



April 2007

Ambassador Edelman Visits Prague

U.S. Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Ambassador Eric Edelman visited Prague March 27 for discussions on missile defense cooperation in Europe with senior Czech officials at the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs. Edelman stressed the compatibility of the future U.S. and NATO missile defense systems, with NATO defending European territory from short and medium missile attack and the U.S. system built to defend allies against a long-range missile attack. "The nature of our negotiations is bilateral, but we hold these negotiations in a transparent way with regard to NATO." Speaking on Czech Television, both Edelman and Foreign Minister Schwarzenberg stressed a commitment to dialogue with European allies and Russia on the topic. On March 28, the Czech government announced its intention to pursue negotiations with the United States on missile defense cooperation.



Edelman, left and Deputy Minister of Defense Bartak talk to journalists

Ambassador Graber Comes to Ostrava

Ambassador Graber traveled to Ostrava, a region noted for its rapidly growing economy, March 26-27. Following meetings with Hejtman Evzen Tosenovsky, Lord Mayor Petr Kajnar, and members of the American Chamber of Commerce, the Ambassador participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony of Wisconsin manufacturer Briggs & Stratton's new plant in Ostrava. Later he moderated a business roundtable for US and Czech representatives of the local business community, which focused on the importance of transparency in business and government. Visiting Ostrava's Technical University, he discussed the



Ambassador Graber with racers Karel and Ales Loprais

value of cooperation with local companies and other ways to foster research and development. The United States is the largest investor in Czech research and development projects. Ambassador Graber also made stops at a private hospital and at Tatra, the historic Czech manufacturer of heavy trucks now under American ownership. The final stop was at ON Semiconductor, a U.S. company that has long been in the Czech Republic.



Ambassador Graber, left, with Rector Tomas Cermak in front of the Technical University in Ostrava

U.S. Embassy Co-organizes Workshop on Transformational Diplomacy

Ambassador Graber opened a three-day workshop for NGOs from the Visegrad countries on transformational diplomacy. Practitioners and government officials discussed how the experiences of transition countries like



Pavol Demeš and John Glenn from the German Marshall Fund participate in March 30 workshop

the Czech and Slovak Republics, along with Poland and Hungary, can be applied to aspiring democracies throughout the world today. The workshop, co-sponsored by the U.S. Embassy and Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also offered key players in Europe and the U.S. the chance to network with Central European NGOs active in democracy promotion. The workshop also included a special session for interested Fulbright alumni, many of whom are prominent in politics, government and business and have exceptional skills to offer colleagues engaged in building the institutions of democracy.

Mediation, Not Litigation

The Prague-based NGO Alliance for Mediation and Conflict Resolution, in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy, organized two days of seminars and workshops on alternative techniques of mediation and conflict resolution, an effective and often cost-saving approach in resolving disputes outside of the court system. Thomas Smith PhD, specialist in social psychology and conflict resolution, lead the workshops for a group of some 50 professional or potential professional mediators. Alternative dispute resolution is used in the United States and elsewhere to alleviate the court system overburdened by cases where a negotiated settlement can be reached by the parties. <http://www.amcr.cz>



Czech Students Heading to Prestigious U.S. Universities



The Fulbright Scholarship Program will enable to 15 of talented Czech university students to continue their studies in September 2007 at prestigious American universities like Columbia, Harvard and MIT.

Their areas of study range from laws and international relations to American studies. In addition to the Fulbright stipend, scholars also compete for and often receive additional financial support from their American university. The students can use this financial help for research work or PhD studies. Additional information can be found online at: <http://www.fulbright.cz/english.shtml>

DCM Munter Nominated as Ambassador to Serbia

All of us at the Embassy were proud to learn that the White House has announced its intention to nominate our Deputy Chief of Mission Cameron Munter to become the next United States Ambassador to Serbia. His nomination must, of course, be confirmed by the United States Senate. "This



Deputy Chief of Mission Cameron Munter

is a wonderful and well deserved accomplishment for Cameron. While we will miss Cameron, Marilyn and Anna in Prague, the United States and its mission in Belgrade will be very well served," says Ambassador Graber. The

Munters do not plan to depart Prague until school ends at the middle of June. Cameron Munter is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. Prior to serving in Prague, he served as Director of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Mosul, Iraq. Earlier in his career, he served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Warsaw. He earned a bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a PhD from Johns Hopkins University.

New Information Kiosk in Front of the Embassy



The U.S. Embassy has a new electronic information kiosk now on the wall at the entrance of the building. The kiosk provides information for Czech citizens and American nationals on visa and consular issues, Embassy hours, and the many activities of the American Center.

Upcoming Events

- April 24 Panel Discussion with the Fulbright Commission on Czech and American Education. 16:30 – 18:30, American Center
- April 26 – 27 National Project. Citizen Hearings with participation of the American Civitas partner's organizations. 08:00 – 16:30. American Center
- May 2 Presentation by Greg Kessler, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL), Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. 16:00 - 17:30. American Center
- May 2 IDET – U.S. Pavilion at Defense & Security Trade Show in Brno
- May 3 – 6 The Bookworld featuring John Irving and Francine Prose. Vystaviste Prague
- May 4 – 6 Celebrations – Liberation of Pilsen
- May 15 Czech – American Award for Talented Students. 13:00, Info USA, Brno

Thursday evening films, beginning at 6:00 pm at the American Center:

- April 26 *Music in Afghanistan*
- May 3 Award-winning American indie film
- May 10 *The Perilous Fight*

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

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