

Bukhara, Uzbekistan/ Samarkand, Uzbekistan/ Tashkent, Uzbekistan
November 14, 1997

Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Remarks on Cultural Diversity

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Remarks at American Community Event (**Missing**)

Tashkent, Uzbekistan/ Yekaterinburg, Russia
November 15, 1997

Yekaterinburg, Russia

Arrival Statement in Russia
Urals Women's Association

Yekaterinburg, Russia
November 16, 1997

Remarks on Democracy and Education
Russia Departure Statement

Lviv, Ukraine
November 17, 1997

Discussion at Lviv Oblast Hospital
Remarks at Gilad Synagogue
Remarks at Memorial Honoring Victims of Communist Repression
American Community Event (**Missing**)

Lviv, Ukraine
November 18, 1997

Remarks at Lviv Opera House

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11/10/97 7:30 pm

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
STATEMENT UPON ARRIVAL IN KAZAKHSTAN
ALMATY, KAZAKSHSTAN
NOVEMBER 10, 1997**

I am delighted to be here in Kazakhstan. I have come to Kazakhstan and to Central Asia to reinforce the strong, but young ties between our countries; to witness the important progress you are making in strengthening civil society and building an economy grounded in open markets and private enterprise; and to bring a message of encouragement and solidarity from the American people, who will stand by you during this historic transformation.

In this beautiful city along the ancient Silk road, I look forward to learning more about the people of Kazakhstan's courageous walk down a new road to democracy and prosperity. During my visit, I will have the opportunity to meet with the President and Mrs. Nazarbayev and with non-governmental organizations who are working to ensure that civil society takes root, grows, and thrives. I will be able to see firsthand the role that young people and women are playing in the economic, social, and political life of Kazakhstan, as they use their voices to create a new future for this country. I will also attend a ribbon-cutting at a new Women's Wellness Center, where the United States has joined with you in partnership to make sure that women have access to one of the most important tools of opportunity: comprehensive health care. And because the success of a democracy depends in large part on the full participation of women in society, I look forward to attending the Central Asian Conference on Women in Politics.

I want to thank President and Mrs. Nazarbayev -- and all the people of Kazakhstan -- for their warm welcome. The United States is proud of its partnership with Kazakhstan. I look forward to strengthening the ties between our two countries, to learning about how you are continuing your reforms, and to exploring new ways that we can ensure a peaceful and more prosperous future for all the people of Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

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11/10/97 7:30 pm

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WOMEN'S WELLNESS CENTER
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN
NOVEMBER 12, 1997**

Acknowledgments: From advance.

I want to thank President and Mrs. Nazarbayev and the people of Kazakhstan for the warm welcome and generous hospitality we have received in our short time here. I have come to Kazakhstan and to Central Asia to reinforce the young but strong ties between our countries...to witness firsthand the impressive progress you are making in moving toward civil society and an economy centered around open markets and private enterprise...and to see what more we can do with you in partnership as you build a strong, stable, free future.

All over the world, democracy is advancing. But democracy without the participation of women is a contradiction in terms. And women cannot participate in democracy unless they have access to what I call the tools of opportunity -- legal protections, education, credit, and **quality health care.**

This center makes it clear that quality health care means comprehensive health care. Building on four years of work here in Almaty, the center will focus on education, screening, and prevention. It will help the women of Kazakhstan safeguard themselves against sexually transmitted diseases. It will provide critical screening for cervical and breast cancer. It will provide pre-natal and counseling services for women in all stages of the reproductive health cycle. And it will offer a wide range of family planning services, helping Kazakhstan to continue to reduce its high rate of abortion [down 25% since 1992, when USAID came in.] By providing the resources to deal openly and candidly with the risks of alcohol, tobacco, poor nutrition, narcotics, and violence against women both inside and outside the home, this center will enable women to lead longer, better, more secure lives. *[talk about what you saw?]*

The work done here will reach far beyond these doors. When women are healthy, children are healthy, families are healthy, and countries are health. I hope this center will work to educate and raise awareness among men, so that they can take a more active role in the birth and care of their children. And I hope it will convince women -- most of whom work outside the home **and** care for their families -- that they must look after their own health.

This wellness center is a testament to the commitment and dedication of doctors and nurses throughout Kazakhstan. As an American, I am particularly proud to be here because of the extraordinary partnership you have forged with medical professionals and hospitals in Tucson, Arizona. I am delighted that there are representatives from Tucson here today. I thank them for their work and I'm sure they would attest that they have learned and gained as much from this experience as they have given.

I am also proud of the role the American International Health Alliance and the United States Agency for International Development have played in this effort. As many of you know, this is one of 13 wellness centers in the New Independent States -- all based on a model of comprehensive health care created by the Aalliance. Finally, I would like to make special mention of the contribution of non-governmental organizations to this effort -- and of the role the American people and American companies have played in contributing supplies through the U.S. government's Operation Provide Hope. I hope the people of Kazakhstan will see these medicines and materials as I do -- as a clear demonstration that the American people care about the people of Kazakhstan during this historic transition.

But the opening of this center is most of all a tribute to the people of Kazakhstan. The Almaty City Health Administration has provided the space for this center and made its construction possible. The city will also keep the center running. Together, you are building a strong foundation not only for the health of your people, but for the future of your country.

TEXT: FIRST LADY'S REMARKS AT ALMATY WOMEN'S WELLNESS CENTER
(Almaty Center one of 13 in NIS) (640)

Almaty, Kazakhstan -- "When women are healthy their children are healthy, and when families are healthy, countries are healthy," said U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton told participants November 12 in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Almaty Women's Wellness Center, one of 13 such centers established in the NIS.

"This center makes it clear that quality health care means comprehensive health care for women," Mrs. Clinton said, adding, "I hope this center will work to educate and raise awareness among men so they take a more active role in the birth and care of their children, and I hope that this center will convince more women, most of whom work outside the home and care for their families, that they must look after their own health."

She cited the efforts of the medical professions in Kazakhstan, in partnership with medical professionals and hospitals in Tucson, Arizona, the American International Health Alliance, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, in creating the center.

Following is the text of the First Lady's remarks:

(Begin text)

TEXT OF THE FIRST LADY'S REMARKS
ALMATY WOMEN'S WELLNESS CENTER
November 12, 1997

Thank you very much, professor, Mr. Mayor, and the medical doctors, and professors, and officials who are here. I want to thank you for allowing me to take part in this important event.

This center makes it clear that quality health care means comprehensive health care for women. Building on four years of work, this center will focus on education, screening, and prevention.

The work done here will reach far beyond these doors. When women are healthy their children are healthy, and when families are healthy, countries are healthy.

Inside I met with some of the mothers and the new babies who have been treated here at the clinic. I met with some older women and with some teenage girls, all of whom are here to improve their health.

And I would echo what the professor said, that I hope this center will work to educate and raise awareness among men so they take a more active role in the birth and care of their children, and I hope that this center will convince more women, most of whom work outside the home and care for their families, that they must look after their own health.

This Wellness Center is a testament to the commitment and dedication of the government of

Kazakhstan and Almaty, and to the dedication of doctors and nurses throughout the country. As an American I am particularly pleased to be here because of the extraordinary partnership that has been forged between this center and medical professionals and hospitals in Tucson, Arizona.

I am delighted that there are representatives from Tucson here today and I thank them for their work, and I know that they have learned as much as they have given in the partnership that has built this center.

I also want to single out the role that the American International Health Alliance and the United States Agency for International Development have played in this effort. As many of you know, this is one of 13 wellness centers in the New Independent States, all based on a model of comprehensive health care created by the Alliance.

Finally, I would like to make special mention of the contribution of non-governmental organizations to this effort, and of the role that the American people and American business companies have played in contributing supplies to the United States government's Operation Provide Hope. I hope that the people of Kazakhstan will see these medicines and materials as I do -- a clear demonstration that the American people care about the people of Kazakhstan during this historic transition.

(End text)

11/10/97 7:30 pm

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TALKING POINTS FOR KAZAKHSTAN ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH LEADERS
STUDENT LEADERS ROUNDTABLE
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN
NOVEMBER 11, 1997**

- Acknowledgments -- from advance
- Before we begin our discussion, I want to express deep gratitude for the warm welcome we have received in our very short time here. I have come to Kazakhstan and to Central Asia to reinforce the young, but strong ties between our countries; to witness firsthand the progress you are making; and to bring a message of solidarity and hope from the American people, who are proud to stand with you on this journey.
- For almost 50 years, this school has helped young people learn about history. Today, you have gathered here to write history. In this beautiful city along the ancient Silk Road, the young people of Kazakhstan are taking a courageous walk down a new road to democracy and prosperity. By teaching your peers how to play leadership roles...by inspiring participation in the political process, you are creating a new future for your country.
- Think about what you've accomplished in just six years. The stifling architecture of communism has been swept away. In its place you are laying a strong foundation for open markets, private enterprise, and civil society. By renouncing nuclear weapons, Kazakhstan has made a concrete contribution to the peace and security of this region and the world.
- I remember at the winter Olympics in Lillehammer when a cross-country skier became the first citizen of Kazakhstan to win a gold medal for your new independent nation. In many ways, the fight for the Olympic Gold is like the never-ending struggle for the rule of law and democracy. It takes courage and stamina.
- For as you know, the work of building democracy is never-ending. Democratic progress depends on developing institutions that protect individual rights -- including the rights of ethnic minorities. It depends on holding free and fair elections -- not once, but time and time again. But it also depends upon whether democratic values live in the hearts and minds of all citizens. Nurturing these values, passing them down from generation to generation is one of the most challenging tasks for any emerging democracy.

- Schools are an indispensable part of this process. And teachers are an indispensable part of schools. Teachers help to transmit knowledge and values -- the currency of democracy -- from one generation to the next. **That is why I am so pleased to announce today a new partnership between the government of Kazakhstan and the United States to recognize excellence in teaching.** The Teaching Excellence Awards will go to outstanding teachers of English and American Studies from around your country. The awards will bring teachers together to share techniques. The schools where award-winning teachers work will receive important educational materials. And the teachers who win will have the opportunity to visit the United States -- to learn about our educational system and to teach us about yours. I am also delighted that as part of this program, award-winning American teachers will come to Kazakhstan to meet with students, fellow teachers, and members of the educational community.
- Democracies depend on good teachers. They also depend on citizens doing exactly what you are doing here. Sitting across the table from one another. Appreciating our differences. Talking about our common challenges. And then finding new ways to meet those challenges together by participating -- whether it's cleaning up a nearby stream or fighting to make the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights a reality here and around the world.
- I know that you have a special relationship with a project of ours in California, and I hope you continue to see your efforts as linked to the efforts of young people across the globe. As new democracies emerge, you have the opportunity to share more than roadmaps to success for the next generation of leaders. You can show how much we can learn from our similarities and our differences. You can show the bonds that unite young people from our community of democratic nations, as you grapple with the same issues and become the architects of a strong, stable, and free future.
- I look forward to hearing your thoughts and hopes.

TEXT: FIRST LADY'S SPEECH TO KAZAKH YOUNG LEADERS ASSOCIATION
(Announces Teaching Excellence Awards Program) (760)

Almaty, Kazakhstan -- U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton told the Kazakhstan Association of Young Leaders November 11, "Democracies depend on good teachers and they also depend on citizens doing exactly what these young people are doing -- sitting around a table, talking about what is on our minds, learning from each other."

She commended Kazakhstan for the progress it has made over the past six years. "The stifling architecture of communism has been swept away and in its place you have laid a strong foundation for open markets, private enterprise and civil society. And by renouncing nuclear weapons, Kazakhstan has made a concrete contribution to the peace and security of this region and the entire world."

Mrs. Clinton announced a Teaching Excellence Awards program for Kazakhstan for outstanding teachers of English and American studies. Recipients of the award will travel to the United States to learn about the U.S. educational system and teach Americans about their system. In addition, the program will bring American educators to Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan was Mrs. Clinton's first stop in a five-country visit to Central Asia, Russia and Ukraine.

Following is the text of the First Lady's speech to the Kazakhstan Association of Young Leaders:

(Begin text)

TEXT OF FIRST LADY REMARKS
KAZAKHSTAN ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG LEADERS
November 11, 1997

Thank you very much and, before we begin our discussion I want to express my deep gratitude for the warm welcome that I and my party have received on our visit. I have come on behalf of my husband, the President, and the American people, to bring a message of solidarity and hope and to further the friendship between our countries.

And I wanted to come here this evening to meet first with the young people of the country to hear what they are doing to build their nation and to take part in the changes that are going on around the world. Because it is the young people who will be leading Kazakhstan into the next century, and who will be leading the way with democracy and prosperity for the people.

I am very impressed by what has been accomplished in just six years. The stifling architecture of communism has been swept away and in its place you have laid a strong foundation for open markets, private enterprise and civil society. And by renouncing nuclear weapons, Kazakhstan has made a concrete contribution to the peace and security of this region and the entire world.

I remember at the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, when a cross-country skier became the first citizen of Kazakhstan to win a gold medal for your new independent nation. In many ways, the fight for the Olympic Gold is like the never-ending struggle for the rule of law and democracy. Both take courage and stamina.

Democracy is a challenge that is passed down from one generation to the next, and schools are an indispensable part of this process. And teachers are an indispensable part of schools. Teachers help to transmit knowledge and values which are the currency of democracy from one generation to the next.

That is why I am pleased to announce today at this school a new partnership between the government of Kazakhstan and the United States to recognize excellence in teaching. The Teaching Excellence Awards will go to outstanding teachers of English and American Studies from around your country. The awards will bring teachers together to share techniques. The schools where award-winning teachers work will receive important educational materials, and the teachers who win these awards will have the opportunity to visit the United States to learn about our educational system and to teach us about yours. I am also delighted that as part of this program, award-winning American teachers will come to Kazakhstan to meet with students, fellow teachers, and members of the educational community.

Democracies depend on good teachers and they also depend on citizens doing exactly what these young people are doing -- sitting around a table, talking about what is on our minds, learning from each other. And I know that this Association has a relationship with a project in California, and I hope to see more linkages between American young people and the young people of Kazakhstan. And now I look forward to hearing from you about what you are doing in this Association and other issues you are confronting.

(End text)

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DRAFT 5:00 a.m.

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS TO CENTRAL ASIAN CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN POLITICS
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN
NOVEMBER 12, 1997**

Acknowledgments: From advance. [Academy of Sciences. Do we cite nonproliferation conference?]

