

SLI GROUP LLC

TO:

FROM: Hon. Connie Mack

DATE: 3/15/17

SUBJECT: Brief on Hungarian Efforts to Combat Christian Persecution

This past September, the nation of Hungary established themselves as an international leader in combating Christian persecution, going as far as to create a new ministerial position to assist in their efforts, the Deputy State Secretary for Assisting Persecuted Christians. Please follow the links below to various articles outlining the recent efforts of Hungary in this extremely important mission.

- <http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-human-resources/news/office-of-deputy-state-secretary-for-persecuted-christians-seeks-assistance-of-churches>
- <http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-human-resources/news/hungary-plans-to-become-a-centre-for-efforts-to-combat-christian-persecution>
- <https://pjmedia.com/faith/2017/01/02/study-christians-remain-most-persecuted-religious-group-in-the-world/>

I have also included some information on Prime Minister Orbán's continued support for the current administration (Please See Below)

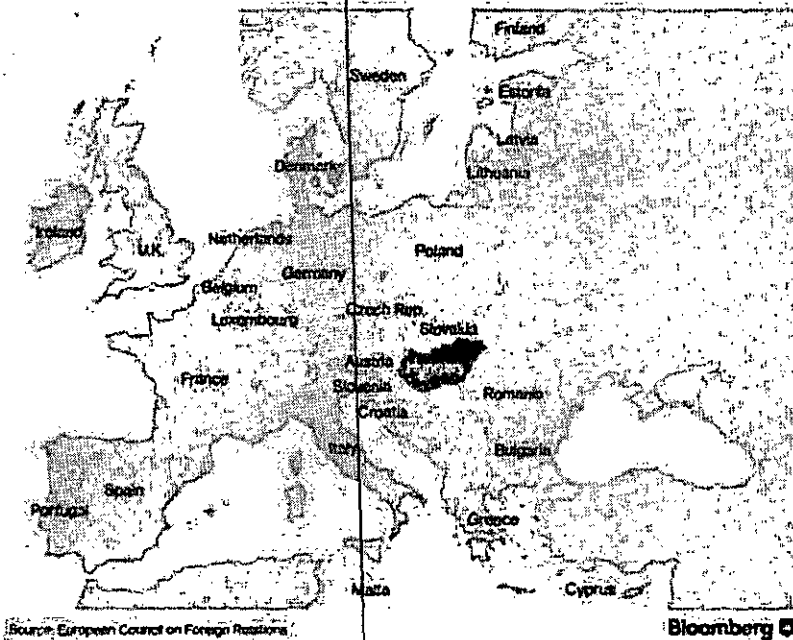
On July 20th, 2016, Prime Minister Orbán became the first and only European Head of State to publicly endorse Donald Trump for President of the United States. In his speech, PM Orbán remarked that he was swayed by the security proposals outlined in President Trump's acceptance speech as the Republican Party's nominee. Other highlights of Orbán's initial speech include:

- "He (Donald Trump) would be the better one (candidate) for Europe and for Hungary." [Read More](#)
- "I listened to the candidate and I must tell you he made three proposals to combat terrorism. And as a European I could have hardly articulated better what Europe needs." [Read More](#)

The map below clearly demonstrates Hungary's support for the Trump Administration:

Cold Welcome for Trump
Preferred U.S. presidential candidates among EU28

• Supports Hillary Clinton • Supports Donald Trump • Non-EU states



Orbán's support of President Trump continues. In fact, earlier this month, the Prime Minister defended President Trump's refugee policy at a gathering of EU Heads of State and Government stating:

- Feb 3, 2017 – Statement before the EU summit in Valetta, Malta:
 - **“I am surprised to observe the neurotic reactions criticizing the decision of the United States”** [to temporarily ban citizens of certain countries from entering the US].
 - **“The United States is not a member of the European Union; it is an independent state and as such has the right to determine its own border, foreign and migration policies.”**
 - **“(…) this is something the United States has a right to do (…)** It makes absolutely no difference what we think about this, it isn't Europe's business. (…)
 - **We should be concentrating on ourselves and should be dealing with our own problems instead of criticizing the United States.”**

Orbán's Hungary is committed to strengthening U.S.-Hungarian relations and cooperation. They are “interested in a strong Hungary in a strong Europe” and are extremely optimistic about the prospect of working with the Trump administration and a GOP-controlled congress to accomplish this.

Additional PM Viktor Orbán's comments supporting the Trump Administration

- Jan 23, 2017 – Speech at the Lámfalussy Conference.

