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ÚSTAV PAMÄTI NÄRODA PODATEĽNA	
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Mr Ivan A. Petranský
president

Ústav pamäti národa

Bratislava

Budapest, 26th May 2008.

Dear Mr Petransky,

I hope our fellow institute in Bratislava will not be terminated. The political changes that took place at the turn of the 80s and 90s in Eastern and Central Europe made an analysis of the totalitarian regimes in the past eras possible. Research carried out in this field offered long-time projects for institutes like ours. Cooperation between such institutes is indispensable; that is the only way to reveal our past. The agreement of cooperation between the Institution of National Memory and the Historical Archive came into being on 22nd November 2005 and it helped Bratislava and Budapest in that work.

Ours has been real cooperation: there have been several consultations on data processing and applying data-protecting regulations to our special documents. We participated in the conferences organised by the other institute and we organised conferences together, which meant important milestones in summarizing the results of our work. One of those conferences with the title "The Fall and the Fallout of Communism" was organised in November 2006, and there was another important international conference in Bratislava in November 2007, which dealt with the activity of the former Soviet secret police in this region. The conferences organised by our institute ("The Reception of the 1956 Revolution in the Countries of the Soviet Block" in September 2006 and

“Recent Past Dragged Along” in October 2007) were also important events in sharing experience among fellow institutions.

The most important research topic we shared with the Bratislava Institute was an exchange of documents about the 1956 revolution in Hungary and those concerning Czechoslovakia in 1968. The publications that serve a better exploration of our mutual past have also been important elements of our research into this past. Information amendment given to our citizens has also been an important part of our work, without which there would be a lot of unclear points in both our social and individual past.

I would like to believe that the fruitful cooperation started in the previous decades can be continued for several more years to benefit our citizens who were adversely affected and vilified earlier and to reach a better historical exploration of our common, Central-European past.

Sincerely yours

Gyarmati György

