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UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT: FIRST LADY AT GILAD SYNAGOGUE, LVIV, UKRAINE
(Speaks November 17 at Synagogue) (390)

Lviv, Ukraine -- U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited the historic Gilad Synagogue November 17, noting that "just as we are here with a revitalized, very strong Jewish community, we are here in a country that is rebuilding itself as well."

She stressed that freedom of religion is "one of the most important values of any democracy.... I'm very impressed at the attitude of the Ukrainian government and people who are supporting such a strong commitment to religious freedom in this country."

Following is an unofficial transcript of Mrs. Clinton's remarks:

(Begin transcript)

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON REMARKS AT GILAD SYNAGOGUE
LVIV, UKRAINE, NOVEMBER 17, 1997

Let me begin by thanking the Rabbi, his wife and the entire congregation for this very warm welcome. I am pleased to be joined by dignitaries from both the American and Ukrainian government. I particularly thank the Mayor and the Minister of Justice for being here with us this morning. Because as the Rabbi said, this is an historic place, both for the Jewish community and for the entire Ukrainian people.

Just as we are here with a revitalized, very strong Jewish community, we are here in a country that is rebuilding itself as well. One of the most important values of any democracy is the freedom of religion and respect for people of different religious faiths. I'm very impressed at the attitude of the Ukrainian government and people who are supporting such a strong commitment to religious freedom in this country. And so we can see the enthusiastic faces of the children who are learning and studying here -- and as the Rabbi so profoundly said, becoming both Jewish and Ukrainian, with great pride.

I come on behalf of my husband, the President of the United States, and the American people to strengthen the bonds of friendship and partnership between the United States and Ukraine so that together we can build a future that is worthy of the children of my country and the children of Ukraine. I thank you for the many contributions and efforts that all of you are making to make that better future a reality.

Thank you for inviting me here.

(End transcript)