

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEO REMARKS TO THE
50 YEARS OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY GALA
AUGUST 8, 1997**

Good evening.

Tonight we mark the 50th anniversary of one of the pivotal events of the 20th century: the independence of a democratic India. At midnight on this day in 1947, the colonial era ended and a new birth of freedom came to one of the world's great peoples. It was a moment of joy for India – and for men and women everywhere inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's vision and by India's quest for independence.. It was a moment, as Prime Minister Nehru, said, "when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance."

In the decades since, the world's largest democracy has grown into one of its most resilient and vibrant. India has preserved for one-fifth of humanity that most precious gift: freedom. It has forged a strong, modern state for an ancient and rich civilization, and built a thriving economy. And India has become an influential voice in the world community an example to peoples everywhere striving for human dignity and the right to determine their own future.

A free and independent India has given America many gifts – above all the 1 million [ck] sons and daughters who have come to our nation and enriched it beyond any measure. And our two nations have come together frequently in common cause. Now, in a world that is growing closer with every passing day, *we* must work more closely than ever -- as befits two of the world's greatest democracies. We must redouble our efforts to strengthen peace, stability and democracy in South Asia and around the world...to bring the benefits of the global economy to all our people ... to reduce the threat of weapons of mass destruction. For India *and* the United States, Nehru's words from 50 years ago ring true today. He said, "The achievement we celebrate...is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the greater triumphs and achievements that await us."

When the First Lady visited India two years ago, she was struck by the warmth of her reception and the remarkable diversity and dynamism of India's people. I very much hope to visit India during this term of office. For today, let me simply say, on behalf of the American people: happy Independence Day, India. May your next 50 years be even brighter than the half century of freedom we celebrate tonight.

###

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

For Immediate Release

July 14, 1995

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
AT 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF GANDHI'S BIRTH
THE KENNEDY CENTER
WASHINGTON, DC

MRS. CLINTON: I want to thank Ambassador and Mrs. Ray for inviting me to join you here this evening. Both of you have been wonderful friends to our family and to all Americans. We are grateful for the Ambassador's service in Washington, and for his and Mrs. Ray's perpetual kindness and generosity. I thought for a minute he was going to disclose what is really confidential and that is that he and Mrs. Ray and I have talked often about starting a law firm together. And we thought in India it would be Ray and Clinton and of course vice versa here in the United States. But we three have admitted we have some other obligations to fulfill first of all. I am also grateful to the entire staff of the Indian Embassy for all of the work that has gone into this commemoration. And we all owe special debt of gratitude to Srimati Kamala director of the Gandhi Center and of the evening's performance, who has devoted so much energy and wisdom to bringing the teachings of Gandhi to this country. I am also grateful that there are so many Ambassadors from other countries here this evening and I know that our Ambassador to India, Ambassador and Mrs. Wisner, are here with us as well. There are also many members of Congress who have a special affection for India and interest in the relationship between our countries and that all the rest of us, who have gathered together for this commemoration.

My daughter and I will never forget the warmth and hospitality extended to us by the Indian people during our recent visit to the subcontinent. It was an extraordinary and memorable experience for both of us. The images of first seeing New Delhi and looking from my hotel room at the colors and smelling the flowers. Of going to the Rajiv Gandhi Center, meeting Sonia Gandhi and so many others who are devoted to the work that Gandhi started. The visit to the crafts museum, having a small exposure to the extraordinary range of crafts and artisans that were there gathered. Of course the visit to the Taj Mahal and so many other experiences that run like a video through my brain.

Ambassador Ray reminded me recently that Ralph Waldo Emerson once said of India that it is "practically a profession to be studied as long and methodically as law and medicine." Mark Twain called India "the most extraordinary country on earth." I understand both remarks much better now that I have been to India.

and over again.

Somehow in this year of commemoration, if we, as a global family, could once again commit ourselves to Gandhi's belief in "the oneness of all that lives" we could perhaps begin to acknowledge our own blunders and work to prevent them from occurring again. We need to remember that his message is that diversity cannot flourish in a society without an underlying spirit of unity. And, as we learn more from the extraordinary research that is being done in genetics, we will learn in the twenty-first century that we are all truly one. Descended from the same, being part of the same, and that the differences that divide us are minor indeed.

