



Prof. Alex P. Schmid
Department of Political Science
Leiden University
Wassenaarseweg 52
2333 AK Leiden
The Netherlands

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter serves to recommend drs. Caspar ten Dam who completed his academic education in Political Science at Leiden University in the fall of 1997. Mr. ten Dam wrote his Master thesis 'Fragile Peace in Macedonia' under my guidance. It was an mature piece of work, showing originality in its conceptual framework and a very developed political judgement. The thesis was based on a paper he wrote the year before for my course 'Conflict, Conflict Resolution and International Negotiations' and was revised and updated to serve as Master thesis. It included a political risk assessment and prognosis which came very close to the actual political developments one year later.

Caspar ten Dam proved to be able to perform high-quality work in a very short time, using a great variety of sources. Characteristic for him are determination and independent judgment. He has also shown his capacities as driving force behind the 'Committee for Former Yugoslavia' which pleaded for a determined European response to the genocide in Bosnia. He managed to raise public awareness in the Netherlands and thereby probably contributed to a change in the political climate.

What I liked about him is his intellectual curiosity and his ability to swim against the stream. As his teacher I am confident that he will perform whatever task is given to him with a great sense of responsibility and professional competence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.P. Schmid'.

Dr. Alex P. Schmid

Leiden, 20 October 1997.