I'd like to thank Saule [Sow-lay] Kenesbayeva [Ke-ness-buy-yeh-vuh] and all of Liana for organizing this conference and bringing together women who are leading the way toward a free, prosperous, and democratic Central Asia.

When I look at Liana's logo [behind you], I am reminded what happens when women cultivate the soil and nurture the roots of democracy. We find that our work yields fruit for all citizens: for women, for children, for communities, for countries. For **all** citizens.

I have come to Kazakhstan and to Central Asia to strengthen the bonds among our countries, to see firsthand the progress you are making, to talk about the role that women must play in building and sustaining democracy from the ground up. I also want to bring a message of hope and solidarity from the American people -- especially American women -- who are standing with you as you remake your world.

Though we practice different religions, come from different places, and have different histories, we speak that same mother tongue -- the language of hope. Women have always found common ground to stand on together.

It usually happens when we're sitting around a kitchen table, when we're at the market, when we're waiting for the bus or watching our kids play outside. In the formal and informal interactions that make up our daily lives, women are talking to each other about the challenges we all face. We want to know how to raise our children and make ends meet. We want to know how to make time to protect -- or even think about -- our own health. We want to know how to make our religious and ethnic diversity a source of pride, not division. And we want to advance the cause of democracy, advance the cause of women and make it clear that we cannot have one without the other.

When we talk about democracy, we often talk about our highest ideals -- freedom of religion, freedom of speech and press, freedom to participate fully in the civic and political life of one's country. But democracy also depends in large measure on seeing to it that individuals have access to what I call the tools of opportunity: education, health care, jobs, and credit.

What we have learned over the years is that our most cherished beliefs can be made real only through the everyday efforts of ordinary citizens. Yes, our laws and institutions are absolutely critical, but democracy is nurtured and sustained in the habits of the heart, in the way people live their lives, in the lessons they teach their children as they tuck them into bed at night.

Because this conference is about women and politics, I want to speak with you about how politics can help us bring about this world. But I want to discuss politics in a very specific way. When I say politics I don't just mean electing women to every level of government -- though that is vitally important. I'm talking about our role as citizens. The contributions we make to civil society. After all, politics at its most basic is what we do when we come together to accomplish common goals. Whether we gather in non-governmental organizations, voluntary organizations, or in each other's homes, we make it clear that the most important person in a democracy is a citizen.

Like many of you, I have spent much of my life working in and with non-governmental organizations, though I might not have known it at the time. I remember my experiences with: **[tell stories here]** Girl Scouts; church groups; student council political campaigns; legal and business groups. And I will always remember the person who taught me that I had a role to play and a responsibility to my community: my mother.

That is why I am so impressed by what you are doing here. You are pioneers. You are building a civil society that values the contributions of women - and you are doing so without the benefit of an older generation to guide you. You are launching a new tradition that can and must be passed down from mother to daughter, from father to son, and on down through the generations.

Since I arrived in Central Asia yesterday, I have already seen firsthand what women and young people are doing to transform their countries. Last night, I talked with young people from the Kazakhstan Association of Youth Leaders who are teaching each other about civic participation in a democracy.

I remember one young man in particular, who told me that a few years back he thought he could never make a difference. Now, after working with the group, he says: "I can see how much I can do."

Earlier this morning, I participated in a ribbon-cutting at the new Almaty Women's Wellness Center. This is one of 13 centers in the Newly Independent States that our government is working with to offer a full spectrum of health care to women. It will provide screening for cervical and breast cancer and prenatal care. It will help women to protect themselves from dangers like tobacco and alcohol. And it will include family planning services -- which is vital if we are going to decrease the number of abortions, as Kazakhstan has begun to do. The benefits of this center will spread far beyond its doors. Because better health for women means better health for children, families, communities, indeed countries.

Later today, I will travel to Krygyzstan. And the first thing I will do when I get off the plane will be to pay tribute to the important role that non-governmental organizations are playing in that country by promoting health care and humanitarian assistance.

I will then go on to visit women who are getting access to credit to create businesses that foster economic security for their families and independence for themselves.

Clearly, the women of Central Asia are teaching each other lessons about democracy in action.

Women are teaching lessons about democracy in Uzbekistan, where parents have launched an initiative to fight for the rights of disabled children.

They are teaching lessons about democracy in Turkmenistan, where women are actively engaged in the National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights.

[checking on this]

Women are teaching us lessons of democracy in Kyrgyzstan, where 70 new NGOs have registered with the government; where the Society of Women Builders is teaching women on pensions about their legal rights; and where several NGOs have started a newspaper that is teaching about democracy.

Women are teaching us lessons of democracy in Tajikistan, where leaders like the head of the Commission on Women and Family Issues are speaking out, and spreading the message that “any country that is not interested in its women has no future.” *[better example?]*

And, yes, you are teaching lessons of democracy in Kazakhstan, by bringing women together to protect the environment, to foster a free press, and to support conferences like this one.

These efforts in Central Asia are part of groundswell of civic participation by women around the world. Earlier this month, women from all over Asia gathered in Mongolia to learn about their legal rights and responsibilities as citizens. Last summer, women from Eastern and Central Europe came together at a conference in Vienna to share ideas, to renew and strengthen their faith in democratic values and freedoms, and to address challenges as diverse as the trafficking of women and the need for better health care.

And let us always remember how women from all over the world came together two years ago in Beijing, at the United Nations 4th World Conference on Women. Representatives from 189 different countries, including some of you in this room, articulated a vision that has been echoed at this conference: That a country's progress depends on the progress of women. That the strength of its political system depends on the inclusion of women. That the vibrancy of its economy depends on the full contributions of women. That the richness of its civic life depends on the participation of women. That human rights, simply put, are women's rights. And that women's rights are human rights.

I have heard many economists around the world say to me that women's work is not part of the economies of countries. And yet I have seen with my own eyes, as I have traveled through urban and rural areas alike something that will surprise none of you: Women are working! Their contributions may not be counted in the gross domestic product of their societies, but they are definitely working. And that work is of value. I have always believed that if women got up tomorrow and announced that they would not work -- inside or outside the home -- the economies of every country would collapse.

Despite the enormous economic and democratic progress you have made, we know that many challenges remain. The transition from communism to free markets and democracy has not been painless for women here or around the world. It would be unrealistic to pretend otherwise.

Right now, too many women are the first to lose their jobs and the last to get new ones. Too many women are barred by law, by tradition, or by ignorance from exercising their rights. Too many women are trapped in an endless cycle of poverty, unable to get access to education and credit. Too many women are overwhelmed by the stresses they have in their lives, as they try to do more and more, with fewer and fewer hours. Too many women live in fear of violence, including violence at the hands of family members. For them, home offers no refuge, the law no protection, and public opinion no sympathy. And, through all of this, not enough women are sitting at the table when decisions are made about their lives and their families.

This must change. Yet, while the oppressive structures of communism have been torn down, the political, judicial and economic organizations that protect women's rights in a democracy are just now being constructed.

That is why this conference comes at such an important time. It is enabling us to share practical ideas to advance the role of women in the political, economic, and social lives of our countries. It is showing us that when we embrace our rights and live up to our responsibilities, when we confront problems head on, we find solutions.

The United States is proud to be your partner as you face these challenges. My husband, the President, has made it clear that our efforts to protect and advance women's rights belong in the mainstream of American foreign policy. As Madeleine Albright, our country's first female Secretary of State, put it: "Advancing the status of women...is the right thing to do, and, frankly, the smart thing to do."

Our government, largely through the United States Agency for International Development, is supporting a broad range of programs that provide grants, training, and technical assistance to citizens working to strengthen democracy at the grassroots. They show families how they can guard against new threats of crime and drugs. They help empower women to succeed economically by giving them loans to start and maintain their own small businesses.

And today, I'm pleased to be able to tell you that the United States will be increasing our support for women NGOs working to build democracy in this region. Let me be as clear about this as possible: Governments that are serious about democracy must be willing to recognize and work with non-governmental organizations. [*can we say more here?*]

Of course, we cannot create the kind of society we all want alone. We must reach out to the men in our lives. Husbands and fathers -- indeed all men -- must also meet their responsibilities: To respect women. Never to raise a hand in anger. To teach boys to respect and value girls. And to teach girls to respect and value themselves.

And we need to start with girls today -- tomorrow's generation, tomorrow's leaders. We know that girls cannot lead tomorrow if they are taught they aren't smart enough, if they're taught that their value lies in how they look or whether they obey, if they're taught that the violence they suffer is just "the way things are," not the crime that it is. And certainly, girls cannot lead tomorrow if they are denied adequate education today. It is through education that the minds and aspirations of girls can either be snuffed out or ignited.

I know that the countries of Central Asia are proud of your literacy rates, and of your history of providing quality education for boys and girls. If there is one message that we must send, it is this: In new independent countries that value diversity, that value critical thought, that value community, education for all must continue to be valued above all.

As I think about all you have accomplished in just six years, I am reminded of something the great poet, Abai [Ah-BYE] once said, "After a harsh winter, spring follows, with its flowers and splendor." When I look at all of you, I know that spring will follow in Central Asia. Spring will follow with its flowers and splendor because you have taken the long view of democracy, knowing that you have nurtured deep roots that will one day bear fruit; knowing that democracy is a work in progress for old independent states as well as new ones. And knowing that the American people are proud to stand with you every step of the way.

Thank you very much.

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
ARRIVAL STATEMENT/ANNOUNCEMENT OF U.S. ASSISTANCE PACKAGE
BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN
NOVEMBER 12, 1997**

[Acknowledgments] I am delighted to be here in Kyrgyzstan. I have come to Kyrgyzstan and to Central Asia on behalf of President Clinton and the American people to reinforce the young, but strong ties between our two countries. I look forward to meeting with President Akayev [AH-KAI-YEV] and witnessing firsthand the important progress you are making in moving toward democracy, civil society, and an economy that helps all citizens reach their full potential. And I want to bring you a message of friendship, solidarity and support from the American people, who stand with you on this journey.

I was moved by the flag you chose to symbolize your new independence. Not only does it show the sun illuminating the new road of prosperity and democracy, it also includes the rays of light that come forth from that sun -- rays of light that mirror the work of citizens coming together to build -- and now sustain -- a free country. I can think of no more fitting symbol.

Because Kyrgyzstan's future depends on many things: on your elected leaders, on the strength of your democratic institutions, **and** on the individuals and non-governmental organizations who are doing the everyday work necessary to make democracies thrive. Today, I am pleased to be joined by NGOs like the American Bar Association, the National Democratic Institute, Counterparts, and the Soros Foundation. All of you here today are building the kind of civil society that will ensure that the children of Kyrgyzstan inherit a strong and secure future. By protecting the environment and improving women's health. By strengthening educational opportunities and civic education. By supporting a free press and an independent judiciary. By increasing development and the rights of the disabled. And by providing the credit and training that foster micro enterprise.

I am proud that the United States has been a committed partner to the people of Kyrgyzstan by providing critical assistance. And I am especially proud that many of these efforts -- including the one we announce today -- have been in partnership with non-governmental organizations.

The airlift that you see unloading cargo right now is bringing more than \$2 million in pharmaceuticals to hospitals in Bishkek and Osh, as well as clothing for the children of these communities. We are grateful for Madame Akayeva's cooperation in this important endeavor. None of this would have been possible without Operation Provide Hope, a U.S. government program which has now made 30 humanitarian missions to the Kyrgyz Republic, bringing more than \$70 million in assistance since 1992. It wouldn't have been possible without the Peace Corps volunteers, who will make sure that these supplies reach the hospitals and children who need them the most.

But, above all else, this humanitarian mission would not have been possible without the dedication and generosity of the three U.S. voluntary organizations who, together with U.S. businesses, donated the pharmaceuticals and clothing. I want to acknowledge the extraordinary contributions of CitiHOPE, and the Reverend Paul Moore and his staff, who I am pleased could be here with us today; as well as Heart to Heart, and AmeriCorps of Indiana. Your collective efforts are about much more than strengthening global and economic ties between our two countries.

I hope the people of Kyrgyzstan will see these medicines and clothing as I do -- as a clear demonstration that the American people care about you during this historic transition

I am thankful for the warm welcome you have given me today. Later, I will have the opportunity to meet with President Akayev. I will speak with women who have received loans to create small businesses. And I will attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Kyrgyz-American University, where I will lend strong support to our efforts to ensure an independent University. It is only as an independent center of learning, that a university can fulfill its mission to open the minds of students, teach them to think critically, and inspire them to make a difference in the future. At each of these stops, I look forward to strengthening the bonds of friendship between our two countries; to learning about how you are continuing your reforms; and to exploring new ways that we can ensure a peaceful and more prosperous future for all the people of Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia.

TEXT: FIRST LADY ANNOUNCES HUMANITARIAN AID TO KYRGYZSTAN
(Arrival statement at Bishkek International Airport Nov. 12) (970)

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan -- The First Lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton, announced the donation of \$2 million worth of humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan from volunteer organizations in the United States.

Mrs. Clinton spoke November 12 upon her arrival in Kyrgyzstan, one of the stops in a five-country visit to Central Asia, Russia and Ukraine.

The delivery of pharmaceuticals to hospitals in Bishkek and Osh as well as clothing for the children of those communities was made possible through the cooperation of U.S. businesses and three voluntary organizations -- CitiHope, Heart-to-Heart, and Americorps of Indiana. The medicine and clothing were delivered by Operation Provide Hope, a U.S. government program which "has now made 30 humanitarian missions to Kyrgyzstan, bringing more than 70 million dollars in assistance since 1992," the First Lady said.

"I look forward to meeting with President Akayev and witnessing first hand the important progress you are making in moving toward democracy, civil society, and an economy that helps all citizens reach their full potential. And I want to bring you a message of friendship, solidarity, and support from the American people who stand with you on this journey," she said.

Following is the text of the First Lady's arrival statement:

(Begin text)

SPEECH OF THE FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES, HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, UPON ARRIVAL AT BISHKEK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT "MANAS" NOVEMBER 12, 1997

Donation of CitiHope Humanitarian Aid

Good morning,

I am delighted to be here in Kyrgyzstan. I have come on behalf of the President and the American people to reinforce the young but strong ties between our two countries.

I look forward to meeting with President Akayev and witnessing first hand the important progress you are making in moving toward democracy, civil society, and an economy that helps all citizens reach their full potential. And I want to bring you a message of friendship, solidarity, and support from the American people who stand with you on this journey.

