

The Romanian - American Committee for Bessarabia

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The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C 20500

Mr. President,

As responsible American citizens of Romanian origin, we congratulate you for *making America great again!* We are also thankful for suggesting to the Romanian president Klaus Johannis during his August visit to the White House to *make Romania great again!*

Romania is currently a staunch American ally and one of the main pivots of U.S. policy in Eastern Europe. In recent years, for example, Romanian troops fought and sacrificed together with the American troops in the Middle East. In addition, Romania together with Poland developed close relations with Washington and have welcomed military bases on their territories. These moves made Russia threaten Romania with *devastating consequences*. Bucharest is not budging, but to make Romania great again the country must first be able to recover its former lands annexed by the USSR. In this regard, we need your help. Here is a summary of the problem:

Romania, Bessarabia and the Republic of Moldova

While most Romanians praise America and greet the increased bilateral cooperation, there are yet a few touchy issues that must be addressed for an even deeper US-Romanian friendship. One such issue is raised by the formerly Romanian lands located east of the river Prut.

The lands between the rivers Prut and Dnestr (Nistru) were part of the Romanian nation since times immemorial. In the course of history, however, two provinces of this region, Bukovina and Bessarabia, were annexed by Austria and respectively, Russia. The end of the First World War remedied this injustice and, based on their Romanian majority, the two provinces reunited with Romania. While Austria renounced any further claims to Bukovina, the newly created USSR sought continuously to re-annex Bessarabia. Indeed, following the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact of August 1939, the Soviet troops invaded Romania and annexed again not only

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Bessarabia, but also northern Bukovina. To further complicate the problem, the Soviet authorities divided the newly acquired lands and organized the Moldavian Soviet Republic on about two-thirds of the annexed territory.

It is worth reminding that Malborne Graham, an American diplomat, published an article in 1944 titled "The Legal Status of the Bukovina and Bessarabia" (*American Journal of International Law*, October 1944). He wrote that this disputed area of Eastern Europe represented "*the most critical territorial problem bequeathed to the present generation as a direct legacy of the age-old Eastern Question.*" This territorial problem remained unsolved ever since.

In 1989, after the dismemberment of the USSR, Moldova declared its independence. Allegedly, the new republic considered the idea of rejoining Romania, but post-Soviet Moscow has used every trick and means to keep it under its control. All these historic events are explained in details in the U.S. Senate Resolution 148 of June 26, 1991. Here are a few excerpts:

... To express the sense of the Senate that the United States should support the right to self-determination of the people of the Republic of Moldavia and northern Bucovina... Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States Government should--

(1) Support the right of self-determination of the people of Soviet-occupied Moldavia and northern Bucovina and issue a statement to that effect; and

(2) Support future efforts by the Government of Moldavia to negotiate peacefully, if they so wish, the reunification of Romania with Moldavia and Northern Bucovina as established in the Paris Peace Treaty of 1920, the prevailing norms of international law, and in conformity with Principle 1 of the Helsinki Final Act."

Mr. President, this very important Romanian issue has been ignored by the previous U.S. administrations, but now we hope that you will address it frontally and properly. And we want to assure you that a united Romania will be a factor of increased stability in East Europe and a real friend of the United States. Thus, we appeal to you to consider the idea of a reunified Romania.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Dima, Project Coordinator. On behalf of the Romanian-American Committee for Bessarabia.

Justin Liuba, on behalf of Iuliu Maniu Foundation.

Anca Popa, on behalf of Avram Iancu Society.

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