

**Privacy Act Statement.** Every registration statement, short form registration statement, supplemental statement, exhibit, amendment, copy of informational materials or other document or information filed with the Attorney General under this Act is a public record open to public examination, inspection and copying during the posted business hours of the Registration Unit in Washington, D.C. One copy of every such document, other than informational materials, is automatically provided to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act, and copies of any and all documents are routinely made available to other agencies, departments and Congress pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Act. The Attorney General also transmits a semi-annual report to Congress on the Administration of the Act which lists the names of all agents registered under the Act and the foreign principals they represent. This report is available to the public. Finally, the Attorney General intends, at the earliest possible opportunity, to make these public documents available on the Internet on the Department of Justice World Wide Web site.

**Public Reporting Burden.** Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .49 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Chief, Registration Unit, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

*Furnish this exhibit for EACH foreign principal listed in an initial statement and for EACH additional foreign principal acquired subsequently.*

1. Name and address of registrant Claire Sechler Merkel 12983 Azalea Woods Way Herndon, VA 20171	2. Registration No. 5508
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3. Name of foreign principal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria	4. Principal address of foreign principal Embassy of Bulgaria 1621 22nd Street, NW Washington, DC 20008
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5. Indicate whether your foreign principal is one of the following:

- Foreign government
- Foreign political party
- Foreign or domestic organization: If either, check one of the following:
  - Partnership  Committee
  - Corporation  Voluntary group
  - Association  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Individual-State nationality \_\_\_\_\_

6. If the foreign principal is a foreign government, state:

- a) Branch or agency represented by the registrant. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- b) Name and title of official with whom registrant deals. H.E. Elena Poptodorova  
Bulgarian Ambassador to the U.S.

7. If the foreign principal is a foreign political party, state:

- a) Principal address.
- b) Name and title of official with whom registrant deals.
- c) Principal aim

8. If the foreign principal is not a foreign government or a foreign political party,

a) State the nature of the business or activity of this foreign principal

b) Is this foreign principal

Supervised by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal Yes  No

Owned by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal Yes  No

Directed by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal Yes  No

Controlled by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal Yes  No

Financed by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal Yes  No

Subsidized in part by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal Yes  No

9. Explain fully all items answered "Yes" in Item 8(b). *(If additional space is needed, a full insert page must be used.)*

10. If the foreign principal is an organization and is not owned or controlled by a foreign government, foreign political party or other foreign principal, state who owns and controls it.

Date of Exhibit A	Name and Title	Signature
July 1, 2002	Claire Sechler Merkel	Claire Sechler Merkel

**INSTRUCTIONS:** A registrant must furnish as an Exhibit B copies of each written agreement and the terms and conditions of each oral agreement with his foreign principal, including all modifications of such agreements, or, where no contract exists, a full statement of all the circumstances by reason of which the registrant is acting as an agent of a foreign principal. One original and two legible photocopies of this form shall be filed for each foreign principal named in the registration statement and must be signed by or on behalf of the registrant.

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**Public Reporting Burden.** Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .33 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Chief, Registration Unit, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Name of Registrant Claire Sechler Merkel 12983 Azalea Woods Way Herndon, VA 20171	2. Registration No. 5508
3. Name of Foreign Principal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Republic of Bulgaria	

Check Appropriate Boxes:

4.  The agreement between the registrant and the above-named foreign principal is a formal written contract. If this box is checked, attach a copy of the contract to this exhibit.
5.  There is no formal written contract between the registrant and the foreign principal. The agreement with the above-named foreign principal has resulted from an exchange of correspondence. If this box is checked, attach a copy of all pertinent correspondence, including a copy of any initial proposal which has been adopted by reference in such correspondence.
6.  The agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal is the result of neither a formal written contract nor an exchange of correspondence between the parties. If this box is checked, give a complete description below of the terms and conditions of the oral agreement or understanding, its duration, the fees and expenses, if any, to be received.

7. Describe fully the nature and method of performance of the above indicated agreement or understanding.

Registrant will provide advice and counsel to the Embassy on matters related to us-Bulgaria relations. Registrant will assist the Embassy in communicating its positions and interests.

8. Describe fully the activities the registrant engages in or proposes to engage in on behalf of the above foreign principal.

Registrant will contact members of Congress and their staff, the staff of relevant House and Senate committees and members of the Administration, as appropriate, to discuss legislation and related issues concerning Bulgaria. Registrant will assist in organizing meetings with members of Congress and the Administration for visiting members of the foreign principal and will provide advice and strategic counsel to the Embassy.

9. Will the activities on behalf of the above foreign principal include political activities as defined in Section 1(o) of the Act and in the footnote below? Yes  No

If yes, describe all such political activities indicating, among other things, the relations, interests or policies to be influenced together with the means to be employed to achieve this purpose.

Registrant will contact members of Congress and their staff, the staff of relevant House and Senate committees and members of the Administration to discuss issues related to US-Bulgaria relations and Bulgaria's desire to join NATO. Registrant will assist the Embassy in drafting letters and informational pieces related to these issues.

Date of Exhibit B	Name and Title	Signature
July 1, 2002	Claire Sechler Merkel	Claire Sechler Merkel

Definition: Political activity as defined in Section 1(o) of the Act means any activity which the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting, or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to the political interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

## Retainer Agreement

This Agreement is made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria (The Client) and Ms. Claire Sechler Merkel, International Consultant.

The Client and Ms. Claire Sechler Merkel have agreed that Ms. Claire Sechler Merkel shall render various professional, strategic counsel and public relations services to assist the Client in communicating its positions and interests and, in general, providing other appropriate advice and assistance. The services may be rendered by Ms. Claire Sechler Merkel on her own proposal after prior approval by the Client or its duly authorized representatives or upon specific request by the Client.

The term of the Agreement commences from the date of the signing of the Agreement by both parties until November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002. It may be extended for a successive period if the parties so agree in writing. Any amendments to this agreement shall be also agreed upon by the parties in writing.

The Client will pay a retainer fee of \$18,000 (eighteen thousand U.S. dollars) at the signing of the Agreement and \$6,000 (six thousand U.S. dollars) on the first of each month till November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Payment will be made by wire transfer to Ms. Claire Sechler Merkel's bank account. This Agreement does not provide for any additional expenses to be charged to the Client.

In connection with the above, it is understood that Ms. Claire Sechler Merkel, in certain circumstances, may be required to register with the United States Government her activities on behalf of the Client and that Ms. Claire Sechler Merkel will comply fully with all requirements of the US law. In any event, Ms. Claire Sechler Merkel will not disclose without explicit authorization any information that the Client has made known to her in relation to activities undertaken under the present Agreement.

In witness where whereof, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

Republic of Bulgaria

  
Elena Poptodorova  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary  
of the Republic of Bulgaria

  
Claire Sechler Merkel  
International Consultant

Date: June 24, 2002