

Arrival in Finland 1974  
7/9/96

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
STATEMENT UPON ARRIVAL IN FINLAND  
HELSINKI, FINLAND  
JULY 9, 1996

I am pleased to arrive in Finland this evening at the conclusion of a trip to Central Europe and the Baltic region. To the people of the new democracies of Europe, I have delivered a message of hope and encouragement as they strive to build civil societies and strengthen democratic institutions and values that are coming to life after the fall of communism.

Finland's experience during the Cold War was unique, maintaining constructive relations with its neighbors, serving as a source of information and as an example of a free and open society, and contributing to Europe and the world culturally and through the arts. In the West, we must not forget that the Helsinki Accords lent moral force to dissidents in Central Europe and the Baltic states who led the struggle for freedom and democracy before 1989.

During my brief stay in Finland I will meet with President Ahtisaari and with other officials and private citizens who have helped to shape Finnish society. I look forward to learning from them and to exploring ways in which our countries can work together to strengthen democracy and freedom in Europe and around the world.

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