

Shanghai Children's Medical Center  
Beijing, China  
6/30/98

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

**First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton**  
**at the Official Opening of the Shanghai Children's Medical Center**  
**Shanghai, China**

Shanghai, China

Monday, June 30, 1998

SENATOR ROCKEFELLER: When President and Mrs. Clinton came to China, we know it was their desire to open up a discussion so that possibilities for all people be as broad and as optimistic as possible for the future. There is no more important, I think, way for my country or for your country to make sure of its future than to make sure that children receive the health care that they need, when they need it.

Vice Mayor Zuo and others have put together, in Shanghai, a remarkable system wherein a child, no matter what that child's medical problem might be, can receive that health care when they need it. Shanghai has special challenges because there are so many people who are moving to Shanghai and the population is growing and health care is sometimes the most complicated service to deliver to citizens.

The United States has so much to learn from Shanghai, Vice Mayor Zuo, because universal health care and the right of people to have the health care, particularly when they are young and when they are developing, is an essential human right. Fortunately, both in Shanghai and in the United States through the Vice Mayor, Project Hope, Bill Walsh, so many doctors and nurses working together, and in our country through the ferocious and determined leadership of President Clinton and particularly Mrs. Clinton, we can all have a real "Project Hope" for good health care for our children when they need it so they can have the future that they truly deserve and need.

Thank you.

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you Madame Vice Mayor, thank you Dr. Chen, thank all of you for gathering here today for this celebration of the opening of this magnificent children's hospital. You have heard from Senator Rockefeller, and I want to introduce the other members of the United States Congress who have accompanied the President on this trip to China. We have Senator Akaka from Hawaii, Congressman Markey from Massachusetts, Congressman Hamilton [applause], Congressman Hamilton is from Indiana, Congressman Dingle from Michigan and Senator Baucus from Montana.

As Senator Rockefeller said, we have come to China to learn more and to discuss more about the future relations between the United States and China; and one example of our partnership is in the area of health care, as this children's medical center so well exemplifies. This medical center is the result of an extraordinary public-private collaboration between our two countries, the city of Shanghai, Project Hope, the Shanghai Second Medical University, and USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad Program, as well as the generous contribution of many Chinese, American and other international businesses, foundations and individuals. I was given a tour by Dr. Chen and Dr. Jonas, from the Boston Medical Children's Center, of an area that will treat children with cardiac problems. And Dr. Chen and Bill Walsh, the President and CEO of Project Hope who is with us today, showed me

some of the recently installed equipment that will be used that is state-of-the-art in terms of diagnosing children's medical problems. And I am pleased that USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad Program is providing training grants for the medical center because it is essential that this center help to train physicians, nurses and technicians from throughout Shanghai, but even perhaps throughout all of China.

Now I have been told that there are more pre-school children in China than the entire population of the United States. I don't know if that is true, but certainly if they are as beautiful and bright and intelligent as the children that I have already met on my visit in Xian, and Beijing and now Shanghai, this country has a very bright future indeed. And certainly the relationships between our two countries and our two peoples has no more important objective than improving the future for the children of both of our countries. And the United States both in our public capacity through our government, and more importantly, in private ways, through private business, foundations and other exchanges, wishes to be a good partner to build that kind of future for the children of both our countries.

So I hope we will continue exchanging physicians and nurses and technicians and experts, and I have seen when I walked in that we also will be exchanging great yellow birds, such as "Da Niao" and his cousins from Sesame Street, Big Bird. You know I often speak with my husband about how the work that he does on behalf of our country will be judged today and tomorrow, and we often speak that perhaps the most important question that can be asked about any work that is done in the government, business, academics, or anywhere in society, is this question: "Is it good for the children?" And certainly those of you who have helped to build this beautiful and important children's medical center will be able to answer that question with a very strong "yes" - *it is* good for the children. And I hope that the result of this visit that my husband has made to China will enable both of our countries, both our governments and our people to say in the years to come that we have made decisions that are good for our children.

Thank you very much.