

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 2009

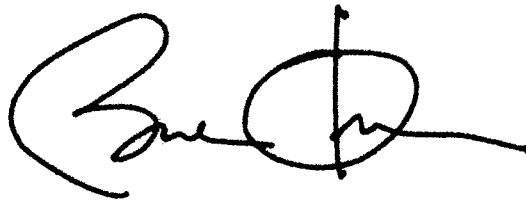
I am pleased to join all those celebrating the anniversary of the 1848 Hungarian Revolution, a milestone in Hungarian history and a seminal moment in the struggle for freedom.

Today we honor the courageous Hungarians who set their country on the path to freedom. The legacy of the Revolution continues to inspire as Hungarians advocate for freedom's cause.

As we recall this historic occasion, I celebrate the friendship that Hungary and the United States have forged. With common values and goals, Hungarians and Americans have collaborated on a wide range of issues of mutual interest. On the 10th anniversary of Hungary's accession to NATO, we mark the invaluable contributions of the Hungarian people to this formidable alliance and to resolving ongoing conflicts across the world.

This friendship is only strengthened by the proud community of Hungarian-Americans. From the publications of Joseph Pulitzer to the advocacy of the late Congressman Tom Lantos, generations of Hungarian-Americans have strengthened the character and culture of the United States.

Congratulations, and best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style.