I hope all of you will have a chance before leaving tonight to see the statue of Gandhi that was brought here from the Gandhi Center in Washington. It is a bronze of Gandhi sitting at his spinning wheel, a spindle in one hand. And as you look at it think about what he said: "The message of the spinning wheel is much wider than its circumference. Its message is one of simplicity, service of mankind, living so as not to hurt others, creating an indissoluble bond between the rich and the poor, capital and labor, the prince and the peasant."

How much better our world would be if we were all led by the spirit of Gandhi, and we were all dedicated to the high ideals he aspired to.

Thank you very much.

###

As much as I learned, I realized that I will never fully appreciate the vastness of culture or of India's influence on our world unless I am able to spend much more time there. And both my daughter and I hope we will have the opportunity to go back in the future and that we will be able to bring my husband as well.

I would like to say, at the outset, that the President, and his Administration, and all Americans are very proud of the close ties that our nations enjoy.

The strength and endurance of that relationship is founded on our shared ideals and aspirations as pluralistic, free societies. But it also has roots in Gandhi -- Gandhi, who captured American hearts through his dedication to non-violence and democracy.

In turn, the American press and political leaders were very supportive of Gandhi's leadership of the Independence movement in India. As you may know, Gandhi and President Roosevelt had a brief correspondence in 1942, which began with a letter from Gandhi expressing support for the Allies. Roosevelt's letter in reply did not reach Gandhi until three years later, when he was released from prison. But that letter from President Roosevelt said: "Our common interest in democracy and righteousness will enable your countrymen and mine to make a common cause against a common enemy."

So I think it is fair to say that the friendship between India and the United States has roots far deeper than trade, economics, and geopolitics. It is rooted in a common humanity and a common vision of the kind of world we want ours to be.

We are here tonight to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth. And in thinking about Gandhi, and what he means to us on the eve of a new century, I am drawn back to the visit my daughter and I made to his ashram. It was one of the highlights of our trip.

Of course, I had some idea beforehand of Gandhi's life and his contributions. But seeing the places where he and his wife lived, seeing the sheer simplicity of his existence, was profoundly moving to me.

I remember walking into his room, which was bare except for a mattress on the floor, a pair of slippers, a small writing table, eyeglasses, and a spinning wheel. It was the picture of a life pared down to the bare bones of survival.

And then I remember going to the museum library adjacent to this bare, spartan room, and seeing thousands of his books and volumes of correspondence. This utterly simple material life had allowed for one of the richest spiritual and intellectual lives we have ever known.

So I came away from that visit with an even deeper sense of his life being about giving, not acquiring. About "conquering hate

by love, untruth by truth, and violence by suffering."

That same day, a few hours later, I visited the Self-Employed Women's Association. Its founder, Ela Bhatt, was a disciple of Gandhi's, a woman whose own life and work was deeply influenced by his teachings. When I got there, there were hundreds of women crowded under a tent behind the bank building. The bank building was a small structure in which women would come, sometimes walking for twelve hours, to borrow a few dollars to be able to buy a milk cow, to be able to buy a new cart to be a vegetable vendor. These women, some of whom had walked for hours to meet me, told me about their lives. They talked about how their lives had been transformed because they had gained a small degree of financial independence through SEWA, and a large degree of self-respect and dignity from their solidarity with others. In each of their faces I could see hope; and in each of their faces I could see Gandhi's legacy.

That day offered an extraordinary sequence of events -- events that represented not only the universality of Gandhi's teachings and beliefs, but also their timelessness and permanence.

In the months since that visit, I have had many occasions to think about Gandhi, and about how we all need today, as diverse nations and peoples, to celebrate our oneness more. How we need to heed the theme of this evening, "the peace of absolute oneness." How we need desperately to bridge historical, religious, cultural, ethnic, and racial divides -- much as India has done as it has become a pluralistic democracy -- we need to find common ground as members of the human family.

