

tists to use, so they can get instant access to satellite photography. These pictures will help them map watersheds, plan agricultural crop strategies and trace urbanization trends. Whether implementing arms agreements, looking at the possibilities of breakthrough in climate change, energy or stemming the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, the formulation of foreign policy must proceed on a solid scientific foundation. One area of research, nano-technology could have enormous implications on terrorism, defense, health and the development of the world economy. Deciphering the human genome is another compelling effort in today's world of science and perhaps will constitute the scientific breakthrough of this century. When Congress minted America's first coin in 1792, one of the mottos was "Liberty, Parent of Science and Industry". Our forefathers knew that science was key to development. Science and technology has always been vital to economic development and is becoming even more crucial now in the new Millennium. If you think back to 10 years ago, there were only about 50 sites on the World Wide Web.

Today there are more than 50 million sites. Ten years ago, cloning animals was science fiction. Today we discuss and debate the ethics of human cloning.

BH *What about the future of Joint Fund?*

The Joint Fund expires in 2002, and the emphasis should be placed on more agency-to-agency cooperation and partnerships among scientists in our two countries. We will have a "scientist in residence" from the National Science Foundation in Budapest to help connect scientists from our countries. Also within the EU Science Framework Programs, Hungarian institutes can join with EU counterparts and with U.S. institutes. The NATO science program is yet another avenue for joint or multilateral cooperative research. All these programs offer opportunities for Hungarian scientists and researchers to participate in scientific and technical liaisons, conferences and research with US partners.

BH *Do you see any potential danger of young Hungarian scientists leaving their country and settling in the U.S.?*

Some Hungarians consider the brain drain as a real danger. Nonetheless, the Hungarian Government, through the Academy of Science, its research institutes and the university system is working hard to create conditions for Hungarian scientists to stay in Hungary. International companies are also creating facilities and supporting job opportunities in research and development to attract and retain the Hungarian top minds. One of the keys to Hungary's economic development is its highly educated and innovative workforce. As regards foreign scientists, the United States has always been the great melting pot. We are proud of the contributions of all immigrants to the U.S., our history is based on their achievements. Almost one of every five Americans today is the child of an immigrant. Nonetheless, we are also pleased when scientists learn from their experiences in the U.S. and bring those ideas back to their home country to invigorate their local scientific communities and continue to collaborate with us.

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