

CZECH the News

Newsletter of the Embassy of the Czech Republic

Spring 2005

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President Klaus Received at the White House

On March 8, George W. Bush received Czech President Vaclav Klaus in the Oval Office of the White House. It has been the first bilateral meeting with Bush since Klaus assumed the presidential post in March 2003.

The meeting was announced less than twenty four hours ahead, during Klaus's visit to the US, where he was presenting his book "Road to Democracy" on the development in the Czech Republic since the collapse of the communist regime in 1989. Diplomats and politicians in the Czech Republic appraised the quick arrangements of the top meeting, since such a process usually takes up to several months.

The presidents discussed major political issues focusing



President Klaus meets President Bush at the White House

mainly on the Middle East, Lebanon, the situation in Europe and in the Czech Republic.

George Bush was keen to hear that the Czech Republic was not planning to change its policy and withdraw its troops and would continue to train Iraqi police officers. Vaclav Klaus

marked the meeting as very friendly: "I think that relations between the Czech Republic and the United States are very, very positive, and this meeting was just a confirmation of that," said President Klaus.

While in the US, President Klaus also presented his new book, entitled "On the Road to Democracy: The Czech Republic from Communism to Free Society." This book concentrates on the impact of the Czech Republic's free-market reforms and examines lessons learned during the transition to democracy. The book, published by NCPA (National Center for Policy Analysis) was officially released by Vaclav Klaus and NCPA President John Goodman in Dallas, TX on March 7, 2005.

Former President Havel Spends Two Months in the US

Vaclav Havel arrived in the United States at the end of March and is going to stay for about two months on a stipend granted by the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. He is accompanied by his wife Dagmar, who is planning to use the time in the US to improve her English.

The former president intends to spend most of the time in Washington, D.C. and to meet with several of his friends including current U.S. President George W. Bush, former U.S. Secretary of State and Czech native Madeleine Albright, former U.S. President Bill Clinton and his wife, Senator Hillary Clinton, and Milos Forman, famous Czech movie director,

among others.

Vaclav Havel is also supposed to visit the International Campaign for Tibet in Washington, D.C. and the Festival of International Literature in New York in the middle of April. In Washington, he will also attend a performance by the legendary Czech underground band, The Plastic People of the Universe, who were a symbol of resistance to Czechoslovakia's Communist regime during the 1970s and 1980s.

Bard College in New York will take the opportunity of the former president's visit to the US and award Havel an hon-



Former President Vaclav Havel in the Library of Congress

orary degree in May.

Asked about how he enjoys being in the US so far, Vaclav Havel said, "It seems to me that life over here is not as hurried and nervous as at home. And it also seems to me that people here actually like to talk about politics. Back home, people just complain about it. I enjoy being here and living here, but I feel as if I do not have enough time; I would need to spend more time here."

Message from the Ambassador

Dear Friends,
The onset of the spring season has brought important events to the Washington, D.C. area. First of all, on March 8, President Vaclav Klaus arrived in the USA and was received by President George W. Bush. Their friendly meeting confirms the excellent level of Czech-American relations. Details of the Presidential visit are available for your reading enjoyment on the front page.

Another President, this time a former Head of State, arrived at the beginning of April on a

Library of Congress stipend to study, meditate, and spend a quiet time in Georgetown. Vaclav Havel, the first President of the free and democratic Czech Republic, is planning to stay in Washington until late May. You can find more information on his visit within our newsletter, as well.

Back at home, in Prague, a prolonged and turbulent political crisis prompted a resignation of the Cabinet, finally resulting in the replacement of Prime Minister Gross by Jiri Paroubek. There were also minor changes in other ministerial positions.

Foreign Minister Svoboda, however, remains in his post.

Last, but not least, I have to share with you one diplomatic issue which recently made me proud of our achievements in the field of human rights. The Commission on Human Rights in Geneva has recently voted in favor of a resolution condemning the abuse of fundamental freedoms by the Castro regime in Cuba. I hope that such victory on an esteemed international forum will constitute another step to arrival of democracy on the "Island of Freedom," whose citizens deserve their rights as



much as anyone else on this Earth.

Sincerely yours,

Martin Paloutka



Photo courtesy of Prague Centre

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick meets with President Vaclav Klaus on his visit to the Czech Republic

Robert Zoellick Visits Prague

Deputy Secretary of State Discusses Iraq, Visa Waiver Program

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick, on his visit to 14 European capitals in late March and early April, made a stop in Prague for a meeting with President Vaclav Klaus, Prime Minister Stanislav Gross and Foreign Minister Cyril Svoboda

The Foreign Minister assured Zoellick that the Czech foreign policy regarding Iraq would not change. Minister Svoboda said: "I am deeply convinced that it is necessary to keep not only with

the presence of our military police, but also with our presence in the NATO Training Mission in Baghdad; it is necessary to continue our participation in other missions as a solid part of NATO and therefore also in partnership with the United States."

