



Embassy of the United States of America

September 5, 2001

U.S. General Accounting Office
Director, External Liaison
441 G Street, NW., Room 7806
Washington, DC 20548
USA

Re: Application and related materials of Roman Bokeria of the Chamber of Control of Georgia for the 2002 International Auditor Fellowship Program

Dear Sir:

I have enclosed in this envelope, which has been sent via Diplomatic Pouch, four individual envelopes containing materials related to the above.

I would appreciate any assistance you can give in insuring that they are provided to the correct person who will be reviewing Mr. Bokeria's application.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John S. Gleason III".

John S. Gleason III
Resident Legal Advisor



U.S. Department of Justice
Criminal Division
Office of the Resident Legal Advisor
United States Embassy Tbilisi, Georgia

September 6, 2001

Ms. Gloria L. Garmon
Managing Director
United States General Accounting Office
441 G Street, NW, Suite 7826
Washington D.C. 20548

Re: Recommendation of Roman Bokeria for the 2002 International Auditor Fellowship Program.

Dear Ms. Garmon,

I write to unhesitantly recommend in the highest possible terms Mr. Roman Bokeria of the Chamber of Control of Georgia, for selection for the 2002 International Auditor Fellowship Program.

As the Resident Legal Advisor at our Embassy in Georgia, I advise both the Ambassador and those Georgian governmental agencies for which he has assigned me responsibility. The principle role to which I have been so assigned is that of coordinating all American efforts to assist the Georgian government in reducing and eventually eliminating its post-Soviet legacy of public and private corruption.

In attempting to carry out those responsibilities, early on it became clear to me the important role which Georgia's supreme auditing authority, the Chamber of Control, could play in this reform process. Over the past nine months it has been my great good fortune to have worked extensively with Mr. Bokeria, both as head of the Department of Reform and International Relations and as a member of the Presidium of the Chamber.

Although Mr. Bokeria was the youngest member of the twelve person Presidium, he, along with the Chamber's Chair and Deputy Chair, were easily the most professionally competent, dedicated and energetic of all Presidium members. The same can be said of the Department of Reform and International Relations which Mr. Bokeria started, built and staffed, all based upon one criterion -that of professional competence.

In addition to endemic corruption inherited in part from Georgians' quiet rebellion against the Moscow centered command economy of their former soviet masters, Georgia also has been forced to endure other elements of that heritage, not the least of which has been bloated governmental agencies where employment was gained not through professional competence but through party or family connections.

In this regard, Mr. Bokeria has worked tirelessly and extensively to plan, develop and administer competency testing for the Chamber's auditors. This has resulted in the dismissal within the last 6 months of approximately 35 % of the Chamber's employees who lacked basic knowledge of auditing principles. I was a personal witness to the testing process. I have never seen, either in Georgia or anywhere else, including the United States, a more well thought out or better prepared testing process, which in turn was administered with unquestionable integrity. I should note that Mr. Bokeria carried out these responsibilities despite threats to his own safety and that of his family. To my mind this not only speaks to Mr. Bokeria's courage but also to that "political will" without which Georgia itself cannot survive as a democratic and independent country.

Mr. Bokeria and I share a hope for the creation in Georgia of an Academy of Audit that would train not only the employees of the Chamber of Control, but would be the Institution which would certify all those who work in the filed of auditing and accounting. Indeed, given Georgia's geographic location, it is also our hope that such an academy would become a regional center which would foster internationally accepted auditing standards in a part of the world where the lack of such standards too often precludes that outside investment which would lead to economic growth and prosperity.

Given Mr. Bokeria's central role in planning for this Academy of Audit, as well as his audit responsibilities and supervision within the Chamber itself, the training that he would receive through participation in the General Accounting Office Fellowship Program would be invaluable not only for him, but also for his country.

In writing this letter, it has become apparent to me that it is more than just a letter of recommendation for Mr. Bokeria. It is also a sincere request that to the extant it is possible, the GAO assist those of us who realize how important it is to have persons with Mr. Bokeria's political will, talent and demonstrated ability acquire the knowledge and expertise he would gain from participating in the GAO's fellowship program. He would return to the Chamber of Control in a far better position to assist the government of Georgia in its efforts to insure the integrity of its various Ministries and agencies and thus retain that confidence of its citizenry which is essential to its remaining a functioning democracy.

In summery Mr. Bokeria is the kind of person who represents Georgia's hope for the future. In the area of Governmental integrity and responsibility I can think of no person who not only would benefit more personally from participating in the fellowship program, but whose country's future would be better served by his selection.

I very much appreciate your consideration of Mr. Bokeria's application for the GAO fellowship program. If there is any additional information that I can provide, I have enclosed

my business card which contains my phone number here at the Embassy as well as my e-mail address.

Very truly yours,

John S. Gleason III
Resident Legal Advisor

cc: Alberta E. Ellison