

Bratislava, 22nd May, 2002

Dear Honorable President Bush,

this sincere greeting comes to you from Bratislava where 400 business-people and public officials have been associated with the Informal Economic Forum (IEF) for the past ten years. This „Economic Club “is a community of citizens and global and international organizations. Prominent personalities from several countries, such as the first President of the Slovak Republic, Michal Kováč, the current President, R. Schuster, and His Eminence Cardinal Ján Chryzostom Korec, are honorary members. It has been an honor for us that several of your fellow citizens, such as John Naisbitt, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Ambassadors of the United States Theodor Russels and Ralph Johnson, as well as the Voice of America have expressed interest in our activities.

As a community in a small nation, the IEF, which is independent from political parties, has been trying to develop relations with other countries. We have been able to find personalities whom we not only highly appreciate for their life attitudes and wisdom, but who are also a major inspiration for our everyday life. In the Spring of 1999, at the time when you were still Governor of Texas, we reached the conclusion that you are such a personality who is a model for us not only in a wide range of opinions and attitudes, but also in practical politics. It was at that time that we decided to grant you our annual award, the „Golden Biatec,“ with the following justification: „on the occasion of the final year of the second millenium fo his manifestations of personal responsibility for the progress of society and its humanity.“

However, at that very same time, it was announced that you would be running for the office of the President of the United States. We realized that you were approaching the most important post in present-day world. The newspaper published by our Economic Club since February 1999, Hospodársky denník (Economic Daily), was the only newspaper in the Slovak Republic that continually presented your election campaign, its message and your personally in a clearly positive way. We were pleased by your victory.

We have continued to follow your policies with special interest and consider them to be most beneficial for the rest of the world and for the friends of the United States. Then came September 11, 2001, and we have reached the conclusion that it is the most suitable time not to be afraid of the grandeur and importance of your post and to turn to you. In the form of our annual award, the „Golden Biatec,“ we are sending you a message of absolute support of your policy and with the greatest respect, but with a delay of three years. This conclusion was confirmed unanimously by our general assembly held on February 14, 2002.

As we present you with this award, we are also reminded of the hundreds of thousands of our immigrants prior to World War II, of the thousands of immigrants after the War until the late 1980s, as well as of the Americans during the Slovak National Uprising, and a wide range of people whom you represent today as President of the United States. It will be a great honor for us, as well as for the American investors, in particular US STEEL, if an opportunity might arise to present you with the Golden Biatec and communicate with you.

Wishing you all the best, firm health and fresh strength,

Yours respectfully,



*Peter Kasalovský,
Administrator and Founder
of Informal Economic Forum - Economic Club*