

## International Bodyguard & Security Services Association

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## **ANNEX 6**

## Letter of Acceptance of H.R.H. Prince Michael James Alexander STEWART OF ALBANY

"When I accepted the position of Honorary President to the International Bodyguard and Security Services Association, it was with the knowledge that this organisation had proved itself over nine years of existence and that, indeed, it could achieve and make society feel better. This is particularly so following the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

The security of all individuals is, of course, of paramount importance and, while I was visiting Eastern Europe in early March of this year, I certainly felt safe. IBSSA and the generosity of those people I met in Hungary and Romania made sure of that.

I must admit that I am not particularly a physical person. Most people refer to me as both a bookworm and a peacekeeper. I am, of course, a writer and a diplomat and so those descriptions are quite apt to my character. Even so, in Scotland, I do have a Regiment (Les Ecossais Royaux) and a Royal Household bodyguard (The Knights of the Order of the Guard of Saint Germain) looking after me. So, the concept of security is not altogether unknown to me. It can even be said that I was born into it.

From my point of view, I can see that, although IBSSA is a worldwide international body, it will become a key organisation within the security of Eastern Europe, with members moving as high as the United Nations Security Department. This can only be for the good. Eastern Europe, as a viable entity within the world at large, needs to capitalise on every asset it has and IBSSA is definitely one of those assets.

Moreover, what must be emphasised is that IBSSA is not a club but a viable organisation that intends to harness all conceptual ideas of modern security. The use of the computer and collecting and exchanging data is part of the working process of IBSSA as an international security body linked with other security agencies. Members include, among others, present and former police and army staff who are dedicating their life to make this world a better and safer place. Physical instructors in the various martial arts are also involved. All aspects that will make the visit of a dignitary (or others) safe are being used to the full by IBSSA and it has to be commended for this. Putting one's life on the line is never easy, more so now than ever.

Personally, I feel very honoured that I was invited to take the position as Honorary President of IBSSA and I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to IBSSA for taking care of me so well during my visit in Eastern Europe. It certainly will not be the last one. I know that IBSSA will grow from strength to strength and play a vital part in the security of this world."

H.R.H. Prince Michael James Alexander STEWART OF ALBANY Honorary President of IBSSA