- **“(…) I think that last week we heard a key sentence, and we must take this key phrase seriously. If we understand this correctly, we shall understand everything that follows. This key phrase is not the one quoted by most people – “America First” – but this: “it is the right of all nations to put their own interests first”. This represents a great change. These words could not have come from an earlier US president, but now they have come from this president. This means that the era of multilateralism is at an end, and the era of bilateral relations is upon us. For us this is good news, because it is an unnatural state of affairs when, influenced by external pressure, one dare not state that one’s own country comes first when governing, making decisions, or considering what the central bank should do. This unnatural state of affairs is at an end, and we have been given permission, if you like, from the world’s highest secular position, that we, too, can place our own interests first. This is a great thing, it is a great freedom and a great gift.”**
- **Dec 15, 2016 – Hungarian news and opinion site.888.hu interview:**
 - **“Therein lies the kinship with the US President-elect. You can sense this same self-made man mentality in him [as in Fidesz].”**
 - **“I’ve spoken to a true American. (…) We found a common voice. This is unusual in politics, especially with the leader of a great power.”**
- **Nov 9, 2016 – Facebook post following the US elections:**
 - **“Congratulations. What great news. Democracy is still alive.”**
- **Jul 23, 2016 – Speech at the 27th Bálványos Summer Open University and Camp:**
 - **“I am not Donald Trump’s campaign manager. I had never thought that it would seem to me that, of the candidates on offer, he would, after all, be the best option for Europe and Hungary. I would never have thought so. But I have listened to that candidate, and I have to say that he made three proposals for curbing terrorism. And, as a European, I myself could hardly have given a better analysis of what Europe needs.”**

Q&A following the speech:

- **“First of all, let me say in the context of this whole migration affair that now that I listened to the speeches of the American presidential candidates, one of the American presidential candidates, it became clear to us, or to me, that the outcome of the American presidential election is not at all indifferent for us. The Republican presidential candidate said yesterday that immigration is a bad thing and it must be stopped; no one can enter America who does not respect the American values, who does not subject himself to the laws, and does not accept the customs they have. Those who fail to do these things should not come, and that is that – this is clear talking; we are used to finer speech in high politics, but that does not change the essence of it all. The situation is that one of the main supporters of the pressure of immigration that is weighing heavy upon Hungary is the United States. Partly through its official policy; President Obama spoke about this openly at the NATO summit. Everyone who is**

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- It is not indifferent who will be the prospective President of the United States, what he or she thinks about immigration, and this will determine our lives. I do not criticize the Americans; I just want to make clear that what is right in their view destroys us, and I therefore cannot endorse it.
- So first of all, I would like to say that the presidential election in the United States of America is relevant to Europe's immigration policy and the future of the situation of Hungary.”

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Cabinet Office of the Prime Minister
Department of strategy and analysis
10.11.2016.

Government measures concerning the persecution of Christians

- The Hungarian government has established a special department on the persecution of Christians to address both persecution in the Middle East and the subtle forms of discrimination some Christians face in Europe.
- The newly established sub-secretariat on the persecution of Christians is overseen by Hungarian Minister for Human Capacities Zoltán Balog.
- The Hungarian Parliament has also discussed this week a motion for resolution on the condemnation of the persecution of Christians, declaring it genocide.

CHRISTIANITY IN THE MIDDLE-EAST

- Today, Christianity has become the most persecuted religion. In cases where people are killed for religious reasons, four out of every five of them are Christians.
- In 80 countries around the world Christians suffer persecution and 200 million Christians live in areas where they are discriminated against. Millions of Christian lives are threatened by followers of radical religious ideologies.
- One hundred years ago, every fourth person living in the Middle East was Christian. Today it's only one in every 33.
- In 2014, 4,344 Christians were killed because of their religion, while in 2015, this number increased to 7,100 in the Middle-East.
- This is the reason why the Hungarian government made it a priority to establish a government office to help persecuted Christians, to raise international awareness of their dire situation and to coordinate humanitarian action.



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HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT MEASURES

- The Hungarian government is the first country to establish a special government department on persecution of Christians. The new department has a 3 million euro budget (3.27 million USD). Overseeing the department is Tamás Török, who until recently served as Hungary's deputy ambassador to Italy.
- The new office will have primarily a humanitarian focus, but it will also examine the state of Christianity in Europe.
- The decision came after Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán along with Minister Balog took part in an annual meeting for Catholic legislators in Frascati, Italy at the end of August. Orbán and Balog, who are respectively a Protestant layman and a Calvinist pastor, were the only non-Catholic members of the group, whom Pope Francis received in a private audience. Viktor Orbán declared at the meeting that Hungary will take action against the persecution of Christians and stands ready to support these communities whose very existence is threatened.
- A motion for a resolution that would declare as genocide the persecution of Christians in the Middle East and in Africa will be put to a vote in the Hungarian Parliament. The resolution would also call on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to step up efforts against the persecutors.
- Similar resolutions were already passed by the EU, the UK, the USA and Australia.
- Hungary has not remained passive in speaking in international forums against the current persecution of Christians. The country has to the best of its abilities helped Middle Eastern Christian communities morally and financially so that they may persevere in their homelands.
- The initiatives of the Hungarian government on behalf of persecuted Christians include the allocation of over 300,000 euros through the Hungarian Catholic Bishops'



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Conference to support students in the Middle East and to construct a school in Erbil. The Hungarian government has also added 3 million euros to the EU fund established for the reconstruction of Syria and helped Christians and other minorities in danger to obtain visas.

Sources:

<http://www.parlament.hu/irom40/12700/12700.pdf>

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