

05/18/94
SAJITING MISTISIAV
ROSTROPOVICH

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
VIDEOTAPE REMARKS SALUTING MSTISLAV ROSTROPOVICH
MAY 18, 1994**

Good evening. I am so delighted, Maestro, to be able to join with your legions of admirers to salute your remarkable career, and most especially this evening, your contributions as music director of our National Symphony Orchestra.

Our gratitude to you is boundless. As conductor, cellist, pianist, outspoken defender of human rights, and an esteemed citizen of the world, you have enriched our lives immeasurably, challenged our perceptions, and uplifted our spirits.

Under your distinguished leadership, the NSO is a national treasure and, indeed, has secured its place as one of America's most important orchestras.

We thank you for all you have done, for all you continue to do, and for all that you are.

The President and I so deeply regret that we are unable to be with you this evening for what we know will be a very special "Salute to Slava." It is so fitting that during this week of celebration, you were able to grace us at the White House with a special performance at the State Dinner.

The President joins me in wishing you all God's blessing.