



Christmas Visit to Troops in Afghanistan ▶

At the invitation of Hungarian Minister of Defense Csaba Hende, Ambassador Kounalakis joined a delegation that visited Afghanistan December 14-18. The delegation offered holiday greetings to the Hungarian forces deployed in Afghanistan and learnt about the current situation on the ground.

Col Péter Lippai, PRT Commander; Minister Hende; Amb. Kounalakis; Provincial Governor Majid; Chief, Hungarian Defense Staff General Tibor Benkó; Dept State Secretary Péter Siklósi (ODC photo by Col Milam)



Anne Applebaum Receives Petőfi Prize ▶

Acclaimed U.S. historian, journalist and author Anne Applebaum was awarded this year's Petőfi Prize. The Hungarian MOL-sponsored prize recognizes outstanding efforts made to advance freedom and democracy in Central-Eastern Europe. Ms. Applebaum received the prize for her work as a researcher and author of books on the Gulag and Eastern European Communist dictatorships. CEU professor Markos Kounalakis delivered remarks on behalf of the U.S. Embassy. Mr. Kounalakis delivers his remarks (Embassy photo by Ildikó Bíró)



Roma Symposium ▶

Members of the Hungarian government, NGOs, churches and business leaders gathered at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to discuss strategies for moving toward greater social and economic inclusion of Hungary's Roma minority. The event was sponsored by the Embassy of the United States, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway, the Office of State Secretary for Social Inclusion Zoltán Balog, and the Open Society Institute.

Political-Economic Counselor Paul O'Friel moderates the event. (Embassy photo by Attila Németh)



International Human Rights Day ▶

The Embassy marked International Human Rights Day on December 10 at an event organized by Amnesty International at Budapest's Gödör Klub. The Center for Independent Journalism (CIJ) presented short documentaries that personalize the issues faced by the Roma people. The short videos were produced by Roma and non-Roma journalists participating in a training program that was in part sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Budapest.

Screenshot from the documentary *After the Water Receded*

AMBASSADOR'S CORNER

Statement, December 7, 2010 ▶



Ambassador Richard Holbrooke Remembered ▶

Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, Chief architect of the Dayton Peace Accords and Special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, died December 13 in Washington. As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton phrased it, 'America has lost one of its fiercest champions and most dedicated public servants.'

