



ESTONIA: CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTS U.S. BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ESTONIA



Ambassador Phillips and Foreign Minister Paet unveil the U.S. Embassy's new commemorative plaque, October 22, 2007. [Jay Raman, U.S. Embassy Tallinn]

Few people know that the U.S. had a Mission (diplomatic office) to Estonia between 1930 and 1940 before it was forced to close due to Soviet occupation. U.S. Ambassador to Estonia Stanley Davis Phillips and Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet commemorated this fact by unveiling a plaque at the entrance of the U.S. Embassy in Tallinn.

During the ceremony, both Ambassador Phillips and the Foreign Minister highlighted this year's 85th anniversary of U.S.-Estonian relations. The plaque, which is in English and Estonian, reads: "The U.S. Mission to the Republic of Estonia was located in this building from April 1, 1930 until September 5, 1940 when it was forced to close after the illegal incorporation of Estonia into the Soviet Union."

MACEDONIA: USAID LAUNCHES COUNTRYWIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM



Deputy Chief of Mission Navratil and Mayor of Karpos demonstrate ecological responsibility, November 15, 2007. [Olya Catto, U.S. Embassy Skopje]

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Tom Navratil joined the Mayor of Karpos, Andrej

Petrov, to announce the commencement of a project aimed at cleaning up Macedonia and creating economic opportunities for its citizens. Through the USAID program, ecological islands will be created throughout the country along with recycling bins

where people can deposit their used plastic containers. Public education campaigns will teach school children the importance of recycling and keeping the country clean. Separately, Macedonian businesses will be informed about the

RUSSIA: U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL RAISES AWARENESS ABOUT ENDANGERED LEOPARD

The U.S. Consulate General in Vladivostok recently pulled out all the stops to help protect the endangered Amur Leopard. Working closely with colleagues at the State Department, the U.S. Embassy in Budapest, and with U.S. and Russian scientists, the Consulate designed and funded a public outreach event that included the premier showing of a short documentary film and a lecture for over 100 guests from the local diplomatic, environmental, and scientific communities. The film will also be shown in schools to promote habitat conservation. In addition, the U.S. Consulate sponsored a critical field study on the leopards by U.S. veterinary expert Melody Roelke, who was able to conduct high-tech ultrasounds and EKG monitoring on two leopards.



U.S. veterinarian Melody Roelke examines an Amur Leopard, November 8, 2007. [Aleksey Chernykh, Wildlife Conservation Society]

MOLDOVA: RESTORATION OF COMMUNITY CENTER ENDS WITH A CELEBRATION



Ambassador Kirby receives a traditional gift of bread from Floresti residents, November 2007. [Sharon Ketchum, U.S. Embassy Chisinau]

At least half of the 300 residents of Floresti, Moldova joined U.S. Ambassador to Moldova Michael D. Kirby to celebrate the re-opening of the village Community Center after extensive remodeling managed by the U.S. Embassy in Chisinau's Office of Defense Cooperation. The United States spent over \$93,000 to renovate the community center, creating a valuable social and educational center for the small town. The repairs included painting, remodeling, installation of a water supply, sewage system, and a gas operated heating system, plus landscaping and creation of a playground. The community center now includes a pre-school, medical clinic, and social area. Village women sang a blessing song to consecrate the center, while two local children presented a traditional gift of bread to the Ambassador in thanks for America's role in improving the lives of the residents. Following remarks by the Ambassador and a tour of the new facility, everyone joined together to share a celebratory lunch. This project was administered through the United States European Command Humanitarian Assistance Program, and funded through generous donations of the American people.

SLOVAKIA: EXHIBIT OF AMERICAN INDIAN PHOTOS ENLIGHTENS BRATISLAVA

As part of the commemoration of National American Indian Heritage Month, the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava opened an exhibit of nearly 60 historic photographs by Edward S. Curtis, who documented the disappearing American Indian culture in the early 1900s. Former U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Rodolphe Vallee joined Professor Marta Botiková, Chair of the Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology Department at Comenius University and Nora W. Kennedy, Sherman Fairchild Conservator of Photographs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York to discuss the significance of these works. Earlier in the day, a troop of Slovak boy scouts erected a tepee to call attention to the skills they learned from American Indians. The Ambassador noted that the "the questions provoked by the photos in this exhibit are the same that Slovaks ask about their own cultural and ethnic



Slovak Boy Scouts pose with their leaders in front of the tepee they erected to commemorate National American Indian Heritage Month, November 8, 2007. [Dana Polcikova, U.S. Embassy Bratislava]