Clearly, these are complicated times -- times when we see ancient hatreds dissolving and new hatreds arising; when the Information Age holds great potential for communications and understanding among people, but also requires that those people have new and more advanced skills; when an explosion of material expectations is fueling desires and often leading people to unrealizable fantasies and even alienation in their lives.

When we seek to understand this changing, complex, unpredictable and exciting world we live in, often it seems that there are too few places to turn for inspiration and hope.

But there are places, and there are people we can turn to and one of those people is Gandhi, and that is why we are all here tonight. His call was to elicit in people their courage and commitment to higher ideals; to call forth the heroism of those who did not think of themselves as heroes. To teach us that responsibilities are as important as rights.

The more I learn about Gandhi, the more I am struck by the universality of his message. He read from the Bible and the Koran with the same reverence as he read from the Bhagavad Gita and many other sacred Hindu writings. He often said that his heart leaped at reading about the life of Jesus and that he aspired to live the

Sermon on the Mount. He read Henry David Thoreau, whose essay on civil disobedience inspired his strategy of non-violent change.

And in turn, Gandhi influenced many of his contemporaries as well as those who followed him. Martin Luther King Jr. said that "Gandhi was probably the first person in history to lift the love ethic of Jesus above mere interaction between individuals to a powerful and effective social force on a large scale."

Dr. King, often citing Gandhi, led a historic season of non-violent action in this country.

So we see this historical and spiritual continuum, embodied in the lives of rare and extraordinary people, whose teachings guide us year after year and decade after decade, and on through the centuries as we continue to strive for a better understanding of what it means to be a human being to live and work together, to help one another realize our own humanity.

Now, there are still some who wonder what Gandhi means for Americans, or Indians, or anyone else, in an age of that one social scientist has called "turbo-charged capitalism." An age when too often we define ourselves more by style than by substance; by the logo on our sneakers more than the generosity in our hearts.

Gandhi gave us principles for behaving and living that not only enable us to improve ourselves, but also to improve our societies. We all have those images of Gandhi -- whether from old newsreels, books, photographs, movies or from his own writings.

Images of him walking with thousands of his compatriots through village after village -- 200 miles to the sea to make salt in defiance of the salt laws. Images of him organizing his compatriots to clean the latrines and perform other lowly chores in solidarity with the untouchables, whom he always referred to as harijans, children of God. And of course, images of him at his spinning wheel.

I recently came across something Gandhi wrote that I think is gaining in popularity, and it is easy to understand why. It says that "Violence Springs from Seven Root Causes, or 'Blunders'." And he listed the seven blunders as follows:

- * Wealth without work
- * Pleasure without conscience
- * Knowledge without character
- * Commerce without morality
- * Science without humanity
- * Worship without sacrifice
- * Politics without principles

If we look at our own society today -- whether we are American, Indian, or from any other country -- we see firsthand how right he was. We see ourselves committing the same blunders over,

Pls deliver to
Dan Benjamin/NSE
x 69377

DRAFT

EISSA MUSCATINE
190

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF
THE INDEPENDENCE OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, DC
AUGUST 15, 1997

I am delighted to join all of you for this special celebration of the 50th anniversary of the independence of India. Not only does this occasion mark a milestone for the people of India, it represents a triumph of the democratic values and aspirations our two nations share.

More than 200 years ago, the birth of American democracy gave rise to new and enduring ideas about freedom and progress in a pluralistic society. So, too, has India's experience over the past half century been an inspiration for people around the globe.

I had the great privilege of traveling to India two years ago, where I saw firsthand the dynamism and energy of the country and its people. It was a memorable visit for me and for my daughter, not only because of the extraordinary sites we visited, but because of what we learned about India's efforts to build a thriving and inclusive economy and society. After even a few days there, we understood why the American writer Mark Twain called India "the most extraordinary country on earth." And we could see how the relationship between our nations is rooted not just in trade and economic issues and geopolitics, but in a common humanity and common vision of the kind of world we want ours to be.

