



# The American Hungarian Federation

*Celebrating 100 Years of Service - Fidelissimus ad Mortem*

October 15, 2009

The Vice President  
Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President:

The American Hungarian Federation (the "Federation"), founded in 1906, represents a broad cross section of Americans who trace their heritage to Central Europe. Among its activities, the Federation monitors developments relating to and affecting democracy, human and minority rights and security in Central and Eastern Europe.

We write in connection with your upcoming trip to Romania to respectfully request that you meet with representatives of the Hungarian minority to listen to the challenges confronting them as they attempt to preserve their unique culture. We further request that you discuss policies with your Romanian interlocutors that they should adopt to strengthen Romania's democratic institutions and respect the rights of its Hungarian minority.

We believe an indispensable component of security in the region is a demonstrable commitment to democracy, including the respect for the rule of law, human rights and the rights of national minorities. During your trip to Prague in March 1997, you went to the heart of the matter by reminding candidate countries that the Senate wanted assurances that prospective NATO members would maintain democratic institutions and respect minority rights. The last thing the United States wanted was to import ethnic conflicts into NATO. Moreover, only members who fulfill their pledges can ensure a vibrant NATO that is equipped to contribute effectively to the alliance's mission, including the war in Afghanistan.

Although Romania made solemn pledges to abide by these Western values, it has fallen short of fulfilling its commitments. For example, Romania has failed to restore the independent Hungarian state university in Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár that was merged into the Romanian university under the Communist dictatorship and virtually treats the legitimate request for autonomy of the Széklerland as an act of treason.

Attached hereto are the following materials which discuss these and related issues in greater detail: (1) "Concerns Related to the Hungarian Minority in Transylvania;" (2) "Academic Rights in Romania;" Letter from Nobel and Wolf Prize Laureates; and (3) Csaba K. Zoltani and Frank Koszorus, Jr., "Group Rights Defuse Tensions," *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, (1996).

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you after your return from Europe.

Sincerely,

Frank Koszorus, Jr.  
Co-president and Chairman  
International Relations Committee

