

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 29, 1990

I am delighted to send my warmest greetings to everyone gathered for the opening of the Regional Environmental Center in historic Budapest.

The world has watched with wonder as the people of Central and Eastern Europe have begun to realize their dreams of freedom and opportunity. I witnessed the first flowering of these democratic ideals in Eastern Europe during my trip to Poland and Hungary in 1989, and I am encouraged by the progress that has been made since then. During my visit, I pledged America's strong support for your efforts, including the urgent task of promoting environmental stewardship in the region.

Decades of neglect have left deep scars on the magnificent forests, farm lands, rivers, and lakes of Central and Eastern Europe. This new Regional Environmental Center will help to advance the repair and preservation of those precious natural resources. Supported by the United States, the members of the European Community, and other founding countries, the Center will enable the people of the region to gain the knowledge, skills, and technical assistance they need to solve critical environmental problems. Through this facility, government, industry, private organizations, and concerned citizens will be able to work together in more effective ways to clean up and protect the environment and to improve public health.

As you open the doors to this important Center, you have my best wishes for every future success. God bless you.

*Clayton Bunker*