

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary

**The Honorable Barack Hussein Obama
President of the United States of America**

Washington, D.C.

Budapest, January 20, 2009

Dear President Obama,

I would like to congratulate you on your inauguration as 44th President of the United States of America. Your first day in office is a great occasion for you and for many in the world to celebrate. Let me join you in that.

With your inauguration America will never be the same. And I am sure that Hungary and the other European allies will welcome and embrace a United States renewed in values, strong in commitments and open for dialogue.

A frank dialogue and a close cooperation are needed because we face challenges that seem bigger than before and affect more people than in the past. Crises in the world financial and economic systems are resulting in problems not seen by us for a long time. International terrorism is posing an increasing threat to all of us. The importance of energy security is not a concept any more: it is an imperative now. The lack of it has just brutally intruded into our homes and lives this winter because of a price dispute between two other countries.

I believe that we need our trans-Atlantic dialogue enhanced and our co-operation reinforced to tackle these issues successfully. Over the past years, the Hungarian-American relationship has become a result-oriented, multi-layered cooperation. Let me reassure you: the Hungarian government continues to stand firm and ready to co-operate with the United States in defending and promoting our values through bilateral and multilateral channels alike. I believe we have much to do but I am proud to say: we have successes of bilateral co-operation to build on whether it is in the Balkans, in Afghanistan or Cuba, just to name a few.

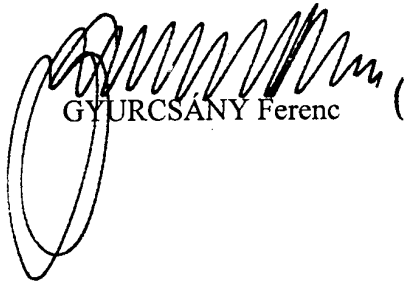
While I am aware there will be many demands on your attention as President, I ask you to ensure that the United States remains committed to stability in the Western Balkans, a region of strategic importance for European and trans-Atlantic security which requires the continued stabilizing presence of the U.S.

Mr. President,

I am looking forward to our bilateral dialogue and co-operation in order to further develop the relationship between Hungary and the United States. To this end, I suggest that our foreign ministers explore the possibility for a bilateral meeting at the earliest date permitted by our respective domestic and international commitments and schedules.

Let me wish you successes in your highly responsible position.

Yours sincerely,



GYURCSÁNY Ferenc