Clinton tells Asians U.S. position strong

ious Asian leaders Sunday that Jiang Zemin in a year.

America's foreign policy will not be Frictions eased somewhat after in Congress

is certainly just as strong as it ever cluding a \$1.6 billion purchase of has been," Clinton said, setting the American passenger aircraft. stage for a summit on expanding trade

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation suspected of being capable of produc-forum will agree to free trade in the ing nuclear weapons. region by 2020, though China and

Malaysia are resisting.
In advance of the summit, Clinton day with the leaders of China, Japan, South Korea and Australia.

Disputes over human rights and

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — On trade barriers were expected to be his first overseas trip since the elechigh on the agenda for Clinton's sections. President Clinton assured anx- ond meeting with Chinese President

America's foreign policy will not be Frictions eased somewhat after shaken by the Republican landslide Clinton granted most-favored-nation trade status to China, and Beijing has The position of the United States agreed to several business deals, in-

Talks with Japan and South Korea were likely to center on trade and with Asia's booming economies. were likely to center on trade and Organizers hope leaders of 18 Pa- North Korea's agreement to freeze cific and Asian nations attending the and ultimately dismantle facilities

was holding one-on-one talks Mon- the president on a fast-paced state visit fierce fighting and Allied humiliation an American president in 19 years.

Before flying to Indonesia, Clinton after Gen. Douglas MacArthur, un-

"These achievements have apparently not had the recognition that they deserve in your country."

FIDEL RAMOS

Philippine President

Questions about Clinton's politi-cal standing and the impact of last week's historic GOP wins followed ravaged Corregidor, the scene of ravaged Corregidor, the scene of Sunday to the Philippines, the first by a half-century ago. The island fortress in Manila Bay was captured by Japan

Roosevelt, fled to Australia, pledging, "I shall return.

'Gen. MacArthur did return, and so would freedom," Clinton said at the Manila American Cemetery containing the graves of 17,206 fallen servicemen. "Countless horrors lay in the way, including the butchery of houseto-house fighting in Manila.

Warmly toasting Clinton later at Malacanang Palace, Philippine President Fidel Ramos sounded regretful

about Clinton's election setbacks.

Praising the president's foreign policy and economic record, Ramos said, "These achievements have apparently not had the recognition that any impact on our foreign policy." they deserve in your country.'

der orders from Franklin D. before Clinton arrived, encountered near universal concern about the elec-

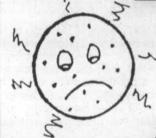
tion impact, officials said. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was asked about the elections during a meeting with Philippine relief work-

"I don't know yet exactly what the message from the voters was," she replied. Her uncertainty contrasted with Clinton's statement last week that voters "sent us a clear message I got it."

Commenting on the election's impact on world affairs during a sweltering news conference with Ramos, Clinton said, "I don't expect it to have

y deserve in your country."

"The foreign policies I have pur-Quoting scripture, Ramos assured sued, particularly the mission I'm Clinton, "No prophet is accepted in his hometown." Secretary of State Warren Christopher, traveling in Asia parties," he said.







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Election revealed voters'gender gap

WASHINGTON — If women roughly the same split as in the ters had prevailed in the mid- 1990 elections. voters had prevailed in the midterm elections, the Senate would have remained in Democratic hands and several governor's seats would have gone to Democrats instead of Republicans.

The election saw one of the

strongest gender gaps in years, exit polls indicated, as men hardened their conservative views and showed more affinity for the Republican message of smaller government, less spending on social programs and anti-taxation.

Across the country, men - predominantly white men - voted heavily Republican.

Democrats sifting through the lessons of last week's election are faced with a reality that men are steadily defecting. In exit polls, 37 percent of men identified themselves as Republicans, 31 percent as Democrats and 31 percent as independents. Four years ago, they were evenly divided between the parties at 34 percent each and 29 percent independent.

Among women, however, 42 percent said they were Democrats,

"This is something that's been building over the past decade and a half ... as the parties became more polarized around issues and the choices became clear," said Susan Carroll, senior research associate at the Rutgers University Center for

the American Woman and Politics.
"Through the 1980s and into
'90s, men have become more conservative and more Republican, and women have stayed as tied to the Democratic Party as they were going into the '80s.

In virtually every gubernatorial and Senate race last week, women supported Democrats more strongly than men did - even in the cases where women ended up voting overall to elect the Republican. The GOP takeover of the House

was helped by the 57 percent male preference for Republicans com-pared with a 54 percent preference by women for Democrats. Democratic men crossed over more often to vote for Republican candidates than did Democratic women.

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