

RELEASE IN FULL



Embassy of the United States of America

The Hague, Netherlands

August 3, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Madam Secretary:

I have today informed the President that I will be stepping down as Ambassador to the Netherlands, effective September 16, 2011. To be an American Ambassador anywhere is an honor. To be Ambassador to the country of my parents' birth has been a unique privilege. The thousands of Dutch men and women I have met from all walks of life who have welcomed me and supported my work have made me even prouder of that heritage. At this time, however, I feel the need to turn more of my attention to my family and to serving the public interest closer to our home in Chicago.

I have been very proud to see how your leadership has inspired so many people in the Netherlands – both Americans and Dutch. You have set an extraordinarily high standard for effectiveness in foreign relations. I have strived to meet that standard, especially in the vital areas of equal rights and opportunity for women and girls and in protecting our environment. On both issues, the Dutch are our strong partners. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity I have had to be a part of the Obama administration on the Clinton team, working to improve our relationships all over the world.

With appreciation and a continuing commitment to the Obama Administration and your diplomatic efforts, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fay Hartog Levin".

Fay Hartog Levin
Ambassador