I was moved by the flag you have chosen to symbolize your new independence. Not only does it show the sun illuminating the new road to prosperity and democracy, it also includes the rays of light which come forward from that sun, rays of light that mirror the work of citizens coming

together to build and now sustain a free country. I can think of no more fitting symbol.

Because Kyrgyzstan's future depends on many things, on your elected leaders, on the strength of your democratic institutions, and on the individuals and non-governmental organizations who are doing the everyday work necessary to make democracies thrive. Today I am pleased to be joined by non-governmental organizations like the ABA, NDI, Counterpart, and the Soros Foundation. All of you here today are building the kind of civil society that will insure that your children inherit a strong and secure future, by protecting the environment and improving women's health, by strengthening educational opportunities and civic education, by supporting a free press and an independent judiciary, by increasing development and respecting the rights of the disabled, and by providing credit and training that foster microenterprise.

I am proud that the United States has been a committed partner to the people of Kyrgyzstan, by providing critical assistance. And I am especially pleased that many of these efforts, including the one we announced today, have been in partnership with non-governmental organizations.

The airlift that you see unloading cargo right now is bringing more than \$2 million in pharmaceuticals to hospitals in Bishkek and Osh as well as clothing for the children of those communities. We are grateful for Madam Akayeva's cooperation in this important effort. None of it could have been possible without Operation Provide Hope, a U.S. Government program which has now made 30 humanitarian missions to Kyrgyzstan, bringing more than \$70 million in assistance since 1992. It also would not have been possible without the Peace Corps volunteers who will make sure that these supplies reach the hospitals and the children who need them most.

But above all else, this humanitarian mission would not have been possible without the dedication and generosity of the three United States voluntary organizations who, together with United States businesses, donated the pharmaceuticals and clothing. I want to acknowledge the contributions of CitiHope and the Reverend Paul Moore and his staff, who I'm pleased could be here with us today, as well as Heart-to-Heart and Americorps of Indiana. Your collective efforts are about much more than strengthening the ability of hospitals to provide pharmaceuticals; they are about strengthening global and economic ties between our two countries.

I hope that the people of Kyrgyzstan will see these medicines and clothing as I do, as a clear demonstration that the American people care about you during this historic transition. I am looking forward to speaking to people who are making these changes possible -- women who have received loans to create small businesses. And I will attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the American University in Kyrgyzstan, where I will lend strong support to our efforts to ensure an independent university. It is only as an independent center of learning that a university can fulfill its mission to open the minds of students, teach them to think critically, and inspire them to make a difference in the future. At each of these steps I look forward to strengthening the bonds of friendship between our two countries, to learning more about how you are continuing your reforms, and to exploring new ways that we can ensure a peaceful and more prosperous future for all the people of Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia.

Thank you.

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODMAN CLINTON
TALKING POINTS FOR FINCA ROUNDTABLE
BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN
NOVEMBER 12, 1997**

Acknowledgments: From advance.

- **I am honored to have the opportunity to visit the Novo Povloka village. Before we begin,** I want to say how grateful I am for the warm welcome and generous hospitality that my traveling party and I have received in our short time in your country. I have come to Kyrgyzstan and to Central Asia on behalf of my husband, President Clinton, and the American people to reinforce the young, but strong ties between our two countries and to witness firsthand the important progress you are making as you move toward democracy, civil society, and an economy that helps all citizens reach their full potential.
- **Your progress is due in large measure to efforts like this one. As members of the** Foundation for International Community Assistance [FINCA] bank, you are providing a powerful example of what all people -- but especially women -- can do when they work together. What you have accomplished here proves that when women have the opportunity to start small businesses, they can transform themselves, their communities, and their countries.
- **As I have traveled the world, I have seen the incredible power of microenterprise to** lift up lives. I have seen how modest grants and loans are enabling men and women to do what you have done: to start a business selling eggs, rice, and other products in an open bazaar.
- **I understand that since 1994, FINCA in Kyrgyzstan has distributed \$1.4 million to** approximately 15,000 individuals -- the vast majority of whom are women. I understand that the number of active village banks is increasing, and that there are now more than 400 of them. Here in Novo Povloka, FINCA has established eight village banks with 100 active members. The average loan size is \$250.
- **We know that the benefits of these loans extend far beyond the lives of individual** recipients -- they extend to their families, to the people they employ, to those they purchase raw materials from. We also know these loans are a good investment any way you look at it: Finca in Kyrgyzstan has a repayment rate of 98 percent -- a figure that would be the envy of any commercial bank.
- **I have seen firsthand how microenterprise is helping people throughout the world** -- in Uganda [FINCA], in Venezuela [FUDEP], in Bangladesh [Grameen], and in my own country [Denver].

- **I am proud that the United States government, through the United States Agency for International Development, has played a role in supporting microenterprise. I also think we know how much more work we need to do to expand microenterprise in this region, so that ever-more people will have the opportunity to strengthen their families and their communities. [Finca, with USAID support, is going to start in Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan.]**
- **Thank you for taking the time to meet with me. I look forward to hearing from you now.**

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TALKING POINTS
KYRGYZ-AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN
NOVEMBER 12, 1997**

I am honored to be in Kyrgyzstan. Before I begin, I want to say how grateful my traveling party and I are for the warm welcome and generous hospitality we have received in our short time here. I have come to Kyrgyzstan and to Central Asia on behalf of my husband, President Clinton, and the American people to reinforce the young but strong ties between our two countries and to witness firsthand the important progress you are making as you move toward democracy, civil society, and an economy that helps all citizens reach their full potential.

Education is central to this endeavor. Education is essential to the health of democracy, for a democracy's success is contingent on citizens having the ability to make informed choices. Education is essential to building civil society, for civil society depends on learning to live with, tolerate, and respect those with whom we disagree. Education is essential to the success of a country's economy, for economic growth depends on a skilled workforce. It could not be clearer: A country's success rests largely on its ability to educate its people -- to give them the tools they need to live up to their God-given promise.

That is why I am so pleased to be part of this ceremony, which marks an important first step in founding an independent Kyrgyz-American university.

Since independence, the Kyrgyz Republic, under President Akayev's leadership, has sought enhanced cooperation with the West.

It was in this context that your President asked Vice President Gore in 1993 for assistance in establishing a center for training future business and government leaders of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The United States was proud to join you in partnership to create the Kyrgyz-American faculty. Over the last several years, through faculty and curriculum development, library and Internet access, the Kyrgyz-American faculty has grown into a thriving institution.

There is no clearer example of this than the university's first graduating class. It is from these dynamic and motivated young people that the future reformers and democratic leaders of the Kyrgyz Republic will be drawn.

Today, we lay the groundwork for an independent Kyrgyz-American University. We look forward to reaching a framework agreement with you that will define the university's independence -- and thereby assure its continued support. It is only as an independent center of learning that a university can fulfill its mission to open the minds of students, teach them to think critically, and inspire them to make a difference in the future.

I also want to emphasize that we strongly endorse the role of the Open Society Institute as a strong and effective advocate for democracy in Kyrgyzstan and throughout the world. We are hopeful that we can work together with the Open Society in the context of a truly independent university.

We hope that the Kyrgyz-American University grows into a place that nourishes the bedrock values of free thought and expression, respect for human rights, support of strong and independent community institutions and opportunity for all citizens.

We very much want to extend this partnership to reach young people before they get to college. That is why I am so pleased that we are working to create a new alliance between the government of Kyrgyzstan and the United States to recognize excellence in teaching. The Teaching Excellence Awards would go to outstanding teachers of English and American Studies from around your country. The awards will bring teachers together to share techniques. The schools where award-winning teachers work will receive important educational materials. And the teachers who win will have the opportunity to visit the United States -- to learn about our educational system and to teach us about yours. I am also delighted that as part of this program award-winning American teachers will come to Kyrgyzstan to meet with students, fellow teachers, and members of the educational community.

I have read about your great national epics, "The Manas." [Mun-as]. The stories about the steadfastness and courage of your ancestors in ancient times is inspiring. But I must tell you that as I learn about what the people of Kyrgyzstan have accomplished in the last six years, I am more convinced than ever that you are writing a new and exciting chapter for your children.

TEXT: FIRST LADY'S SPEECH AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN KYRGYZSTAN
(Speaks Nov. 12, highlights role of education in democracy) (1530)

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan -- First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton addressed students, administrators and faculty at the American University here November 12, telling them that "a country's success in today's world, more than ever, rests largely on its ability to educate its people, to give them the tools they need to fulfill their promise.

"That is why I am so pleased to be part of this ceremony, the founding of an independent American University in Kyrgyzstan."

Mrs. Clinton said education is essential to the health of democracy, to building civil society, and to the success of a country's economy, "for economic growth especially in the global economy depends on a skilled workforce."

In concluding, she urged students "to continue to explore with your minds as many frontiers of knowledge as you can possibly reach, and I challenge you to put your education to work to build your country, to make it the best possible place to live and raise children that you can imagine. And I ask you to do so in a way that honors the democratic values and the hopes that bring us here today."

The First Lady also announced an award program, the Teaching Excellence Awards, for outstanding teachers of English and American Studies from around Kyrgyzstan. Recipients of the award will visit the United States and their schools will receive educational materials. In addition, the program will bring American educators to Kyrgyzstan.

Following is the text of her speech:

(Begin text)

Hillary Rodham Clinton's Address
American University in Kyrgyzstan
Bishkek, November 12, 1997

Thank you so much. I am extremely honored to be here, and I must say, somewhat overwhelmed by this occasion. I want to thank President and Mrs. Akayev for their very warm, gracious hospitality. And I want to thank the Dean, the Provost, the Faculty Administrators, and especially the students of the American University here in Kyrgyzstan.

I am very honored to be your first honorary professor, and there will not be a test on my remarks at the conclusion of the ceremony.

I have come to Kyrgyzstan and to Central Asia on behalf of my husband, President Clinton, and the American people to reinforce the very strong ties between our two countries, and to witness firsthand the important progress you are making as you move toward becoming a full democracy,

civil society, and an economy that helps all citizens reach their full potential. And there is no more important endeavor to realize all of these goals than education. You know that or you would not be here as part of this university. You know that education is essential to the health of democracy, for a democracy's success is contingent on citizens having the ability to make informed choices. You know that education is essential to building civil society, for civil society depends on learning to live with, tolerate, and respect those with whom we disagree. And you know that education is essential to the success of a country's economy, for economic growth especially in the global economy depends on a skilled workforce. It could not be clearer: a country's success in today's world, more than ever, rests largely on its ability to educate its people, to give them the tools they need to fulfill their promise. That is why I am so pleased to be part of this ceremony, the founding of an independent American University in Kyrgyzstan.

Since your independence, under the President's leadership, Kyrgyzstan has sought enhanced cooperation with the United States and the West. It was in this context, that your President asked our Vice President, Al Gore, in 1993, for assistance in establishing a center for training future business and government leaders. The United States was proud to join you in partnership in creating that faculty. Over the last several years, through faculty and curriculum development, through your library and Internet access, the faculty has grown into a thriving institution. That is obvious, because of the example of the university's first graduating class. It is from these dynamic and motivated young people that the future reformers and business and political leaders of this country will be drawn.

Today, we lay the groundwork for a university which will continue to make contributions to the future of Kyrgyzstan. We look forward to reaching a framework agreement with you that will define the university's independence -- and thereby assure its continued support. We know from our own long experience in the United States that only an independent center of learning can fulfill a university mission to open the minds of students, to teach them to think critically, and to inspire them to make a difference in the future.

We also strongly endorse the role of the Open Society Institute as an effective advocate for democracy here and throughout the world. We hope that this university grows into a place that nourishes the bedrock values of free thought and expression, respect for human rights, support of strong and independent community institutions, and opportunity for all citizens.

I think this partnership which has resulted in this university is one of the most important results of the alliance between our two countries. And we want to further that alliance. One of the ways we intend to do that is to recognize excellence in teaching. The Teaching Excellence Awards will go to outstanding teachers of English and American Studies from around Kyrgyzstan. These awards will bring teachers together to share techniques. The schools from which these teachers come will receive important educational materials. And the teachers who are selected for these awards will have the opportunity to visit the United States -- to teach us about your educational system and to see ours in action. I am also delighted that as part of this program, the Teaching Excellence Awards, award-winning American teachers will come to Kyrgyzstan to meet with students, fellow teachers, and members of the educational community.

I have only been here for a very short time. In fact, I'm quite sad that my schedule does not permit me to stay longer, to visit with the students and the faculty here at the university and to see more of this beautiful country and to meet more of the people who are building its future. But I can say that based on my very short impression, what I have heard about the progress that has been made, the political and economic reforms that have taken place is certainly borne out by my own eyes and experience. This country has an extraordinary past, but I believe that it has an even more extraordinary future.

I have read about your great national epics, "The Manas," and I spoke with the President about them at lunch today. These are stories about the steadfastness and courage of your ancestors in ancient times, and they are very inspiring. But I must tell you, from my perspective as an American who was watching what you were doing from very far away, I am even more inspired by what you have accomplished in six short years. I am more convinced than ever that you will not only demonstrate your commitment to the future, but in so doing, you will keep faith with the glory of your past.

It is not an easy time to chart a new future. The world is changing very fast around us. Today at lunch I met the President's son, a 14-year-old young man, who told me very proudly that he was communicating on the Internet with other young people all over the world. That is something I could not do when I was his age; I will not even be able to imagine what he will do when he is my age. Just as I cannot imagine as I look at the students here, as I have listened to you address this audience in English, what accomplishments will lie ahead of you.

But I want to commend you for taking advantage of this educational opportunity, and I want to say how pleased we are in the United States, that we can work together with you to establish this American University, because we want to be, now and in the future, allies, partners and friends, in charting the journey that we will take together into the twenty-first century. That journey is far more important to you who are students than to those of us who have already gone through much of our lives. So to you who are the students, I commend you for taking the risk of doing as much with your lives as you possibly can. I urge you to continue to explore with your minds as many frontiers of knowledge as you can possibly reach, and I challenge you to put your education to work to build your country, to make it the best possible place to live and raise children that you can imagine. And I ask you to do so in a way that honors the democratic values and the hopes that bring us here today.

Thank you very much.

(End text)

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**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
KYRGYZSTAN DEPARTURE STATEMENT
BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN
NOVEMBER 12, 1997**

I want to thank President and Mrs. Akayev -- and the people of Kyrgyzstan -- for their extraordinary hospitality. Though my time in your country was far too short, I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to see how you are preserving your rich cultural heritage, while charting a new course for the future. I was especially impressed by the strong steps that citizens are taking to expand educational opportunities, advance private enterprise, and foster civil society.

