

*The Ambassador
of the Republic of Bulgaria
1621 22nd Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20008*

*file
Bulgaria*

April 9th, 1998

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

I have the pleasure to forward to you a formal invitation from Mrs. Antonina Stoyanova to visit Bulgaria and to open, as a guest of honor, the conference "Women In the 21-st Century" to be held under Mrs. Stoyanova's patronage. This could be an excellent opportunity for you to get first-hand experience from the democratic reforms in our country.

I would like to join in expressing gratitude and appreciation for the cordial welcome and warm hospitality extended to Mrs. Stoyanova and her party at the White House.

Please accept, Mrs. Clinton, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Snezhana Botusharova
Ambassador

Mrs. Hillary Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500



София, 5 март 1998 г.

Antonina Stoyanova

2, Dondukov Blvd., Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

Уважаема госпожо Клинтън,

Позволете ми още един път да изразя пред Вас своята искрена благодарност за топлия прием и сърдечната Ви отзивчивост по време на нашата среща в Белия дом. Разговорът, който проведохме с Вас, беше изключително интересен и стимулиращ.

Бих искала също така отново да потвърдя поканата си до Вас да посетите България и да бъдете мой гост и гост на моята страна.

Във връзка с това бих искала да Ви предложа да бъдете почетен гост и да откриете конференция за Югоизточна Европа на тема "Жената на 21 век", която гражданският форум "Българка", заедно с целия неправителствен сектор у нас, подготвя да проведе под мой патронаж в София. На конференцията ще бъдат поканени първите дами от страните на Югоизточна Европа. Официални участници в работата на конференцията ще бъдат представители на различни неправителствени организации от региона.

Убедена съм, че това би бил един чудесен повод Вие да посетите България, защото Вашият опит и благородна ангажираност, както и Вашата популярност в моята страна, биха представлявали своеобразен принос към усилията ни за осъществяване на демократичните реформи.

Ние подготвяме да проведем регионалната конференция през месец септември т. г., но с удоволствие бихме я насрочили и за време, удобно за Вас, предвид натоварената Ви програма.

Моля Ви, приемоте, уважаема госпожо Клинтън, моите най-искрени уверения в дълбокото ми уважение към Вас, както и пожеланията ми за лично здраве и щастие на Вас и Вашето семейство.

Антонина СТОЯНОВА

Госпожа Хилари КЛИНТЪН
Вашингтон

Translation

Sofia, March 5, 1998

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

Please accept, once again, my sincere gratitude for the warm welcome and your kind hospitality at the White House. Our meeting and talks were extremely interesting and stimulating for me.

I avail myself of this opportunity to confirm in writing my invitation to you to visit Bulgaria. The conference on "Women in the 21 century" to be held under my patronage in Sofia by the "Bulgarka" civic forum and the Non-governmental sector in Bulgaria could be a very appropriate occasion. I would like to invite you to be the guest of honor and open this forum of NGOs from our region. The first ladies of the countries of Southeastern Europe will also be invited.

I am sure that this will be an excellent occasion for you to visit Bulgaria. Your experience and noble commitment as well as your popularity in my country will act as an incentive in our efforts to implement the democratic reforms.

We are planning the above regional conference for September 1998 but we would gladly time it according to your busy schedule.

Please, Mrs. Clinton, accept the assurances of my highest consideration for you and my wishes for good health and happiness to you and your family.

Sincerely,

/s/

Antonina Stoyanova

Mrs. Hillary Clinton
Washington D.C.

*file
Bulganin*

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

FAX COVER SHEET

**NATIONAL
SECURITY
COUNCIL**

17th & Penn, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20504Did you get a complete,
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please call:

(202) 456-_____

From: Susan Braden**To: Katie Button****Agency:****Fax Number:****Date/Time:****No. of pages to follow:****Message: For meeting with Avis Bohlen**

6550

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D C. 20504

MEMORANDUM FOR ALICE PUSHKAR

FROM: GLYN T. DAVIES

SUBJECT: Bulgarian Invitation to The First Lady

The First Lady of Bulgaria has sent a letter requesting that Mrs. Clinton visit Bulgaria. Attached is a draft letter thanking Mrs. Stoyanova for the invitation without making any commitments. If the opportunity presents itself, however, the NSC recommends that Mrs. Clinton consider visiting Bulgaria at some time in the future.

