nepal's Chitwan National Forest on April 2. (Photo: Wide World).

Visit of H.E. Mrs. Hillary Clinton, First Lady.

United States of America at SEWA.

30 th March 1995

1. 3.30 p.m. Arrival of Mrs. Clinton & Welcome by Mrs. Ela R. Bhatt, General Secretary, SEWA, and other office bearers of SEWA. (Garlending)
2. 3.35 p.m. Mrs. Clinton visits SEWA Bank.
3. 3.45 p.m. Mrs. Clinton meets SEWA members.
 - * Prayer
 - * Welcome
 - * Introduction to SEWA by Mrs. Ela R. Bhatt.
 - * Mrs. Clinton's opening remarks.
 - * Presentation of SEWA activities and open discussion with SEWA members.
 - * Address by Mrs. Clinton.
 - * Thanks.
4. 4.45p.m. Mrs. Clinton meets Women artisan and visits SEWA kalakruti outlet.
5. 5.00p.m. Mrs. Clinton departs from SEWA.

- use \$ for credit to buy supplies, etc.
- organizing is the core activity.

manifolds -

for women are central to our economy -
 therefore central to development.

- 'Poor women able to come out of poverty
- already work
- starting reclaiming their rights - struggle
- women don't have equitable access -
credit
- go beyond credit - markets, etc., but also employment production, rights + capital -
 - district

- Women working at home, not organized $\therefore$ not treated as working not protected by wages or
- Street vendors - gone to cts.

profitability ratios 3x higher than
Commercial banks

4.20 loans for house inputs.

22

SUPPLEMENTAL NEWSCLIPPINGS FROM
THE TRIP OF THE FIRST LADY TO SOUTH ASIA
MARCH 24 - APRIL 6, 1995



Reuters

So long, Ceylon

Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, wave goodbye at the airport in Colombo, Sri Lanka, yesterday as they conclude their South Asia tour. They also visited Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

THE WASHINGTON POST

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1995

First Lady 'Moved,' 'Overwhelmed' On Asian Journey of Self-Discovery



Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter, Chelsea, right, carry trays of flowers to place at a Buddhist temple in Colombo. ASSOCIATED PRESS

1/2

First Lady 'Overwhelmed,' 'Moved' On Asian Journey of Self-Discovery

By Molly Moore
Washington Post Foreign Service

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 5—In a Bangladeshi village of the lowest of low-caste Hindus—often called “untouchables”—dozens of children stretched their arms to touch the hands of a beaming Hillary Clinton, the woman they’d been told was Queen of the World.

In villages like Moishahati, where government officials and high caste Hindus—much less foreigners—seldom venture, it is believed that just touching someone of higher caste will bring more respect and honor to a person at the lower end of the social scale.

But in a reversal the villagers couldn’t possibly comprehend, it was the poor inhabitants of the mud and straw huts of the rice-paddy community who won the respect of the first lady of the United States.

“I’ve come away overwhelmed,” Clinton said of the Bangladeshi villagers and dozens of other women she encountered in a 12-day visit across the Indian subcontinent that ended today in Sri Lanka. “What any of us in America go through is minor in comparison.”

In the first few jet-lagged days of her journey through India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, Clinton recited numerous parallels between programs and problems in the United States and those in South Asia, often sounding as though she were plugging her husband’s policies on the campaign trail in Middle America, half a globe and worlds away.

But this was alien to the daily lives of most of her Asian audiences. Before a group of Indian women ragpickers and junk dealers—most of whom had never ridden in a car—she mentioned a White House proposal to take away drivers’ licenses as punishment for certain offenses.

By tour’s end, however, what Clinton first billed as a trip to learn

about different cultures and countries became a journey of self-discovery both for her and her daughter, Chelsea. “Chelsea has been writing many postcards to her friends to explain in words what this meant to her,” Clinton said.

As for Chelsea’s mother, she still seemed to be struggling to come to terms with the sensory overload she experienced on a trip that took her from extravagant palace dinners to medical research centers where emaciated children writhed with the pain of malnutrition and dehydration.

Clinton said she and Chelsea were “overwhelmed . . . by the conditions some of the people we met were living in, but also very moved by how people were attempting to make the most of [their] situation . . . knowing they have so few of the advantages we take for granted.”

She listened to Zahanara Begum tell her how the local Muslim religious leader in her Bangladeshi community refused to pray for the dead children of women who defied his wishes and joined the Grameen Bank, which provides loans to some of the world’s poorest people.

She watched as a Pakistani woman, her arms coated in brown goo, smashed cow dung into smelly patties to fuel her cooking fires.

