"Thoughts" by brian Cartledge .

History has placed our two countries in different groupings, both political and economic.

But this does not mean that we cannot talk to each other.

On the contrary, in times of international difficulty, it makes it all the more important that we should.

In doing so, we can build upon those things which we already share: the moments at which our histories have touched, particularly during the middle of the last century; and the aspirations which we have in common.

Chief among these is the aspiration for a peaceful Europe in a peaceful world.

History has given Europe more than its fair share of conflict and tribulation.

We Europeans share a duty to build a better future for our continent.

Both our countries are better known for their brains than for their muscle: the outstanding contribution of so many Hungarians in so many fields of the arts and sciences is well known and respected in Britain.

And that ''greatest Hungarian'', Count Szechenyi, brought back from Britain to your country aspects of our life and culture which took vigorous root in your soil.

As a Fellow of our Royal Society, I am proud of the links which have endured between it and your Academy of Sciences.

(* pron. SECHENI)