



Embassy of the United States of America

September 25, 1989

American Embassy Budapest
APO New York 09213-5270

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is written in support of Andras Hembach, a young Hungarian who is seeking a work internship in the United States. Having been Andras's supervisor at the American Embassy in Budapest, I support his application wholeheartedly and with enthusiasm.

The Embassy hired Andras as an interpreter to deal with the advance preparations and complicated logistics of President Bush's July 1989 visit to Hungary; he worked here in June and July 1989. He came highly recommended by the head of the interpretation school at Budapest's Otvos Lorant Univeristy, and it is easy to see why. Both the Embassy and the White House staff came to rely on Andras for his self-motivation, organizational skills, the breadth of his knowlege of Hungarian politics and economics, as well as for his superb English. As his direct supervisor, I was impressed with how he could set appropriate priorities and get all his work accomplished, no matter how many directions he was being pulled at once. As one of only a handful of Hungarians serving a White House advance team totaling over a hundred people, Andras did everything from serve as a liaison between Americans and top Hungarian officials to completing many logistical arrangements to make the President's trip a success. His business sense made him a critical player in one round of negotiations setting up the Hungarian Business Development Foundation, one of the President's initiatives announced during his visit.

Andras is the sort of Hungarian who is needed to make certain that the current reform efforts here, praised by President Bush, succeed -- He is bright, energetic, imaginative, hard-working. His desire to gain practical work experience is a testimony to his forward way of thinking, that Hungarians must learn western business practices in order to rebuild their shattered economy. A couple of years ago it would have been inconceivable for a young Hungarian to travel West and gain needed skills in order to come home and teach others by example. Now Hungarians at all levels recognize the necessity of integrating their country into the world economy through learning about democracy and market orientation. People like Andras are key. A company which hired him would not only be gaining a valued employee but would be furthering the hope for continued change in Hungary.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Feltman
Economic Officer