



March 2007

President Klaus in Washington



President Vaclav Klaus met with U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney at the White House March 9. They discussed a range of issues, including the possibility of cooperation on missile defense against potential developing threats from the Middle East. The Vice President commended the Czech Republic's continuing contributions to global security as a strong NATO ally and stressed the U.S. commitment to Euro-Atlantic security. President Klaus, accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Richard Graber, also met with Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and other senior U.S. officials in Washington. Outside the nation's capital, President Klaus met with state and business leaders in Texas, Louisiana and Alabama, as well as prominent members of the Czech-American community.

New Consular Section Opened

Ambassador Graber and Ms. Jitka Polakova, who has worked on consular issues at the Embassy for 38 years, cut the ribbons on March 2, to celebrate the completion of the U.S. Embassy's Consular Section Improvement Project.



The Consular section has expanded its services areas, to include a waiting area that showcases the early history of Mala Strana.

Representative of the Foreign and Interior Ministries, as well as diplomats, journalists and members of the Embassy staff were there to view the beautifully restored Renaissance ceiling panels and improved consular service areas for American and Czech citizens.

Meeting Tomorrow's Leaders Today

Working closely with the Rotary Club of Prague, Ambassador Graber hosted a group of 15 gifted Czech high school students for a full day of activities, briefings and lively discussions at the International School of Prague and at the U.S. Embassy, ending with a reception at the Ambassador's Residence on February 26. The Embassy believes reaching out to young people and demystifying the work of the Embassy are key to promoting openness and mutual understanding. "I am interested in building a strong relationship with young people because they represent the future of this country," Ambassador Graber said, noting more activities are planned.



Czech "Young Ambassadors" visiting classes at the International School of Prague

Visiting Pilsen March 12, Ambassador Graber met at the University of Western Bohemia with university leaders, as well as Czech and American students to mark the tenth anniversary of exchange program between the university and Marquette University of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He had a discussion with a group of 35 American and Czech students and professors whose work focuses on case studies in economics. The Ambassador praised the active and long-standing relationship between the university and Pilsen's special role promoting Czech-U.S. relations. Pilsen was liberated by American troops in 1945.

Ambassador Debates Missile Defense on Czech TV

Ambassador Graber participated in the talk show in Czech TV Sunday news feature "Otazky Vaclava Moravce" on March 4, which was wholly devoted to the topic of missile defense and the proposed construction of a related radar facility near Pribram. Questioned about the viability of the project, Ambassador Graber said that the money for the project has been appropriated and that "both Democrats and Republicans care very much about the security of our allies." He also noted the importance of promoting informed discourse and addressing the questions raised by mayors of the Brdy area, politicians and NGOs.

Roma Integration Program Concludes

During the past four years, the U.S. government-funded Roma Integration Program has worked intensively in Bruntal, Chomutov and Pardubice to enable these communities to peacefully resolve conflicts and cultivate consensus around pressing issues involving the Roma community. As the program came to an end March 8, DCM Munter joined USAID Regional Director Ray Kirkland and Czech Minister for Human Rights and National Minorities Issues Džamila Stehliková in Prague to salute PartnersCzech, the local NGOs and community leaders whose work has been vital to the success of the program.



NGOs and U.S. Embassy representatives mark the successful work of the Roma Integration Program.

USAID provided nearly \$2.8 million in assistance to the Roma Integration Program in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, including nearly \$650,000 (approximately 13.9 million CZK) to the Czech Republic.

American Center Hosts Vital Discussions

On February 27, Petr Suchý of Masaryk University, Antonín Rašek of Charles University and Antonín Berdych of the Association for International Affairs joined together for a public discussion on "North Korea and Global Security." Organized by the American Center and moderated by Martin Ehl of *Hospodářské noviny*, they examined North Korea's nuclear and ballistic tests and diplomatic progress in curbing related tensions. You can listen to the event in Czech on <http://prague.usembassy.gov/>

And Commemorates 50th Anniversary of the European Union

Visiting American scholar Roy Ginsberg spoke to capacity audiences in regional capitals Brno, Olomouc and Pilsen and participated in a lively prime-time TV debate with leading Czech politicians, including the former Foreign Minister and Commissioner for EU Affairs. Skidmore College professor and author of *Demystifying the European Union: The Enduring Logic of Regional Integration*, Ginsberg also exchanged views with think-tank pundits at a panel discussion in the



Embassy's American Center on March 14. It is also available as an Audio file on the U.S. Embassy website.

To learn more about events at the American Center, or to arrange for an American diplomat to visit a school or speak at an event, please contact the American Center by phone at 257-530-640.

Also, students and teachers may be interested in the English version of *USA History in Brief*, an excellent resource which has just been published online at: <http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/historybrf/index.htm>

Upcoming Events

- April 3 The Association of Mediators of the Czech Republic sponsors one-day workshop on conflict resolution with American expert Thomas Smith. English with Czech translation provided.
- April 11 The NGO *People In Need* will host a one-day seminar for Czech teachers, on drawing the lessons of human rights from the presentations of the *One World Film Festival*.

Everyone is welcome at the American Center for Thursday evening films, beginning at 6:00 pm:

- April 5 Award-winning American Indie Film
- April 12 American Documentary
- April 19 One World Festival films on Czech minorities in Romania and Kazakhstan
- April 26 MOFFOM Festival film - *Music in Afghanistan*

for more information about the screenings please head to <http://prague.usembassy.gov/filmovectvrtky.html>

The annual US-EU Summit will be held in Washington, D.C. beginning April 30, 2007.

Thank you to the 22 members of the U.S. Embassy community who donated blood on March 1 for the Stresovice Military Hospital!



Mrs. Alexandria Graber, second from the right, with hospital staff at the U.S. Embassy blood drive, March 1.

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