



May 2007

Liberation Parades Highlight U.S.-Czech Ties



Jeep Convoy in front of the U.S. Embassy, Prague

Under a stunning blue sky on May 3, the 40 American WWII vehicles driven by Czech enthusiasts gathered in front of the U.S. Embassy in Prague, before they would their way through the towns of western Bohemia liberated by the American soldiers in 1945. It was the Embassy's privilege to participate in over 39 events throughout the region to honor the veterans and recall our shared history with Czech people. The American diplomatic and military officers involved deeply appreciated the warmth and hospitality of townspeople from Domažlice to Kdyně.



Ambassador Graber in Pilsen

Ambassador Richard Graber, his family and his parents, visited Pilsen to participate in the official program of celebrations of the liberation of West Bohemian region by U.S. troops. During the visit, he presented historic material to this Pilsen archives; visited the George W. Patton museum and display of WWII historic vehicles and participated in the annual celebrations at the "Thank You America" memorial.

U.S.-Czech Foreign Ministers Meet in Washington

Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg made an official visit to Washington April 18-22. During his stay, he met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff and other U.S. representatives. Welcoming him to the State Department, Secretary Rice characterized the Czech

Republic as "our great ally" who stands with the United States in the war on terror in Afghanistan, in Iraq, and also "stands with us on the basis of common values to fight for the rights of people in Cuba, in Belarus, in Burma, to stand with us for the defeat of tyranny and the victory of freedom." President Bush will be visiting Prague June 4-5, 2007.



Missile Defense Discussions Continue

General Henry Obering, the head of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, visited Prague April 23 to meet with senior representatives of the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, parliamentarians and journalists. During this visit he stressed the advances Iran and others are making in developing missile systems that threaten transatlantic interests and the technical aspects of the system available to defend our territories. The first negotiations, which concerned the legal aspects of positioning U.S. personnel related to a missile defense radar on Czech territory, concluded in Prague on May 11. Both sides agreed that NATO SOFA will form the basis of the future agreement. A new round of negotiations on the radar and missile defense cooperation begins on May 22. U.S. Embassy representatives and experts from the Ministry of Defense and Foreign Affairs traveled to Rokycany and to Příbram in the Brdy area in mid-May to explain the missile defense system to mayors, local public and media. For further information, check <http://prague.usembassy.gov>.

Ambassador Hikes in Brdy Forests, Talks to Local People

Ambassador Graber visited the Brdy Mountains on May 8, meeting with mayors and representatives of towns of Dobřív and Mirošov, hiking one of the newly opened stretches in the woods of the Brdy military area, and talking with farmers who raised many questions regarding the proposed U.S. radar facility in the region.



Ambassador with his wife and Dobřív representatives

Writer Francine Prose Speaks to Her Fans in Prague



Francine Prose in the Book World Festival, Prague

Francine Prose, renowned author of fourteen books of fiction, essayist, critic and, since March 2007, President of American Center of PEN visited the Czech Republic May 2-7. She talked to university students in Brno and Olomouc about the process of reading and writing, and explained the role and goals of PEN in the United States. Francine Prose was also invited to speak at the Book World fair. She also shared her writing experience with new writers - finalists of a country wide essay contest organized by the Society of Friends of the USA. Her book *Hunters and Gatherers* was published in Czech (translated by Hana Ulmanová) by ARGO publishing house (Lovci a sběračky plodů). This was her third visit to the Czech Republic.

Ambassador Meets Scouts, Travels to Usti, Speaks on TV



Ambassador with scouts at the celebration of scouting in the Czech Republic

During a busy month, Ambassador Richard Graber traveled to the Usti region. He noted the beauty and great potential for U.S. companies in the Usti region. Elsewhere in the Czech Republic, the Ambassador was present at the opening of the brand new Cadillac-Corvette-Hummer Experience Center at Průhonice near Prague that will provide 680 square meters for American brands. On the Old Town Square in Prague on April 21, Graber met with scouts at the opening ceremony of the celebration of the Centenary of Scouting in the Czech Republic. The Ambassador's media presentations included the morning talk show in the Czech TV, Radio 6, and an interview for the weekly news magazine *Týden*.

Former U.S. Police Chief Works with Czech Cops

Former D.C. Metropolitan Police Chief Charles Ramsey and Chuck Wexler, Executive Director of the Police Executive Research Forum, visited the Czech Republic May 13 – 16. They exchanged views with senior representatives of the Ministry of Interior and police on the role of law enforcement officials in society. They also had the opportunity to work with officials engaged in police reform and drafting reform legislation for the Czech Republic. Speaking with students and teachers at Prague Police High School, Ramsey stressed the importance of winning the trust of the community and getting residents to cooperate with uniformed officers in identifying criminal activities. This exchange program was made possible by the Department of State.



Ramsey and Wexler in the American Center in Prague

American Center Library Online

The American Center is pleased to announce that its library collection can now be found online. Books from the „InfoUSA“ centers in Pilsen and Brno are also included. The books focus mainly on U.S. foreign policy, diplomacy or security issues. More information on the free use of these books is available at <http://prague.usembassy.gov/ac-library.html>

Upcoming Events

May 24	Opening of the Andy Warhol exhibition. Moravian Gallery, Brno, 5 p.m.
May 28 - 29	Professor Richard Pells. Info USA, Brno: May 28, 4 p.m. American Center, Prague: May 29, 5 p.m.
May 30	Opening of the <i>Revealing Chicago</i> exhibition. Photographs by Terry Evans. Prague Clam-Gallas Palace 5 p.m.
June 4 - 5	President Bush and Mrs. Bush visit the Czech Republic
<u>Thursday evening films, beginning at 6:00 pm at the American Center:</u>	
May 24	<i>On Tour with Neubauten</i>
May 31	<i>Hustle and Flow</i>

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