



## Recently at the Embassy

### U.S. Supports Hungarian Freedom and Democracy Efforts

Ambassador Foley attended the fourth meeting of the Governmental Advisory Board of the International Center for Democratic Transition (ICDT) in Budapest on June 25. Following a presentation of the ICDT's current and planned projects – reaching Moldova, Belarus, Afghanistan, Iraq and several other countries – participants engaged in a conversation about the Center's activities and offered their thoughts on the way forward. [More▶](#)



### Incoming NATO Commander Visits Pápa Air Base



The named commander for the newly formed NATO Heavy Airlift Wing (HAW), United States Air Force Colonel John Zazworsky, saw the Hungarian Air Base at Pápa for the first time last week. Pápa Air Base will host this unique unit which is planned to include personnel from 13 NATO countries as well as Sweden and Finland. It will support these nations' efforts to conduct all types of missions to include humanitarian aid, disaster relief, personnel evacuation and support of sanctioned military operations. Col Zazworsky met the Pápa Air Base Commander, Col Miklós Domonkos as well as the Pápa city leaders. [More▶](#)

### Embassy Reaches out to Roma Community

On June 21, Ambassador Foley attended the "For the Better Future" Award ceremony as the guest of honor invited by the Together for Halmajugra and Together for Gyöngyös Roma-Hungarian Associations. In her speech, Ambassador Foley congratulated the award recipients and expressed her desire for having many new awardees in the future. She praised the important work of the two Roma organizations in improving the relationship between Roma and Hungarian people and emphasized the Embassy's long and good working relations with them. [More▶](#)



### Progress on the Táncsics Property Exchange Agreement

Demolition work began on the renovation of the two buildings on Szabadság tér numbers 10 and 11 that are a key part of the Táncsics Property Exchange Agreement. In the coming months, Government of Hungary contractors are expected to remove between 6,000 to 7,000 cubic meters of material from the buildings in anticipation of the renovation. When the renovations are completed and the buildings are ready for occupancy the historic Vár property and some other U.S. Government held properties in Budapest will be returned to Hungary. [More▶](#)



### Embassy Supports American Style Education in Central Europe

In connection with their graduation ceremony, the Central European University (CEU) awarded the former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan the Open Society Award. Ambassador Foley joined Kofi Annan and the Hungarian-born U.S. businessman George Soros at a lunch given by the CEU Rector on June 19. Besides acknowledging the positive impact of CEU's American educational style in Central Europe, the Ambassador touched upon a number of current

political and economic issues in her discussion with the former UN Secretary General. [More▶](#)

### Embassy Encourages American Investment in Hungary

On June 18, Ambassador Foley met with Mark Pigott, Chairman & CEO of Paccar, one of the world's leading manufacturers of trucks, including Kenworth, Peterbilt and DAF, and other senior Paccar managers. Paccar is investing more than \$30 million to build a 25,000 square meter parts distribution center in Herceghalom, west of Budapest.



### Trade Mission from the American Midwest

On June 17, the U.S. Commercial Service hosted a trade mission from the State of Iowa, represented by Iowa's international marketing manager Mikah Kiel, as well as president Chia-Wei Chang and vice president Moises Contreras of Ankeny, Iowa-based Proliant, a leading producer of meat protein ingredients. Proliant held meetings with some of Hungary's major food processing and nutritional supplements companies.



## Ambassador Foley Maintains Strong Relations with the Government of Hungary

Ambassador Foley hosted Minister of Defense and MSzP Party Vice President Imre Szekeres and Asian-Pacific colleagues at a lunch held on June 18. Conversation focused on the current political situation in Hungary and throughout the region, including the challenge of fully integrating the Balkans into Euro-Atlantic structures. Ambassadors emphasized the importance of continued reform efforts to see Hungary reach its full potential for economic growth.

## Ambassador Foley Encourages Competitiveness and Promotes Tolerance

Ambassador Foley visited the cities of Sopron, Balf and Kapuvár on June 17. In Sopron, the Ambassador met with the leaders of the Western Hungarian University and talked to students about study opportunities in the U.S. She was then received by the Mayor of Sopron. In Balf she visited the site of a National Memorial to be erected in commemoration of the Hungarian Jews killed in the Balf forced labor camps, and talked to a local audience at the Balf Cultural and Documentary Center on the importance of tolerance. [More▶](#)



## Hungarian Baseball Player Returns From Training in the U.S.

Ambassador Foley met with Hungarian baseball player Dénes Simonyi on 16 June. Mr. Simonyi recently returned from three months in the United States where he was recruited to attend "Spring Training" with the Saint Louis Cardinals organization of Major League Baseball (MLB). Mr. Simonyi's trip was highly successful, as he was invited to remain in the U.S. after the beginning of the baseball season to play in the Cardinals rookie organization. [More▶](#)



## Embassy Supports Transparency Initiative in Hungary

On June 12, Ambassador April Foley attended a thank you reception hosted by Transparency International at the Erdész & Maklár Fine Art Gallery. This was a celebration of the completion of Transparency International's report on Hungary. Other Ambassadors were on hand as well to emphasize the commitment of the diplomatic community to the work of Transparency International. In supporting this initiative the Embassy hopes to heighten business transparency in Hungary.