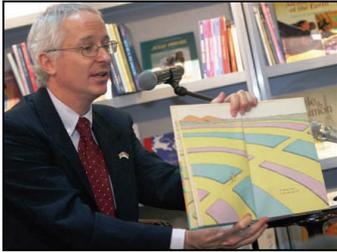
SLOVENIA: ROMA YOUTH BECOME DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS



It was a big day for 14 young boys and girls who participated in a video skills workshop organized by the Association for Preventive and Voluntary Work, co-funded by the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana. The project's aim is to support and facilitate integration of young Roma into the local environment by teaching them how to work with media equipment to create short documentaries picturing life in a Roma community. Local producers, trainers, and Roma community members established excellent relationships and the documentaries were later shown in a popular movie theater in the capital.

Above: Roma children make a video! October 1, 2007. [Sašo Kronegger, Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo mesto]

SERBIA: U.S. EMBASSY PARTICIPATES IN THE 52ND INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR



U.S. Ambassador to Serbia Cameron Munter reads to Serbian schoolchildren at the Belgrade Book Fair, October 22, 2007. [© FONET]

The Belgrade Book Fair, the third largest book fair in the world, features 800 exhibitors from across the globe and receives hundreds of thousands of visitors. The U.S. Embassy in Belgrade participated in the 52nd International Book Fair with a large booth showcasing American Corners, student exchanges, and the book translation program. Seven guest speakers were invited, including writers Debra Magpie Earling and William Vollmann, and inter-cultural communications professor Dr. Gary Weaver. The speakers participated in a series of lectures and presentations not only at the Book Fair, but also at several other American Corners and other institutions throughout the week. On "School Day" U.S. Ambassador to Serbia Cameron Munter visited the booth and read to a group of children.

SPAIN: U.S. MUSLIM WOMEN PROMOTE TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING

American Muslim Afeefa Syeed was invited by the U.S. Embassy in Madrid to share her views on issues such as diversity, cultural identity, and social responsibility. Ms. Syeed, a diversity consultant and multicultural trainer based in Northern Virginia, participated in an international seminar hosted by the Ortega y Gasset Foundation entitled "How to Prevent Violent Radicalization among Muslims" and gave talks to several groups, including high school students at a bilingual school, students at an Islamic school, teachers, and mediators. During her talks Ms. Syeed shared her own experiences as an American Muslim of Kashmiri origin and challenged students to think about positive ways they can contribute something to their communities and make a difference. In an inspirational session with 30 public school teachers, Ms. Syeed shared ideas and activities on how to teach students to value diversity and how to make learning more relevant and experiential.



American Muslim Afeefa Syeed is interviewed by a student for the school paper, November 6-8, 2007. [Macarena Moreno, U.S. Embassy Madrid]

HUNGARY: HUNGARIAN YOUTH DISCUSS CUBA'S DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION



U.S. Embassy Budapest hosts a video conference on Cuba's democratic transition, November 5, 2007. [Norbert Vitez, U.S. Embassy Budapest]

A spirited discussion on Cuba took place via video conference between youth representatives of four Hungarian parliamentary parties in Budapest and U.S. State Department Transition Coordinator Caleb McCarry from Washington, DC. The video conference, hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Budapest, began with an update on the situation in Cuba by McCarry and immediately turned to questions from the party representatives. Mr. McCarry, who oversees the operations of the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba, discussed potential areas for young people to contribute to Cuba's democratic transition. The Hungarian participants agreed that it is important for Hungary to support the democratization process. The video conference was the latest in a series of events hosted by the U.S. Embassy with the dual goal of providing young people an opportunity to engage directly with Washington experts while also fostering dialogue among Hungary's next generation of political leaders.

CZECH REPUBLIC: U.S. EMBASSY WELCOMES JUNIOR AMBASSADORS

U.S. Ambassador to Czech Republic Richard Graber and other U.S. Embassy in Prague officials welcomed the third group of Junior Ambassadors to the U.S. Embassy on November 15. Under the program, the U.S. Embassy asks Czech Rotary clubs to nominate the best and brightest students from their region; the students and their Rotary sponsors are then invited to a day at the U.S. Embassy, where the students are designated "Junior Ambassadors." The program is intended to introduce the work of the U.S. Embassy to future young leaders of the Czech Republic. The Junior Ambassadors and their Rotary sponsors were briefed at Ambassador Graber's residence on the work of different U.S. Embassy sections, followed by a luncheon in their honor. The day concluded with an awards ceremony in the Ambassador's office where Ambassador Graber congratulated the students on their achievements and noted that the U.S. Embassy will stay in touch with the Junior Ambassadors and their sponsors.



