

Recently at the Embassy

December 8, 2006



Ambassador Discusses NATO Summit and Afghanistan with Parliamentarians

On November 21, Ambassador Foley appeared beside Ambassador of the Netherlands Ronald Alexander Mollinger and Ambassador of Germany Hans Peter Schiff at a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian Parliament. Ambassador Foley spoke about NATO operations in Afghanistan, U.S. support to Hungary's Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Baghlan Province, and U.S. expectations of the NATO Summit of November 28-29.

"I am delighted that Hungary has offered other nations the opportunity to work side-by-side with your PRT in Afghanistan. I am hopeful that Hungary's efforts to include other nations will continue. Because there is much work still to be done in Afghanistan. The deployment of troops is the first but not the final step in a long-term process." [Remarks](#)

Ambassador Foley on U.S. Visa Policy

Commenting on President Bush's announcement on November 28 in Tallinn, Estonia, that he intends to seek modifications by the Congress to the Visa Waiver Program as a way to make sure that nations like Estonia qualify more quickly for the program and, at the same time, strengthen the program's security, Ambassador Foley said that this process would take more time, but it demonstrated, in part, that the U.S.-Hungarian diplomatic cooperation was moving the visa issue forward. [More](#)

Women: Leaders of Change Roundtable Discussion

On November 27, Ambassador Foley participated in a roundtable discussion organized by the Central European University (CEU) Gender Studies Department "Women Engineering Change." Ambassador Foley, herself deeply committed to encouraging women to take leadership positions, pointed out that in Hungary, just like in the United States, there is still a lot to be done. [More](#)

Embassy Diplomats Explain U.S. Midterm Elections

To help students better understand the U.S. election system and its role in a democracy, two Embassy diplomats gave slide-show presentations at Budapest schools: Economic Officer John McGuire at the Terézvárosi Bilingual High School on November 24, and Cultural Attaché Mark Tauber at the Szabó Lőrinc Bilingual High School on November 30. They emphasized the importance of voting and encouraged students to exercise their rights in the next Hungarian elections.

U.S. Shares Experience with Flood Risk Management

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sponsored an international workshop in Budapest November 7-9 on research perspectives on flooding and flood risk management. At the event ten U.S. flood risk management experts joined about 20 counterparts from the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Austria and Portugal to initiate a dialogue between flood risk management researchers and practitioners in the United States and Europe. [More](#)



above: Mr. Tauber
below: Mr. McGuire



American Jazz Pianist Gives Concert in Budapest



American jazz pianist Joey Calderazzo, and his Hungarian back-up band, *The Transform Quintet* drew a standing-room only crowd of over 200 to the House of Future concert venue for their December 1 jam. During his career, Mr. Calderazzo has played with many jazz giants such as Jack DeJohnette, Jerry Bergonzi, and Dave Holland. Supported in part with a grant from the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy, Calderazzo was called back for four encores by an audiences that refused to leave their seats.



Looking Ahead

Pulitzer Prize Winning Author at CEU

On December 14 at 5 p.m. the U.S. Embassy and the Center for Arts and Culture will present a lecture by **Robert Olen Butler**, Pulitzer Prize winning author (1993). Venue: Central European University, Gellner Room, Budapest, Nádor u. 9. [About Mr. Butler](#)▶

Integrated Systems Europe 2007 (01/30-02/02, Amsterdam)

Integrated Systems Europe (ISE) is Europe's number one trade show for professional AV, DVC, control systems, digital display solutions and other electronic systems integrators with over 60 U.S. exhibiting companies. Our Commercial Service is facilitating the meeting of Hungarian companies with the U.S. companies' representatives. [ISE 2007](#)▶

Webchat

[Webchat](#)▶

The Role of Media in Shaping American Policy and Public Opinion with Susan Rasky on December 11 at 9:00 a.m. EST (1400 GMT).

New Publication

IRC Newsletter: *Defense Issues/NATO, Response to Terrorism*

This issue features documents on the Riga NATO Summit. [Newsletter](#)▶

In the News... from Washington

Bush Administration Seeks Reforms for Visa Waiver Program

Key elements of a Bush administration legislative initiative to reform the Visa Waiver Program were outlined in a fact sheet issued by the Department of Homeland Security November 30. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said the proposed reforms, if enacted by Congress, would enhance border security, allow the United States to continue to be a welcoming country, and help convince international allies that joining the Visa Waiver Program is a realistic goal. [Fact Sheet](#)▶

World AIDS Day - December 1, 2006

"HIV/AIDS is a global health crisis and a constant struggle for many of our families, friends, and neighbors. On World AIDS Day, we underscore our commitment to fight the AIDS pandemic with compassion and decisive action." said President Bush on December 1, 2006. Under the five-year, \$15 billion President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program 800,000 people are now receiving AIDS treatment. The number receiving treatment has been growing steadily since PEPFAR became operational in 2004. Within its five-year mandate, the PEPFAR goal is to provide treatment to 2 million people. [PEPFAR](#)▶



Secretary Chertoff
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