She watched elementary school girls acting out a scene repeated often in their homes: A mother telling a daughter she can’t go to school because she is a girl and is valued less than her brothers.

As she prepared to end her journey, Clinton said she was impressed by having “seen women who are beginning to find their own voice.” She was particularly taken by a poem composed in her honor by New Delhi teenager Anasuya Sengupta, and she rewrote her last scheduled speech here to incorporate part of it:

“Too many women in too many countries speak the

same language—of silence.”

But it was also clear that Clinton was using this trip to readjust her own voice, which has been criticized as much too loud in her husband’s administration. The trip was a very public pronouncement that she will spend the second half of his term focusing on matters more traditionally associated with first ladies—women’s and children’s issues.

Responding to suggestions that she ignored an opportunity to discuss human rights abuses with leaders of nations notorious for them, she said, “I think by talking about girls and women, you’re talking about human rights.”

“I don’t think girls and women get as much attention on a regular basis as some of the well-publicized other instances of human rights concerns,” she continued. “I believe we have to emphasize as much as possible that the denial of education, the denial of basic health care and the denial of choices to girls is a human rights issue.”

Still, in nations sensitive to outside criticism—particularly by Americans—Clinton found herself cloaked in some of the same silence the teenager addressed in her poem. She also witnessed the paradox of nations run by some of the world’s most powerful women that still offer girls less education, food and health care than boys.

In Pakistan, an ancient fort was transformed into a magical fairyland to entertain her, but only 28 percent of the nation’s girls are allowed to reach the fifth grade.

She rode elephants in the misty shadows of the Himalayas in Nepal, which has some of the world’s most breathtaking scenery but where one of every five girls will die before the age of 5 and one woman in 18 will die during pregnancy or childbirth.

In India, she toured the Taj Mahal, a sublime work of architecture in a nation in which 40 percent of its 900 million people live in destitution, according to U.N. criteria.

The first lady also grappled with paradoxes in her own life. As she preached education and self-sufficiency to women in villages, towns and college lecture halls, she seemed uncomfortable with a question posed by a woman member of Bangladesh’s Grameen bank, who asked: “Do you earn your own income?”

“I am not earning my own income now that my husband is president,” she replied, noting that in pre-White House days she sometimes earned more than her husband. And, she was quick to add, “I will later again earn my own income.”

THE WASHINGTON POST
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1995



Hillary Rodham Clinton, with her daughter, Chelsea, outside the Kelaniya Temple in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Associated Press

Hillary Clinton a Traditional First Lady Now

By TODD S. PURDUM

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 5 — A year ago, Hillary Rodham Clinton was visiting the biggest, most advanced hospitals in the Western world, proposing to change radically the way they did business. Last Friday, she sat in a tiny clinic in the shadows of the Himalayas and learned about its latest innovation: the "Safe Home Delivery Kit."

Inside a small cardboard box were the tools intended to reduce infant mortality in a country where more

than 10 percent of the 700,000 babies born each year die within 12 months: A plastic sheet to provide a sanitary surface, a bar of soap, a plastic disk to rest the umbilical cord on, a shiny razor blade to cut it and a clean cord to tie it.

The kit was a small step that might make a big difference, the kind Mrs. Clinton has witnessed over and over again on her 12-day goodwill tour of southern Asia, which ends today. It was also something of

a metaphor for the First Lady's newest role, for if Mrs. Clinton is still thinking globally, she is acting more locally than ever.

In stop after stop, she has played the traditional role of First Lady as wife and mother, emphasizing the importance of educating girls and women, with her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, almost constantly by her side.

She has dressed in long sleeves and ankle-length skirts to avoid offending Islamic sensibilities. At teas,

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Continued on Page A7, Column 1

Hillary Clinton's New Role: First Lady

Continued From Page A1

in speeches and visits to schools and hospitals, she has taken such pains to avoid old controversies that she actually created some new ones, leading *The Calcutta Telegraph* to dismiss her as "singularly insensate and solely decorative."

Mrs. Clinton elliptically acknowledged her shifting tone in an interview with reporters traveling with her here, as she reflected on her meetings with women ranging from untouchables and ragpickers to prime ministers and presidents like Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka.

"I think that you have to keep true to your own beliefs about what is important, and you have to say it over and over again," Mrs. Clinton said. "But you always have to be open to new ways of saying it that perhaps are understood better. And I think that is truly what's at stake in lots of these settings around the world."

