

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 5, 1997

CONTACT: MARSHA BERRY
STEVEN COHEN
JULIE MASON
202/456-2960

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON'S TRIP TO KAZAKHSTAN,
KYRGYSTAN, UZBEKISTAN, RUSSIA, AND UKRAINE
NOVEMBER 10 - 18, 1997**

WASHINGTON - - At the request of President Clinton and the State Department, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will travel in Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Uzbekistan, Russia, and Ukraine from November 10 - 18, 1997. The First Lady is traveling to this region to demonstrate the United States' support for these countries and their reform efforts, as she did on her recent travels to Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. Mrs. Clinton will stress the critical requirements for a civil society, which include: addressing the health needs of women and children, ensuring a strong education for all, protecting human rights, and expanding economic opportunity. Throughout the trip, the First Lady will visit U.S. Agency for International Development programs that highlight USAID's role in supporting democracy initiatives, health and education programs, and economic reform and private sector development.

Below are some highlights of the First Lady's upcoming trip:

Almaty, Kazakhstan (November 10 - 12)

- Ribbon cutting at the new Almaty Women's Wellness Center;
 - Meet with Kazakhstan youth leaders;
 - Deliver the keynote address at the Central Asian Conference on Women in Politics.
- In her remarks, Mrs. Clinton will focus on the important role women play in fostering democracy and a civil society in the Newly Independent States.

Bishkek, Kyrgystan (November 12)

- Discussion with women who have begun their own businesses after receiving microcredit through USAID-supported programs;

Tashkent, Bukhara, and Samarkand, Uzbekistan (November 13 - 15)

- Attend opening of the Women's Wellness Center at Tashkent Medical Institute. The center, which is part of one of the largest medical facilities in Central Asia, is a recipient of equipment from Operation Provide Hope.
- Visits to Bukhara and Samarkand, two cities that are important religious centers along the famous Silk Road trading route. Both cities recently celebrated their 2500th anniversary and contain beautifully preserved historical sites.

Yekaterinburg, Russia (November 15 - 16)

- Town hall meeting sponsored by the Urals Women's Association;
- Tour a center for children with congenital defects that has a partnership with the American Association of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons;

Novosibirsk, Russia (November 16)

- Speech at the Akademgorodok that will focus on the importance of education in building democracy.

L'viv, Ukraine (November 16 - 18)

- Speech at the Opera House highlighting democracy building blocks and summarizing the major themes of the trip;
- Discussion at L'viv Oblast Clinical Hospital, which has a partnership with Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital;
- Remarks at the Ghetto Monument, which honors Jews and other victims in L'viv at the time of World War II.

EDITOR'S NOTES: The First Lady's schedule is subject to change. The First Lady's press office will release details of Mrs. Clinton's trip as they become available.

###

EDITOR'S NOTE: This information is not for release or publication and is subject to change.
A logistical schedule will be released later today.

###