

Departure from Bratislava
Slovakia 7/6/96

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
STATEMENT UPON DEPARTURE FROM SLOVAKIA
JULY 6, 1996**

I am glad to have had this chance to visit Bratislava, a city that has played an important role in European history, and to have met with people striving to make a difference in this period of historical opportunity.

During my brief stay, many people told me of Slovakia's accomplishments and of the challenges still confronting the nation as it seeks to rejoin the democratic family of the West. Democracy depends on the full participation of all segments of society, and I was gratified to meet with so many Slovak citizens and representatives of non-governmental organizations who are embracing the principles of democracy and trying to integrate them into the life of their country. I also met with President Kovacs and Prime Minister Meciar, who were generous in sharing their views about Slovakia's aspirations for progress.

To the government and people of Slovakia, I offer thanks for the hospitality and warmth extended to me today.

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