Junior Ambassadors with Regional Security Officer Jim Pelphrey and Marine Security Guard Sgt. Steven Pryor, November 15, 2007. [Alex McKnight, U.S. Embassy Prague]



KOSOVO: FIRST ROMA-LANGUAGE RADIO

The very first Kosovo-wide, Roma-language radio station, Radio Romano Avazo went on the air on November 9th. Based in Prizren, 50 miles south of Pristina, the station will reach several communities of the estimated 50,000 Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians in Kosovo. The U.S. Office in Pristina (USOP) contributed \$30,700 which helped set up the station with transmitters, antennae, microphones, and recorders, and get it on the air. USOP emphasized the commitment to minority media development in Kosovo.

Left: Representatives of Radio Romano Avazo cut the ribbon at station opening, November 9,

ARMENIA: USAID HELPS LAUNCH NEW ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY

A new National Anti-Corruption Strategy of Armenia was launched during a conference which introduced the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Armenia Mobilizing Action against Corruption program to stakeholders and the general public. At the conference opening, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Joseph Pennington spoke about the corrosive effects of corruption on a country's social, political, and economic development. The conference contributed to making the process of developing a new anti-corruption strategy more open and transparent and highlighted the assistance provided by the U.S. Government in this effort. The event was held in conjunction with the Government of Armenia and its Anti-Corruption Strategy Monitoring Commission and co-funded by the United Nations

Development Program and USAID. The conference provoked a broader discussion among non-governmental organizations, mass media, government agencies, and others about the development of a new multi-year



Speakers at the anti-corruption conference, November 7, 2007. [Tom Mittnacht, U.S. Embassy Yerevan]

DENMARK: ELVIS RECORD RELEASE AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE



Ambassador Cain hosts Elvis CD release at his residence, November 5, 2007. [Phillip Holten, U.S. Embassy Copenhagen]

To highlight the ties that link the U.S. and Denmark, the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen organized a series of events entitled, "Celebration of American Spirit." One such bond emphasized in this event series was the Danes' fascination with Elvis Presley - in February, the U.S. Embassy hosted an Elvis Presley commemorative event which featured Danish Elvis impersonators! To follow up this event, U.S. Ambassador to Denmark James Cain hosted a November 5 record release for Danish pop singer Flemming "Teddy Bear" Jørgensen's 34th album, "Love Me Tender," which pays tribute to Elvis Presley in the form of covers of "The King's" best-loved ballads. Presenting "Teddy Bear" Jørgensen with a gold album for "Love Me Tender"'s pre-release sales, Ambassador Cain noted that this was the first album release ever at the U.S. Ambassador's residence.

TURKEY: TURKISH STUDENTS AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN D.C. CONNECT WITH STUDENTS IN TURKEY

The U.S. Embassy in Ankara hosted students from Gazi, Middle East Technical, Bilkent, Suleyman Demirel, Baskent, Ankara, Ege, and Dogus Universities for a Digital Video Conference (DVC) with Turkish students at American University in Washington, D.C. The one-hour exchange covered subjects ranging from the importance of strong letters of recommendation and statements of purpose in the university application process, to the excellent university support systems for students transitioning to life in a new culture. After the DVC, the Ankara students stayed to speak with two local alumni of the university. Their lively 30-minute discussion focused on public transport options in the U.S., opportunities for travel during the school year, and visa requirements. The participants left the DVC showing



Senem Bakar, Assistant Director of International Student and Scholar Services at American University, introduces herself to Turkish students. [Atilla Tunali, U.S. Embassy Ankara]

FINLAND: RECEPTION DELIGHTS FINNISH-SOMALI COMMUNITY LEADERS



Chargé Amy Hyatt and guests share a light-hearted moment, November 2007. [Heidi Day, U.S. Embassy Helsinki]

U.S. Chargé d'Affaires to Finland, Amy Hyatt, hosted a reception for local Finnish-Somali community leaders at her home to discuss issues related to the Somali immigrant community. In attendance was Ambassador Kaija Ilander of the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs Human Rights Unit, representatives of Kulttuuriasiainkeskus Caisa including Director Ahmed Akar, and Ambassador Yusuf Mohamaed Ismail, the Somali ambassador resident in Switzerland. Somali Chargé d'Affaires Ali Qassim was instrumental in coordinating this event.

