



**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CROATIAN AMERICANS
CULTURAL FOUNDATION**

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April 24, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: NATO Summit in Chicago and Macedonia's Full Ascendancy

Dear Mr. President:

The National Federation of Croatian Americans Cultural Foundation (NFCA CF)) has been a long-time and avid proponent regarding the entry of the Republic of Croatia into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This important goal came to fruition in 2008 at the Bucharest Summit, and, as is well known, Croatia fully ascended to NATO membership in early 2009. It marked a substantial step forward for Croatia's integration into this extremely important Euro-Atlantic alliance. Croatia's NATO membership is a major contribution in the creation of a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace.

Both Albania and Macedonia were concurrently nominated as NATO candidates alongside Croatia. While Albania also succeeded in entering NATO in early 2009, Macedonia remains outside of the alliance - the victim of an unnecessary and perennial name dispute with Greece that is halting the progress and growth of our important Western alliance.

I am writing to you to express our strong support for the admission of the Republic of Macedonia into NATO. The Republic of Macedonia has fulfilled all required membership criteria and has proven its commitment to the alliance by participating in numerous NATO missions abroad. Currently, Macedonia is the fourth largest contributor per capita to the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, in addition to hosting the logistics supply headquarters for the KFOR mission in Kosovo. Moreover, Macedonia's entry into the NATO will strengthen continued regional stability in

Southeast Europe and provide further encouragement for the other new nation-states in the region, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, to undertake the necessary military, legal, economic, and political preparatory steps to become eligible NATO members.

In addition, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled on December 5, 2011, in favor of the Republic of Macedonia and noted that Greece had no legal basis to object to Macedonia's integration into NATO during the 2008 Bucharest Summit. Therefore, we ask you to take into consideration the rulings of the ICJ and push to extend a NATO invitation to the Republic of Macedonia during the NATO Summit in the great City of Chicago next month.

Mr. President, we encourage your unbridled support for the Republic of Macedonia's bid for full NATO membership during the upcoming Chicago Summit. The time has arrived. If the NFCA CF can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to have your appropriate staff contact me directly and/or our NFCA Director of Public Affairs, Mr. Joe Foley, in Washington on telephone 301-294-0937.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Vergot". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Bill Vergot, President

CC: The Honorable Leon Panetta, Secretary, US Department of Defense
The Honorable Hillary Clinton, Secretary, US Department of State