According to Minister Svoboda, the only pending issue in U.S.-Czech relations concerns the changes in the Visa Waiver Program. Zoellick explained that because of

September 11, 2001, there were a number of restrictions and limitations on visas that have been frustrating to many people around the world, including the Czech Republic. As Zoellick has pointed out, Secretary Rice had already started to take action on some of these issues. The United States and the Czech Republic have set up a consular working group to help the Czech Republic meet the statutory requirements that have been implemented.

Jiri Paroubek to Become the New Czech Prime Minister

A turbulent political crisis over the Czech Prime Minister Stanislav Gross's personal financial affairs sparked many doubts about the future of the Czech government.

After considering various options, early elections included, the crisis finally seems to be over and a solution has been found. The three major parties, CSSD, KDU-CSL and US-DEU agreed to re-form the coalition and produce a new cabinet. This should assure an effective government until the end of the election period in the summer of 2006. The agreement, ratified by

the leadership of each party, opened the way for Gross to step down and make way for the new government led by Jiri Paroubek, who until now served as Minister for Regional Development.

The new Prime Minister graduated from the Prague School of Economics. He worked as an economist in managerial positions and provided

financial consultancy focused on small and medium-sized businesses. Paroubek was elected to the office of Deputy Mayor of Prague for Finance for the time period of 1998-2004, where he contributed to the change of the city's financial policy and to the increase of finances for large investments in Prague.



Photo courtesy of Office of the Government

New Prime Minister of the Czech Republic
Jiri Paroubek

Commission for Human Rights Keeps the Pressure on Cuba

The Commission for Human Rights in Geneva, the top human rights UN body, approved, as in the past several years, the resolution condemning Cuba for violating human rights. The text of the resolution calls for keeping the pressure on Cuba and for the renewal of the mandate of a special investigator into alleged abuses.

Out of the total number of 53 members of the Commission, 21 countries voted in favor, 17 voted against it, and 15 countries abstained.

All of the EU countries, members of the Commission, voted in favor of the resolution. The representatives of Cuba have indicated that they will not cooperate in any form on a resolution passed against their country.



Vaclav Havel Speaks Out on Democracy Issues, Rallies Support for Cuban Dissidents

The following article by Vaclav Havel, former President of the Czech Republic, was published in the Miami Herald on January 28, 2005



EU and Cuba: Freedom vs. appeasement

I vividly remember the slightly ludicrous, slightly risqué and somewhat distressing predicament in which Western diplomats in Prague found themselves during the Cold War. They regularly needed to resolve the delicate issue of whether or not to invite to their embassy celebrations various Charter 77 signatories, human-rights activists, critics of the communist regime, displaced politicians, or even banned writers, scholars and journalists — people with whom the diplomats were generally friends.

Sometimes we dissidents were not invited, but received an apology, and sometimes we were invited, but did not accept the invitation so as not to complicate the lives of our courageous diplomat friends. Or we were invited to come at an earlier hour in the hope that we would leave before the official representatives arrived, which sometimes worked and sometimes didn't. When it didn't, either the official representatives left in protest at our presence, or we left hurriedly, or we all pretended not to notice each other, or — albeit on rare occasions — we started to converse with each other, which frequently were the only moments of dialogue between the regime

and the opposition (not counting our courthouse encounters).

'Dissidents or trade'

This all happened when the Iron Curtain divided Europe — and the world — into opposing camps. Western diplomats had their countries' economic interests to consider, but, unlike the Soviet side, they took seriously the idea of "dissidents or trade." I cannot recall any occasion at that time when the West or any of its organizations (NATO, the European Community, etc.) issued some public appeal, recommendation or edict stating that some specific group of independently minded people — however defined — were not to be invited to diplomatic parties, celebrations or receptions.

But today this is happening.

One of the strongest and most powerful democratic institutions in the world — the European Union — has no qualms in making a public promise to the Cuban dictatorship that it will re-institute diplomatic Apartheid.

The EU's embassies in Havana will now craft their guest lists in accordance with the Cuban government's wishes.