At the airport, I was pleased to observe the arrival in Kyrgyzstan of a shipment of medicines for hospitals and clothing for children donated by volunteer organizations in the United States. While at the airport, I also had the opportunity to speak with members of Kyrgyzstan's community of non-governmental organizations and to tell them how important they are to strengthening civil society. In Bishkek, I visited a FINCA microenterprise initiative, which sees to it that hardworking people -- mostly women -- have access to credit so that they can start small businesses. My pleasure at meeting the people involved with this venture was deepened by the fact that I was able to do so in a traditional yurt. I also had the honor of visiting the Kyrgyz-American University to express reiterate America's support for an independent university that will open the minds of young people and inspire them to make a difference in the future. Finally, I was pleased to meet with President Akayev to reinforce the strong ties between our two countries.

I hope that in my brief time here I have been able to convey the warmth and friendship the American people have for the people of Kyrgyzstan. When I return home, I will bring with me wonderful memories of the people I met here, excitement about the progress I have seen, and an even greater sense of the common bond that unites our two countries. Americans will continue to stand with the people of Kyrgyzstan as they courageously work for a new future of democracy, prosperity, and freedom.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
UZBEKISTAN ARRIVAL STATEMENT
TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN
NOVEMBER 12, 1997

I am delighted to be here in Uzbekistan. I have come to Uzbekistan and to Central Asia on behalf of my husband, the President, and the American people to reinforce the strong, but young ties between our two nations. I want to witness firsthand how you are progressing on the road toward democracy, civil society, and an economy grounded in open markets and free enterprise. And I want to bring a message of friendship and support from the American people, who stand with you on this journey.

With its unique position along the ancient Silk Road, Uzbekistan has always been a marketplace of both goods and ideas. During my visits to Tashkent, Bukhara, and Samarkand, I look forward to seeing the rich cultural heritage you have sought to preserve, and the new history you are writing for the future. I want to talk about our common goal to make cultural diversity a source of pride, not division. I will see what our governments are doing together to give the people of Uzbekistan what I call the tools of opportunity: health care, credit, education. And I look forward to hearing the views of women and students, as they strive to make their voices heard in this new independent country.

I want to thank President and Mrs. Karimov -- and the people of Uzbekistan -- for the warm welcome you have extended me. The United States is proud of its partnership with Uzbekistan. I look forward to strengthening the ties between our two countries, to learning more about your reforms, and to exploring new ways that we can ensure a peaceful and more prosperous future for all the people of Uzbekistan and Central Asia.

REVISE 11/13/97 9:00 AM

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WOMEN'S WELLNESS CENTER
TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN
NOVEMBER 13, 1997**

Acknowledgments: From advance. Special word to people from Chicago.

Before I begin, I want to thank President and Mrs. Karimov and the people of Uzbekistan for the warm welcome and generous hospitality we have received in our short time here. I have come to Uzbekistan and to Central Asia on behalf of my husband, the President of the United States, and the American people, to reinforce the young but strong ties between our countries...to witness firsthand the move you are making toward democracy, civil society and an economy centered around open markets and private enterprise. I have also come to bring you a message of hope and solidarity from the American people, who are proud to stand with you.

All over the world, democracy is advancing. But democracy without the participation of women is a contradiction in terms. And women cannot participate in democracy unless they have access to what I call the tools of opportunity -- legal protections, education, credit, and, yes, quality health care. [*stories from women you met with this morning.*]

This center makes it clear that quality health care means comprehensive health care. Today, the Tashkent State Medical Institute, the largest and one of the finest in Central Asia, is committing itself to seeing to it that women have a place where they can get the medical care they need and deserve. I just had the opportunity to tour the center and see how it will help the women of Uzbekistan lead longer, healthier, more secure lives. It will help women safeguard themselves against sexually transmitted diseases. It will provide critical screening for cervical and breast cancer. It will provide pre-natal and counseling services for women in all stages of the reproductive health cycle. It will offer a wide range of family planning services, which is vital if we are going to reduce the rate of abortion in this country and Central Asia. And it will provide the resources to deal openly and candidly with the risks of alcohol, tobacco, poor nutrition, and drugs.

The work done here will reach far beyond these doors. When women are healthy, children are healthy, families are healthy, and countries are healthy. I hope this center will work to educate and raise awareness among men, so that they can take a more active role in the birth and care of their children and the health of their families. And I hope it will convince women -- most of whom work outside the home and care for their families -- that they must look after their own health.

This wellness center is a testament to the commitment and dedication of doctors and nurses throughout Uzbekistan. But it is also the product of an extraordinary partnership. As an American, I am particularly proud to be here because of the alliance you have forged with medical professionals at the University of Illinois at Chicago -- a world-class health center located in my home town. This partnership is broad. It includes neonatology and perinatal medicine. It also encompasses education -- in medicine, nursing, and hospital management. When we form partnerships like this, both of our health care communities learn something from the other. Both of us win. But, the real winners, of course, are the women and children of Uzbekistan.

I am also proud of the role the American International Health Alliance and the United States Agency for International Development have played in this effort. As many of you know, this is one of 13 wellness centers in the New Independent States -- all based on a model of comprehensive health care created by the Alliance. In fact, yesterday I was privileged to open another such center in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Finally, I would like to make special mention of the contribution of non-governmental organizations to this effort -- and of the role the American people and American companies have played in contributing supplies through the U.S. government's Operation Provide Hope. Just a few months ago, I was privileged to help launch the 500th American humanitarian airlift to the NIS. This airlift brought \$22 million of medicines, supplies, and equipment to Uzbekistan. Of that, approximately \$2 million has been delivered to the Tashkent Medical Institute. Many of these medicines and materials are here at the Wellness Center. I am also proud that the University of Illinois at Chicago has itself provided supplies and equipment to this project. This wonderful public-private alliance is a clear demonstration that the American people care about the people of Kazakhstan during this historic transition.

But the opening of this center is most of all a tribute to the people of Uzbekistan. The Second State Medical Institute and Tashkent City Health Administration have provided the space for this center and made its construction possible. The city will also keep the center running. Together, you are building a strong foundation not only for the health of all your people, but for the future of your country.

REVISE 11/13/97

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TALKING POINTS FOR BRADLEY FELLOWS
TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN
NOVEMBER 13, 1997**

I want to thank the people of Uzbekistan for their warm welcome and extraordinary hospitality. I have come to Uzbekistan and Central Asia on behalf of my husband, President Clinton, and the American people to witness firsthand the important progress you are making as you move toward democracy, civil society, and an economy that helps all citizens to reach their full potential. I have also come here to reinforce the young, but strong ties between our two countries.

That is why I wanted to meet with you. Because the future of this country and the future of our alliance will depend on you -- Uzbekistan's young people. I am particularly pleased that we are joined today by so many students who have taken part in the Bradley High School Exchange Program. Since its establishment by Senator Bill Bradley in 1990, the program has provided the opportunity for thousands of students from the Newly Independent States to come to America each year -- to live with American families, to attend American schools, to deepen their understanding of American culture and society.

This program yields immeasurable rewards. I am very eager to hear how it altered your life, your outlook, your perceptions. I would like to learn what effect it had on your family and your community when you returned home. As someone who has had the privilege of meeting with your counterparts and hearing about the program over the years, I know that the Bradley students make very real contributions to the people of the United States. To begin with, you remind us of something that is too easily forgotten: that freedom is a blessing.

I hope that your time in our country, in turn, renewed your commitment to democracy. I also hope that it underscored the fact that the work of democracy is never done. A democracy requires constant commitment on the part of its citizens. There are no days off. After more than two centuries of democratic government, we in the United States are still trying to get it right.

It is clear that we have much to learn from each other. Later today, I will travel to Bukhara. Tomorrow, I will go to Samarkand. In both places I am very eager to learn more about how the ancient and modern people of Uzbekistan have managed to forge a society that honors so many different religions, that accepts people from so many different places. I imagine these values, grounded in respect and based on tolerance, have much to do with the fact that both these cities are more than 2000 years old.

Before we begin, I want to make two statements about how I hope we can extend our partnership. First, I am proud that as part of our Partnership for Freedom Initiative, the United States government will increase support for the Bradley High School Exchange Program -- along with other educational exchange initiatives designed to promote understanding around the world. Second, we are committed to creating a new alliance between the government of Uzbekistan and the United States to recognize excellence in teaching. The Teaching Excellence Awards would go to outstanding teachers of English and American Studies from around your country. The awards would bring teachers together to share techniques. The schools where award-winning teachers work would receive important educational materials. And the teachers who win would have the opportunity to visit the United States -- to learn about our educational system and to teach us about yours. I am also delighted that as part of this program, award-winning American teachers will come to Uzbekistan to meet with students, fellow teachers, and members of the educational community.

I am delighted that we have had an opportunity to meet today. Now, I very much look forward to hearing from you.

11/13/97

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TALKING POINTS FOR SCHOOL NUMBER 16
BUKHARA, UZBEKISTAN
NOVEMBER 13, 1997**

- Acknowledgments -- from advance
- Before we begin our discussion, I want to express deep gratitude for the warm welcome we have received in our very short time here. I have come to Uzbekistan and to Central Asia to reinforce the young, but strong ties between our countries; to witness firsthand the progress you are making; and to bring a message of solidarity and hope from the American people, who are proud to stand with you on this journey.

It is a real honor for me to be here in Bukhara -- in the intellectual, cultural, and religious heart of Central Asia. In this beautiful city along the ancient Silk Road, the young people of Uzbekistan are taking a courageous walk down a new road to democracy and prosperity. With students from every major ethnic group in Bukhara, you are creating a new future.
- In a city that is 2,500 years old, six years seems like a very short time. Yet when I think of what you have accomplished in these six years, I am amazed. The stifling architecture of communism has been swept away. In its place you are laying a strong foundation for open markets, private enterprise, and civil society.
- Since I have been here I have spoken with young people all over Central Asia -- in Kazakhstan, in Kyrgyzstan, and now in Uzbekistan. And despite their difference, you all face a common challenge: you will be responsible for leading your countries into the new century.
- What you are doing here at this school is at the center of that effort. Education is the key to building a strong democracy. For a democracy's success is contingent on citizens having the ability to make informed choices. Education is essential to building civil society, for civil society depends on learning to live with, tolerate, and respect those with whom we disagree. Education is essential to the success of a country's economy, for economic growth depends on a skilled workforce.

- And so is learning that reaches across cultures and borders. For this reason, I would very much like to hear about your unique curriculum. [*emphasizes learning in English and learning about other cultures.*] I hope you continue to see your efforts as linked to the efforts of young people across the globe. As new democracies emerge, you have the opportunity to share more than roadmaps to success for the next generation of leaders. You can show how much we can learn from our similarities and our differences. You can show the bonds that unite young people from our community of democratic nations, as you grapple with the same issues and become the architects of a strong, stable, and free future.
- I am delighted that the Peace Corps has a long history with this school. [special word of thanks to John Smart, current volunteer.] The United States is committed to helping to strengthen educational ties between our two countries. This morning in Tashkent, I met with students who had visited my country through the Bradley High School Exchange Program. Every year, thousands of students from the NIS come to America -- to live with American families, to attend American schools, and to deepen their understanding of American culture and society. I am pleased that the United States government, through our Partnership for Freedom Initiative, is increasing support for our entire range of educational exchange programs -- including the Bradley initiative. We are also committed to creating educational alliances not just between students, but also between teachers.
- I am very happy to have the opportunity to meet with you today. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and hopes.

Thank you so much. Mr. President you may be assured that I will carry your warm words and your kind invitation to my husband, who is quite sad that I have had the opportunity to come to Uzbekistan first, and I know that if there is any way possible, he will want also come and see your beautiful country and I hope that that will come to pass.

I want to thank you and Mrs. Karimov for the very warm and gracious welcome and hospitality that I have received from you and your people. In the last two and half days I have met with professional and business women in Tashkent to talk about what Non-governmental organizations were doing. I have talked with university students in Tashkent and teenagers in Bukhara about their questions as they asked me in English, with great confidence in their voices, about what was going on in the United States and what I thought of them and their country. I complimented them because I have met with students from all over the world, and, -- I say this not because I am here in Samarkand, I will say it when I return home -- I have never met a group of young people - young men and young women - who were better prepared and asked better questions than the ones I met in both Tashkent and Bukhara.

I have also had the opportunity to visit your ancient monuments and I want to thank the people of Bukhara and Samarkand for opening these monuments for the entire world to appreciate. I have been privileged to see the old and the new Uzbekistan.

This morning, Mrs. Karimova and I visited a Jewish synagogue in Bukhara and there the rabbi in that small and ancient congregation told me of the way that you, Mr. President, and your government have restored religious freedom and encouraged religious and cultural tolerance. Mrs. Karimova explained to me that under the Soviet/Communist regime, individuals and families were forbidden to exercise their religion and even prohibited from practicing time-honored traditions surrounding the birth of a child, a marriage or the loss of a loved one. Thankfully, those days are over. In Uzbekistan today, people of all religions and worship freely and openly.

And as we heard from our first speaker and from the President the nationalities that are present in this one city alone represented talents and abilities and aspirations of so many different traditions all of whom are living peacefully in this cultural and prestigious heart of Central Asia. I have come to Samarkand and to Uzbekistan on behalf of my husband, President Clinton and the American people to reinforce the young but strong and growing ties between our two countries and to witness first hand the important progress you are making as your move towards democracy, create a civil society and build an economy that helps all citizens realize their own dreams.

But I have come for another reason as well. I have come to learn from you. To learn from you not only about your rich past and rich culture but also about the deeply rooted traditions of respect for religions and ethnic differences which have enabled this culture to flourish for so many generations.

In the last days starting in Tashkent and traveling to Bukhara to here, I have been struck by the beauty of your places of worship. What made the sharpest impression on me, however, is their proximity. Muslims, Christians and Jews following their faith in the same neighborhoods. . Perhaps even more remarkable is that they have done so for centuries.

This spirit of respect extends to all corners of your society. For millennia, people of different backgrounds have

lived together peacefully. And they do so today. In a school I visited yesterday in Bukhara, there were children sitting in a circle asking me questions in Uzbek, Tajik and Russian and the questions came fast and their curiosity raced ahead and they wanted to carry on the conversation for a very long time. I reluctantly had to leave, but I could see in that group of children the future of this great country. I know that the people of Uzbekistan have a long standing commitment to knowledge and learning. After all, this is the country that invented algebra. Now, when I was growing up, as a young girl and studying algebra in school I'm not sure that I would have been grateful for the invention of algebra, but of course the world advanced because of the scholarship that you had here. You are blessed by a great artistic and literary tradition, and your literacy rate is the envy of many countries. I recognize that these are demanding times as you build your new society and these resources are scarce, but I hope you will protect your strong system of education for girls as well as boys. Because I now from seeing the faces of university students and the high school students that you have such great potential in the minds of your young people, and we know that a strong foundation of education is essential for building a thriving democracy.

