

Departure from Hungary  
7/8/96

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
STATEMENT UPON DEPARTURE FROM HUNGARY  
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY  
JULY 8, 1996

As I leave Hungary today I want to convey my deep respect for the Hungarian government and people, whose courage and determination have made this country one of the democratic success stories of Central Europe.

Democracy and a free market economy are not just alive in Hungary, they are thriving. This was apparent to me in my discussions with government officials and private citizens, as well as at the grass roots projects I visited during the past two days.

While some problems persist and must be addressed, it is gratifying to see the extent to which democratic values have been rooted into everyday life in Hungary.

My only regret is that I could not stay longer and absorb more of the beauty, history and culture that have distinguished Budapest and Hungary for centuries. To President and Mrs. Goncz, Prime Minister and Mrs. Horn, and my gracious hosts -- the people of Hungary -- I offer sincere thanks for making my visit so memorable.

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