## Balance Characterizes Embassy Engagement with Top Political Leaders

The U.S. Embassy strives for balance in its relationship with Hungary's various political parties. At a June 11 lunch hosted by the Israeli Ambassador, Ambassador Foley met with Fidesz Leader Viktor Orbán. Besides talking about the fast-changing Hungarian political situation, they discussed approaches to addressing extremism in Hungary. They also talked about the dissatisfaction of the business community with Hungary's weak economic conditions and the desirability of productive relations with Russia.



On June 12, Ambassador Foley hosted a lunch for the broader Middle Eastern and North African Ambassadors accredited to Hungary and the Socialist Parliamentary Faction Leader Ildikó Lendvai. The group discussed the current weak business climate and the steps that the government is planning to take to bring about gradual improvement without creating social pain. [More▶](#)

## Special Envoy Says Nabucco Essential to Energy Independence

U.S. Special Envoy for EU Affairs and Eurasian Energy, C. Boyden Gray, on a June 6-8 visit to Budapest as part of a U.S. Chiefs of Mission conference hosted by Ambassador Foley, stressed the importance of energy security for Hungary. The Special Envoy met with Foreign Minister Kinga Gönöz, Hungarian parliamentarians, and Nabucco Ambassador Mihály Bayer, and discussed energy issues. [More▶](#)



## Ambassador Foley Meets with Minority Rights Ombudsman

On May 30, Ambassador Foley met with the Ombudsman for Minority Rights Ernő Kállai to discuss minorities, tolerance, and collaboration between the Embassy and his office. The Ambassador was pleased to convey to Kállai the Embassy's programs to build understanding and tolerance between young people from different ethnic backgrounds in Hungary by sponsoring summer camps. [More▶](#)

## Lady Ambassadors Lunch Underscores Close Ties with the Government of Hungary

[More▶](#)

On May 29, Ambassador Foley hosted a lunch at her residence for fellow lady Ambassadors from the Budapest diplomatic community and the guest of honor was Foreign Minister Kinga Göncz. This event is part of an ongoing effort to maintain strong and close ties among the women chiefs of mission and the Government of Hungary. Ambassador Foley discussed issues of bilateral interest with the Foreign Minister and promoted the mutual understanding that is at the base of the excellent Hungarian-American relationship.



## Remembering the Victims of Communism

On May 29, Ambassador Foley met with Dr. Lee Edwards from the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation during his recent visit to Budapest. Among the visit's key goals, Dr. Edwards is collecting oral histories from the survivors of Communism for inclusion in a virtual museum of the History of Communism. The virtual museum's web site will include history from the appearance of the Communist Manifesto to modern day Tibet, as well as virtual exhibits on various countries, including Hungary. [More▶](#)

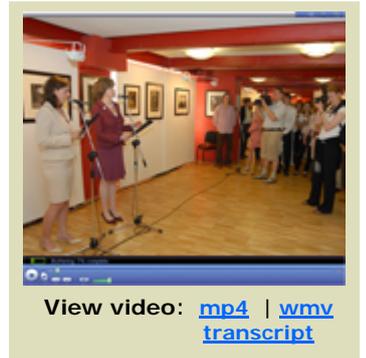


## Hungarian Students Win Ambassador's Recognition

Three students in the American Studies Program at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in Budapest won praise and Certificates of Appreciation from Ambassador Foley for the "American Evenings" program they conducted April 9-11. The students, Ágnes Bazsika, Kriszta Pozsonyi, and Viktória Zoltán, called upon speakers from the U.S. Embassy, visiting Fulbright professors, and the Education USA advisor to provide their fellow students with up-to-date information on applying to U.S. universities. [More▶](#)

## Celebrating Diversity: Photo Exhibit of Native Americans

On May 28, Ambassador Foley opened "Sacred Legacy," a photographic exhibit of North American Indians and their traditional culture. The exhibition pays homage to American photographer and ethnographer Edward S. Curtis, whose museum-quality prints from the early 1900's illustrate the broad diversity of North American tribes. In her opening remarks, Ambassador Foley emphasized the importance of recognizing the contributions of all American minorities to the enrichment of U.S. society. [More▶](#)



View video: [mp4](#) | [wmv](#)  
[transcript](#)

## In the News... from Washington

### Group of Eight Leaders to Focus on Economic Challenges

Leaders of the most industrialized countries at their upcoming summit in Japan will look for solutions to a set of severe economic challenges that threaten to weaken economies already shaken by turmoil in the financial markets. [More▶](#)

### Elections '08

### The Latest Post-Primary Overview

Foreign Press Center Briefing by Vaughn Ververs, Senior Political Editor, CBS News (06/17/08)

"We were getting geared up and nothing that you would have told me three years ago, two years ago, maybe even one year ago, would have geared us up for how really special and truly historic and unpredictable this election has been and could very well continue to unfold in the next few months here." [More▶](#)



## New Publications

### Trafficking in Persons Report 2008 [Report▶](#)

The report - released by the U.S. Department of State on June 4 - evaluates the efforts of 170 countries to combat human trafficking. The [Hungarian translation▶](#) of the report on Hungary is also available on the Embassy web site.

### [eJournal▶](#) *Markets & Democracy*

The connection between markets and democracy has never been a straight line. Since the 1700s economic thinkers have been debating this complex relationship. In this issue, 12 international experts present their thoughts on the topic.

### IRC Newsletter: [Economic Issues▶](#)