But the First Lady rejected any suggestion that by emphasizing what she calls the "human issues" of women and children she had somehow forsaken the concerns about human rights and economic development that plague this part of the world.

"I think by talking about girls and women, you're talking about human rights," she said. "I think there's an absolute correlation there."

"I don't think girls and women get as much attention on a regular basis as some of the well-publicized other instances of human rights concerns, and I believe we have to emphasize as much as possible that the denial of education, the denial of basic health care, the denial of choices to girls is a human rights issue," she said. "Because it is the human potential that we are attempting to develop, and the denying of it, I think, does violence to the spirit of the person and to the larger community."

If Mrs. Clinton has sought to make any broader political point here, it is that a region often thought of as backward and hopeless has not only benefited greatly from American aid, which helped create programs like the Nepalese birthing kit, but that people here also have much to teach America and the world.

Before leaving Bangladesh on Monday, Mrs. Clinton toured the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, a pioneering hospital that developed an oral rehydration solution of salts, sugars and grains that saves an estimated one million lives a year worldwide among victims of cholera and diarrhea and that is much less costly than standard intravenous solutions used in the United States.

"Too many people at home don't know the positive results that come from investments like this, and don't know that something developed in Bangladesh can save lives in Louisiana," Mrs. Clinton said in an implicit rebuke of demands by some leading Congressional Republicans to scale back foreign aid.

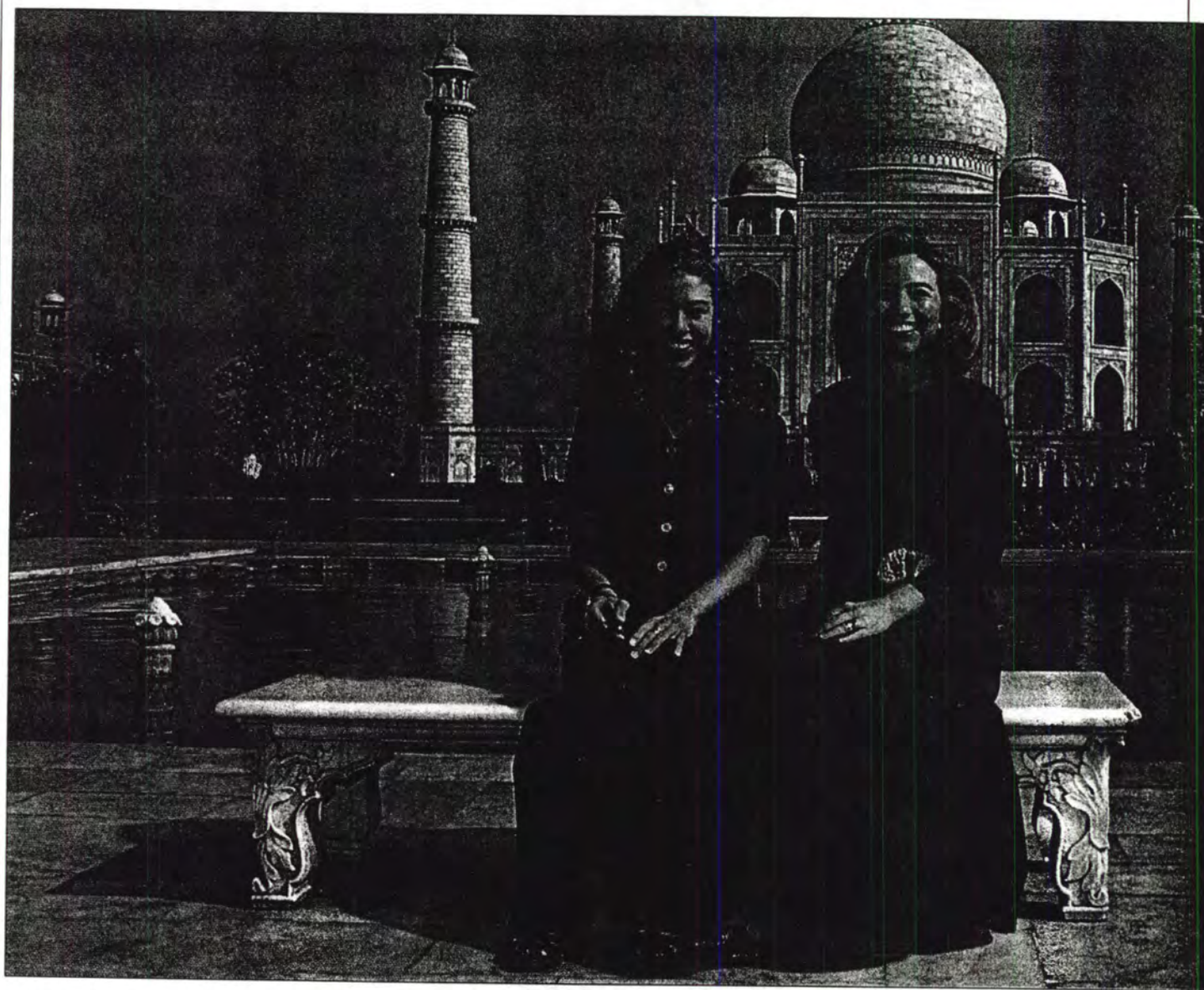
Mrs. Clinton also said she hoped to find new ways to replicate models from here in the United States. Those include the microcredit lending of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, which makes loans to poor people with no collateral in exchange for proposals to generate income, to the Self-Employed Women's Association in India, which has organized poor women into unions of cigarette rollers and vegetable vendors and created its own bank.

