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Draft Two
EMBASSY

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AMERICAN EMBASSY STAFF
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1989

o Barbara and I are delighted to be in Hungary again, and to have the chance to meet you. Perhaps an old proverb says it best: "Once you've visited Hungary, you always return as a friend."

o From my own experience in China, I know that there is no more dedicated and loyal group of people than the men and women -- American and foreign -- who staff our Embassies.

o I also realize what a burden a Presidential visit can be. And I want you to know how much we appreciate the hard work and superb planning that have gone into our visit.

o Almost six years have passed since last we were in Hungary. And the professionalism and commitment of this Embassy is as evident now as then. Your dedication hasn't changed. But so much else in Hungary has.

o You have been living, and working, through some extraordinary times -- of economic liberalization, and political democratization. Of a closer merging of East and West. In a real sense, of history in the making -- a revival of the Hungarian nation that you know, and love.

o In this sea of change, you've been an anchor. And I want to salute you for promoting American interests, and for keeping me and the Secretary of State informed.

o In coming months, more than ever, your efforts will be crucial -- crucial to on-going reforms, and to the strength of our bi-lateral relationship. ~~But most of all, we will need you to reaffirm those values which know no national boundaries: Liberty, human dignity, and democratic ideals.~~

o ~~As you do,~~ you will embody ~~again~~ the best and brightest of public service. And for that, our Nation, and Hungary, are doubly blessed. For, Mr. Ambassador, you have a magnificent staff. And their leader is both a professional and my friend.

o Two days ago, thousands of Hungarians jammed Kossuth Square here in Budapest. They were cheering not for me, but for America -- and freedom. To champion that cause is our challenge as Americans and as free men and women. With your help, we will not let them down.

o In closing, let me say again how we appreciate your support. Thank you, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

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