

HRC ARRIVAL STATEMENT
SRI LANKA

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

SRI LANKA -- ARRIVAL STATEMENT

Good afternoon, and thank you for this warm welcome. Although this is the final stop on my visit to South Asia, I know it will be one of the most instructive. The United States and Sri Lanka share a belief that investing in human potential is essential to the health and prosperity of any nation. And I have long been impressed by Sri Lanka's efforts to improve the economic and social conditions of its people.

Because the status of women and children around the world is of special concern to me, I am eager to use this visit to learn more about Sri Lanka's successes in lowering infant mortality rates, increasing literacy, and devising workable strategies for family planning. I also am grateful for the opportunity to meet President Kumaratunga and other Sri Lankan leaders. I sincerely hope that my stay here will help strengthen the close bond of friendship between our nations.

###