

*It Is Both Our Honor and Our Responsibility*

*From the address of Peter Kasalovský, Administrator,*

*on the occasion of the Golden Biatec 2002 awarding ceremony at the 47th regular meeting and an overall 138th event of the Economic Club (Informal Economic Forum) on September 16, 2002 at 3 p.m.*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

*Distinguished guests,*

*at the February annual meeting I mentioned that in 1999 we prepared a proposal to award Golden Biatec to G. W. Bush, Governor of the State of Texas. This proposal was signed a year later, however, shortly afterwards G. W. Bush started running for US President.*

*It was only at the end of last year that we opened communication in this matter with the White House, bearing in mind the tragic events of September 11 and thus the new and in a way the most difficult responsibility of President G. W. Bush as a statesman and as a human being.*

*It was thanks to him that in a very short time an alliance of majority of the countries in the world against terrorism was formed, at first spontaneous, but functional. Since then there is at least a hope that in time this acute danger for all our civilization will be eliminated.*

*It is a fact that the fanaticism which demonstrated its atrocity on the very September 11 in New York and Washington, remains a deadly threat for the whole world. That is above all due to the fact that its protagonists cannot be excluded from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.*

*It is President G. W. Bush who, unlike many statesmen, does not underestimate enemy number one. However, it would be more dangerous to think that this is above all, or even exclusively, only a matter of the United States. As though history has not taught us a lesson or two.*

*Since the twenties of the last century fascism was developing in Italy, Germany, Japan and later, omnipresent all over the world, it reached a decision to attack. The then world and its politicians realized that too late - and there were dozens of millions of victims.*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

*we are sincerely pleased that the very fight against terrorism that has made G. W. Bush and V. Putin find more time and space for a meaningful mutual dialogue. The development of the world, security and peace has always depended on personalities which lead the super powers, and this gives rise to our optimism.*

*Representatives of superpowers bear enormous responsibility as to whether after the world wars that have almost been forgotten by now and other war conflicts, after the so-called cold war, the world will soon achieve a new security that will paralyze any terrorism.*

*The current potential of wisdom, prudence and discretion of nuclear super powers has been relying more and more on the knowledge and experience of countries that are less strong in terms of defense and dependent on a protective umbrella. It is because of this that we believe in an official formation of the anti-terrorist alliance.*

*The acuteness of the threat and its potential scope were indicated by President G. W. Bush on Thursday in the United Nations. We would like to believe that it will result in joint approach to those who profess terrorism, in particular on part of the permanent members of the Security Council and the countries concerned.*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

*Distinguished guests,*

*in the past the world often let the development in relations between states within regions and also within wider areas reach a crisis. Although no global confrontation has erupted for more than 57 years, the human race has often been more than close to its own destruction.*

*Many confrontations were addressed so to say at five to twelve and at the cost of immense human sacrifice, suffering and extensive material damage. In spite of this a tendency still prevails that the current traumas can be managed by classical diplomacy.*

*Such an underestimation of the situations comes either from those who are not directly concerned or from those who are afraid they might become the target of an attack. The nations of the then Czecho-Slovakia felt it in 1938, and in spite of the Munich Agreement the peace was not saved.*

*These are the parallels on our minds at present, when the world community is to decide what is in the interests of preserving its relatively calm and peaceful life. However, the greatest burden of responsibility at present rests on G. W. Bush, President of the United States.*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

*it is a great honor for me to be able to announce to you that on August 5 I have been informed about the willingness of G. W. Bush, President of the United States, to receive - in this context - our award, the millennium Golden Biatec.*