

MINISTER
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State of the United States of America
Washington, DC

Budapest, January “ ”, 2009

Dear Secretary Clinton,

I am writing to congratulate you on your inauguration as Secretary of State of the United States of America. I am personally delighted that the American foreign policy will again have a woman leader with international experience.

The historic decision made by the American people last year reflected a strong desire for change and showed great courage and firm determination.

These are the very virtues that we all will need in order to deal with current issues dominating the international scene. Confronting dangers, managing crises, working together with allies and reaching out for those in need will surely be on the top of our agendas.

As you may know, the Hungarian–American relationship has become a success story since the 1990s. U.S. investments have yielded great results in our country: with the political, economic and social transformation completed, Hungary has become a partner, a friend and finally an ally for the United States. Today we work together for stabilization, integration and prosperity in Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans projecting trans-Atlantic values in Europe and beyond. Together we fight in Afghanistan and stand up for human rights in Cuba and in other parts of the world.

Our bilateral relationship has a great and unique pillar: one and a half million people in the U.S. are of Hungarian origin. They are loyal Americans who are proud of their Hungarian roots. The success of the Hungary-USA relations is inconceivable without their valuable support and contribution.

Dear Madam Secretary,

2009 will be a symbolic year for Hungary and for the Hungarian-American relationship as well. This year, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the dismantling of the iron curtain and the 10th anniversary of our membership in NATO. We list these highly emblematic events among the most inspiring moments in our history.

By supporting changes in our political, economic and social systems, keeping up hope in our hearts and minds and helping us return to the trans-Atlantic community of nations, the USA has played a historic role that will never be forgotten in Hungary.

I am looking forward to meeting you, Madam Secretary, at the earliest convenience and I hope you will visit Hungary in this year of great historic importance in our bilateral relations.

I wish you successes in your responsible position.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kinga Göncz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Kinga Göncz