



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

BUDAPEST NEWSLETTER

July 20, 2007

Recently at the Embassy

Independence Day Celebration in Hungary



With flags flying and the strains of *Stars and Stripes Forever* in the background, Ambassador April H. Foley opened the gala 231st birthday party for the USA at the Ambassador's residence. On a beautiful sunny day the Prime Minister and his wife, Minister of Economy and Transport Kóka, Minister of Finance Veres and Minister of Defense Szekeres, as well as the President of the Hungarian Supreme Court Zoltán Lomnici and several members of Parliament and invited guests toasted to the health and well-being of the United States. The Hungarian Air Force band played the U.S. services songs, as well as jazz and popular favorites, including a Louis Armstrong imitation that

brought down the house. Several guests remarked on the upbeat mood of the entire day. [Photo gallery](#)▶

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Discusses Kosovo's Future in Hungary

Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasian Affairs Daniel Fried visited Hungary on July 11-12 to exchange views with Government of Hungary officials on the status of Kosovo, regional issues, energy security and energy diversification, as well as on Hungary's role in international missions. He met with Prime Minister Gyurcsány, Minister of Economy and Transport Kóka, Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, and coalition and opposition leaders. Assistant Secretary Fried also participated in a round table discussion with Hungarian print and electronic media journalists. [More](#)▶



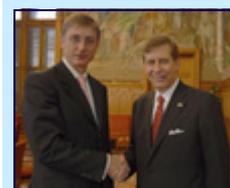
Members of the Society of the Iraqi Community in Hungary Meet Ambassador Foley

Ambassador Foley welcomed Mr. Mohammed Raad and Dr. Abdul Vahed Mehid of the Society of the Iraqi Community in Hungary to her office on July 9, to follow up on issues the Ambassador had previously discussed with members of the Society on April 14, on the fourth anniversary of the liberation of Iraq. Mr. Raad and Dr. Mehid expressed their thanks to the Ambassador for efforts of the United States to bring democracy to their homeland, and presented her with a plaque commemorating the event the Society organized on the 4th anniversary of the country's liberation.



U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce David Sampson in Budapest

From June 27-29, Deputy Secretary of Commerce Dr. David Sampson made an official trip to Budapest. The main event of his visit was to deliver the keynote address at a high-level American Chamber of Commerce-sponsored conference focusing on transparency and economic competitiveness. In addition, Deputy Secretary Sampson met with Prime Minister Gyurcsány, Finance Minister Veres and Economy Vice-Minister Garamhegyi, and held briefing sessions with many executives of American companies. He also delivered a commencement address at Corvinus University. [More](#)▶



Top Hungarian Noncommissioned Officer Visits Ohio Troops

The Hungarian Army's senior noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. János Zsótér, visited Ohio National Guard troops June 12 during their annual training exercise in Camp Grayling, Mich. The visit was part of a soldier exchange program that pairs state National Guards with developing countries. Command Sgt. Maj. Zsótér observed troops training on the new Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer (VCOT). He and Command Sgt. Maj. William A. Myers also tried out the simulator and then discussed the numerous possible scenarios the VCOT can generate and how soldiers can apply the skills and knowledge gained to the Global War on Terrorism. [More](#)▶



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Diego J. Robles

Fulbright Commission Moves to New Location

As of July 6, the new address of the Hungarian-American Fulbright Commission is Baross u. 62, 1082 Budapest. Telephone and fax numbers remain the same. The offices and the Computer Based Test Center are open at this new address, except for the Educational Advising Center, which is closed and will re-open on August 23, 2007. [Fulbright Commission](#)▶

Ambassador's Award for Musical Diplomacy to San José Youth Symphony



The San José Youth Symphony (SJYS) began its European tour with a concert at Budapest's prestigious Liszt Academy of Music on June 26. Ambassador Foley opened the concert emphasizing that these young performers represented the best in American classical music performance. As the sell-out crowd showed, the SJYS also contributed directly to the Ambassador's goal of strengthening the ties of friendship between the U.S. and Hungary by bringing us together in appreciation of common cultural values. To recognize this, the Ambassador presented the San José Youth Symphony with the Ambassador's Award for Musical Diplomacy. [SJYS](#)▶

International Chess Tournament Strengthens Bonds of Friendship

Nineteen years ago, Mr. Zoltán Kovács, a Hungarian-American, established the tradition of chess tournaments open to elementary and high school girls ages 6-16. Ambassador Foley visited the tournament in Budapest on June 21. She told the 35 girls representing Hungary, the United States, Germany, Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia, and Poland, that chess competitions help develop skills of concentration valuable beyond the chessboard and that the camaraderie of these events help strengthen ties of friendship among the girls and between their home countries. [More](#)▶



Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program - Call for Applications

This program of the National Endowment for Democracy offers five-month fellowships for practitioners to improve strategies and techniques for building democracy abroad and five- to ten-month fellowships for scholars to conduct original research for publication. Applications for fellowships in 2008-2009 must be received no later than November 1, 2007. [Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program](#)▶

Looking Ahead

[Webchats](#)▶ In the Democracy Dialogues series: **The Backlash Against NGOs** with Thomas Carothers on July 26 at 1600 CET; **Principles of Effective NGO Governance** with Outi Flynn on August 7 at 1500 CET. [Transcripts of previous webchats](#)▶

New Publications

[USA Economy in Brief](#) [Publication](#)▶

This mini-publication discusses the factors that make the U.S. economy the world's most productive, competitive, and influential. It focuses on workers and productivity, small and large business, goods and services, the role of government, and the concept of "creative destruction," the process where jobs, companies, entire industries come and go because of their success or failure in the marketplace.



[2007 Trafficking in Persons Report in Hungarian](#) [Report](#)▶

The Hungarian translations of the country report and the introduction are now available on our web site.

[IRC Newsletters: Defense Issues, NATO, Response to Terrorism](#)▶ [Economic Issues](#)▶

In the News... from Washington

[Initial Benchmark Assessment Report on Iraq - Press Conference by President Bush \(07/12\)](#)

"Since America began military operations in Iraq, the conflict there has gone through four major phases. The first phase was the liberation of Iraq from Saddam Hussein. The second phase was the return of sovereignty to the Iraqi people and the holding of free elections. The third phase was the tragic escalation of sectarian violence sparked by the bombing of the Golden Mosque in Samarra.

We've entered a fourth phase: deploying reinforcements and launching new operations to help Iraqis bring security to their people." [More](#)▶

[Lady Bird Johnson, an Activist First Lady, Mourned by America Conservationist, Supporter of Civil Rights and Education, Dies at 94 \(07/11\)](#)

Lady Bird Johnson gave new meaning to the role of U.S. first lady. As wife of the 36th president, Lyndon Baines Johnson, her well-organized and vigorous support of important causes made her an indispensable asset to his presidency. [More](#)▶



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