Replace
with
para
below

~~I know the President feels deeply that the United States and India share goals and values -- and that our nations must work together to meet the challenges of the coming century. The President looks forward to advancing this work -- and tonight I am pleased to tell you that he will travel to South Asia during this term and will visit India and Pakistan. And I know he will enjoy his trip to these nations as much as Chelsea and I did....~~
Tonight, I am pleased to tell you that the President will travel to South Asia during this term and will visit India and Pakistan. And I know he will enjoy his trip to your country as much as Chelsea and I did.

Although he couldn't be with us tonight, he asked me to convey his congratulations and best wishes to all of you -- and all of the people of India -- on this silver anniversary.

We share in saluting your country on this momentous occasion. And now, I would like to present the President's message.

###

I know the President feels deeply that the United States and India share goals and values -- and that our nations must work together to meet the challenges of the coming century. The President looks forward to advancing this work -- and tonight I am pleased to tell you that he will travel to South Asia during this term and will visit India and Pakistan. And I know he will enjoy his trip to these nations as much as Chelsea and I did....

next year, including

(x "Next year" was the agreed formulation)

Points for First Lady to Make in Introducing Video

Very pleased to be here.

Delighted to join you to observe this special and indeed momentous occasion.

Tonight we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the independence of India, an event that in one act secured the freedom of a fifth of humanity.

I have had the pleasure of experiencing your great home country first hand. My travel to India ^{2 yrs ago} ~~last~~ year was a remarkable introduction to the vibrancy, industry, and graciousness of the Indian people. ~~Hillary~~ and I will never forget the richness of the Indian culture, and the warmth of its people.

The President could not be with us tonight. But he wished to express to you his thoughts on this silver anniversary.

I salute your home country on fifty years of democratic independence. And I would like now to share with you the President's message.

Video begins

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Dan Benjamin 365
Lissa Muscatine 190
FROM: Joe Marty, 69121

NATIONAL
SECURITY
COUNCIL

17th & Penn, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20504

Did you get a complete,
clear transmission? If not,
please call:

(202) 456-9461

From: Jennifer Poole for Glyn Davies

To: Joe Marty

Agency: NESA

Fax Number:

Date/Time:

No. of pages to follow: 1

Message: Attached is language from the Commerce
Dept that the Chief of Staff would like incorporated
into the President's or First Lady's remarks at the
India 50 gala (the ideas, if not the words.) In your
opinion, would it be appropriate for this
announcement to be made by the First Lady?
Please advise—

the mat. call,
but not in
this detail.

jm

ED 05:28 FAX

DUE US

India, of course, is one of the 10 Big Emerging Markets designated by the Commerce Department. U.S.-Indian commercial ties have grown substantially since India embarked on its new economic course in 1991. The economic dynamism resulting from more open and market-oriented policies has produced growth and jobs in India -- and in the United States as well, because both countries benefit from this economic relationship. American firms account for over one fourth of all foreign investment in India, making the United States the largest investor in India. Bilateral trade between India and the United States has almost doubled since 1991 and now stands at about \$10 billion annually.

While the growth in bilateral commercial ties has been impressive, I believe the potential is far greater. I am pleased to announce this evening that I have asked Secretary of Commerce Bill Daley to lead a major commercial mission to India during this 50th anniversary year. This mission represents the first initiative in an expanded effort to more fully develop the potential for economic cooperation between our countries. Secretary Daley and the business executives who will accompany him will focus on identifying areas in which we can work together in ways that will make a major contribution to India's infrastructure development and will also enable Indian firms to benefit from the best of American products and know-how.

Glyn
DAVIES

F: 69460

Date

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR MELANNE VERVEER

THROUGH: GLYN DAVIES

FROM: JOE MARTY

SUBJECT: The First Lady's Participation in the Friday,
August 15 Event for the 50th Anniversary of Indian
Independence

Here is the information memorandum you requested for the First Lady's participation in the 50th anniversary event for Indian independence. The President's participation is not decided upon as we write, and some of the details of the 20-30 minute speaking portion of the event are a bit fuzzy. If the First Lady is not accompanied by the President, her main role will be to deliver a short introduction to the President's video, which will be played for the audience prior to dinner.

