



National Press Building #809
Washington D.C. 20045
(202) 737-0127
www.americanhungarianfederation.org / www.hungary1956.com

Washington Times

Washington, DC, 5/11/2005 - **AHF Letter to the Editor**

President Bush's acknowledgment on May 7 in Riga that the "captivity of millions in Central and Eastern Europe will be remembered as one of the greatest wrongs of history" was a bold and historically accurate statement ("Bush urges elections in Belarus," Page 1, Sunday). Mr. Bush, who did not mince words in Riga, should make another highly symbolic gesture to underscore his message that the freedom of small nations should not be expendable. He could do this by participating in the 50th-anniversary commemoration of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, to be held in Budapest next year.

The Hungarian Revolution was the first major challenge to Soviet imperialism in Central Europe after World War II. While the world watched, a small nation desperately sought to regain its freedom and succeeded in threatening the badly shaken Soviet leadership, unmasking the true nature of Soviet-imposed communism, turning former apologists of Stalinism worldwide and contributing to the collapse 34 years later of the Soviet system and Russian domination of Central and Eastern Europe. That collapse completed the liberation of all of Europe -- a liberation postponed by the division of the continent 60 years ago.

Celebrating the Hungarian Revolution would commemorate the triumph of freedom and democracy over totalitarianism and constitute a fitting capstone to the Moscow celebrations this month. Mr. Bush's participation would be greeted with great enthusiasm by Central and Eastern Europeans who were deprived of freedom for decades as a result of "one of the greatest wrongs of history" and would strengthen America's ties with its new allies.

- Frank Koszorus, Jr., President American Hungarian Federation of Metropolitan Washington, D.C.