

Arrival Almaty, Kazakhstan

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
STATEMENT UPON ARRIVAL IN KAZAKHSTAN  
ALMATY, KAZAKSHSTAN  
NOVEMBER 11, 1997**

I am delighted to be here in Kazakhstan. I have come to Kazakhstan and to Central Asia to reinforce the strong, but young ties between our countries; to witness the important progress you are making in strengthening civil society and building an economy grounded in open markets and private enterprise; and to bring a message of encouragement and solidarity from the American people, who will stand by you during this historic transformation.

In this beautiful city along the ancient Silk road, I look forward to learning more about the people of Kazakhstan's courageous walk down a new road to democracy and prosperity. During my visit, I will have the opportunity to meet with the President and Mrs. Nazarbayev and with non-governmental organizations who are working to ensure that civil society takes root, grows, and thrives. I will be able to see firsthand the role that young people and women are playing in the economic, social, and political life of Kazakhstan, as they use their voices to create a new future for this country. I will also attend a ribbon-cutting at a new Women's Wellness Center, where the United States has joined with you in partnership to make sure that women have access to one of the most important tools of opportunity: comprehensive health care. And because the success of a democracy depends in large part on the full participation of women in society, I look forward to attending the Central Asian Conference on Women in Politics.

I want to thank President and Mrs. Nazarbayev -- and all the people of Kazakhstan -- for their warm welcome. The United States is proud of its partnership with Kazakhstan. I look forward to strengthening the ties between our two countries, to learning about how you are continuing your reforms, and to exploring new ways that we can ensure a peaceful and more prosperous future for all the people of Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

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TEXT: FIRST LADY'S REMARKS AT ALMATY WOMEN'S WELLNESS CENTER  
(Almaty Center one of 13 in NIS) (640)

Almaty, Kazakhstan -- "When women are healthy their children are healthy, and when families are healthy, countries are healthy," said U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton told participants November 12 in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Almaty Women's Wellness Center, one of 13 such centers established in the NIS.

"This center makes it clear that quality health care means comprehensive health care for women," Mrs. Clinton said, adding, "I hope this center will work to educate and raise awareness among men so they take a more active role in the birth and care of their children, and I hope that this center will convince more women, most of whom work outside the home and care for their families, that they must look after their own health."

She cited the efforts of the medical professions in Kazakhstan, in partnership with medical professionals and hospitals in Tucson, Arizona, the American International Health Alliance, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, in creating the center.

Following is the text of the First Lady's remarks:

(Begin text)

TEXT OF THE FIRST LADY'S REMARKS  
ALMATY WOMEN'S WELLNESS CENTER  
November 12, 1997

Thank you very much, professor, Mr. Mayor, and the medical doctors, and professors, and officials who are here. I want to thank you for allowing me to take part in this important event.

This center makes it clear that quality health care means comprehensive health care for women. Building on four years of work, this center will focus on education, screening, and prevention.

The work done here will reach far beyond these doors. When women are healthy their children are healthy, and when families are healthy, countries are healthy.

Inside I met with some of the mothers and the new babies who have been treated here at the clinic. I met with some older women and with some teenage girls, all of whom are here to improve their health.

And I would echo what the professor said, that I hope this center will work to educate and raise awareness among men so they take a more active role in the birth and care of their children, and I hope that this center will convince more women, most of whom work outside the home and care for their families, that they must look after their own health.

This Wellness Center is a testament to the commitment and dedication of the government of

Kazakhstan and Almaty, and to the dedication of doctors and nurses throughout the country. As an American I am particularly pleased to be here because of the extraordinary partnership that has been forged between this center and medical professionals and hospitals in Tucson, Arizona.

I am delighted that there are representatives from Tucson here today and I thank them for their work, and I know that they have learned as much as they have given in the partnership that has built this center.

I also want to single out the role that the American International Health Alliance and the United States Agency for International Development have played in this effort. As many of you know, this is one of 13 wellness centers in the New Independent States, all based on a model of comprehensive health care created by the Alliance.

Finally, I would like to make special mention of the contribution of non-governmental organizations to this effort, and of the role that the American people and American business companies have played in contributing supplies to the United States government's Operation Provide Hope. I hope that the people of Kazakhstan will see these medicines and materials as I do -- a clear demonstration that the American people care about the people of Kazakhstan during this historic transition.

(End text)

**TEXT: FIRST LADY'S SPEECH TO KAZAKH YOUNG LEADERS ASSOCIATION  
(Announces Teaching Excellence Awards Program) (760)**

Almaty, Kazakhstan -- U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton told the Kazakhstan Association of Young Leaders November 11, "Democracies depend on good teachers and they also depend on citizens doing exactly what these young people are doing -- sitting around a table, talking about what is on our minds, learning from each other."

She commended Kazakhstan for the progress it has made over the past six years. "The stifling architecture of communism has been swept away and in its place you have laid a strong foundation for open markets, private enterprise and civil society. And by renouncing nuclear weapons, Kazakhstan has made a concrete contribution to the peace and security of this region and the entire world."

Mrs. Clinton announced a Teaching Excellence Awards program for Kazakhstan for outstanding teachers of English and American studies. Recipients of the award will travel to the United States to learn about the U.S. educational system and teach Americans about their system. In addition, the program will bring American educators to Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan was Mrs. Clinton's first stop in a five-country visit to Central Asia, Russia and Ukraine.

Following is the text of the First Lady's speech to the Kazakhstan Association of Young Leaders:

(Begin text)

**TEXT OF FIRST LADY REMARKS  
KAZAKHSTAN ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG LEADERS  
November 11, 1997**

Thank you very much and, before we begin our discussion I want to express my deep gratitude for the warm welcome that I and my party have received on our visit. I have come on behalf of my husband, the President, and the American people, to bring a message of solidarity and hope and to further the friendship between our countries.

And I wanted to come here this evening to meet first with the young people of the country to hear what they are doing to build their nation and to take part in the changes that are going on around the world. Because it is the young people who will be leading Kazakhstan into the next century, and who will be leading the way with democracy and prosperity for the people.

I am very impressed by what has been accomplished in just six years. The stifling architecture of communism has been swept away and in its place you have laid a strong foundation for open markets, private enterprise and civil society. And by renouncing nuclear weapons, Kazakhstan has made a concrete contribution to the peace and security of this region and the entire world.

I remember at the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, when a cross-country skier became the first citizen of Kazakhstan to win a gold medal for your new independent nation. In many ways, the fight for the Olympic Gold is like the never-ending struggle for the rule of law and democracy. Both take courage and stamina.

Democracy is a challenge that is passed down from one generation to the next, and schools are an indispensable part of this process. And teachers are an indispensable part of schools. Teachers help to transmit knowledge and values which are the currency of democracy from one generation to the next.

That is why I am pleased to announce today at this school a new partnership between the government of Kazakhstan and the United States to recognize excellence in teaching. The Teaching Excellence Awards will go to outstanding teachers of English and American Studies from around your country. The awards will bring teachers together to share techniques. The schools where award-winning teachers work will receive important educational materials, and the teachers who win these awards will have the opportunity to visit the United States to learn about our educational system and to teach us about yours. I am also delighted that as part of this program, award-winning American teachers will come to Kazakhstan to meet with students, fellow teachers, and members of the educational community.

Democracies depend on good teachers and they also depend on citizens doing exactly what these young people are doing -- sitting around a table, talking about what is on our minds, learning from each other. And I know that this Association has a relationship with a project in California, and I hope to see more linkages between American young people and the young people of Kazakhstan. And now I look forward to hearing from you about what you are doing in this Association and other issues you are confronting.

(End text)  
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