Under the leadership of President Stoyanov, Bulgaria is making a serious attempt to develop a free market economy and join the European mainstream. At this early juncture in the reform process, however, the Bulgarian people are suffering. A visit by the First Lady would boost public morale and encourage the government to stick with the reforms.

Another reason for the First Lady to visit Bulgaria is to lend support to the women of Central Europe. Unlike many of the other countries in Central Europe where it is relatively rare to find women assuming a leadership role in political life, Bulgarian women are breaking this barrier. For example, both Bulgaria's Foreign Minister and Ambassador to the United States are women. A visit by the First Lady would lend support to this process. The Bulgarian people in general and the women in particular hold her in very high regard.

RECOMMENDATION

That Mrs. Clinton sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachment

Tab A Letter to Mrs. Stoyanova
Tab B Incoming correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Stoyanova:

Thank you for your kind invitation to visit Bulgaria. While I cannot commit to visit your country at this time, I welcome the opportunity to do so in the future, my schedule permitting.

Bulgaria's commitment to democratic government and economic reform is impressive. I know that it takes time to realize the benefits of the economic reform process and that people suffer in the meantime. Please accept my admiration and support for your efforts. Ultimately, I am confident that we will succeed in building a more peaceful and democratic Europe for our children.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Antonina Stoyanova
2 Dondoukov Boulevard
Sofia, Bulgaria

Antonina Stoyanova
2 Tondoukov Blvd., Sofia

Sofia, September 2, 1997

I write to pay my respects to you as a personality in your own right and as the First Lady of the United States of America.

In my capacity as the wife of the President of Bulgaria and, at the same time, a lawyer, a diplomat and the mother of a son and a daughter, I would like to express my admiration for your remarkable activity.

It is my great pleasure to invite you to pay a visit to Bulgaria and be my guest and a guest of my country. I am convinced that your valuable experience and noble commitments alongside your extreme popularity in Bulgaria would give a particularly strong impetus not only to your efforts dedicated to the future of our children but also to the democratic reforms we are ultimately striving to introduce in our country.

Please accept, Mrs. Clinton, the assurances of my high regard for you as well as my best wishes for health and happiness to you and your family.

Antonina Stoyanova

Mrs. Hillary Clinton
Washington D.C.

October 30, 1997

Mrs. Antonina Stoyanova
2 Dondoukov Boulevard
Sofia
BULGARIA

Dear Mrs. Stoyanova:

Thank you for your kind invitation to visit Bulgaria. While I am unable to include a visit to Bulgaria in my upcoming schedule, I have asked my scheduling office to keep your invitation in mind as my future schedule is being planned.

Bulgaria's commitment to democratic government and economic reform is impressive. I appreciate that it takes time to realize the benefits of the economic reform process and during that time people must struggle. Freedom, peace and democracy are precious and we all have a stake in their success around the globe. Please accept my admiration and support for your efforts.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton

file Bulgaria
Vital Voices

December 21, 1998

Sofia

Bulgaria

Dear Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton:

The Bulgarian Vital Voices from the Vienna Conference '97 were deeply touched with your visit to Bulgaria this past October. We feel tremendously honored to have been given your special attention in the National Theater in Sofia. We remember your spontaneous and affectionate response to our desire to establish a national women's organization of Vital Voices in Bulgaria.

Under the circumstances in the Balkan region we find that this organization will serve the goal of bettering not only women's lives but those of our children and men by creating a passion for harmony that will overcome the destructive tendencies.

To these ends we respectfully request your moral support and acceptance of the position of Honorary President of the National Club Vital Voices-Bulgaria.

