

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 29, 1999

CONTACT: MARSHA BERRY
TOBY GRAFF
202/456-2960

**SCHEDULE OF FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON FOR
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1999**

Washington, D.C. - - On Thursday, September 30, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will travel to Ottawa, Canada, to participate in the 9th Annual Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. The First Lady will be accompanied by Small Business Administrator Aida Alvarez. Administrator Alvarez will represent the United States at the conference after Mrs. Clinton's departure.

In addition, the First Lady will visit the new American embassy being built in Ottawa. Mrs. Clinton will participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate a sculpture, by artist Joel Shapiro, in the courtyard of the new building.

EVENT: Arrival at Ottawa International Airport
TIME: 8:15 a.m.
DATE: Thursday, September 30, 1999
LOCATION: Ottawa International Airport
Hangar 11 - Canada Welcome Center
Ottawa, Canada

Press Notes:

This event is open press. Press must arrive between 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. Press must show standard press identification to gain access. Please note: Press covering the airport arrival will not be able to cover the opening session of the conference.

EVENT: Photo-Op of Opening Session of the 9th Annual Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas
TIME: 8:45 a.m.
DATE: Thursday, September 30, 1999
LOCATION: Westin Hotel
Banquet Level
Confederation I and Provinces I-II Ballrooms
Ottawa, Canada

Press Notes:

Photo-op is open press for cameras and still photographers only. In-house television cameras will feed live to the press filing center at the Congress Centre. Lighting and mult box provided. The on-site contact is Lisa Strasburg.

Credentialing Information:

For information on receiving press credentials to cover the conference and have access to the Congress Centre, please contact Rachel Messier at (613) 944-0924.

EVENT: Address by Mrs. Clinton to the 9th Annual Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas
TIME: 11:20 a.m. (approximate)
DATE: Thursday, September 30, 1999
LOCATION: Westin Hotel
Banquet Level
Confederation I and Provinces I-II Ballrooms
Ottawa, Canada

Press Notes:

Closed to media except official, in-house television. Remarks will be televised and fed (sound may not be broadcast quality) to the press filing center. Simultaneous translation. The on-site contact is Lisa Strasburg.

EVENT: Dedication of Sculpture at New American Embassy
TIME: 12:25 p.m.
DATE: Thursday, September 30, 1999
LOCATION: American Embassy Event
MacKenzie St.
Ottawa, Canada

Press Notes:

This event is open press. No pre-credentialing required. Press must show standard press identification to gain access. Lighting and mult box provided.

Pre-Set: 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Final Access: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The on-site contact is Lisa Strasburg.

Editor's Note: The First Lady will depart Ottawa for New York in the afternoon. Please contact the Exploratory Committee Office at 212-239-2000 for information on Mrs. Clinton's schedule in New York.

###

9th Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas
Ottawa, Canada
Background on First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's Involvement

On September 30, 1999, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will participate in the 9th Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, building on active involvement in issues relating to children and women in the Western Hemisphere and marking her fifth consecutive year of participation in this annual Conference.

On December 10, 1994, as President Clinton hosted the Summit of the Americas in Miami, Mrs. Clinton invited all the First Ladies attending the Summit to join her at a parallel convening focused on children's issues. The *Symposium on Children of the Americas* examined how the Summit of the Americas agenda and plan of action addressed the health and education needs of children. There, the First Ladies committed themselves to working toward the Summit's health and education goals.

The Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas is an annual meeting, which brings together First Ladies or designated representatives of the countries of North, South, and Central America, as well as the Caribbean, to focus on critical social topics -- particularly affecting women and children -- and to share information on effective programs and strategies. After the Miami Summit, Mrs. Clinton accepted the invitation of the First Lady of Paraguay to participate in the 5th of Conference, marking the first time that a First Lady from North America would attend this event. On March 24, 1995, Mrs. Clinton wrote a letter to each First Lady of the Western Hemisphere, recommending participation in the Paraguay Conference and suggesting that three critical topics discussed at the Miami Symposium be added to the agenda -- measles elimination, maternal mortality reduction, and education reform.

