



The American Hungarian Federation

Celebrating 100 Years of Service - Fidelissimus ad Mortem

October 1, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama / John McCain

Dear Senator Obama / McCain:

The American Hungarian Federation (the "Federation"), founded in 1906, represents a cross-section of the Hungarian American community. The Federation believes that U.S. geopolitical interests require America to be fully engaged in Central and Eastern Europe. We would appreciate learning your views on the following issues:

A. What concrete steps would your administration take to help strengthen democratic institutions and values, including the respect for the rule of law, in Central and Eastern Europe?

B. Would your administration support minority rights, including the right to autonomy for national minorities, as a means of promoting democracy and defusing both intra-state and inter-state tensions and thereby ensuring security, stability and territorial integrity in the region?

C. Considering Russia's invasion of Georgia, what concrete steps would your administration take to buttress (i) NATO (and its capability to contribute to the war against terrorists and ability to resist pressure from Moscow) and (ii) the security of the region?

D. Do you believe the United States should help Europe become less dependent on Russian sources of energy, and, if so, what concrete policies would you propose to further that goal?

E. Considering the perception in Hungary (as erroneous as that perception may be) that the United States has at times favored the Socialists over the other parliamentary opposition parties, will your administration visibly pursue even-handed policies toward the parliamentary parties?

F. Will you also send Foreign Service Officers as ambassadors to Hungary instead of just political appointees?

We look forward to your answers to these questions which are important to the members of our community.

Sincerely,

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