



# The American Hungarian Federation

*Celebrating 100 Years of Service - Fidelissimus ad Mortem*

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

June 11, 2008

Dear Senator Schumer:

The Hungarian American community is deeply concerned and perplexed by your column in June 3rd edition of The Wall Street Journal entitled, "Russia Can Be Part of the Answer on Iran." In that column, you suggest that the United States should recognize Russia's "dream of eventually restoring Russian hegemony over Eastern Europe" in order to entice Russia to join in economic sanctions against Iran. Your suggestion that the nations of Central and Eastern Europe be used as pawns in order to appease Russia is inexplicable and profoundly troubling.

For decades Hungarians and the other nations of the region had been oppressed by Russia, whose "greatness" you suggest Mr. Putin wishes to restore. Less than two years ago, we commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. That noble quest for freedom, democracy and independence was brutally crushed by the Soviet Union which tragically was allowed to dominate Hungary and the other countries of Central and Eastern Europe during the Cold War.

After untold suffering, Hungary and the other countries of the region have regained their freedom, independence and sovereignty. And now you suggest that Russia once again be allowed to dominate them in order to pursue policies whose effectiveness is a matter of conjecture at best. While Iran's nuclear capability is a threat that must be addressed effectively, bartering away the independence of Central and Eastern Europe is neither an acceptable proposal nor is it consistent with the policies pursued by both Democrat and Republican administrations and the interests of the United States in a free, stable, democratic and secure Central and Eastern Europe.

Senator Schumer, your proposal suggests that the United States, the strongest beacon of democracy and freedom in the world, pander to Russia's longing for its past empire.

We respectfully call upon you to meet with representatives of the Hungarian American community and clarify or retract your statements in the Wall Street Journal column with an unequivocal call for the continued independence of Central and Eastern Europe.

Sincerely,

Attila Micheller  
National President

Akos Nagy  
Chairman of the Board

Frank Koszorus, Jr.  
Chairman, International  
Relations Committee