

Departure from Czech
Republic 7/6/96

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
STATEMENT UPON DEPARTURE FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC
JULY 6, 1996

I want to convey my deep gratitude to President Havel, Prime Minister and Mrs. Klaus, and the government and people of the Czech Republic for their warmth and hospitality during my stay in Prague, a city of rare beauty, style and spirit.

This country is an inspiration, not only to the young democracies of Central Europe, but to all people who believe in the promise of freedom. What I saw here was the vitality of the market economy and the rooting of civil society -- clear evidence that democratic values have found a permanent home in the Czech Republic. From the new headquarters of Radio Free Europe, to the Olga Havel Foundation, the Charles University Vinohrady Hospital, the children's home I visited, and the meetings I had with representatives of government and non-governmental organizations, I could see the enormous effort being made to weave the fabric of democratic life. It was especially gratifying for me to share America's Independence Day holiday with the Czech people.

I look forward to returning some day soon to this wonderful country, which has given and is giving so much to the world.

###