It will be our greatest pleasure to keep in touch with you in regards to all our activities and mutual sharing of ideas, concepts, initiatives and successes for the future of our Global Village.

Until then, we wish you the warmest of Bulgarian Christmas greetings and the very best in the coming New Year for you, your family, your staff, and all the other Vital Voices throughout the world.

With the deepest of respect:



Maria Slavova

Chair of the Board

Vital Voices-Bulgaria

Zapaden Park bl.100 - 2

1373 Sofia, Bulgaria

Phone: (+359 2) 29 32 704

E-mail: mslavova@mont.nbu.acad.bg



MUNICIPALITY OF GABROVO

file Bulgaria

BULGARIA, Gabrovo 5300, 1, Vazrazhdane Sq., Tel. +359/66/24939, Fax +359/66/29371

To
Mrs. Hillary Clinton

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

This letter comes to you from the town of Gabrovo, Bulgaria, written by a group of people - we have named ourselves Initiative Committee for issuing Mrs. Clinton's book "IT TAKES A VILLAGE" in Bulgarian language.

Your book was given as a present to Mr. Ivan Nenov, former Mayor of Gabrovo, Chairman of the Municipal Council at present, by Mrs. Viola Berger, mother of CDC representative for Bulgaria - Mrs. Susan Berger.

Mr. Nenov is deeply concerned about the future of the young Bulgarian generation. He finds your book very timely for our society. In fact he calls it "a textbook for upbringing the children in the conditions of a changing world".

The idea about issuing your book in Bulgarian is supported by Mr. Nikolai Dachev - the Mayor of Gabrovo, the Youth Cultural Information Center and the Open Society Club.

We think your book will help Bulgarian parents, teachers and children pass through the difficult period of transition. It will help us remember some forgotten moral values as well as create some new poles, around which to strengthen our belief in the success of good breeding.

We plan to issue and distribute your book without commercial purpose, through a project of the Open Society Club, and we hope that you will be so kind as to contribute to this project by granting us the copyright. We are sure that your book will assist the deeper understanding between our nations. It will be a new bridge for cultural and intellectual exchange between Bulgaria and the USA. Up to now Gabrovo Municipality has cooperated successfully with USAID on a number of projects:

- *LGI - training program "A System for Evaluating Municipal Employees"
- *A project for equipment of Local Waste Water Treatment Station.
- *Several municipal employees visited US for training seminars.
- *USAID - a small grants program - two - year project for establishing Youth

Cultural Center.

- *"Citizen Participation in Local Government - Research triangle institute.

In Gabrovo was established a Bulgarian-American "Business Center" for supporting Small and medium Enterprises with the help of several volunteers from the Peace Corps.

On case you grant your copyright as soon as possible, we hope to issue the book in late summer and we dare invite you to come to Gabrovo, Bulgaria for the promotion of your book. The dates could be fixed as follows:

21-26 August at the time of the Second Edition of the Balkan Youth Festival

The end of September 1997

May 1998, when we have "The days of our town Gabrovo

You can fix the dates according to your schedule

Such event will greatly honour our town and country Bulgaria. We assure you, you will not be disappointed by your visit here - we readily and gladly offer you our friendship and you will get acquainted with our culture history nature and people.

The first Youth Festival "The Youth of the Balkans" initiated by the Municipality was held in 1996 in Gabrovo. Gabrovo gathered representatives from all the Balkan countries. The motto of the Festival is "The Youth of the Balkans Today - Future for Europe Tomorrow" and its aim is to create better climate on the Balkans through the initiative of the children and the young people. In connection with this event we seek support from all European countries as well as USA - we all have to choose between military solutions and events blazing a trail for a future United Europe.

This year in August we have the second edition of the festival, which will include:

- a round table for young journalists on the problems of young people on the Balkans.
- a caricature exhibition "Merry Balkans"
- a variety of folk and entertainment programs, sports events, etc.