Mrs. Clinton is honorary chairman of the American delegation to the fourth annual United Nations conference on women, to be held in Beijing in September, and she hopes to be able to go if United States-China relations remain stable.

"I think you could help create a consensus around some certain basic principles, staying off a lot of the political disputes that are going to be between nations and between groups of people," she said. "You know, even if there are disputes of a political nature, there ought to be some effort to work toward providing these basic opportunities."

But experience has shown that many voters tend to look askance when Mrs. Clinton plays too great a policy role in the day-to-day affairs of the Administration, and she doubtless will have to continue to walk a fine line between pretending she wields no influence and being seen as too powerful. It is a dilemma she is used to, and one that she suggested her exposure to women who have suffered great hardships in this part of the world has helped to place in perspective.

"If you venture forth in the world, whether you are a man or a woman, you are going to encounter difficulty," Mrs. Clinton said. "I mean, there is no easy way to live a life of action and commitment. And certainly when I think about the women who've been imprisoned, tortured, discouraged, barred from involvement in education or professional opportunity — what any of us in America go through is minor in comparison."



'Activist' ideas in a nonthreatening garb: Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, on a visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra

Dances With Camels

Hillary Clinton: In South Asia, a search for statements—fashion and otherwise

BY JOE KLEIN

THERE WAS CONFUSION, AS WELL AS mystery, in the air: a breeze, a buzz, a hint of movement. There were shouts and flashbulbs now, and walkie-talkies crackling: "Lattimore! Lattimore! Where are you?"

"Over by the dancing camels," said Neel Lattimore, deputy press secretary to Hillary Rodham Clinton. The dancing camels

were next to the dancing horses, and just after the six troupes of Punjabi dancers, and just before the Pakistani orchestra playing third-rate, 20-year-old disco music . . . and also just before the rose-petal altar, which stood in the center of a courtyard where an open-air dinner for 500 was to be laid on by the governor of Punjab—and the camels were dancing in the midst of thousands upon thousands of small, pungent oil lamps,

lining the walks and walls of the ancient Muslim fort at Lahore, casting fairy-tale shadows from golden baubles of light. Exotic did not begin to describe it. The First Lady approached now, moving along a red carpet passing the Punjabi dancers, flanked by her daughter, Chelsea, and Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan. All three wore the *shalwar kameez*, a combination of long tunic and pants, which—in



IRA WYMAN FOR NEWSWEEK

plainer form—has become the required uniform for Islamic women in South Asia. These, however, were brilliantly colored, bejeweled and embroidered—the First Lady's was red, a gift from Bhutto. She looked dazzling. And she seemed to suppress an astonished giggle as two dancing camels bowed before her, then rose and high-kicked together in the soft night air.

Let us talk about fashion and politics. Thirty-three years ago, Jacqueline Kennedy came to this part of the world and made a splash by wearing an Indian sari. The sari is a soft and sensual garment, a wrap of cotton or silk that often leaves the arms and midriff exposed. Hillary Clinton's staff had studied film and photos of that trip and been surprised, not just by the sari, but by some of the other clothes Mrs. Kennedy had worn. "Sleeveless sheaths!" said an aide. "She rode an elephant in a skirt that came up above her knee!"

The State Department was warning against exposed female limbs of any sort on this First Lady's trip to South Asia. Times had changed. The local cultures, especially Islamic ones, had grown conservative. "The elite women of Pakistan cannot wear jeans anymore," an Indian feminist told me later in the week. "Now they must dress like the common people, the believers." Hillary Clinton had lowered the hemlines on several skirts in preparation for the trip. But her fashion statement became the shalwar kameez, which is a curious, contradictory apparatus—and a rather neat metaphor for the enduring, torturous complications of her public life.