In her letter, Mrs. Clinton urged the First Ladies of the region to be involved in the measles elimination program coordinated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and specifically, to participate in the launch of PAHO measles elimination campaigns in their own countries. On April 7, 1995, at the national PAHO headquarters in Washington, D.C., Mrs. Clinton gave the keynote address at the national launch of this effort and announced new USAID assistance to the campaign to eliminate the disease in the Americas by the year 2000.

On October 16, 1995, Mrs. Clinton traveled to Asuncion, Paraguay and gave a keynote address at the 5th Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. There, she also announced the formation of the Partnership for Education Revitalization in the Americas known by its Spanish acronym (PREAL), a project called for at the Miami Summit to provide assistance for the sharing of education reform best practices in the region.

On December 3, 1996, Mrs. Clinton traveled to La Paz, Bolivia, to participate in the 6th Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, again giving a keynote address and urging the First Ladies of the Americas to continue their work on behalf of women

and children in the region. At the Bolivia Conference, Mrs. Clinton announced a U.S.-funded hemispheric partnership to reduce maternal mortality. There, she and Bolivia's then First Lady, Mrs. Sanchez de Lozada, witnessed the signing of a \$2.25 million USAID grant to PAHO, for regional activities of the Maternal Mortality Reduction Initiative.

On October 8-9, 1997, the Conference was held in Panama City, Panama. There, Mrs. Clinton focused her participation on promoting women's political participation and human rights. Also in Panama, Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Perez de Balladares, the First Lady of Panama, witnessed the signing of a USAID grant of \$4.7 million over 3 years, to the Inter-American Institute on Human Rights (IHR), a Latin American organization dedicated to promoting respect for human rights and the consolidation of democracy throughout the Americas through research, education, training and technical assistance to governments, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations (see separate USAID press release on the grant signing). Mrs. Clinton's involvement with the IHR included a visit to IHR headquarters in Costa Rica on May 8, 1997. There, she and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright participated in roundtable discussion with IHR leadership and women who are human rights leaders from Central America to discuss the status of human rights in the region.

Last year, on September 28-30, 1999, the Conference, entitled, "The Americas Pave Today the Way for the Year 2000," was hosted in Santiago, Chile. Mrs. Clinton addressed the convening on "Promoting Women's Rights to Full Participation in Society and Supporting Civil Society." In addition, Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Frei, the First Lady of Chile, hosted a ceremony to witness the signing of two USAID grants. The first, a \$5.0 million grant with the International City/County Management Association and the National League of Cities, is aimed at strengthening and supporting local governments through Latin America, a goal of the Second Summit of the Americas. The second grant, which also stemmed from Summit commitments, supports a U.S.-Chile Scholarship program dedicated to improving programs developing in the nations of the Hemisphere in the areas of poverty alleviation, democracy strengthening, education, and economic integration. Mrs. Clinton also announced a new commitment by Merck & Co., the pharmaceutical company. Participating in an initiative sponsored by Mrs. Frei in which artists from around the Hemisphere joined at the Conference to produce artwork and work with Chilean children, Mrs. Clinton invited Mr. Jesse Trevino, a realist painter from San Antonio, Texas, to represent the United States.

This year, the 9th Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas will be held in Ottawa, Canada on September 30-October 1. It will focus on two themes, "A Healthy Start: Investing in Children 0-6," and "Women's Health." Mrs. Clinton will address the Conference on the first day of the plenary session, on September 30th, focusing her remarks on efforts to support children in the Hemisphere, emphasizing progress made over the past many years and outlining challenges to be addressed in the 21st Century. She will announce a new USAID initiative, in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization, to protect the effectiveness of drugs against infectious diseases in the hemisphere, particularly diarrhea and respiratory infections, which are the two major health problems facing children.