



## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 7, 2005

I send greetings to my friends President Ivan Gasparovic and Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda and to all those gathered for the Gala Dinner of the Friends of Slovakia.

The United States and Slovakia are bound by strong ties of friendship and family; ties based on common values, a love of liberty, and a shared belief in the dignity and matchless value of every human being. The American people are proud to call Slovaks allies, friends, and brothers in the cause of freedom. This gala is an opportunity to celebrate the bonds between our countries and Slovakia's progress in building a successful democracy and a free economy.

I appreciate the Friends of Slovakia for your work to advance the friendship between our two nations. Your efforts enrich our society and help build a more hopeful world for future generations.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a memorable celebration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush".