



## Pilsen and Prague Commemorate World War II Liberation



Members of Czech military club unfurl U.S. flag at U.S. Embassy (Photo: Jakub Hornek)

Pilsen and Prague celebrated the 64th anniversary of the end of World War II on April 30 and May 6. In Prague, a convoy of about 30 historic military vehicles paraded from Kampa Park to the U.S. Embassy before continuing to western Bohemia. Chargé d’Affaires Mary Thompson-Jones officially launched the convoy. Their Czech owners have maintained all the vehicles, which included Dodge, Willys and Ford jeeps, in mint condition. On May 6, Pilsen celebrated its liberation by American troops. At the ‘Thank you, America!’ Memorial, speakers honored the sacrifice of the men and women who fought for our freedom. In her address, Chargé Thompson-Jones said: “In 1945 it was young American soldiers who fought and died to liberate Czechoslovakia. Today, it is Czech soldiers who serve in faraway lands to help bring security and freedom to other peoples. In Afghanistan and in Kosovo, Czechs

work closely with the United States and dozens of international partners to offer the people there a chance for democracy and self-determination.” The Chargé hosted a traditional luncheon honoring American and Belgian veterans and opened the “Sky Diaries” exhibition by American Artist Barbara Benish, which honored World War II pilots. The Nobel family donated to the Patton Memorial a bust of Charles Noble, who commanded the U.S. troops in Pilsen. Embassy officials also attended WWII commemorations throughout Bohemia, i.e. in Cheb, Benesov, Susice, Strakonice, Domazlice and Klatovy.

## Senior U.S. Officials Visit Prague

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Deputy Secretary Jane Holl Lute visited Prague on April 28.

Lute discussed human trafficking and its solutions in a round table with representatives of NGOs La Strada, Caritas and Organization for Migration (IOM). Czech and Swedish Ministers of



U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and his Czech counterpart Jiri Pospisil exchange ratification documents (Photo: Czech Ministry of Justice)

Justice Jiri Pospisil and Beatrice Ask, together with EU Justice Commissioner Jacques Barrot and Attorney General Eric Holder then exchanged ratification documents of the Extradition Treaty and the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty between the European Union and the United States. Under the new cooperative agreements, U.S. and European investigators will be able to move more quickly to catch and prosecute international terrorists, drug dealers and child pornographers.

## Pollster Zogby on Obama, New Book

Renowned political pollster John Zogby spoke at the American Center on April 20th about U.S. politics and the Barack Obama phenomenon, as the President’s popularity remains solid after 100 days in office. Zogby also introduced his latest book, *The Way We’ll Be-The Zogby Report on the Transformation of the American Dream*. In the book Zogby uses his extensive polls and surveys to describe the current perception of the American ideal. He also talked in Prague to Czech media and joined a round table discussion with his son Jeremy and Czech university students. John Zogby founded his worldwide research and marketing firm Zogby International in 1984 and has since then conducted polls in more than 70 countries. He currently writes a weekly column for Forbes.com and a monthly column for Politics magazine. More on Zogby International on <http://www.zogby.com/>.



John Zogby talks to journalists in the American Center (Photo: Michal Stichauer)

## U.S. Embassy Hosts Summit Meeting

The OSCE Minsk Group organized a meeting of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian President Serzh Sargsian on May 7 at the U.S.



*The OSCE Group Co-Chairs talk to journalist in U.S. Ambassador's residence  
(Photo: David Josek, AP)*

Ambassador's residence in Prague. The meeting is the fourth between the Presidents in less than a year. The Minsk Group Co-

Chairs believe each of the meetings has brought the sides closer to a breakthrough. Today's meeting was another step in that process. The Presidents welcomed a plan to intensify their shuttle diplomacy in order to reach a breakthrough. The Co-Chairs proposed an early-June summit between the presidents in St. Petersburg.

## "Totalitarian Circus" Opens in Prague

"The Calendarium of Totality," a U.S. Embassy-supported traveling outdoor exhibition opened on Náměstí



*Outdoor exhibition "The Calendarium of Totality" on Náměstí Republiky in Prague  
(Photo: Michal Stichauer)*

Republiky in Prague at the end of April. The 30m long installation is shaped as a communist era bus stop, and provides a timeline of key events in Poland, East

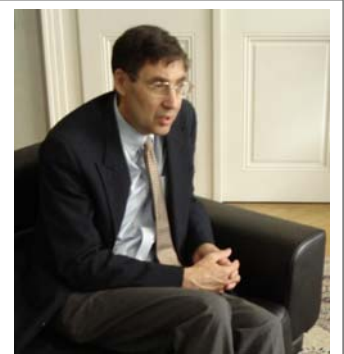
Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia during the Communist period. The Calendarium is part of a larger project commemorating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain. The project explains for a younger generation the grim and sometimes grotesque circumstances of daily life in a communist country. More information about the exhibition is available on [www.nezapomente.cz](http://www.nezapomente.cz) or [www.oponaops.eu](http://www.oponaops.eu)

## International Roma Day Celebrations

On April 8, representatives of the U.S. Embassy participated in celebrations marking International Roma Day in two cities in Northern Bohemia, Chomutov and Most. The U.S. Embassy delegation brought a videotaped message by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton marking the occasion. The group then moved to the city of Most where they shared the Secretary's message at the opening of an exhibition called "Lost World" showing pictures of pre-WWII Czech Roma.

## U.S. Ambassador Discusses U.S. Reconstruction Strategies

State Department Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization John Herbst visited Prague on April 24 to inform Czech Foreign and Defense Ministry officials about U.S. efforts to develop reconstruction strategies in conflict zones. In an interview with Radio Free Europe and Czech Television Herbst said his office, which oversees all major U.S. agencies' stabilization efforts, was established in the wake of the invasion of Iraq in 2003 and now focuses mainly on Afghanistan. Herbst noted the importance of international partners to help in Afghanistan, but emphasized that allied efforts must be properly coordinated in order to achieve maximal results.



*Ambassador Herbst in American Center  
(Photo: Jakub Hornek)*

## Embassy Commemorates International Dawn Chorus Day

Every European knows the sparrow, the falcon and the blackbird. But if asked to name North American bird species, most Europeans would have a hard time identifying any beyond the easily recognizable eagle on the U.S. seal. The U.S. Embassy in Prague used the occasion of the International Day of Songbirds (May 3) to assemble a montage of North America's ten most recognized birds. You can see or hear them in cities and wildernesses across the United States...or on our website! As the birds follow the warming weather to the Northern hemisphere we invite you to enjoy a bit of nature at: <http://prague.usembassy.gov/birds.html>.



### Upcoming Events

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| until May 25 | President Obama's visit through Czech professional photographers' eyes.<br>American Center, Trziste 13, Praha 1 |
| until August | Lincoln – the Greatest American President, exhibition, A.C.   |
| May 21       | "Wild West without Visas", a multimedia program, A.C. 5 p.m.  |
| May 26       | IMBA Director Mike Van Abel's lecture, A.C., 11 am.   |