



Embassy of the United States of America

Office of the Ambassador

January 24, 2012

Dear Mr. Minister:

It is with extreme pleasure to inform you that the United States Congress recently approved \$13.3 million in direct assistance in support of your deployed forces.

As you well know, Security Cooperation is the cornerstone of our bilateral relationship. This relationship is based on our shared values and a common vision of the security challenges of the 21st century. The Hungarian Defense Forces participate in operations and missions shoulder-to-shoulder with US forces in some of the most troubled areas of the world. It is in recognition of this fact that the Department of Defense proposed and Congress recently approved additional assistance in 2012.

This marks the third consecutive year that Hungary has been singled out for such support, and brings the total direct assistance over the past three years to over \$30 million. It is with great satisfaction that my Defense Department professionals in the Embassy work with your Ministry on these programs, and I am pleased this cooperation is experiencing so much recent success. I believe the strong US support of the Hungarian Defense Forces is indicative of our confidence that the common values that underpin our relationship will continue to support a robust and dynamic security cooperation program. A strong Hungarian Defense Force makes for a strong alliance and as Admiral Stavridis likes to say, we are "stronger together!"

Sincerely,

Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis
Ambassador

His Excellency
Csaba Hende,
Minister of Defense,
Budapest, Hungary.

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