Probably we have to explain why Gabrovo was chosen for this Forum of the Balkan Youth:

First of all, Gabrovo is situated at the geographical center of Bulgaria and has time - proved traditions in education, culture and industry. For many centuries the town has developed cross-boundary exchange in many fields with all Balkan countries.

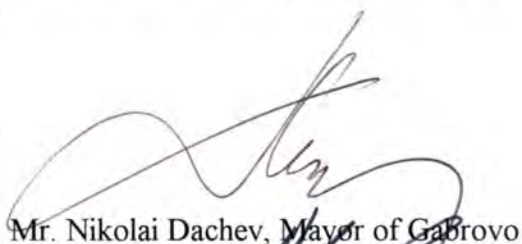
Gabrovo is situated at the foot of the Balkan Mountain which has given the name to the whole peninsula. The House of Humour and Satire was created in Gabrovo 25 years ago. It cooperates with more then 160 countries all over the world. Gabrovo is the regional center of the Tourist Association "Stara Planina", a project created with the help of the Swiss Government. The unique ethnographical museum in the open "Etara" is situated near Gabrovo. Gabrovo is also proud with being the birth-place of the famous artist Christo Javachev, living in New York at present.

We would like to introduce to you briefly the organization "Open Society Club" - Gabrovo a branch of the "Open Society Foundation", Sofia. It was founded in February 1996 by 18 volunteers all of them outstanding figures of Gabrovo society. The mission of the Club is to support the cultural economic and educational development of the town, promoting the values of the civil society.

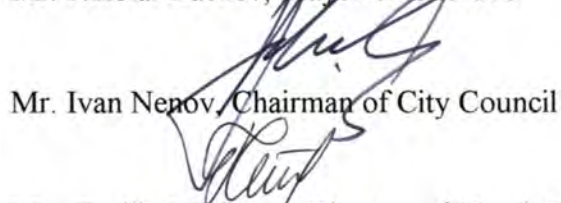
Dear Mrs. Clinton,

We hope that you will accept our invitation and that you will understand our modest efforts orientated to creating a new society.

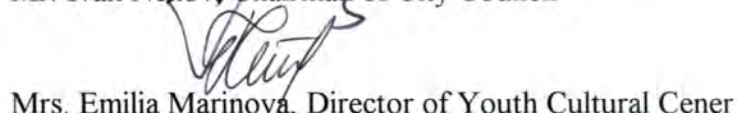
Best wishes to you and your family



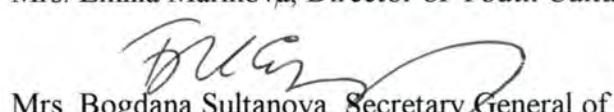
Mr. Nikolai Dachev, Mayor of Gabrovo



Mr. Ivan Nenov, Chairman of City Council



Mrs. Emilia Marinova, Director of Youth Cultural Center



Mrs. Bogdana Sultanova, Secretary General of
"Open Society Club", Gabrovo

29.05.97

Gabrovo, Bulgaria



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SOFIA

February 2, 1999
OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House

Dear Melanne:

I am forwarding to you a letter addressed to Mrs. Clinton by the Bulgarian Vital Voices delegation. Inspired by the First Lady's visit, they have decided to form their own national women's organization, Vital Voices in Bulgaria. As you will see from the letter, they wish to invite the First Lady to be honorary president of the national group.

I don't know if Mrs. Clinton accepts such requests, but this is certainly a deserving organization if she does.

I have all the founding documents and statutes of the organization in Bulgarian. Unless you wish to see them, we'll keep them on file here.

With best regards as always,

Yours sincerely,

Avis T. Bohlen

Avis T. Bohlen
Ambassador

CC: Alyse Nelson/Theresa Loar

P.S. Many people have asked us about the photographs taken during Mrs. Clinton's visit. Nothing has arrived so far. I tell people the photos take a long time, but would be grateful for anything you can do to expedite the process. Also, none of the thank you letters that were written for the event have been received. Is there anything we can or should be doing?