Now perhaps your record for finding strength in your diversity does not seem remarkable to you. And the President told me, and repeated again here, he grew up in Samarkand, he perhaps took for granted the numbers of different people living together. But this tradition, this diversity is rare. For if you look around the world today, you will see where differences, old and new, ethnic and religious, are used as a pretext for hatred, violence and inhumanity.

In Bosnia and Rwanda, in Northern Ireland and in the Middle East, you will also see places where extremists hijack holy traditions not to lift people up closer to God, but to push them apart.

I imagine that the diversity of cultures represented by the caravans which plied the ancient Silk Road helped instill that tradition of respect that has armed you against these darker impulses. Travelers from China, Europe, India, Byzantium and the Arab world would sit, talk, and drink tea together in the caravansaries an experience which could only deepen bonds between individuals.

After all, what does trade depend on? To trade you must live in an open society. Free from walls and barriers. Information, ideas, goods and people must be able to come in and go out.

Trade is built on respect. To trade, you have to believe that someone -- someone who may be unlike yourself - has something of worth to offer. And that you, by the same reasoning, have something of equal value to offer them in return.

This basic transaction does more than spark commerce. It nurtures tolerance, a willingness to at least try to understand those whose race, heritage, or religion might be different from our own.

This openness to ideas led the great philosophers of Islam to incorporate Western thought into their teaching in the madrassahs of Bukhara and Samarkand in the 9th, 10th, and 11th centuries. Their efforts literally preserved wisdom - like the work of Aristotle - that would otherwise have been lost to the ages.

This openness also made Uzbekistan a safe home for the world's oldest Jewish community outside of the Middle East.

It led to the growth of Naqshbandi Sufism, now the largest strain of Sufis. Bukhara is that seat of that remarkable movement, which respects other traditions while at the same time rejecting extremism. I was very touched and honored when I met the mullah at the mosque in Bukhara yesterday and he expressed hope that echoed that of the President that the relations between our two countries would grow deeper and stronger.

And I imagine this openness - which honors so many religions, which accepts people from many different places - is one of the reasons that Samarkand and Bukhara have survived for more than 2,000 years.

Despite your great history, I would not be surprised if your people did not have concerns about the years that lie ahead. Because, while the architecture of communism lies in rubble, the hard work of building the new structures of freedom is just beginning.

I know based on the experience of my own country, which is now the oldest surviving democracy, building democracy is a never-ending task that requires commitment of all citizens generation after generation.

From what I know of Uzbekistan and the other countries of Central Asia that I have visited, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, I have every confidence that you will succeed. For it must have taken unimaginable courage and steadfastness to survive under the old order. In a system whose goal it was to stifle difference and erase culture and religion, you held fast, even as the Iron Curtain cut through the Silk Road. Now that curtain has been torn down and the Silk Road thrives again. As you travel on your journey, not on camels but moving towards a new destination of democracy and looking towards the future.

Like the traders of old who risked their lives to travel the Silk Road to new lands and new opportunities, the work of democracy will lead you also to take risks for new opportunities as well.

I want you to know that democracy in my country and in yours depends not only on developing institutions that protect individuals and include all individuals from different backgrounds. It not only depends on holding free and fair elections not once but time and time again. It depends not only on freedom of religion and freedom of expression. But it depends ultimately on whether democratic values live in the hearts and minds of all citizens. Nurturing these values, passing them down from generation to generation, is one of the most challenging tasks for any democracy, particularly a new and emerging one like yours. But I'm confident that the tradition of respect and tolerance that has stood this land so well for so many generations has better prepared you to face the challenges that lie ahead.

In a few short years, the bonds between our countries have grown strong, and I trust that they will grow even stronger. We have so much to learn from each other. And you have much to teach the world about diversity. For centuries, that ancient Silk Road took the people of Central Asia to new worlds rich in commerce and culture. Today, you are traveling this road again, only this time in a different direction. For new worlds of freedom and democracy. Though the journey is hard and the horizon may at times seem distant, I hope you will take faith in the fact the President and people of the United States will walk with you every step of the way. We are proud to be your friends and your partners on this journey to democracy.

Thank you very much.

Revise 11/14/97 12:00

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
STATEMENT ON CULTURAL RESPECT
SAMARKAND, UZBEKISTAN
NOVEMBER 14, 1997**

Acknowledgments: I want to thank President and Mrs. Karimov and the people of Uzbekistan for their warm welcome and, more importantly, for their commitment to restoring religious freedoms. This morning, I had the privilege of visiting the Jewish synagogue in Bukhara with Mrs. Karimov. There, the rabbi of that small and ancient congregation, told me of ways in which the new government is supporting efforts to enhance Jewish education. As we spoke, I tried to imagine what it must have been like to live for so long under a regime that forbade individuals and families from adhering to their faith -- that actually prevented them from practicing time-honored traditions surrounding the birth of a child, a marriage, or the loss of a loved one. Thankfully, those days are over. In Uzbekistan today, people of all religions can worship freely and openly.

That is why I am so honored to be in Samarkand and Uzbekistan -- the cultural and religious heart of Central Asia. I have come to Uzbekistan and to this region on behalf of my husband, President Clinton, and the American people to reinforce the young but strong ties between our two countries and to witness firsthand the important progress you are making as you move toward democracy, civil society, and an economy that helps all citizens reach their full potential.

But I have come here for another reason, as well: To learn. To learn from you not only about your rich culture, but also about the deeply rooted tradition of respect for religious and ethnic differences, which have enabled that very culture to flourish.

In the last two days, as I have traveled through Bukhara and Samarkand, I have been struck by the beauty of your places of worship. What has made the sharpest impression on me, however, is their proximity. Muslims, Christians, and Jews follow their faith in the same neighborhoods. Perhaps even more remarkable is the fact that they have been doing so for centuries.

This spirit of respect extends to all corners of your society. For millennia, people of different backgrounds have lived together peacefully. And they do so today. Yesterday, for example, I had the privilege of visiting a school in Bukhara that taught children from all of the city's major ethnic groups -- Uzbeks, Tajiks, and Russians.

I know that the people of Uzbekistan have a longstanding commitment to knowledge and learning. After all, this is the country that invented algebra -- a fact that didn't always leave me grateful as a young girl. You are blessed by a great artistic and literary tradition, as well as a literacy rate that would be the envy of any country. I recognize that these are demanding times with scarce resources. But I urge you to do your utmost to protect your strong system of education -- for girls as well as boys. For on a strong foundation of education is essential for building a thriving democracy.

Perhaps your record of finding strength in your diversity does not seem remarkable to you. But it is. For if you cast your eyes around our world today, you will see where differences -- old and new, ethnic and religious -- are used as a pretext for hatred, violence, and inhumanity.

In Bosnia and Rwanda; in Northern Ireland and in the Middle East. You will also see places where extremists hijack holy traditions not to lift people up, but to push them apart.

I imagine that the diversity of cultures represented by the caravans which plied the ancient Silk Road helped instill a tradition of respect that has armed you against these dark impulses. Travelers from China, Europe, India, Byzantium and the Arab world would sit, talk, and drink tea together in caravan-sarays [suh-ryes] -- an experience which could only deepen bonds between individuals.

After all, what does trade depend on? To trade, you must live in an open society. Free from walls and barriers. Information, ideas, and goods must be able to come in -- and go out.

Trade is built on respect. To trade, you have to believe that someone -- someone who may be unlike you -- has something of worth to offer. And that you, by the same reasoning, have something of equal value to offer them in return.

This basic transaction does more than spark commerce. It nurtures tolerance, a willingness to at least try to understand those whose race, heritage, or religion might be different from our own. Central Asia's historic success grew in large part out the belief that people could come together across their differences to find common ground.

This openness to ideas led the great philosophers of Islam to incorporate Western thought into their teachings in the medressas of Bukhara and Samarkand in the 9th, 10th, and 11th centuries. Their efforts literally preserved wisdom -- like the work of Aristotle -- that would otherwise have been lost to the ages.

This openness also made Uzbekistan a safe home for the world's oldest Jewish community outside of the Middle East.

It led to the growth of Naqshbandi [noksh-bondee] Sufism, now the largest strain of Sufism. Bukhara is the seat of this remarkable movement, which respects other traditions while at the same time rejecting extremism.

And I imagine this openness -- which honors so many religions, which accepts people from so many different places -- is one of the reasons that Samarkand and Bukhara have survived for more than 2,000 years.

Despite your great history, I would not be surprised if you had concerns about the years ahead. While the architecture of communism lies in rubble, the hard work of building the new structures of freedom is just beginning.

From what I know of Uzbekistan and the countries of Central Asia, I have every confidence that you will succeed. For it must have taken unimaginable courage and steadfastness to survive under the old order. In a system whose goal it was to stifle difference and erase culture, you held fast. The medressas stayed open, your faith remained strong -- even as the Iron Curtain cut through the Silk Road.

I hope you will remember this in the coming years -- and beyond. The work of democracy is hard and on-going. My own country has been a democracy for more than 200 years -- and we are still learning. Democracy depends on developing institutions that protect individual rights -- including individuals who belong to ethnic and religious minorities.

It depends on holding free and fair elections -- not once, but time and time again. It depends on freedom of religion and freedom of expression. But it also depends upon whether democratic values live in the hearts and minds of all citizens. Nurturing these values, passing them down from generation to generation, is one of the most challenging tasks for any emerging democracy.

In a few short years, the bonds between the United States and Uzbekistan have grown strong. I hope these bonds will only grow stronger. We have so much to learn from each other. And you have much to teach the world about finding strength in diversity.

When we come upon a road, the question we have to ask is, "Where will this road take us?" For centuries, the ancient Silk Road took the people of Central Asia to new worlds rich in commerce and culture. Today, you are traveling this road again, only this time in a different direction -- toward new worlds of freedom and democracy. Though the journey is hard and the horizon is distant, I hope you will take faith from the fact that the people of the United States will walk with you -- every step of the way.

TEXT: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON ARRIVAL STATEMENT IN RUSSIA NOV. 15
(Brings message of hope and solidarity from the U.S.) (400)

Moscow -- U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said November 15 that she had come to Russia on behalf of President Clinton "to reinforce the young but strong ties between our two countries and to see firsthand the critical role that the regions of your country are playing in advancing democratic and economic reforms.

"I also want to bring you a message of hope and solidarity from the American people, who are proud to stand with you in these challenging and momentous times."

Following is the text of her arrival statement:

(Begin text)

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Russia Arrival Statement
November 15, 1997

I am very pleased to be back in Russia on this, my third visit to your great country.

I have come to Russia on behalf of my husband, the President of the United States, to reinforce the young but strong ties between our two countries and to see firsthand the critical role that the regions of your country are playing in advancing democratic and economic reforms. I also want to bring you a message of hope and solidarity from the American people, who are proud to stand with you in these challenging and momentous times.

Today, I will visit Yekaterinburg. There, I will visit the Bonum Center, to learn more about how our two countries are working together in partnership to provide better health care for the children of Russia. I will also attend a town hall meeting with women representing non-governmental organizations to find out more about what women are doing to take their rightful place as full participants in society. I very much look forward to seeing Yekaterinburg with one of its favorite daughters, my good friend, Naina Yeltsin.

Tomorrow, I will travel to Novosibirsk. At Akademgorodok, your world-class science institution, I will visit the famous Museum of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography. I will then have the privilege of speaking to students about the crucial connection between education and democracy and the formation of a civil society. In addition to meeting with your regional leaders, I will also have the opportunity to visit with a family to hear the views on how they are affected by Russia's historic transformation.

Thank you.

(End text)

TEXT: U.S. FIRST LADY SPEAKS TO URALS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION IN RUSSIA
(November 15 remarks at town meeting in Yekaterinburg) (2360)

Yekaterinburg, Russia -- Speaking at a non-governmental organization town meeting hosted by the Urals Women's Association here November 15, U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton stressed the importance of women's organizations the world over in helping women face "new and different challenges than the ones faced by our mothers and grandmothers."

Such groups -- whether they work on behalf of professions and business women, on behalf of children and education issues, or health care and environmental issues -- "are bringing women together to give voice to our concerns and help to solve problems that we see in society," Mrs. Clinton said.

Governor Eduard Rossel and Mrs. Boris Yeltsin -- whose home town is Yekaterinburg, and who met her husband at Urals State Technical University -- made opening statements at the event.

Mrs. Clinton said women's organizations are very important in the United States and "in countries around the world, and especially in a country such as Russia that has so many well-educated women who are dealing with new challenges."

Answering questions from the audience, Mrs. Clinton said she did not regret seeking political office because "as important as the work my husband and President Yeltsin do, the most important person both in my country and in your country is the individual citizen. I do not believe that you have to run for or hold elected office, like the Governor or like our husbands, in order to make a contribution to your society."

She also said that President Clinton "wanted me to come to Russia to send a very clear message to all Russians that the United States will be a friend and a partner and will work together with you as you move your society forward. We look for the opportunity to learn from you ways that we can also improve our society."

Democracy, Mrs. Clinton added, "is a never-ending effort. You do not reach democracy and then say we have finished, you keep working on it every day. That is what we do and that is what I see you doing. And we want to be your friend and supporter on this effort that we are both working on together."

Following is the text of the Mrs. Clinton's remarks, which were prepared and released by USIS Moscow:

(Begin text)

The First Lady Participates in a Non-Governmental Organization Town Meeting
Hosted by the Urals Women's Association
at the Urals State Technical University
Yekaterinburg, Russia

November 15, 1997

"Thank you very much, Mrs. Yeltsin. Ever since I met President and Mrs. Yeltsin they have been talking to my husband and me about the Urals. And they have also been talking to me about this great university and how they met here. I understand there is a legend they may have first kissed behind one of these columns. But that is a legend. I want to thank Mrs. Yeltsin for inviting me here. I want to thank the Governor for making me feel so very welcome. I have already enjoyed myself very much. I don't think there is a sunnier place on the entire planet than right here, right now.

"I am also very honored to be here at this university, which has so many ties with universities in my country and has produced so many important leaders for Russia. I also want to thank the Urals Women's Association and the many other women's organizations represented here in this audience and in the balcony along with the students who are here.