UNITED KINGDOM: UNITED STATES SUPPORTS "SPRING OF HOPE" FOR AFGHANISTAN

The U.S. in Embassy London welcomed a packed house of guests from the British and Afghan communities, including guests from the Afghan Embassy in London, the Afghan Students Association United Kingdom, and members of the British Afghan diaspora, for a premiere screening of the Afghan-made film "Spring of Hope." Written, directed by, and starring Hashmat Khan (an Afghan Bollywood producer), the film begins with the Russian invasion of Afghanistan and ends with the fall of the Taliban. This screening was one in a series of regularly scheduled films U.S. Embassy London has developed to "open doors" in a secure way and attract new, diverse, and alternative audiences. The U.S. Embassy worked in close coordination with the Afghan Embassy in London on this event, and the bulk of the attendees was drawn from their guest list as a way to bring new faces into the U.S. Embassy and to show support for and commitment to Afghanistan and the Afghan people.



Afghan Ambassador Dr. Rahim Sherzoy greets a packed house of guests at the U.S. Embassy for a premiere screening of the Afghan-made film "Spring of Hope," [Jennifer Harris, U.S. Embassy London]

HUNGARY: EMBASSY BOOK DONATION ENHANCES AMERICAN STUDIES



Deputy Chief of Mission Levine speaks at Budapest Eotvos Lorand University book donation ceremony, November 15, 2007. [Attila Nemeth, U.S. Embassy Budapest]

Among the U.S. Embassy in Hungary's activities to mark International Education Week was a donation of 90 books for the American Studies library at Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest. U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Jeffrey Levine spoke at the November 15 donation ceremony attended by the University Rector, department professors, and 40 students. He urged the students to learn about America not only from books, but also from a term of study on a U.S. campus. Mr. Levine also invited the students to attend the U.S. Embassy's upcoming strategic speaker series including Robert Kagan (from Carnegie Endowment) and Janusz Bugajski (from the Center for Strategic and International Studies).

MONTENEGRO: U.S. NATIONAL GUARD LAUNCHES MAINE-MONTENEGRO PARTNERSHIP

Major General John Libby led his group of the Maine National Guard on a visit to Montenegro. Newly Commissioned Officers in the group trained 30 of their Montenegrin counterparts while the General met with President Vujanovic and other officials. Libby, echoing the words of the Governor of Maine, said that the group should engage in more noncombatant experiences, including cooperation in economics, education, and exchanges in general. U.S. Embassy Montenegro is working on strengthening civilian-to-civilian exchanges, work that is supported by both the U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro Roderick Moore and the President of Montenegro.



Major General Libby meets with orphans, November 5-9, 2007. [Sasa Brahovic, U.S. Embassy Podgorica]

In Honor of Veterans' Day

ROMANIA: MONUMENT DEDICATED TO U.S. MILITARY DURING WORLD WAR II



A monument in Bucharest dedicated to members of the American military who served in Romania during World War II was unveiled by U.S. Ambassador to Romania Nicholas Taubman and 75 members of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts. Officials from the Romanian presidency, government, parliament, and Bucharest city government participated in the ceremony during which Ambassador Taubman declared that: “The monument dedicated today not only reminds us of the sacrifices of yesterday but also underlines a future in which Romania and America together resolutely address common threats to our liberty.”

Above: Members of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts salute during a ceremony to unveil a memorial for U.S. troops killed in Romania during WWII, October 1, 2007. [With permission: AP Photo/Vadim Ghirda]

SLOVENIA: SLOVENE VETERAN COMMEMORATED

Slovene veterans who fought with Allied forces in WWII were honored by the U.S. during a commemoration in Slovenia. The soldiers, who were originally pressured into the Italian army to serve in Asia and Africa, fled to the Allies when Italy capitulated in 1943. They were trained by British and U.S. Intelligence to assist the partisan movement as parachutists, scouts, interpreters, and radio operators. Some died in action and others were captured after the war and executed; 18 of the parachutists are named on a plaque in Škrbina. U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Maryruth Coleman and U.S. Defense Attaché Jeff Vestal participated in the annual commemoration. The Chargé spoke in remembrance of the war dead and, together with Slovene guests of honor, laid a wreath at the memorial in Škrbina.



Chargé Coleman speaks in remembrance of the war dead, November 11, 2007. [Milan Lajevec, U.S. Embassy Ljubljana]

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