Background

India was granted its independence from Great Britain on August 15, 1947, and will celebrate the anniversary both as a single day event and throughout the following year. (Pakistan was granted independence a day earlier.)

For India, this anniversary calls forth great pride in its democratic independence, tinged slightly with a bit of regret at the coincidental partition of greater India. For this August 15, India is planning events both in New Delhi and at its missions abroad.

The embassy banquet planned for the Sheraton Hotel in will be attended by about 1,300 leading Indian-Americans and friends of India. The National Federation of Indian-American Associations (NFIA) submitted the invitations and is sponsoring the event, although the Indian embassy is doing the organization. This evening is to be the principal anniversary-related event throughout the year in this country. All cabinet members have

been invited; to date Secretaries Albright and Daley have committed. All Senators and Congressmen were invited; we are aware of plans to attend by Frank Pallone (D, NJ), Corrinne Brown (D, FL), and Connie Morella (R, Md). Former Senator Pressler is also confirmed.

The First Lady's attendance will be an excellent way of kicking off a round of Cabinet-level visits to India being planned for this fall (Albright and Daley are planning separate trips in November, and Shalala is considering a visit in October). The President is considering very actively a trip to South Asia, but we have avoided commenting publicly.

For Pakistan, there appears to be a hastily-prepared event on August 14 to which the President and Vice President were belatedly invited. Although Secretary Albright will go, this is a much lower key affair than India's celebration.

How the Event Will Proceed

Guests will begin arriving at the ~~Sheraton~~ *Omni Sheraton* Hotel at 6:00. The First Lady will be kept with Secretaries Albright, Daley, any other Cabinet officials, and Congressmen in a holding area with Ambassador Chandra and the President of NAIA, Gubash Razdan. Current planning is for a call to attention at about 6:45, with Ambassador Chandra (classified bio at Tab A) making brief opening remarks.

- Should the President attend, Ambassador Chandra will introduce him and the President will deliver a 3-4 minute speech. There will be no use of the video taped previously by the President.
- If the First Lady is by herself, Ambassador Chandra will introduce her. The First Lady's comments should be very brief (suggested points at Tab B), and designed mostly to introduce the two minute video taped previously by the President (script at Tab B). (The Embassy will receive the video on Friday afternoon.)

Ambassador Chandra will then introduce Gubash Razdan for short remarks.

This entire speaking program should be no longer than 20-30 minutes. Dinner will follow.

To: Lissa

From: Danny

As promised.

8/14/97 4:00 p.m

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS TO THE 50 YEARS OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY GALA
WASHINGTON, D.C
AUGUST 8, 1997**

Acknowledgments: Secretary Albright
Secretary Daley
Members of Congress tk
Gubash Razdan, President of the National Association of Indian
Americans [ck]
Others tk

Thank you, Ambassador Chandra for your warm welcome and your dedication to strengthening the relationship between our nations.

I am delighted to join you in marking the 50th anniversary of one of the pivotal events of the 20th century: the independence of a democratic India. At midnight on this day in 1947, the colonial era ended and a new birth of freedom came to one of the world's great peoples. It was a moment of joy for India – and for men and women everywhere inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's vision and by India's quest for independence. It was a moment, as Prime Minister Nehru, said, "when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance."

In the decades since, the world's largest democracy has grown into one of its most resilient and vibrant. India has preserved for one-fifth of humanity that most precious gift: freedom. Now, because of that commitment to freedom, India's accomplishments command the admiration of men and women everywhere.

In only 50 years, India has achieved a miracle in bettering the lives of its people. It has nearly doubled the life expectancy of its citizens and tripled the literacy rate. India has upheld Gandhi's commitment to equality, and now, with President Narayanan, has a head of state who was born into the caste of Untouchables. A country whose staggering variety of ethnic groups languages and religions is rivaled only in our nation, India continues to embrace its diversity as a source of strength. [ck] And India's success is reflected in its growing role on the world's stage: An influential voice in the world community, India has set an example to peoples everywhere striving for human dignity and the right to determine their own future.

