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NEPAL -- ARRIVAL STATEMENT

Good evening, and thank you for this warm greeting. Your nation, although half way around the world from mine, has long held a special attraction for Americans. And I am pleased to have the opportunity to visit Nepal during my tour of South Asia.

The purpose of my visit is not only to experience the natural beauty of this majestic country, but also to gain a deeper understanding of its people and its culture. I look forward in particular to calling on the Royal Family and Prime Minister and to meeting with other Nepalese leaders.

Because the status of women and children around the world is of special concern to me, I hope to learn more about the experience of those groups in Nepal and to exchange ideas with women leaders here.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the people of Nepal for welcoming me so openly to their country.

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