

JAMES A. BAKER, III
ONE SHELL PLAZA
910 LOUISIANA
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002-4995

December 11, 2009

Dear Reverend Tőkés:

I was honored by your invitation and send my warmest personal greetings to you and all who are gathered in Temesvar to commemorate this momentous occasion. The fall of communism in Romania 20 years ago could not have occurred without your steadfast defiance of tyranny. I well remember my exhilaration during Christmas 1989, when you accomplished the impossible through your courageous defense of freedom, justice and the rights of your Hungarian community.

Perhaps Lech Walesa best expressed my feelings about your bravery for the cause of liberty in the letter he sent you during the last week of December, 1989. In the letter, Walesa said: "I honestly admire your activity in a country oppressed by dictatorship. Even prison walls will not be able to hide what is noble and good from the eyes of the world."

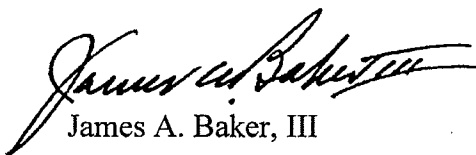
As a result, it was a privilege for me to meet you personally in Bucharest only weeks after your release from custody imposed during the Christmas miracle, and again two months later in the White House, where President George H.W. Bush and I together expressed our support for democracy and the rule of law.

Since then, my admiration has grown for your good works as Bishop and as a member of the European Parliament to promote the tolerance and understanding that are required to realize the aspirations of Temesvar in 1989.

I send my best wishes for a bright, hope-filled, and peaceful future to all the heroes of 1989 in Romania.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely,



James A. Baker, III

Right Rev. László Tőkés
Member of the European Parliament
Rue Wiertz ASP 12E217 B-1047
Bruxelles