



September 2008

Soviet August '68 Invasion Reflections in American Center

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia, the American Center organized an August 20 lecture by prominent U.S. military



historian Edward Luttwak. The historian, who was also interviewed by Czech journalists during his stay in Prague, focused on the U.S. positions and reflections on the events of 1968. Luttwak is a Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies

(CSIS) senior associate and has served as a consultant to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. military, and a number of allied governments as well as international corporations. He is a frequent lecturer at universities and military colleges in the United States and abroad and has testified before several congressional committees and presidential commissions.

The lecture also opened a unique American Center photo exhibition of Czech-American journalist Dušan Neumann's view of the invasion. None of Neumann's photographs had ever been seen in the Czech Republic. See photo gallery at fpolicy.america.gov/fpolicy/security/peacekeeping.html.

On August 18, Ambassador Richard Graber attended on the Wenceslas Square in Prague the opening ceremony of "Prague 1968" exhibition of photographs by Austrian photo reporter Franz Goess, who was on assignment in Czechoslovakia in 1968. The event was held under the auspices of Austrian Ambassador Margot Klestil-Loeffler and Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg.



Embassy Welcomes New Officers

The Public Affairs Section is pleased to welcome two new colleagues: John Law takes over as Public Affairs Officer and John Vance as Press Attaché. They replace Michael Hahn and Vicki Silverman, respectively. Law's previous assignments include Press Attaché in Madrid (2003-2007) and Caracas (1999-2003), Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer in Santiago, Chile (1995-99), American Center Director in Taegu, Republic of Korea (1993-95) and Assistant Press Attaché in Seoul (1991-93). He speaks Czech, Spanish and Korean. He joined the Foreign Service in 1990.

Vance has served as Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer in Bogota, Colombia; and Press Attaché in Jakarta, Indonesia, and Santiago, Chile. Most recently he worked in Washington, D.C., as the Assistant Director of the Active Response Corps in the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization.

Embassy Commercial Specialist Visits AACC

On July 27 - 31, 2008, the U.S. Commercial Service's (CS) Prague office took part in [AACC Trade Fair](#) in Washington,



DC. AACC is the world's largest trade fair dedicated exclusively to clinical laboratory science, with more than

1,900 booths and 700 participating companies. Commercial Specialist Veronika Novakova briefed U.S. companies participating in the "Showtime on Czech Health Care and Diagnostics" market. Prior to the fair, C.S. Novakova also participated at Health Care Team training and, in her role as Health Care Team-Europe liaison, presented on the European market health care opportunities to the team members.

Czech Protest Song Singer in Hawaiian Program

An unusual mix of Czech Americans and Czechs met in the garden of the Wratislav Palace in Prague on August 5, under the shadow of historic Prague Castle, to participate in an American Center's summer program about the state of Hawaii. Well-known dissident and protest singer/songwriter Pavel Vane performed songs and described an emotional ceremony in Pearl Harbor at which he met veterans of the 1941 Japanese attack that brought the U.S. into the Second World War. Czech-American Vasek Penkava, who escaped to Hawaii from Czechoslovakia during the Cold War, joined Vane. Penkava, a leader in Honolulu's local Czech community, organizes programs for Czech artists in the islands. Former Fulbrighter Jan

Votypka, who before the fall of the Berlin Wall wrote a book about U.S. geography, spoke about Hawaii's natural wonders. Well-known Czech photographer Leos Simanek presented his new book and calendar about Hawaii, and invited guests to a slide show program he will present in several Czech cities this fall. The event drew an audience of 140 Czech professionals, American Center patrons and media.

American Street Artists Flaunt It at NAMES Festival in Prague

Two experienced New York street artists, Brad Downey and



Craig Costello, took part in the first Czech NAMES street art festival in Prague 9's Trafacka Gallery from August 26 to September 6. Street sculptor Downey, for whom street art is "a free bridge between elitist art and mass entertainment," is famous for bringing traffic signs and lights to life. Graffiti minimalist Costello is known for his canvasses with trickling colors. Their visit to the Czech Republic, which the embassy sponsored, was a first for both. Learn more about American and European street artists at www.namesfest.net.

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New Books in the American Center! Come Check Them Out...

The American Center regularly updates its library collection, which focuses mainly on U.S. foreign policy, media and culture as well as on global issues. This summer, there are around one hundred new arrivals, including the international bestseller, "The Post-American World" by Fareed Zakaria; "The Audacity of Hope," by Barack Obama; or "The Photographer's Life," a coffee-table book by famous photographer Annie Leibovitz. The entire catalogue plus a list of videos and subscribed journals and magazines can be found on <http://prague.usembassy.gov/ac-library.html>



U.S. Real Estate Company Geared Up to Break into Czech Market

New Jersey-based Better Homes and Gardens (BH&G) Real Estate Company is planning to expand into the Czech market. BH&G is part of Realogy Corporation, the biggest

U.S. real-estate franchising company. Company representatives currently seek Czech partners and have arranged business meetings in Prague on October 1-3. BH&G Real Estate offers a full range of brokerage and sales services to home buyers and sellers. To learn more about possible cooperation or franchising opportunities with U.S. companies, please contact the U.S. Commercial Service in Prague at tel. 257 022 310 or visit www.buyusa.gov.



The Embassy Has a New Look!

The U.S. Embassy in Prague launched a new logo you will see at Embassy events. Famous logo designer Jiwon Shin, who created logos for some of the world's best-known companies, such as Microsoft and Philips, designed the logo.



Documentaries from the Sundance Festival

The One World Film Festival and the U.S. Embassy in Prague are pleased to cooperate on a 3-day program offering the best documentaries from the famous Sundance Film Festival. The local festival will take place on September 16-18 at Světozor cinema in Prague. Among the guests will be American filmmaker Edet Belzberg, who directed one of the movies. Held in the same high regard



as world-famous festivals such as Cannes, Venice or Berlin, the Sundance Film Festival is held every January in the U.S. state of Utah. As the largest showcase of independent films in the

USA, Sundance always draws the attention of film critics and filmmakers alike. For more information on the Top Docs festival in Prague, please visit

http://www.jedensvet.cz/ow/2008/index_en.php?id=483

Upcoming Events

- Sep 07-11 International Symposium of American Studies – "America in Motion", Palacky Univ., Olomouc
- Sep 08-09 Prague Security Studies Institute conference - "Asia-Pacific Security Challenges, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 9 am.
- Sep 11 Exhibition "For the Republic!" of Vojtech Preissig's WWI posters. City of Prague Archives, Husova 20, 5 pm.
- Sep 18 Conference on Iraq with military strategist John Nagl, Ministry of Defence, 2 pm.

<http://prague.usembassy.gov>