



Remarks of Ambassador Philip T. Reeker Following Meeting  
with Mayor of Ohrid Aleksander Petrevski

October 15, 2008



I want to thank Mayor Petrevski and his staff for the opportunity to meet and for their hospitality in this very beautiful and historic city.

I am happy to see that although the historic atmosphere has not changed, evidence of progress is all around.

I visited here last week when Secretary Gates attended the Southeastern European Defense Ministerial. I am pleased to be able to return quickly to meet the Mayor and to participate in two important events our mission supports to help the United States and Macedonia work more closely together.



The first, a U.S.-funded training seminar to fight money laundering, will help increase vigilance against terrorist financing.

The second, a conference on intellectual property rights hosted by the American Chambers of Commerce of Macedonia and Serbia will help make the business climate in Macedonia more competitive and more attractive to foreign investors.

These events advance two important areas of our cooperation, reflecting our strong relationship based on common values.

I was also pleased to speak with the Mayor about our upcoming collaboration to preserve rare manuscripts here in Ohrid as part of the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation.

I look forward to coming back often to Ohrid and Struga, and in the meantime wish you all the best.