Practicality: The shalwar kameez was invented by the Sikhs, who wanted to liberate their women from the sari in the early 18th century—so they could join the army and go to war against the Muslims. It was easier to ride a horse in tunic and pants. The combination was adopted by the Punjabis, the largest ethnic group in Pakistan, and institutionalized by the Muslims—when worn with a *dupatta* (scarf), it could seem as prim and furtive as the *burka* (the veiled dress of the truly devout). After the shah was toppled by the Iranian ayatollahs in 1979, a nervous Pakistani leadership leaned on the elites, quietly encouraging the shalwar kameez as required dress for women. At about the same moment—in a lovely irony of the modern world—a new generation of Indian businesswomen were adopting the costume because it was more practical, and comfortable, than the sari.

Modest and practical, a uniform for tradition-bound wives and women warriors ... hmmm. As she wandered from Pakistan to India to Nepal last week, the First Lady seemed to be searching for the rhetorical equivalent of the shalwar kameez, a way to dress "activist" ideas in nonthreatening garb—for both domestic and overseas consumption. "It's one of the most important questions I've been asking myself," she said, curled on a couch in her New Delhi hotel suite several days after the dancing camels. "I think a new language of politics is being born. None of us have it quite right yet, but I'm beginning to see glimmers."

There were glimmers in a remarkable scene at the Islamabad College for Girls, where a group of young women—children of the elite—wondered aloud, and quite el-

oquently, how they could balance their ambitions with the increasingly conservative customs of the country, which most seemed to consider a source of cohesion rather than repression. "We need to establish trust with the [common] people," said a girl who hoped to go into advertising, "so they understand we're not their enemies. They think that with education, girls will get out of hand ..."

"That's difficult to do sometimes—establish trust," the First Lady replied. Then a girl asked about the "secularization, the loss of identity" that came with the new global economy. Hillary Clinton began tentatively: "I worry about it a lot. I tried to speak about it a few years ago ... " The Politics of Meaning! And then, gathering herself up, she launched into an extended rumination about mullahs, American and Asian; about "the great struggle" to build a tolerant, but



A delightful and serene presence: On a refueling stop in Cairo, Chelsea camel-hopped to the Great Sphinx

BARBARA KINNEY—THE WHITE HOUSE

still "spiritual" response to the "rampant materialism and consumerism ... because many of those who are concerned about the lack of meaning and undermining of family life would like to adopt a rigid response to it ... " It slowly became clear, as she went on, that she had drifted into a recollection of the 1994 election, her health-care humilia-

INTERNATIONAL

tion, all the awfulness. She was talking about *America*, but the Pakistani girls were rapt; they clearly understood her meaning. Indeed, she was reaching them in a way that she had rarely connected with Americans. But then, these were socially conscious children of the elite, caught in the same cultural whipsaw that she was, worried about how to pursue their ambitions without seeming "enemies" of the common folk, without seeming bossy.

Tarted-up exhibits: In April of 1962 *NEWSWEEK* chided Jacqueline Kennedy for forging a somewhat less substantive (upper) class alliance with the South Asians and seeing "only the pageantry of the Indian subcontinent, not its poverty." No chance of that with *this* First Lady. There were daily visits to villages and clinics and schools. But it isn't easy to experience actual poverty on an Official Visit, and these were tarted-up exhibits—roads newly paved, open sewers newly retrenched, garbage dumps (and their human residents) camouflaged by flimsy walls of outrageously cheery print fabrics—all part of the great South Asian Poverty Theme Park that has engaged, and foiled, well-intentioned Westerners since Mrs. Clinton's Victorian Methodist precursors were on the case. In such circumstances it isn't hard to slip into egregious uplift mode. Indeed, Mother Teresa's remarkable New Delhi orphanage—with its rows of well-dressed, ineffably gorgeous and incredibly serene infants in cribs—almost demanded self-righteous excess, but the First Lady didn't gush. She cuddled and rocked several babies, then approached the cameras, and retreated into the stiff public perfection that seems almost a reflexive defense against untoward emotions: "Oh, they're so beautiful," she said, "and I'm so pleased because the minister says adoption is becoming more and more available."