"I am a very big supporter of non-governmental organizations and the roles that they play in building and sustaining strong democracies. I think women's organizations are especially important in the world today, because so many of us women are facing new and different challenges than the ones faced by our mothers and grandmothers. We think that these women organizations in the United States are very important, and we believe they are important in countries around the world, and especially in a country such as Russia that has so many well-educated women who are dealing with new challenges.

"Whether they are women's organizations working on behalf of professions and business women, or women's organizations working on behalf of children and education issues, or women's organizations working on behalf of health care and environmental issues, these organizations are bringing women together to give voice to our concerns and help to solve problems that we see in society. I am pleased that our government is supporting some of the efforts around the world, even here in Russia, that bring women together to do all kinds of work at what we call the grass roots level, person-to-person.

"There are new issues that we will be confronting, in addition to the ones I mentioned. The United States Agency for International Development will be increasing funds to support NGOs to combat family violence. We are looking forward to a joint conference between the United States and Russia sometime next year, where we will share models about how we can best work together to confront domestic violence. But what I look forward to now is an opportunity to hear from you and learn more about what is happening here in your country about issues that I feel strongly about in my own country, and to look for ways that women in the United States and women in Russia can find common ground and work together. Thank you very much."

Following Mrs. Clinton's statement several leaders of women's organizations discussed a range of problems in Russia and possible approaches to solve these problems, including joint projects with U.S. counterpart organizations. A Urals Technical University student from the fourth year also spoke, pointing to the particular problems of students in today's Russia. She concluded with the hope that Mrs. Clinton would help students from the U.S. and Russia meet and interact more.

She also invited Mrs. Clinton and her daughter to the Spring Festival of the University.

The moderator, Chairperson of the Urals Women's Association, Deputy Minister of Labor Galina Karelova, then opened the floor to questions.

One woman asked both participants what they would wish for the women of Russia, those living not only in the great cities but in the smaller towns. Mrs. Clinton responded that she would wish for the women of Russia what she wished for the women of the United States: "That each woman would have the opportunity to pursue her own desires and have the ability to achieve whatever she chooses that she considers best for her life. That means that in my country, like yours, I would wish that each woman would be given the tools of opportunity: good education, good health care, access to credit, legal protections; that she have the love and support of her family, both the family into which she's born, and if she chooses to marry the family into which she marries; and that society respect the decisions that each woman makes and not impose what we think is right for any woman, but instead celebrate and use the many talents that different women bring to their lives and to their respective countries."

Mrs. Yeltsin added that she would wish that "women both here and in Washington give more warmth, more soul, more heart, more attention to their families, to their children."

One student asked if Mrs. Clinton regretted that she herself had not become an independent politician at the highest level. Mrs. Clinton responded decisively, "No! As important as the work my husband and President Yeltsin do, the most important person both in my country and in your country is the individual citizen. I do not believe that you have to run for or hold elected office, like the Governor or like our husbands, in order to make a contribution to your society. What I have tried to do, like what so many of you have tried to do, is through my voluntary work and through my professional involvement to try to make conditions better, particularly for children, but also for women and others.

"What I find exciting in my own country, and what I see happening throughout Russia, is how many individual citizens are taking on these responsibilities and working to make their own lives better and working, as so many of you are, through non-governmental organizations to make your society better. During our more than 200 years as a democracy we have had many good leaders, and leaders that were not so good, but we have always had citizens that were willing to work hard to solve problems. I think that is the most important job in a democracy, and that is the job I enjoy doing."

The President of the regional organization, "Christian Woman," and a representative of the United Methodist Church's "Return to Christ," asked the next question. She said that her church had a sister relationship with a church in Little Rock, Arkansas and asked what Mrs. Clinton would suggest as the best way for churches to work with disadvantaged families.

Mrs. Clinton said she is a Methodist and knew the Little Rock church mentioned because the pastor was the one who had officiated at her wedding. "I believe," she said, "that there are many opportunities for not only Methodists but people of all religions to do more on behalf of the poor

in my country and in your country. Some of the work that my church and other churches that I know of have done include collecting clothes and food for poor people, both during the year and during the holiday season around Christmas; trying to be sure that families with children with disabilities or medical problems get the help they need; working for the old and the pensioners who cannot get out and do work for themselves, such as buy food and perform other errands that they need during their day; and generally seeing the poor among us as God's creations and being respectful and helpful whenever we can. So I wish you well in your work with your church."

A student leader asked Mrs. Clinton whether she would visit other regions of Russia, or could she stay longer in Yekaterinburg. Mrs. Clinton replied, "Thank you for that invitation. I wish I could stay longer here, but tomorrow I go to Novosibirsk. Since I have now received many kind invitations, I hope that I can return and that my husband and my daughter Chelsea can come with me.

"I agree with your fellow student. Many Americans do not know enough about Russia and what is going on in Russia today. So I want even more Americans to come to Russia and even more Russians to go to the United States so that we get to know each other on a very personal level, because we have so much in common, and we have much work to do on behalf of our countries and on behalf of the world. So I hope that all of you will get to visit my country, and I hope that more of my people and my friends will get to visit your country in the years ahead."

A woman from a veterans' organization asked if there were American women veterans' organizations. Mrs. Clinton thanked her for the question. "We do have many women veterans, and we have just in Washington, D.C. opened a very large monument to all our women veterans from all of our Services from the beginning of our country. We are trying to honor the contributions of women who have served in the military in the past, and my husband has worked hard to open up the United States military so that more women can do more jobs in the various branches of military service."

A student posed the final question. She asked Mrs. Clinton about her educational experiences. The First Lady noted that she had received a very good education from Wellesley College, followed by four years of law study at Yale University. She said that the most memorable things were that she got her law degree so that she could be a lawyer and, like Mrs. Yeltsin, met her husband at university, "so I have many good memories about going to both college and law school. I hope that all of you who are students at this university are building up good memories as well as getting a good education."

Then Mrs. Clinton thanked the moderator and concluded: "Like Mrs. Yeltsin, I feel we could talk for a very long time about many, many ideas and concerns we have on our minds and our hearts. I want to thank you for coming here. I hope that this will be just one of many conversations that will take place not only among women working for causes here in Russia, but between American and Russian women working for the same kinds of goals and dreams.

"My husband wanted me to come to Russia to send a very clear message to all Russians that the United States will be a friend and a partner and will work together with you as you move your

society forward. We look for the opportunity to learn from you ways that we can also improve our society. We have learned democracy is a never-ending effort. You do not reach democracy and then say we have finished, you keep working on it every day. That is what we do and that is what I see you doing. And we want to be your friend and supporter on this effort that we are both working on together.

"So I want to thank Mrs. Yeltsin for being with me in her home town, which gives me a great warm feeling because of my very strong admiration for her. I want to thank the Governor, who has been together with us during this entire session. And I want to thank the Women's Associations and the university for allowing this to occur. Thank you very much."

(End text)

DRAFT 11/16/97

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS ON DEMOCRACY AND EDUCATION
AKADEMGORODOK
NOVOSIBIRSK, SIBERIA
NOVEMBER 16, 1997**

Acknowledgments: From advance.

Thank you. I am honored to be here today.

Siberia has always been the part of Russia closest to my country -- even when our people stood so far apart. Today, we gather to celebrate our new proximity -- this time measured not only in geographical distance, but in shared values.

I have come to Russia, on behalf of my husband, the President of the United States, and the American people, to reinforce the expanding ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries. In the last two days, I've witnessed firsthand the critical role that the regions of your country are playing in advancing democracy and economic opportunity..

When Akademgorodok was founded in 1958, the distance between us seemed nearly infinite. The best scientific minds of our two countries were focused on winning the Cold War.

I will never forget the launch of Sputnik in 1957. In response to that ingenuity, President Eisenhower appealed to all Americans to study harder at math and science. So much so, that every time I walked into algebra class I felt as if I was serving my country.

I'm certain you all could tell similar stories. I imagine, too, that you have memories of the darker side of this history. I can still recall the air raid drills in school when my classmates and I would climb under our desks to prepare for a moment we prayed would never happen.

By the grace of God, it didn't -- because of the courage and foresight of both our peoples.

Soldiers who once prepared to go to war against each other, now stand side by side securing a lasting peace together in Bosnia. Astronauts and cosmonauts who once raced each other into space, now work together high above the Earth. And students who once were taught to mistrust each other, now learn about each other while sending messages over the Internet.

Clearly, we live in a remarkable age of possibility. The light of peace and freedom is spreading across the globe -- from Haiti to Bosnia to South Africa. Democracy is alive on all the continents of the world. At the same time, scientific breakthroughs seem to be occurring at a breathtaking pace. Just think about what we've seen in the last few years alone.

We're rapidly mapping the human genome. We've discovered genes linked to hereditary breast cancer. Technology developed to fight the Cold War is now being used to map the ocean floor, protect the environment, and save lives.

Consider this: There is more computer power in a Ford Taurus car than there was in Apollo 11, when Neal Armstrong took it to the moon. Cell phones, computers, faxes, and pagers -- once the stuff of fiction -- are now a staple of everyday life.

While this is an age of unlimited possibility, we also know that it is a time of real challenge for many nations -- including Russia. Here, 7 decades of communist rule and controlled economies disappeared overnight, but the new architecture of freedom is not yet complete.

I know this time of transition has not been easy for any sector of Russian society. But it's been particularly challenging for those of you here.

Scientists and researchers, whose expertise and years of education once earned them status and security, now face uncertain futures. They are asking themselves: Will the skills they acquired in advanced technology yesterday sustain them tomorrow?

Schools are also asking tough questions: how to update textbooks and modernize their classrooms for the information age? How to ensure that teachers receive the pay they deserve? How to build up a new system of both public and private education that will preserve what was beneficial about the old way even as it educates young people to live and lead in a democracy today?

The fact is, for nearly half a century, science, technology and education were used to fight the Cold War. Today, we have a remarkable opportunity to put them in service of freedom, prosperity and democracy. Especially here in Russia.

Your heritage is as strong and varied as your landscape. I have witnessed it in the private rooms of the Kremlin and in the Museum of Ethnography, which I visited this morning. I have read it in the writings of Leo Tolstoy and Anna Akhmatova. I have heard it in the music of Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev.

Your levels of education are among the highest in the world.

You consistently produce world-class students in math, physics, medicine and aviation.

Now, the challenge is to harness this talent to a new free-market economy and ensure that democracy and prosperity take root and grow in Russia.

Those of you in this room today -- leaders in science and education -- have the power to make it happen, by creating economic progress, building a vibrant civil society; and ensuring that the new Russia becomes a leader in the democratic community of nations.

You are an example of the skilled workforce we need to compete in the free-market and global economies.

In developing nations and industrialized ones alike, education is the bright line that divides those who make it from those who do not. In the United States, for example, by the Year 2000, 80 percent of the new jobs created will require post-high-school education. In a world where ideas and information cross countries and continents at lightning speed, businesses are demanding workers who are flexible and fluent.

The key to the future is taking the advanced technology that has been used in your defense industries and putting it to work competing in the private sector to create vast new wealth. That's especially important for women, who have traditionally held roles in science and technology.

Yet, despite their education, too many women are still the first to get fired and the last to get hired. We must make it clear: Any economy that does not take full advantage of the contributions of women in the workplace will never live up to its maximum potential.

If we want to create a civil society, we must educate young people to be good citizens in a democracy. Because ultimately democracy is about more than a new constitution or a right to vote. Democracy must be built from the ground up, not the top down. It a never-ending struggle which depends upon whether democratic values and the courage to stand up for one's convictions are enshrined in our hearts and minds.

We know that education will succeed in a civil society if it opens up our minds to new viewpoints and cultures and shows us how to learn from one another and disagree with each other -- without being disagreeable.

Education will succeed in a civil society if it teaches us to think critically and take initiative, to question conventional wisdom, to value our voices and make them heard.

Education will only succeed in our democracy if it teaches us that we are citizens of the world, inextricably linked, not only to our neighbor down the block, but also to the person living across the globe.

Whenever I travel, I meet citizens who are building a civil society by advocating for disabled children, by cleaning up the environment, by donating medical equipment to hospitals in need, by protecting women's health.

Most of these habits of the heart are not taught by schools alone. Your businesses. Voluntary organizations. And, yes, our own nation, must all be involved.

Which is why I am so proud of America's efforts. Our government is committed to doing its utmost to work in partnership with Russia as you carry out your educational reforms.

Through the United States Information Agency, my country supports a wide range of educational initiatives -- from providing updated textbooks for students to backing educational exchange programs to sharing teaching techniques from American schools.

We offer training programs in business, law, and journalism. Peace Corps volunteers are helping to teach English and an American business center is working to train managers.

We've joined with Russian and Ukrainian aeronautics companies to produce commuter aircraft, the first of which rolled off the assembly line this month. I am pleased that this effort also had the support of the Trade Development Agency and the Export-Import Bank.

In supporting the International Science and Technology Center in Moscow, we are helping former nuclear weapons specialists to adapt their highly sophisticated skills to civilian needs for state-of-the-art technology.

Our partnership extends to the private and non-governmental sectors as well. I stand in admiration of the remarkable partnership the Phys-Mat school here has with Phillips Andover Academy.

It's easy to lose sight of how remarkable this is. Less than 40 years after Sputnik, who would have ever imagined that these kinds of alliances would ever be possible?

Who could have ever imagined that we'd be here today talking about our shared future?

That's not to say that the journey won't be hard.

Because the scientific process and democracy have a lot in common.

Both ask you to sacrifice today so that your children will inherit a better tomorrow.

Both demand patience, stamina, and faith.

But I have faith. Faith because of the talented and visionary people in this room.

And faith because of the next generation.

While 65 percent of Russians over 65 think things got worse over the past year, 60 of people under 35 said they got better.

These are the members of the next generation who will determine who Russia is. Not just in the next few years. But into the next millennium.

And what these young people are saying is that they want a Russia that is a democratic, prosperous nation.

A nation where all citizens can live up to their full potential.

And a nation where science, technology, and research are never again used to divide us, but rather to unite always, as we stand today -- in friendship.

Thank you very much.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
RUSSIA DEPARTURE STATEMENT
NOVEMBER 16, 1997

I want to thank the Russian people, and especially the people of Yekaterinburg and Novosibirsk, for their extraordinary hospitality. Though my time in Russia was far too short, I feel privileged to have had the opportunity visit your country to reinforce the strong ties between our two nations and to see firsthand the critical role the regions of your country are playing in advancing democratic and economic reforms.

