

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**THE TRIP OF FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TO SOFIA, BULGARIA AND PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC
(OCTOBER 10 - OCTOBER 13, 1998)**

Washington, D.C. - - The First Lady will travel to Sofia, Bulgaria and Prague, Czech Republic from October 10 - October 13, 1998.

In Sofia, the First Lady will attend the Women in the 21st Century conference. Women in the 21st Century is a project initiated to foster the sustainable development of South Eastern Europe. The two-day conference will focus on the critical role of women in identifying and meeting the economic and social issues the region will confront during the next century. Mrs. Clinton's participation builds on years of active involvement advocating for women, economic empowerment and human rights.

She will also visit the Faith, Hope, and Love Center, a shelter for homeless children. She will tour the facility and make a presentation of American support for the Center. In addition, the First Lady will participate in a roundtable discussion with representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on issues of civic participation, human rights and social investment. In the evening, the First Lady will attend a reception with Bulgarian President and Mrs. Stoyanova.

On Monday, the First Lady will hold a forum with women entrepreneurs to discuss small business development and the importance of microcredit loans. She also will visit the American College of Sofia and participate in a discussion with students there.

In Prague, the First Lady will make a courtesy call on Czech Prime Minister and Mrs. Zeman. She will also meet with Czech President Havel and Mrs. Havlova. Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Havlova will visit the Vize '97, a foundation established by Mrs. Havlova in 1997 to address health, education, cultural and human rights issues in the Czech Republic.

The First Lady will participate in Forum 2000, the second in a series of international conferences convened by Czech President Vaclav Havel and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel in 1997. Forum 2000 is aimed at bringing together religious, political and economic leaders to discuss the complex globalization issues of today and for the next millennium.

As part of Forum 2000, the First Lady will attend an multi-denominational assembly to promote religious and cultural cooperation and coexistence. Following the service, Mrs. Clinton will attend a dinner hosted by President Havel and Mrs. Havlova for Forum 2000 participants. On Tuesday, the First Lady will address the Forum 2000 conference on the challenges of the new global economy.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The First Lady will be in Sofia on Sunday through Monday afternoon, and

in Prague on Monday afternoon through Tuesday afternoon. A logistical schedule including details of press opportunities will be released as soon as it is available.