A constant struggle for her: seeming human in public, rather than perfect. She is too wary ever to be entirely open, although there were glimmerings here as well: after a few days on the road, the Stockholm Syndrome set in, entwining Her Ladyship (as some of the locals had it) and Her Traveling Hacks—she was our captive and we were hers—and the atmosphere became downright convivial. The mood changed quickly one afternoon when television reporters were led to believe they might ask Chelsea about her reaction to the Taj Mahal, which the wire services had already gotten. "No!

No," the First Lady flashed and her daughter was hustled off by aides. One wondered about the vehemence. Chelsea was a delightful and serene presence on the trip, a sure source of pride for her mother. But the First Lady's insistence that her daughter never be used as media fodder, admirable in principle, suddenly seemed inflexible, fiercely dogmatic, a reminder of all that had gone wrong for the Clintons these past few years.

But that was only a moment. And there were many others that were much better,

loaned them money and gave them the courage, as one said, "to walk into the village council and talk to . . . the police [who had, before SEWA, harassed them off the street], and speak our minds." The meeting went on for an hour; the First Lady was moved—but, she later said, tired. She had just finished her final remarks when an older woman leaped to the microphone and said, "You've come into our courtyard and filled our hearts with joy and we will never forget you." Suddenly, the entire throng began to sing. The song was familiar, but elu-



PHOTOS BY IRA WYMAN FOR *NEWSWEEK*
Cuddling babies, covering heads: The First Lady and Chelsea at Mother Teresa's orphanage in New Delhi, at the Faisal Mosque in Islamabad

moments that could have veered into self-righteous territory, but didn't. Her message was feminism and activism, to be sure—but clothed in the shalwar kameez of voluntarism. She proselytized programs that Newt Gingrich might adore, nongovernmental programs, safe havens run by altruists rather than bureaucrats, programs that loaned poor women money to start businesses and take care of themselves.

And perhaps the most powerful memory of Hillary Clinton's first week in South Asia came at such a place: the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in Ahmadabad. She sat in a hot, dusty, but mercifully covered courtyard, with hundreds of women—a third Untouchables, another third Muslims; rag-pickers, street vendors, the most desperate of the poor—and they told her about their organization of more than 100,000 members, how it unified them,

sive. Slowly, it became clear: they were singing "We Shall Overcome" in the Gujarati dialect. Hillary Clinton later said she found herself thinking about the great circle—from Henry David Thoreau, who was read by Gandhi, who in turn inspired Martin Luther King, whose anthem these women were now singing. A precisely perfect thought, of course. But the human reaction that accompanied it was far more memorable: as they sang, tears welled in Hillary Rodham Clinton's eyes.

OUTLOOK

Soothing the world — and people back home

The pictures were precisely what the White House hoped for. There was Hillary Rodham Clinton, international mother figure, stroking the hands of sweet-faced infants, tending the sick, wearing the traditional *shalwar kameez* tunic and pantaloons of Pakistani women and comforting impoverished villagers throughout South Asia. But the first lady's trip was more than a public-relations gambit. Friends viewed her incarnation as goodwill ambassador for her husband, her country and her gender as part of a longtime quest for self-fulfillment and, more broadly, a "politics of meaning."

The first lady has come to understand that self-deprecation is an essential virtue of public life.

The 20,000-mile, 12-day mission showed more clearly than ever that Mrs. Clinton has fundamentally changed the way she defines her job. Since the Republicans' November landslide, she seems to have discovered a healthy sense of her own limits. At least in public, she is no longer the know-it-all policy maker who pushed for an unpopular overhaul of the nation's medical system. Nor is she the moral imperialist who angrily condemned health-insurance companies and Republicans. The overbearing side of her nature may re-emerge, but for now she is all gentle self-deprecation. She recently told *U.S. News* that her role is, above all, to "be there" for her husband.

On her visits to Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, she carefully avoided such contentious issues as human-rights abuses and nuclear proliferation. In New Delhi, she called for improved education and health care for women and girls. She wore native costumes, expressed appreciation for local artists and insisted that her main purpose was to listen and learn. At a New Delhi orphanage supervised by Mother Teresa, Mrs. Clinton and daughter Chelsea cradled infants in their arms and praised the nuns for their commitment. Asked in Lahore, Pakistan, if she had a nickname, the first lady replied with a smile: "Some people, I would imagine, have quite rude nicknames for me."