In Yekaterinburg, I was honored to spend time with my good friend, Naina Yeltsin. Together, we visited the Bonum Center to meet with children suffering from congenital defects. We also had the opportunity to take part in a town hall meeting with women representing non-governmental organizations in the region. That evening, we were privileged to hear a wonderful concert by the Ural Philharmonic.

In Novosibirsk, I visited the city's fascinating museum of Archaeology and Ethnography. I then had the opportunity to give an address on democracy and education at Akademgorodok. Before I left, I was fortunate enough to have the chance to meet with a local family to learn more about the changes taking place in Russia today.

In both cities, I was delighted to have had the opportunity to meet with local elected officials.

I hope that in my brief time here I have been able to convey the warmth and friendship the American people have for the people of Russia. When I return home, I will bring with me wonderful memories of the people I met here, excitement about the progress I have seen, and an even greater sense of the common bond that unites our two countries.

11/16/97

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
NEONATAL RESUSCITATION CENTER
L'VIV, UKRAINE
NOVEMBER 17, 1997**

Before I begin, I want to thank the people of Ukraine for the warm welcome and generous hospitality we have received in our short time here. I have come to Ukraine on behalf of my husband, the President of the United States, and the American people to see firsthand the progress you are making in building civil society and in advancing democratic and economic reforms and to reinforce the strong ties between our peoples.

We see the results of those ties today. This Neo-Natal Resuscitation and Training Center is testament to the commitment and dedication of doctors and nurses throughout Ukraine. As an American, I am particularly proud to be here because of the extraordinary partnership the L'viv Oblast Clinical Hospital has developed with the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. I am also proud of the role the American International Health Alliance and the United States Agency for International Development have played in supporting this partnership since 1993.

This center represents a coming together of the voluntary, public and private sectors. It also represents a coming together of medical training and treatment to create a comprehensive strategy for protecting, resuscitating, and providing care for premature and critically ill babies. Your innovative work to address the special needs of these children and to teach medical professionals how to care for them has significantly reduced the rates of mortality and developmental disabilities in the region. Since the partnership began, for example, infant mortality has been reduced by 30 percent.

Clearly, this model works. Which is why I was so pleased to learn that the Ministry of Health is working with USAID, AIHA, and the Henry Ford hospital to establish centers like this one throughout Ukraine. In fact, last month, one opened in Kiev. I am also pleased that this model of partnership will be used to extend health care for others – such as wellness centers that will provide comprehensive medical care for women.

I want to acknowledge the other partners in this effort. I am delighted that the United States government's Operation Provide Hope, working with Nadia Matkiwsky and the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, this week delivered a major shipment of donated pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and equipment to the center – including an ambulance. The airlift from Provide Hope also came with winter clothes and relief supplies gathered by Representative Marcy Kaptur of Ohio through the Anastasia Fund and the Toledo Sister Cities Organization. I want also to thank Ford – both here and abroad – for the other ambulance it donated today.

I am also pleased that my government is working with you in partnership to advance health care in other areas. The Ukraine Breast Cancer Assistance Program, for example, will help provide screening, diagnosis, and treatment for the leading cancer among women in Ukraine.

The work done here will reach far beyond these doors. It will help you build a strong foundation not only for the health of your children, but for the future of your country.

UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT: FIRST LADY AT NEONATAL CENTER, UKRAINE
(Speaks at Neonatal Resuscitation Center in Lviv Nov. 17) (650)

Lviv, Ukraine -- U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton visited the Neonatal Resuscitation Center in Lviv and noted that the center "represents a partnership between the government, the private sector, and the voluntary sector of your country and my country. Since the partnership here began, infant mortality has been reduced by 30 percent. Clearly, this model works."

She pointed to the ties between the center and the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, as well as support from the American International Health Alliance, the U.S. Agency for International Development, Operation Provide Hope, Nadya Matkiwsky and the Children of the Chernobyl Relief Fund, the Anastasia Fund, the Toledo Sister Cities Organization, and the Ford motor company, which recently donated an ambulance.

"I am very pleased to learn that the Ministry of Health is working with USAID, AIHA, and the Henry Ford Hospital to establish centers like this one throughout Ukraine," Mrs. Clinton added.

Following is an unofficial transcript of her remarks.

(Begin transcript)

REMARKS OF FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON AT NEONATAL
RESUSCITATION CENTER, AS PART OF ROUNDTABLE WITH CENTER OFFICIALS
Lviv, Ukraine
November 17, 1997

I want to thank Mrs. Kuchma for being here with me during this visit. And I want to thank the people of Ukraine for the warm welcome that I feel and that my party has already received.

I have come to Ukraine on behalf of my husband, the President of the United States, and the American people, to see firsthand the progress that you are making as you transform your country into a strong democracy with an economy that will make it possible for all the Ukrainian people to be prosperous.

I hope my visit also reinforces the strong ties between the American and Ukrainian peoples. One of the examples of those ties is found right here at this hospital in the partnership between the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit [Michigan], and the doctors and nurses here at this hospital. I am also very pleased about the role that the American International Health Alliance and the United States Agency for International Development have played in supporting this partnership since 1993. This center represents a partnership between the government, the private sector, and the voluntary sector of your country and my country.

Since the partnership here began, infant mortality has been reduced by 30 percent. Clearly, this model works, and I am very pleased to learn that the Ministry of Health is working with USAID, AIHA, and the Henry Ford Hospital to establish centers like this one throughout Ukraine.

I also want to acknowledge some of the other partners in this effort. I am delighted that the United States government's Operation Provide Hope, working with Nadya Matkiwsky and the Children of the Chernobyl Relief Fund, this week delivered a major shipment of donated pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and equipment to the center, including an ambulance. The airlift from project Provide Hope also came with winter clothes and relief supplies gathered by Representative Marcy Captor of Ohio through the Anastasia Fund and the Toledo Sister Cities Organization. I also want to thank Ford, both here and in the United States, for the ambulance which Ford donated.

I look forward to working with and learning more about other partnerships between my government and yours to advance health care. For example, the Ukraine Breast Cancer Assistance Program which will provide screening, diagnosis, and treatment for the women in Ukraine.

So I come to thank and congratulate the Americans and Ukrainians who have done what we have seen, Mrs. Kuchma and I, in our visit here, and will continue to do so much for the children and the people of this country and in cooperation and partnership with the American people. Thank you very much.

(End transcript)

UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT: FIRST LADY AT GILAD SYNAGOGUE, LVIV, UKRAINE
(Speaks November 17 at Synagogue) (390)

Lviv, Ukraine -- U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited the historic Gilad Synagogue November 17, noting that "just as we are here with a revitalized, very strong Jewish community, we are here in a country that is rebuilding itself as well."

She stressed that freedom of religion is "one of the most important values of any democracy.... I'm very impressed at the attitude of the Ukrainian government and people who are supporting such a strong commitment to religious freedom in this country."

Following is an unofficial transcript of Mrs. Clinton's remarks:

(Begin transcript)

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON REMARKS AT GILAD SYNAGOGUE
LVIV, UKRAINE, NOVEMBER 17, 1997

Let me begin by thanking the Rabbi, his wife and the entire congregation for this very warm welcome. I am pleased to be joined by dignitaries from both the American and Ukrainian government. I particularly thank the Mayor and the Minister of Justice for being here with us this morning. Because as the Rabbi said, this is an historic place, both for the Jewish community and for the entire Ukrainian people.

Just as we are here with a revitalized, very strong Jewish community, we are here in a country that is rebuilding itself as well. One of the most important values of any democracy is the freedom of religion and respect for people of different religious faiths. I'm very impressed at the attitude of the Ukrainian government and people who are supporting such a strong commitment to religious freedom in this country. And so we can see the enthusiastic faces of the children who are learning and studying here -- and as the Rabbi so profoundly said, becoming both Jewish and Ukrainian, with great pride.

I come on behalf of my husband, the President of the United States, and the American people to strengthen the bonds of friendship and partnership between the United States and Ukraine so that together we can build a future that is worthy of the children of my country and the children of Ukraine. I thank you for the many contributions and efforts that all of you are making to make that better future a reality.

Thank you for inviting me here.

(End transcript)

DRAFT

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHMAN CLINTON
MEMORIAL HONORING VICTIMS OF COMMUNIST REPRESSION
L'VIV, UKRAINE
NOVEMBER 17, 1997

Acknowledgments [from advance]:

I am honored to join you today. I have come here in the spirit of the one million Ukrainian Americans – who, even when it was hard, always had faith that one day you would triumph.

And I have come here on behalf of my husband, the President of the United States, to send the message embodied in the two flags you see side by side on the front of the memorial: In your fight for freedom, in your fight for democracy, the American people will stand with you.

Just a few blocks from the White House in Washington, there is a monument to your great poet and national leader Shevchenko -- built, at a time when Ukraine was still a captive nation.

This morning, I visited another monument of Shevchenko – this one built in your **free** nation.

It was Shevchenko who wrote: “In your house, you’ll find them: truth and strength and freedom.” In your home of Ukraine, we have found them: those citizens who worked in the name of **truth**; those who pushed forward with **strength**; and those who fought for – and sometimes died for – **freedom**.

Because you know that there is no freedom when you cannot speak your own language, practice your own religion, choose your own leaders, or make your voice heard without fear. There is no freedom if you use your power only to protect yourself. If the history of this century teaches us anything, it’s that when the human dignity of any person or group is compromised, it compromises us all.

We must listen to the voices of those who this extraordinary memorial honors. One of them is a 36 year-old man shot and killed more than 50 years ago in prison #1, which was once just behind me. Next to the monument is a wreath addressed to him. It reads: “our dear father...grandfather...great-grandfather...and brother.”

These are the voices of entire generations. I heard these voices of freedom when I visited the Gilad Synagogue earlier today. The Nazis turned this holy place into a horse stable and left a signature of bullet holes in the ceiling. The Soviets used it as a warehouse.

Today, it is a beautiful synagogue, where people can once again pray and worship freely, and where the Jewish community has been reborn, as all of Ukraine has been reborn.

I hear these voices of freedom in the legacy of the millions who lost their lives in the famines imposed by Stalin – those “harvests of sorrow.”

I heard these voices of freedom in the story of an infant – whose family – was banished to Siberia – her 3 uncles killed – simply for advocating an independent Ukraine. Today, Laryssa [Larissa] Krushelnytska [Kru-Shell-Nitz-Kah] directs the Stefanyk [Steph-On-Ick] Scientific Library, where the best literature once banned for many of us, is now accessible to all of us.

We hear these voices of freedom when we look at the memorial before us, a noble gift from the victims, their families, and community groups. We see a body twisted by communist oppression, but we also see a courageous spirit that seems to say, “I will not give up. I will carry on.”

Even in the face of unspeakable horrors, the people of Ukraine -- and others living under Soviet domination -- did not give up. Instead you found the best shield against communist oppression. You started down the road to democracy, including free and fair elections. But, the journey is far from over.

Because democracy does not end with a constitution or a right to vote. As we have learned in my country, democracy is a never ending struggle that we must grapple with every day. Yes, governments can pass laws to protect our most cherished institutions and freedoms.

But, if we want democracy and freedom to thrive, then we must build a civil society where democratic values live in our hearts and minds, where people stand up for what's right, and where the rule of law, not the rule of crime and corruption, prevails.

Make no mistake: Democracy will thrive only if we use our ethnic diversity as a force not to pull us apart, but rather to bring us together – as you have done in Ukraine. It will thrive if women are full participants in every aspect of society...and if the people of Ukraine continue to forge an alliance of values with the democratic community of nations.

And, ultimately, democracy will thrive if we act now to enlist the next generation. It is our young people who will determine whether we honor the past by creating a different kind of future.

It is our young people who will determine whether you create a free and prosperous Ukraine, a Ukraine that allows all citizens to reach their God-given potential, and a Ukraine that brings our countries together the way we stand today – and will stand tomorrow.

As my husband said the last time we were in Ukraine: “God bless America...

...And **Slava Ukraini**” [Slah-Va Ook—Rah—Yi--Nee]

[Glory to Ukraine]

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Speech at the Monument to the Victims of Communist Repression

Lviv, Ukraine, November 17, 1997

UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

Thank you very much to the Mayor, the _____ Minister, and Mrs. Kuchma,

I am honored to join you today. I have come here in the spirit of 1 million Ukrainian-Americans, who even when it was hard, always had faith that one day freedom would triumph in their homeland.

And I have come here on behalf of my husband, the President of the United States to send a message embodying the flags of our 2 countries. In your fight for freedom, your fight for democracy, the American people will stand with you.

Just 18 blocks from the White House in Washington there is a monument to your great poet and national leader, Shevchenko, built at a time when Ukraine was still a captive nation.

This morning I visited another monument of Shevchenko, this one built in your free nation.

It was Shevchenko who wrote, "in your house you will find them, truth and strength and freedom." In your home of Ukraine, we have found them, those citizens who work in the name of truth, those who push forward with strength, and those who fought for and sometimes died for freedom.

Because you know that there is no freedom when you cannot speak your own language, practice your own religion, choose your own leaders or make your voice heard without fear. There is no freedom if you use your power only to protect yourself. If the history of this century teaches us anything, it is that if the human dignity of any person or group is compromised, then the human dignity of us all is compromised as well.

We must always listen to the voices of those who this extraordinary, powerful memorial honors. One of them is a 36 year-old man, shot and killed more than 50 years ago at Prison Number 1, which was once just behind me. Next to the monument is a wreath addressed to him. The wreath reads: "our dear father... grandfather... great-grandfather.. and brother."

These are the voices of entire generations. But I also heard the voices of freedom when I visited the Gilad Synagogue earlier today. The Nazis turned that holy place into horse stable and left a signature of bullet holes in the ceiling. The Soviets used it as a warehouse.

Today it is a beautiful synagogue where the people can once again worship freely and where the Jewish community and the freedom of religion have been reborn, as all of Ukraine has been reborn.

I hear these voices of freedom in the legacy of the millions of Ukrainians who lost their lives in the famines imposed by Stalin, those "harvests of sorrow."

I hear these voices of freedom in the story of an infant whose family was banished to Siberia, her three uncles killed, simply for advocating an independent Ukraine. Today Larysa Krushelnyska directs the Stefanyk Scientific Library where the best literature once banned for many of us is now accessible to all people.

We hear these voices of freedom when we look at the memorial, here in this square - a noble gift from the victims, their families and community groups. We see a body twisted by communist oppression but we also see a courageous spirit that seems to say "I will not give up, I will carry on."

