

## Prezident republiky

April 23, 1999

Dear Senator,

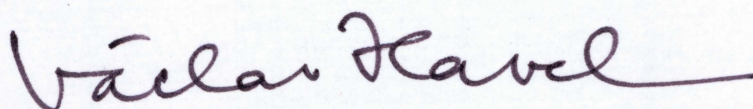
On the occasion of the NAC and the EAPC Summit in Washington D.C., please allow me to thank you for your support of the Czech Republic in entering the North Atlantic Alliance, and for the support of the enlargement of NATO in general.

I consider the entrance of Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic in the North Atlantic Alliance to be of utmost importance. These countries, after many centuries of their existence, have finally become part of a real security structure. However, more significant than the idea of NATO enlargement, which is important for these three countries, is the message which the NATO enlargement process brings to Europe and to the world. Personally, I perceive NATO enlargement as a definitive overthrow of the so-called Yalta arrangement of Europe and, therefore, as a definitive overthrow of the bipolar division of the world.

I am convinced that the door of the Alliance has to remain open to other European applicants. Perhaps, it is not of utmost importance which year this or that country will be admitted to the Alliance, but it is important that the Alliance will continue to be open to all the democratic countries of the Euro-Atlantic area.

Dear Senator, please allow me to assure you and your colleagues that the Czech Republic is determined and ready to be responsible for freedom of nations, for human rights, for democratic values, and for peace on our Continents.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Václav Havel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honorable  
Bob Dole  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510