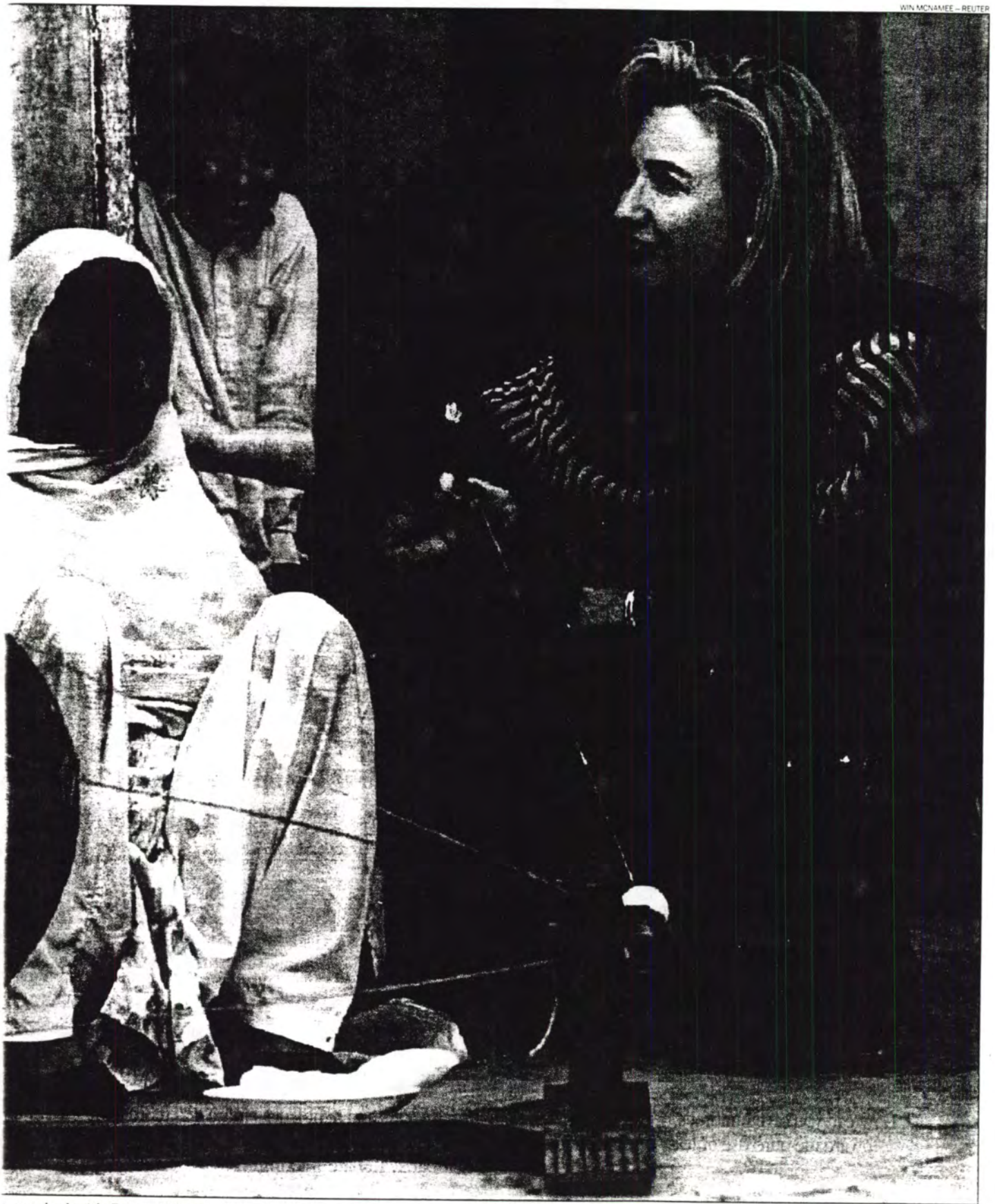
She had started the week with a dose of self-deprecating humor back home. In a video that her supporters produced for Washington's glitzy Gridiron dinner, she portrayed a female Forrest Gump, complete with syrupy Southern accent and simplistic aphorisms. "My mama always told me the White House is like a box of chocolates," she drawled, borrowing the movie's most famous line. "It's pretty on the outside, but inside there's a lot of nuts." Her in absentia spoof was a smash. "Hillary," said California Gov. Pete Wilson, "was dynamite."

Like her husband, she has come to understand that self-deprecation is an essential virtue of public life. Says a friend of the Clintons: "It brings them down to scale when they can laugh at their weaknesses and show they don't think they have all the answers." Some see the first lady's new humility as an attempt to soften her image just as another presidential election cycle begins. And that it may be. But there's no mistaking the fact that her sense of limits is in line with America's conservative mood. The wonder is that it took her so long. □ BY KENNETH T. WALSH

ONE WEEK



Goodwill tour. In Pakistan, Mrs. Clinton



WIN MCNAMEE - REUTER

consulted with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, wore a traditional Islamic scarf to a mosque and watched a villager work a loom.

