

*April 27, 2006*

## *Recently at the Embassy*

### **Department of State Congratulates Prime Minister Gyurcsány**



State Department Spokesman Justin Higgins said on Monday, April 24, "We congratulate Prime Minister Gyurcsány and the Socialist-Liberal Democratic coalition for their victory. The serious campaign and the high turnout stand as a tribute to the strength of the Hungarian people's commitment to democracy. We look forward to continuing our strong partnership as we work together with Hungary to advance the cause of democracy and freedom where it has yet to flourish."

### **MANPADS Cooperation Near to Conclusion**

This month the Embassy received certification that all remaining components of Hungary's 1,540 SA-7 Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) were destroyed. This step brings to near-conclusion this cooperative effort between the United States and Hungary. The U.S. Government agreed to provide \$350,000 toward the destruction of these obsolete Soviet-era weapons that, in the wrong hands, represent a threat to civilian aircraft. Since 2003, the U.S. Department of State has enabled the destruction of over 13,000 MANPADS in 13 countries in Africa, Central America, Eastern Europe, and South East Asia. The total number of MANPADS whose destruction has been facilitated by the United States is over 17,000 to date.

More about the cooperation at <http://www.usembassy.hu/manpads.html>

State Department Fact Sheet: <http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/fs/53558.htm>

### **Ambassador Walker Visits Békéscsaba**

Continuing his outreach to the cities of Hungary, Ambassador Walker visited Békéscsaba on April 11. Mayor János Pap and his staff briefed the Ambassador on the history and latest developments of Békéscsaba and the region, and also informed him about the regional call center to be launched by General Electric in Békéscsaba in June. Ambassador Walker also met with students and staff of the István Széchenyi Bilingual Economics High School, and visited the Pál Réthy County Hospital. Read more about the visit at [http://www.usembassy.hu/amb\\_bcsaba.html](http://www.usembassy.hu/amb_bcsaba.html)

### **DCM Reeker Delivers Address at NATO Conference**

Deputy Chief of Mission Philip T. Reeker delivered the keynote address on "Transformational Diplomacy and the Importance of NATO" at the opening of a two-day Global War on Terrorism conference hosted by the Budapest-based Institute for Transitional Democracy and International Security (ITDIS) and the Slovenian Enterprise Institute. The Public Affairs Section supported the participation of three U.S. experts in the conference: Stephen Sloan (University of Central Florida), Amy Smithson (Center for Strategic and International Studies), and Fred Kagan (American Enterprise Institute).



# Looking Ahead

## Merce Cunningham Dance Company in Budapest

One of America's most famous modern dance troupes, the Merce Cunningham Dance Company will perform in Budapest May 3, 4 and 5. They will participate at the 6th Dance Forum festival. The Merce Cunningham Dance Company will come to Hungary for the first time, and will perform at the Festival Theatre of the Palace of Arts (Budapest 9th, Komor M. utca 1.), supported in part by the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section. Ticket information: <http://www.nemzetitancszinhaz.hu/english/ticketinfo.php> More at <http://www.merce.org>; and <http://www.nemzetitancszinhaz.hu/cunningham.php>



## Upcoming Webchat

The State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP) invites you to participate in the webchat with Bob Edwards: **Edward R. Murrow: American Original**, honoring the World Press Freedom Day on May 3, at 9 a.m. EDT (13:00 GMT). Please visit: [http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/USINFO/Products/Webchats/edwards\\_08\\_may\\_2006.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/USINFO/Products/Webchats/edwards_08_may_2006.html) Information on how to participate: <http://www.usembassy.hu/webchats.html>

## New Publications

### Zoom In On America: Every Day Is Earth Day

In honor of Earth Day April 22, this issue focuses on environmental protection. Articles feature the GLOBE program, citizen initiatives, and the role of zoos in protecting wild animals. <http://www.usembassy.hu/zoom.html>



### IRC Newsletters on Environmental, Health and Economic Issues

Publications by our Information Resource Center (IRC) with U.S. Government documents, think tank publications, and magazine articles.  
Environment: <http://newsletters.usembassy.hu/environmental/enviapr06.pdf>  
Health: <http://newsletters.usembassy.hu/health/healthapr06.pdf>  
Economic: <http://newsletters.usembassy.hu/econnews/econapr06.pdf>

## In the News... from Washington

### Murrow Program Journalists See American Media in Action

More than 100 journalists from around the world took part in the State Department's inaugural Edward R. Murrow International Program for Journalists on April 20. The daylong symposium featured a panel of print and broadcasting journalists who explored contemporary issues in journalism, a panel discussion on the government's relationship with the media and finally a roundtable with nine Murrow program journalists and eight U.S. journalists. Read more about the program at <http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2006/Apr/24-315529.html?chanlid=eur>

### Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2005-2006

This report complements the longstanding *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices* for 2005, and takes the next step, moving from highlighting abuses to publicizing the actions and programs the United States has employed to end those abuses. Available on the Internet at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/shrd/2005/>