Today, I salute the people of India. In the midst of an ancient and rich civilization, they have forged a strong and modern state and a thriving economy. Because of their ingenuity and hard work, a nation once plagued by famine now exports food – as well as software and satellites for others around the globe. And as India continues to open its economy and develop free markets, I am convinced that it will create a new prosperity, lifting up its own people and others around the world.

India has given America many gifts – from the religious and philosophical writings that influenced Emerson and Thoreau...to ideas of Gandhi that so moved Martin Luther King...to the works of Tagore, Narayan and a new generation of novelists whose work now floods our bookstores and magazines. But the greatest of India's gifts has been the hundreds of thousands of sons and daughters who have come to our nation and enriched it beyond any measure. In business and the professions...academe and the arts...you have achieved a success so rapid and

so far beyond your numbers that you remind us daily of the vitality of the American dream. You have strengthened our communities and our nation – and I thank you for all your contributions.

The United States and India have come together frequently in common cause. Now, in a world that is growing closer with every passing day, we must work more closely than ever -- as befits two of the world's greatest democracies. We must redouble our efforts to strengthen peace, stability and democracy in South Asia and around the world to reduce the threat of weapons of mass destruction – and I know that Secretary Albright looks forward to working with India's leaders on these issues during her upcoming trip. And at this hopeful moment, I especially applaud the commitment of Prime Minister Gujral and Pakistan's Prime Minister Sharif to improving relations between their nations. We must also work to bring the benefits of the global economy to all our people – and I am pleased to announce that Secretary Daley will also soon travel to India to deepen our ties of commerce, which hold so much promise for the future.

Fifty years ago, in his historic speech declaring India's independence, Nehru said "The achievement we celebrate...is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the greater triumphs and achievements that await us." Today, those words ring true for India *and* the United States. When the First Lady visited India two years ago, she was struck by the warmth of her reception and the remarkable diversity and dynamism of India's people. I very much hope to visit India during this term of office. For today, let me simply say, on behalf of the American people: happy Independence Day, India. May your next 50 years be even brighter than the half century of freedom we celebrate tonight.

###

Pedersen, Amy F.

From: Marty, Joseph H.
Sent: Friday, August 15, 1997 10:53 AM
To: @NSA - Natl Security Advisor
Cc: Riedel, Bruce O.; Pedersen, Amy F.
Subject: Statement for FLOTUS on POTUS travel [UNCLASSIFIED]

Please pass to Sandy:

Based on the commitment by Scheduling to a POTUS trip to South Asia in 1998, we will have inserted in the FLOTUS presentation tonight a suitable announcement.

Given the POTUS' interest in going to Bangladesh (expressed on margin of travel memo), we could say the following:

"..am pleased to announce that The President intends to travel to South Asia next year. His travels would include India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh."

Are you comfortable with that? We haven't explicitly committed to that before.

The fallback is:

..am pleased to announce that The President intends to travel to South Asia next year, including India and Pakistan.

India, of course, is one of the 10 Big Emerging Markets designated by the Commerce Department. U.S.-Indian commercial ties have grown substantially since India embarked on its new economic course in 1991. The economic dynamism resulting from more open and market-oriented policies has produced growth and jobs in India -- and in the United States as well, because both countries benefit from this economic relationship. American firms account for over one fourth of all foreign investment in India, making the United States the largest investor in India. Bilateral trade between India and the United States has almost doubled since 1991 and now stands at about \$10 billion annually.

While the growth in bilateral commercial ties has been impressive, I believe the potential is far greater. I am pleased to announce this evening that I have asked Secretary of Commerce Bill Daley to lead a major commercial mission to India during this 50th anniversary year. This mission represents the first initiative in an expanded effort to more fully develop the potential for economic cooperation between our countries. Secretary Daley and the business executives who will accompany him will focus on identifying areas in which we can work together in ways that will make a major contribution to India's infrastructure development and will also enable Indian firms to benefit from the best of American products and know-how.