

## **POLITICAL DECLARATION ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY AT ITS PLENARY SESSION ON JULY 15, 1997 ON THE DECISION OF THE SUMMIT MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION HELD IN MADRID ON JULY 8, 1997**

The National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary welcomes the results of the summit meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization held in Madrid on July 8, 1997. It is convinced that the decisions reached in the capital of Spain constitute a milestone in NATO's engagement related to the development of a new European security architecture.

The resolution of the summit meeting on the enlargement of the Alliance is one of historic importance. It opens a new chapter in the relationship between the region of Central and Eastern Europe and the Alliance, promotes the democratic development of the region as well as enhances stability and security in Europe and promotes the creation of unity on our continent.

It is with delight and satisfaction that the National Assembly took note of the invitation for Hungary to start accession talks leading to full membership. It is of the view that the road has thus been opened for the Republic of Hungary to become a full-fledged member of the community of advanced democratic nations.

The invitation represents a recognition of Hungary's achievements in the fields of democratic transformation, social and economic development, the establishment of a market economy and of creating stability in the region of Central and Eastern Europe.

The Republic of Hungary is striving for membership in NATO based on the assumption of rights and responsibilities in their entirety and unity. This will safeguard the security and sovereignty of the country and contribute to its further development.

The opening of accession talks will accelerate the process of restructuring the Hungarian Armed Forces and of modernizing the system of national defence. This provides, at the same time, the basis for Hungary's participation in enhancing the common defence capabilities of the Alliance, too.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary welcomes the fact that the process of NATO enlargement will once and for all put an end to the Cold War heritage of Europe and contribute to the elimination of divisions on the European continent and among its nations and will establish a new zone of stability, security and peaceful development in Europe. The Republic of Hungary supports that further countries of Central and Eastern Europe fulfilling the requirements of membership be given the possibility to join the Alliance.

The National Assembly takes note of the initiative of the Government to hold a referendum. It supports the idea that following progress in the course of accession talks and after getting acquainted with the basic conditions but not later than the end of November 1997, a referendum on NATO membership of consultative character be held.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary expresses its hope that by April 1999, i.e., the 50th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Hungary become a full-fledged member of NATO.

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Speaker of the National Assembly

Dr. Sándor Kávássy  
Clerk of the National Assembly

Dr. Róbert Kiss  
Clerk of the National Assembly

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