

Departure from Bulgaria
October 12, 1998

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
STATEMENT UPON DEPARTURE
SOFIA, BULGARIA
OCTOBER 12, 1998

I would like to thank President and Mrs. Stoyanov, Prime Minister and Mrs. Kostov, and the people of Bulgaria for their warmth and hospitality during my visit.

As I toured your beautiful capital, I had the opportunity to see extraordinary churches, icons and other symbols of your rich heritage. But, I also saw countless examples of your promising future. I saw the future of Bulgaria at a conference where women from throughout this region pledged to work together to address the challenges that face them as women and citizens of Southeast Europe. I saw your future when I talked with small business owners and members of non-governmental organizations, who are building the foundation of prosperity and democracy. And I saw the future of Bulgaria, in the eyes of the brilliant and dynamic students I met at the American College of Sofia.

That school is but one example of the ties of trade, investment, culture and friendship between our two countries – ties that I hope will only multiply in the years ahead. As you continue to move forward on this difficult, yet promising, road of progress, I want you to know that the American people will continue to stand beside you. Again, I want to thank my hosts and the wonderful people of Bulgaria who made my visit so memorable.

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