The short-sightedness of socialist Prime Minister José Zapatero of Spain has prevailed

Try to imagine what will happen: At each European embassy, someone will be appointed to screen the list, name by name, and assess whether and to what extent the persons in question behave freely or speak out freely in public, to what extent they criticize the regime, or even whether they are former political prisoners. Lists will be shortened and deletions made, and this will frequently entail eliminating even good personal friends of the diplomats in charge of the screening, people whom they have given various forms of intellectual, political or material assistance. It will be even worse if the EU countries try to mask their screening activities by inviting only diplomats to embassy celebrations in Cuba.

I can hardly think of a better way for the EU to dishonor the noble ideals of freedom, equality and human rights that the Union espouses — indeed, principles that it reiterates in its constitutional agreement. To protect European corporations' profits from their Havana hotels, the Union will cease inviting open-minded people to EU embassies, and we will deduce

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News Brief

Havel sharply criticizes EU for approach to Castro

Former president Vaclav Havel stood up against the decision of the EU not to invite Cuban dissidents to receptions held at diplomatic offices of EU members in Havana for the sake of renewal of the dialogue with Fidel Castro's regime in Cuba.

In an article printed by the French daily *Le Figaro*, Havel calls this a new diplomatic apartheid and asks the question of where this will stop. Havel says that the EU could not find a better way of tarnishing the ideal of freedom and respect of human rights. It has done so in the interest of protecting profits of European businesses in Cuba. The EU is now dancing "to Castro's fiddle," Havel adds.

Cuban couple to get their kids from the Island

The two children of the Cuban couple, who have been granted Czech asylum, joined their parents as the Cuban authorities finally consented to the children's departure from Cuba. Liuver Saborit and Maya Arguelles arrived in the Czech Republic about a year and a half ago and they were granted political asylum last December. Their children, however, remained back in Cuba. The parents say the Cuban authorities have detained the children on the island and prevented their departure for 18 months, during which the family was separated.

News Brief

Presentation of "Medal of Honor"

On February 10, 2005, Ambassador Martin Palous bestowed the "Medal of Honor" upon Martin Mendelsohn, Michael Hausfeld and Stuart Eizenstat. The award was presented to them on behalf of the Czech Council of Victims of Nazism for their outstanding contribution to the compensation of victims of Nazi era slave and forced labor.

Mendelsohn and Hausfeld are both attorneys-at-law, they were instrumental in assisting Czech victims in receiving their compensation. Eizenstat was the U.S. Chief Negotiator on the issue of compensation for forced and slave laborers during the Nazi era.

TV Herald broadcasting to Czech-American community

Czech-American Herald TV has been broadcasting in the Chicago area every Sunday afternoon since May 2004, but can also be viewed on the Internet (www.catvherald.com). Also, you do not have to speak Czech to get their information - almost ninety percent of the documents about the Czech-American community and activities are in English. The name Herald TV comes from the Hlasatel newspaper, founded in 1891, known in English as the Czechoslovak Daily Herald.

Newly Appointed Officers:

American Friends of the Czech Republic

A few months ago, American Friends of the Czech Republic elected new officers for the year 2005. Michael Rokos is the new President, taking over from Phil Kasik, who is now a member of the Board of Directors. Michael Rokos also serves as Vice-President of SVU, and he is the former President of Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland. Peter Rafaeli presides as Vice-President and Treasurer. He as well serves as the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Philadelphia, PA. Robert Doubek, who served in the past as AFoCR President, is now the secretary of the Board of Directors.

Other members of the Board include Richard Schubert (former President of American Red Cross), Daniel Baldwin (President and CEO of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation), Ron Bartek (partner at Mehl, Griffin and Bartek), Peter Bisek (Editor of



Michael Rokos, President of American Friends of the Czech Republic

Americke Listy), Thomas Cech (Nobel Laureate in Chemistry), Eugene Cernan (astronaut), Vladimir Kabes (President of V.M. Kabes International Consultants), Fred Malek (Chairman of Thayer Capital Partners), Gail Naughton (President of the Czech and Slovak National Museum in Cedar Rapids), John Shattuck (CEO of JFK Library and Foundation, former US Ambassador to the Czech

Republic), Judy Baar Topinka (Treasurer, State of Illinois), Jenonne Walker (former US Ambassador to the Czech Republic), Tim Whipple (former President of American Chamber of Commerce in Prague) and Lewis "Jack" White (President of Wilsonian Club).

Michael Rokos and Peter Rafaeli are planning to attend the 60th anniversary celebration of liberation of western Bohemia by U.S. forces in 1945.

Vaclav Havel Speaks Out continued...