Firebombs Across Germany

In central Germany, police arrested four Kurdish militants in connection with a string of fire bombings targeted at Turkish property across the country. Over the past month, more than 100 Turkish travel agencies, stores, banks, newspaper offices, mosques, cultural centers and meeting halls in 15 German cities have been hit by Molotov cocktails. Officials suspect the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party, which has waged an 11-year war for an independent Kurdish homeland.

Carter Mediates Sudan Truce

Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist government and southern rebels negotiated a truce with the help of former President Jimmy Carter. The two sides, which have been fighting a 12-year war in which more than 1 million people have died, agreed to a two-month cease-fire so that health workers could try to wipe out the parasitic Guinea worm, which causes debilitating disease.

First Lady in South Asia

Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea embarked on a 12-day official goodwill tour of Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The emphasis: promoting the welfare of women and children. Clinton *mère et fille* toured orphanages, schools and a women's cooperative, as well as the fabled Taj Mahal, which Mrs. Clinton termed "just haunting."

Serious Security

Since the attack that killed two U.S. employees of the American consulate in Karachi, Pakistan, the State Department has provided the diplomatic post with armored vehicles as well as a security team to train its employees. A State Department memo obtained by TIME revealed that, in the months before the attack, a previous security-training team had been virtually ignored by the

THE GOOD NEWS

✓ The pain reliever ibuprofen can significantly slow lung deterioration in some children with cystic fibrosis, according to a new study. The results were most dramatic in children ages 5 to 13.

✓ A test for Parkinson's disease may detect the illness in its early stages, before it affects speech and movement. With earlier diagnosis, researchers say, treatment will be more effective.

✓ Testing of gene therapy for prostate-cancer patients will begin soon. The procedure will, in theory, spark the body's immune system to hunt down tumors that spread from the initial growth in men who have already had surgery.

Sources: GOOD—New England Journal of Medicine; University of Arizona; AP; American Cancer Society; Johns Hopkins University; AP
BAD—New England Journal of Medicine; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Emory University

HEALTH



BRIAN CRONIN
REPORT

THE BAD NEWS

✓ Women who spend four hours or less on their feet each day incur double the average number of hip fractures; so do those whose mothers suffered a hip fracture, a study of almost 10,000 women shows. Taking sedatives for many years, consuming caffeine and losing weight also increase the risk.

✓ A federal report has found that children born to uneducated mothers are more likely to be mildly retarded than those born to better-educated women. But researchers also discovered evidence that mild retardation may be both prevented and treated. A program has been announced to help mildly retarded children improve their skills.



Eleven talented moviemakers won Oscars for their contributions to *Forrest Gump*. The number of times each of them thanked certain people—or neglected to—may have unintentionally illuminated Hollywood's pecking order:

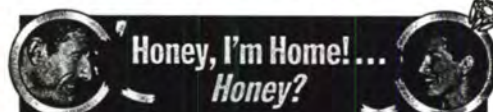
THOSE MENTIONED NUMBER OF THANKS

- **Winners' spouses ... 9**
- **Executive Sherry Lansing and "everyone at Paramount" 7**
- **Director Bob Zemeckis 6**
- **"The talented cast and crew" 5**
- **Winners' parents 5**
- **The film's producers 5**
- **The Academy 4**
- **Actor Tom Hanks 4**
- **Winners' kids 4**
- **Agents and/or lawyers 3**
- **Screenwriter Eric Roth 2**
- **Winston Groom, the novelist whose book inspired the entire project to begin with 1**

A HAPPY ENDING

"Hoop Dreams has done a lot for me. It got me into Michael Jordan's birthday party."

—WILLIAM GATES, COLLEGE BASKETBALL PLAYER AND SUBJECT OF THE NOT-ACADEMY-AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY



To the surprise of dozens of Americans, the marriage of Julia Roberts and Lyle Lovett broke up last week. How does their marital tenure compare with other celebrity couples?

Madonna and Sean Penn	Months married
Cindy Crawford and Richard Gere	31*
Mia Farrow and Frank Sinatra	25
Julia Roberts and Lyle Lovett	21*
Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio	9
Liz Taylor and Conrad Hilton	8
Shannen Doherty and Ashley Hamilton	7
Catherine Howard and Henry VIII	18 days
Lisa Marie Presley and Michael Jackson	10 (and counting)
*Separated	TIME Graphic by Steve Hart. Picture: R. Davis—Shooting Star