



President Bush Visits the Czech Republic

“Freedom is the best way to unleash the creativity and economic potential of a nation. Freedom is the only ordering of a society that leads to justice. And human freedom is the only way to achieve human rights.... The most powerful weapon in the struggle against extremism is not bullets or bombs -- it is the universal appeal of freedom. Freedom is the design of our Maker, and the longing of every soul.” (President Bush, speaking in Prague June 5)



The official arrival ceremony for President Bush at the Prague Castle

President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush visited the Czech Republic on June 4 – 5. Prague marked the first stop on his European tour, which included the G8 summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, Poland, Italy, Albania and Bulgaria. Bush met with Czech President Vaclav Klaus, Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek and other Czech leaders. Missile defense and visa issues dominated bilateral discussions. Speaking at a conference on security and democracy, the President underscored America’s deep appreciation for the brave efforts of political dissidents around the world in pressing for greater freedom.



First Ladies Laura Bush and Livia Klausová at the Strahov Monastery

Laura Bush and Livia Klausová visited the Castle gardens, Lobkovicz Palace, and the Strahov Monastery, where they were shown antiquities and the first Czech book -- from the beginning of the 16th century -- that mentions the discovery of the North American continent. This was the second visit of President and Mrs. Bush to Prague.

Embassy Introduces Online Visa Appointment System

Beginning June 1, applicants for all types of non-immigrant visas to the United States are able to schedule their visa interview appointments on-line. There is no fee charged for scheduling an appointment. The new appointment system is available through the U.S. Embassy’s webpage at <http://prague.usembassy.gov/>. This new system will save applicants time and money. It replaces the call center that applicants used to schedule their appointments. Applicants for non-immigrant visas are now asked to go to the web site, fill out the electronic visa application form (EVAF), and then select their own appointment date using an interactive calendar. Applicants must print the EVAF and bring it to the interview, along with the receipt showing the date and time of the scheduled interview. About one thousand Czechs have applied online since the beginning of June. Applicants who do not have access to the internet can apply through a convenient travel agency.

Former Justice Sandra Day O’Connor Speaks at CEELI



Justice O’Connor talks to a reporter from Hospodářské noviny

Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor attended CEELI’s Annual Meeting Seminar and gave the keynote address at the dedication of CEELI’s newly renovated Villa Gröbovka in Prague. CEELI focuses, through training and education, on advancing the rule of law in Central Europe, the former Soviet Union and beyond. Judges from more than 30 countries, including the chief justices of several countries, the Supreme Court of Afghanistan, and Iraqi judges have participated in CEELI programs. Justice O’Connor has been heavily involved with the judicial training institute since its inception in 1990. A dedicated public servant, Justice O’Connor was the first woman on the U.S. Supreme Court, serving from 1981 to 2006. She has written a book with her brother, H. Alan Day entitled *Lazy B: Growing up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest* about the early years which shaped her character.

“Revealing Chicago” Exhibition Opens

Did you know that Chicago is Prague’s Sister City in the United States? The Clam-Gallas Palace in downtown Prague is now hosting an Embassy-sponsored exhibition of 63 aerial photographs entitled “Revealing Chicago,” which portrays the urban, suburban and rural environments of America’s largest Midwestern city. Photographer Terry Evans produced the series of photographs to capture the city’s growth, its use of open space and its unique neighborhoods, transportation systems, industrial zones and parks. It also depicts the challenges facing cities like Chicago and Prague, along with some potential solutions. More at <http://www.revealingchicago.org/>

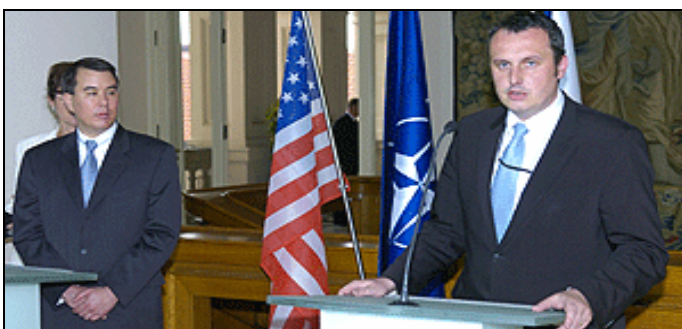


A work from the Revealing Chicago exhibition, in Prague through August 19

Prague Writer’s Festival Attracts American Greats

American writers E.L. Doctorow, Gary Snyder and Aleksandar Hemon participated in this year’s Prague Writers' Festival with support from the U.S. Embassy. They spoke June 6 to a packed American Center event about the challenges of writing about the human condition and conveying emotions in today’s turbulent world. In recognition of the Writer’s Festival, Ambassador Graber hosted a reception for some 50 international literary figures, including Czech intellectuals, writers and students.

Missile Defense Negotiations



U.S. Assistant Secretary John C. Rood and Czech Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tomáš Pojar

Official negotiations between the U.S. and the Czech Republic on the construction of a radar facility in Brdy continued with the visit of Assistant Secretary of State John C. Rood May 22. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tomáš Pojar heads the Czech negotiating team. Independently, Massachusetts Institute of Technology radar

expert Gerald Augeri spoke with mayors of the Brdy area about technical aspects of the radar. U.S. Ambassador to NATO Victoria Nuland was also in Prague to address a conference June 1 on the complementary US-NATO roles in protecting Europe from missiles launched by rogue states.

Visit of Under Secretary Karen Hughes

Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy Karen Hughes was in Prague June 11-13 to attend an annual meeting of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, which oversees the work of RFE/RL. Hughes also traveled to Pilsen, where she met with participants of the Junior Ambassador program and visited the Pilsner Urquell brewery. In an interview with *Lidove noviny*, she talked about the U.S. role in the world, “waging peace” to counter terrorist ideology, and the importance of freedom and democracy as underscored by President Bush.



Hughes with Junior Ambassadors at the American Center, Pilsen

Czech-American Award to Jan Petrov

The annual Czech-American Award for Talented Students was awarded to Charles University Faculty of Law student Jan Petrov for his work, "The General Responsibilities of a Managing Board in a Stock Company: A Czech-American-German Comparison." This academic competition was open to all students who wrote a thesis on a topic related to the U.S. Special emphasis was placed this year on sociology and economics. The winner was awarded CZK 10,000 and his thesis will be published.

Upcoming Events

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| June 21 | Panel discussion – Urban development, bike paths. Am. Center, Prague 5 p.m. |
| June 25 | Governor of Georgia Sonny Perdue visits the Czech Republic with a trade mission. |
| <u>Thursday films, beginning at 6:00 pm at the American Center, Tržiště 13, Prague:</u> | |
| June 21 | “Heaven Come Down” |
| June 28 | “A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints” |

Happy summer holidays to all students!

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