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OSLO, NORWAY
PRESS AVILJABILITET

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

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THE FIRST LADY
PRESS AVAILABILITY, OSLO, NORWAY

AMBASSADOR LOFTUS: Hello, I am Ambassador Tom Loftus, and it is my pleasure to welcome the President's delegation to the Olympics to Norway.

The chair is the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton. I am also a member of the delegation. We have Florence Griffith-Joyner, who is here, who is also the co-chair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness in Sports; Tom McMillan, another co-chair of the President's Council; Kathy Karpan, the Secretary of State of the great state of Wyoming, over there; David Matthews, from the equally great state of Arkansas; and Irvey Clifford Simpkins, Jr. -- that's not a northern name -- and he is from the great State of Tennessee.

MR. SIMPKINS: Thank you very much.

AMBASSADOR LOFTUS: It's my great pleasure to welcome the First Lady and members of the delegation.

Before Mrs. Clinton gives some remarks, this is my wife, Barbara; Norway's fine ambassador to the United States, Kjeld Vibe; his wife, Vietta (phonetic). And with that, (inaudible).

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you.

We are all so excited and honored to be part of the Olympics celebration and to be the official United States delegation. And we are especially pleased that we would have a chance to come to Norway, a country that shares so many values and a strong history of friendship with the United States. It is a real pleasure to be here among friends who have worked with our country in many years on many important issues.

We are looking forward to having a lot of fun, to see as much as we can see, to meeting as many people as we can meet. We have, as you can tell, two former olympians

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among our delegation, both of whom, however, were in the Summer Olympics in their respective years. So even for them this is something of a new and exciting experience.

I hope that the goals of the Olympics to further friendship and peace; to allow young and not so young, sometimes, people to engage in pushing themselves to the limits of their excellence and endurance; and in general to bring us all closer together is what these next weeks will be about. And we are very pleased to be part of it, and looking forward to participating. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR LOFTUS: Mrs. Clinton, before we have to go, I would like to make sure that you also meet Dawn Steele, a member of the delegation from the California. I am so sorry.

Thank you very much.

(The address was concluded.)

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