

**Ethnic Press Conference**  
**7/18/96**

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WHITE HOUSE

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For Release

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's  
Closing Remarks  
Ethnic Press Conference Call

Mrs. Clinton: I just want to thank all of you. You represent publications that carried the banner of freedom and possibility and hope for these countries during some very dark days. And I know from my own experience, growing up in the Chicago area, and meeting and getting to know many refugees from these countries, and the children of refugees, what it meant for people from a heritage of these countries to stay in contact with their homeland and particularly if they had family members and colleges, and friends still there.

I think it will be just as important in this new period for the role that you play to continue to keep Americans of various ethnic backgrounds informed of what is going on in these countries and to know that there will be need for these countries to have the assistance from Americans who care about them and feel some kinship with them. So it is a two-way street -- the information will be flowing across the Atlantic in both directions.

And I also think that your publications in particular have an important role to play with all Americans, by reminding us that America cannot be true to its own values if it retreats from engagement in the world. We have a great investment in these countries. We fought a war trying to ensure Europe would be free, we lived through the dark days of the cold war when half of Europe was enslaved and now we should be more committed than ever in America to ensuring that the freedom that these people sought and the United States supported over all these decades really does take hold and ensure a more peaceful and prosperous future for all people.

So I want to thank you for what you have done, and for what I know you will continue to do on behalf of the United States, and on behalf of all these countries. Thank you all very much.