

*The Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary*

**The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States of America**

Washington, D.C.

Budapest, January "16", 2009

Dear Mr. President,

*Dear George!*

I am writing to express my gratitude for your continued personal support for strengthening ties and developing co-operation between Hungary and the United States over the past eight years.

Under your leadership our bilateral relations have been on the rise and Hungary and the United States have become close allies and strategic partners in many respects. Facing the challenges together and standing up to defend and promote our commonly shared values in the world have never been easy, but have resulted in inspiring achievements that we can rightly be proud of today.

Hungarians will surely remember your symbolic visit to Budapest in 2006 for a long time. Commemorating together the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight of 1956 has meant a lot to us and enhanced our common message: freedom is worth fighting for. Your decision to let the emblematic building of the Táncsics prison return to Hungary was another remarkable moment in our bilateral relations and a greatly valued gesture of yours.

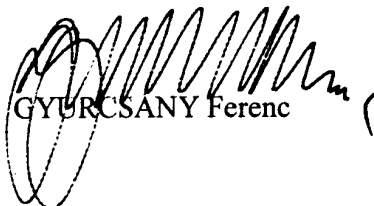
As you know, I highly appreciate your personal commitment to including Hungary in the Visa Waiver Program. Your historic decision to make our decades-long dream come through has contributed to the image of the United States among Hungarians more than any declaration or PR campaign and it is facilitating and improving people-to-people connections between our countries.

Mr. President,

Let me take this opportunity to wish you every success in your future endeavors and to express my hope that your interest and attention towards our country will continue to enrich the Hungary-U.S. bilateral relations in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,

*and with friendship*

  
GYURCSANY Ferenc