



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

BUDAPEST NEWSLETTER

April 12, 2006

Recently at the Embassy

U.S. Assists with Flood Relief



Ambassador George H. Walker announced April 7, that the United States will provide up to \$50,000 in emergency relief funds to assist communities and individuals affected by the floods in Hungary. "We remain deeply concerned for all those affected by the record levels of flooding of the Danube, Tisza and other rivers in Hungary," said the American Ambassador. "The United States is pleased to provide support to Hungary in the relief effort. We recall with gratitude that when Americans needed help in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the people of Hungary responded with

tremendous generosity and goodwill." The U.S. Embassy will provide this help from the U.S. Agency for International Development through Hungarian non-governmental organizations, on behalf of the people of the United States.

More than 60 International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) staff, visiting instructors, and students worked on April 3 along the dike area holding back the Danube waters in Göd where it was 2-3 meters higher than homes in the low lying areas. In total, more than nine dump trucks full of sand were shoveled by hand into sandbags and distributed along a dike area that stretched more than a kilometer.

Regional Disaster Management Cooperation

During the period 26-31 March, the Office of the Defense Attaché facilitated the travel of technical experts representing the Hungarian Disaster Management Agency, Border Guards, Customs and Excise Office to Split, Croatia, as invited observers to the Adriatic Charter Regional Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Exercise, ARIEX06. This exercise was held under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Defense's International Counterproliferation Program (ICP). The purpose of ARIEX06 was improve international and interagency collaboration in the effort to combat the proliferation of WMD. ARIEX06 included over 200 officials from the region. Officials from the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency also met in Budapest, Hungary with various officials to discuss specifics of the ICP.



Consular Section Upgrades Services to American Citizens

American citizens need to make fewer trips to the U.S. Embassy, thanks to recent improvements in passport delivery and off-site services. For less than HUF2000, passports can be delivered via courier anywhere in Hungary. Many American citizens have already taken advantage of this option, particularly those who live outside of Budapest and have applied for a new passport at an offsite event. Additionally, improvements in technology have reduced processing time for most passports to five business days. If you would like to be notified of an upcoming off-site in your area, please register with the Embassy on our web site. If your community would like a visit by a consular officer, please send us an e-mail at acs.budapest@state.gov. More information: http://www.usembassy.hu/information_for_travelers.html



Promoting Environmental Stewardship in Hungary

The Public Affairs Section of the Embassy worked with the Quebec Labrador/Atlantic Center Foundation on media coverage of its 50th anniversary event, gathering many of its international alumni in Budapest on April 3-5. QLF's activities in Hungary have been part of its Central European Stewardship program concentrating mainly on environment protection and nature preservation. Visit: <http://www.qlf.org/>



Looking Ahead

Upcoming Webchat

The State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP) invites you to participate in the webchat: ***How "American" is American Culture?*** on April 20, at 12:00 p.m. EST (1700 GMT). Visit: http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/USINFO/Products/Webchats/pells_apr_20_2006.html
Information on how to participate: <http://www.usembassy.hu/webchats.html>

New Publications

Electronic Journal: *Media Emerging*

Innovation in information technology breeds a generation of new, up-start media, and citizens gain the means to disseminate their own ideas and opinions. Experts describe how the trends change the media marketplace with special features on blogging, Internet law enforcement, and an interview with a newspaperman at the forefront of the citizen journalism movement. <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0306/ijge/ijge0306.htm>



IRC Newsletters on *Defense Issues, NATO and Response to Terrorism and U.S. Society and Values*

Publications by our Information Resource Center (IRC) featuring U.S. Government documents, think tank publications, and magazine articles.
Defense: <http://newsletters.usembassy.hu/nato/natoapril06.pdf>
Society: <http://newsletters.usembassy.hu/usvalues/usvaluesapril06.pdf>

Human Rights Report Available in Hungarian

The Hungarian translation of the preface, the introduction, and the report on Hungary of the 2005 *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices* is now available on our web site at http://hungarian.hungary.usembassy.gov/state_dept_reports_hu.html

In the News... from Washington

State's Hughes Outlines Public Diplomacy Initiatives

Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen Hughes outlined the initiatives she has introduced during her seven-month tenure, describing them as an effort to lay a "long-term foundation for waging peace." Hughes offered her remarks in Houston March 29 as part of the Shell Distinguished Lecture Series at Rice University's James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy. <http://www.state.gov/r/us/64106.htm>