Even in face of unspeakable horrors, the people of Ukraine and others living under Soviet domination did not give up. Instead you found the best shield against oppression, you started down the road to democracy including free and fair elections. But the journey is far from over.

Because democracy does not end with a constitution or the right to vote. As we have learned in my country for more than 200 years, democracy is a never ending struggle, that we must grapple with every day. Yes, government can have laws to protect our most cherished institutions and freedoms.

But if we, in Ukraine and in the United States, want democracy and freedom to thrive, then we must build a civil society where democratic values live in our hearts and minds, where people stand up for what is right and where the rule of law, not the rule of crime and corruption prevails.

Democracy will thrive also only if we use our ethnic diversity as a force not to pull us apart but to bring us together as you have done in Ukraine. And democracy will thrive if women are full participants in every aspect of society and if the people of Ukraine continue to forge an alliance of values of the democratic community of nations.

And ultimately democracy will thrive if we act now to invest the next generation, because it is our young people in both of our countries who will determine whether we honor the past by creating a different kind of future for the next generations.

It is our young people who will determine whether you create a free and prosperous Ukraine, a Ukraine that allows all citizens to reach their God given potential, and a Ukraine that brings our countries together, the way we stand here today and will stand tomorrow.

I want you to know that the American people will stand with you, and as you undergo the hardships of this historic transition that you are accomplishing here in your country. We know that the road you have chosen is a difficult one, but it is the right road and we will walk that road with you, now and into the next century and millennium. Because America has faith and confidence in the people of Ukraine and as we have learned from the many contributions of Ukrainian-Americans, we have seen that you will be successful in creating a democratic, prosperous, stable Ukraine.

As my husband said the last time we were in Ukraine "God Bless America" and "Slava Ukraini".

11/17/97 8:45 a.m.

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS TO THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE
L'VIV OPERA HOUSE
L'VIV, UKRAINE
NOVEMBER 18, 1997**

Acknowledgments: From advance.

I would like to thank my chief of staff, Melanne Verveer – whom today I will acknowledge by her maiden name: Melanne Starinshak [Star-een-shack]. Her wisdom, compassion, and good humor – all these I attribute in large measure to her Ukrainian heritage. Like the over one million Americans who trace their ancestry to this nation, she has made immeasurable contributions to the life of my country.

The writer Ivan Franko [Ee-vawn Frawn-ko], after whom this beautiful opera house is named, wrote that, “There will come a time when you will sit in the circle of free nations.” That time is now – and I am delighted to share it with you.

Being up here on this stage, I am tempted to sing. In the interests of preserving the strong and warm ties between our two countries, however, I will refrain.

But I would like to talk with you about voices – the voices of women, the voices of young people, the voices of those who throughout Ukraine and the newly independent states are speaking a new language of freedom and democracy – and then turning their words and ideas into concrete action.

I can think of no better place to do this than in Ukraine. It was here in L'viv in 1879 that the Union of Ukrainian Women was established.

This organization – one of the largest women's organization in Europe between the two world wars – went into the villages to teach women and their families how to start small businesses...how to start child care centers...how to pool their resources to purchase first aid materials that would save lives in rural areas.

Like so much that was good, the Union was crushed by communism. And like so much that is good, it was reborn in 1990 – along with your sovereignty. With each year of freedom, the Union has grown stronger.

And this fall, thousands of people gathered when the remains of the Union's last pre-communist president -- Milena Rudnytska [Mee-lenn-uh Rude-nitz-kah] -- were brought back here to L'viv for eternal rest.

Today, I return to the United States after a week's-long journey to Central Asia, Russia, and now here in Ukraine.

When I first came to Ukraine, it was with my husband in 1995, and the sun of freedom was rising in the sky. In the time I have been here, I have seen how much farther it has traveled.

In only six years, you have done much to sweep away the oppressive structures of communism. You developed a constitution and held free and fair elections -- which resulted in a peaceful transfer of power, the first ever in the NIS.

Now the challenge is to build upon this architecture of freedom, with a structure supported by the rule of law, an independent judiciary, and an expanded free press that is able to tell the entire truth in print and over the airwaves.

In only six years, you have done much to tear down a rigid state-controlled economy that stifled human ingenuity and enterprise. You have reduced inflation and privatized small businesses.

Now the challenge is to create a vibrant marketplace based fundamentally on private property; a marketplace where business can be conducted in an atmosphere of openness and fairness; where private activity can thrive without government interference; where hard-working people can lift themselves up without the fear of crime and corruption.

But neither the rule of law nor the free market alone can be sustained in isolation. If we do not have democracy, we cannot rest. If we do not have a free market, we cannot rest. And if we do not have the space between what the market does and what the government should not do – the civil society – we cannot rest. All are indispensable to the blessings of liberty and prosperity.

In this intermediate space resides family and community life, religious traditions, and participation in voluntary associations. For democracy depends on individuals truly believing that they have a role to play in the life of their country. It depends on people choosing – not being compelled to, but choosing to participate. And it depends on seeing to it that these habits of the heart are passed from one generation to the next.

That's what you are doing. You have chosen to fight for women's health, to run for political office, to clean up the environment, to start child care centers and summer camps for the children of Chernobyl.

Whether you are gathering in civic associations, voluntary efforts to help others, places of worship, or even in your neighbor's home, you are strengthening civil society and making it clear that the most important person in any democracy is a citizen. Governments cannot be serious about democracy unless they recognize and work with non-governmental organizations.

I will always remember what I saw non-governmental organizations and citizens doing yesterday in L'viv. There were people of all ages, all religions, men and women alike, choosing to come together to remember the past, to revive the sense of community and national life that communism cut off, and to prepare for the future.

Yesterday, I stood with thousands of people at the new Memorial Honoring Victims of Communist Repression. This memorial was erected not by the government. It was a gift of the victims of communism, their families, and private organizations. They didn't have to do this – but they did.

Yesterday, I visited a health clinic filled with children balanced between life and death. These are infants born prematurely, some critically ill. But for their cries, these children have no voice. They cannot compel someone to come to their aid. And yet doctors, nurses, parents, communities – from both Ukraine and the United States – chose to.

They are finding new ways to make sure these children not only survive, but go on to lead healthy lives. As one mother told me, doctors and nurses she didn't even know saved her child's life. They didn't have to do this – but they did.

Yesterday, I stood inside the beautifully restored Gilad Synagogue, where citizens can once again worship freely. There, the rabbi told me what it meant to open a Jewish school after so many years of unspeakable hardship. That it had given him faith that the community would survive. The community didn't have to do this – but it did.

Yesterday, I stood inside St. George's Cathedral. For too many years, the faith of the people whom I met had been driven underground. The congregation prayed in hidden places; the beautiful symbols of their faith were hidden away in cellars and attics. Today, the members of St. George's practice their religion in the clear light of day. And they are using their faith not only to worship as they please, but also to reach out to others whom society pushed away – such as children with disabilities. The people of St. George's didn't have to do this – but they did.

What an irony that on the property of St. George's Cathedral the Soviets installed radio jamming antennas. Yet as powerful as they were, they could not silence the voices of faith and freedom.

Clearly, democracy depends on people's choosing to participate, but it also depends upon their being allowed to participate. And that's especially important for women. This is a concern all over the world. But it has a particular sharpness here. For the legacy of communism has placed special strains on women.

Especially in the old state structures, too many women are the first to lose their jobs and the last to get new ones. Too many women often live in fear of violence at the hands of family members. For them, home provides no refuge, the law no protection, and public opinion no sympathy. Too many women are prevented from getting proper health care – either because quality care is not available or because they are simply unable to find the time, between family and work obligations, to care for themselves.

And through all of this, not enough women are sitting at the table when decisions are made.

Let me be clear: democracy without the full participation of women is a contradiction in terms. A country's progress depends on the progress of women. The strength of its political system depends on the inclusion of women. The vibrancy of its economy depends on the full contributions of women. Simply put, human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights.

It is a violation of human rights when women are trafficked, bought, and sold as prostitutes. As my husband has said, this is nothing less than "modern-day slavery." I know that many of you here are working hard to end this practice once and for all.

Today, I am pleased to announce that the United States government in cooperation with the United Nations will be working with NGOs in Ukraine to launch a new information campaign. We want to reach women who may be in danger.

And we want to inform law enforcement, consular officers, and international organizations so they can be on the look out for and ultimately put a stop to this crime against humanity.

Before I close, I would like to say a word to the people of the countries I was privileged to visit over the past week – and a word to my fellow citizens back home.

To the people of the United States I will say this: We must stay constantly engaged to support forward-looking reform. In recent days, I have seen firsthand what America has helped accomplish – fostering innovative health clinics, providing loans to start small businesses, and sending Peace Corps volunteers to teach English and entrepreneurship.

Such efforts have encouraged these nations and their peoples, enriched our own nation, and strengthened the bonds between us. Later this week, Vice President Gore and President Kuchma will join together to reach out to members of the international community to secure more support for safely encasing the Chornobyl Reactor #4.

What could be more important than to contain one of the greatest environmental threats facing Europe today?

I also have a message for the people of Ukraine. In the last few days, I saw citizens determined to make further progress. In six short years, you have done much to erase seven long decades of communist waste and misrule. There is no doubt that your path has been uneasy and that challenges remain – especially as you expand private activity so that Ukraine can become competitive in today's fast-paced global economy.

As we have learned through the years, democracy is a never-ending struggle. We became a “newly independent state” in 1776. And for the past 221 years, our democracy has been a work in progress. It took us more than 10 years to draft a Constitution...89 years to rid our nation of slavery...144 years to give women the vote...and 188 years to make all our citizens equal under the law.

Just six years after your independence, you have much to be proud of. The sun of freedom is higher in the sky. Yes, it has a ways to travel. I know you will stay the course. And as you do, please know the American people will stand with you.

As the people of these countries continue their efforts, I hope they will know that the people of the United States stand with them.

file uzbekistan

DRAFT

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S/PICW:DANIELLE LETT
01/15/98 7-6227
S/PICW:THERESA LOAR

S/NISC:LPREDHAM
EUR/CAREN:LCONNELL
USAID/NIS:TNISCASTRO

ROUTINE TASHKENT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, SCUL, UK

SUBJECT: KUDOS FOR FOLLOW-UP TO THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT

REF: 97 TASHKENT 6028

TL
DL
LP
LC
TN

THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE. PLEASE SEE PARA 3.

1. DEPARTMENT COMMENDS TASHKENT FOR FOLLOWING UP ON THE FIRST LADY'S SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO UZBEKISTAN. POST SUGGESTIONS FOR USG OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD ON THE VISIT REFLECT THE FIRST LADY'S COMMITMENT TO INTEGRATING WOMEN AS FULL PARTICIPANTS IN NIS SOCIETIES AND SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S DIRECTIVE TO ADVANCE THE STATUS OF WOMEN INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. TASHKENT'S TIMELY RESPONSE, INCLUDING INNOVATIVE PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE USE OF USG FUNDING, IS APPRECIATED.

2. TO TASHKENT: THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ISSUES IS WORKING WITH, S/NISC, USIS AND AID IN

WASHINGTON TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO PROCEED WITH POST'S PROPOSALS.
DETAILED REPLY WILL BE FORTHCOMING SEPTTEL.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: POSTS IN KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, RUSSIA, AND UKRAINE ARE REQUESTED TO PREPARE FOLLOW-UP CABLES ON THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT. POST SHOULD IDENTIFY WOMEN'S INITIATIVES CURRENTLY UNDERWAY AND SUGGEST NEW INITIATIVES RELATED TO THE THEMES OF THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT IN EACH COUNTRY. ALL PROPOSALS SHOULD BE RANKED WITH APPROXIMATE BUDGETS AND POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES.

YY

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U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

JAN - 8 1998

Assistant Administrator
Bureau for Europe and the
New Independent States

FAX TO: Melanne Verveer
Office of the First Lady

FAX NO: 456-6244

SUBJECT: Impact Anecdote

I thought you might enjoy seeing this note regarding the real impact Mrs. Clinton made on real people. Thanks again for including me on this great trip.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Donald L. Pressley

Att: 2 pages

file - trip book
Uzbekistan



AID TO ARTISANS

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Aid to Artisans, a non-profit organization, offers practical assistance to artisans world-wide, working in partnerships to foster artistic traditions, cultural vitality and community well-being. Through training and collaboration in product development, production and marketing, Aid to Artisans provides sustainable economic and social benefits for craftspeople in an environmentally sensitive and culturally respectful manner.

A tax-exempt organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

December 19, 1997

Donald Pressley
Acting Assistant Administrator for ENI
USAID
RRB Building
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, Room R.06
Washington, DC 20523

Dear Don,

Talking with Robin Phillips today I realized that you might like some idea of the impact of all the work you and your staff did to make Mrs. Clinton's visit successful. I could write a volume but will spare you. The really important effect was that immeasurable one, the very thing that AID can never "quantify" and that's the encouragement that her visit brought to all the individuals and groups that are struggling to adjust to a new world and new ways. I think encouragement is a mild word until you take it apart and see that COURAGE is the main element. Artisans and small business people in Central Asia have no real models and very little applicable experience and to be honored with Mrs. Clinton's visit is of major importance to them. (It was for me too.)

The potters, Abdullah and Alisher, who made the big ceramic platters that they were able to present in the dome in Bukhara, are so heartened that they've taken on apprentices, are showing their wares in three regional fairs (Tashkent, Bishkek and Almaty). They are now building a highway-side museum of regional pottery, a series of workshops and studios, a shop, a restaurant and the photograph I was able to take of them with Mrs. Clinton will be a central exhibit. Not all of this entrepreneurial activity is a direct result of the visit, of course, but the courage to continue and the conviction that it's worthwhile - that's new.

This happened with everyone...Zarif, the director of the artisan center, Meros, now has clout - he was not always appreciated by the mayor of Samarkand but since Mrs. Clinton and the President of Uzbekistan visited and liked the center, Meros is admired, therefore protected.

Raisa Gareyeva, the travel agent who was at my side when I met Mrs. Clinton, treasures the words she received and said that it is really hard to be a businesswoman in her country and she is emboldened now to keep working hard. I gave Raisa Mrs. Clinton's

#738 12/29

Action: NCA

Info: AF, C, (DP)

Due: 1/9



AID TO ARTISANS

Home Page address and I know she has already written her thanks and appreciation

I hope to catch up with you again. Thanks and happy holidays.

Clare Smith, President