(Continued from page 3)

who they are from the expression on the face of the dictator and his associates. It is hard to imagine a more shameful deal.

Cuba's dissidents will, of course, happily do without Western cocktail parties and polite conversation at receptions. This persecution will admittedly aggravate their difficult struggle, but they will naturally survive it. The question is whether the EU will survive it.

Today, the EU is dancing to Fidel Castro's tune. That means that tomorrow it could bid for contracts to build missile bases on the coast of the People's Republic of China. The following day it could allow its decisions on Chechnya to be dictated by Russian President Vladimir Putin's advisors. Then, for some unknown reason, it

could make its assistance to Africa conditional on fraternal ties with the worst African dictators.

Where will it end? The release of Milosevic? Denying a visa to Russian human-rights activist Sergey Kovalyov? An

I firmly believe that the new members of the EU will not forget their experience of totalitarianism and nonviolent opposition to evil, and that that experience will be reflected in how they behave in EU bodies.

apology to Saddam Hussein? The opening of peace talks with al Qaeda?

Coexistence with dictators

It is suicidal for the EU to draw on Europe's worst political traditions, the common denominator of which is the idea that evil must be appeased and that

the best way to achieve peace is through indifference to the freedom of others.

Just the opposite is true: Such policies expose an indifference to one's own freedom and pave the way for war. After all, Europe is uniting to defend its freedom and values, not to sacrifice them to the ideal of harmonious coexistence with dictators and thus risk gradual infiltration of its soul by the anti-democratic mind-set.

I firmly believe that the new members of the EU will not forget their experience of totalitarianism and nonviolent opposition to evil, and that that experience will be reflected in how they behave in EU bodies. Indeed, this could be the best contribution that they can make to the common spiritual, moral and political foundations of a united Europe.

Getting to Market...

Chicago Chapter of Czech North American Chamber of Commerce

The formation of the Chicago Chapter of the Czech North American Chamber of Commerce (CNACC) will be celebrated in tandem with the Czech Republic's first-year anniversary of becoming a member of the EU.

A cocktail reception, hosted by George T. Drost, Honorary consul of the Czech Republic, CzechTrade, CzechInvest and Sister Cities, will take place on

May 5, 2005, at the Seneca Hotel in Chicago.

The debut of the Chicago Chapter of CNACC was scheduled to coincide with the EU anniversary to ensure as many dignitaries as possible could attend. The Chicago Chapter is expected to play a vital role in the task of "getting to market" in both the Czech Republic and the U.S.

The featured speakers at the event will be Martin Palous,

Czech Ambassador to the U.S., and Judy Baar Topinka, Illinois State Treasurer. Both speakers are expected to address the high level of interest in manufacturing, trade and commerce in both the Czech Republic and the U.S. The formation of the Chicago Chapter and defining its mission will be featured throughout the evening. For more information contact CzechTrade Chicago at czechtrade.cz.

CSA, Airbus Agree on Contract for New Planes Purchase

Czech Airlines (CSA) agreed with the Airbus company on the wording of the contract on the supply of 12 planes that CSA will buy from Airbus in the years 2006 - 2008. Airbus was selected as the supplier of new planes for CSA last year when its bid won in a tender for new generation planes for medium-distance flights. CSA gave preference to Airbus before rival Boeing 737s. The first planes will be supplied in 2006, and CSA is to

pay CZK 12.5 bn for them. The first new-generation Airbus A320 already started flying under CSA flag. It will be used for flights to London, Amsterdam, Moscow, Baku, Barcelona, Yerevan and Yekaterinburg.

Czech Airlines (CSA) transported a record 4.34 million passengers last year, up from 3.6 million in 2003 and 3 million the year before. The number of CSA



Czech Airlines (CSA)

passengers has grown by a fifth and so has the number of flights. Also, revenues from charter flights and revenues from freight and mail transport have gone up.

Czechs Help Southeast Asia

The Indian Ocean earthquake that caused the devastating tsunami last December was the second-largest quake in recorded history with almost 300 million victims.

Overnight, southeast Asia has become the center of international solidarity and has been receiving help from many countries and organizations from all over the world. Czechs collected millions of crowns to help the region. The first, immediate response, was especially generous – during the first week after the disaster Czech people had raised over 100 million crowns (more than four million US

dollars). More than 1.6 million total DMS messages (Donors Message Service) on special telephone lines launched by the ADRA and the People in Need Foundation have been sent. Czechs have also been contributing to fundraising campaigns organized by the Czech Catholic Charity, Red Cross and Czech UNICEF branch and others.

The government approved to aid tsunami-devastated southeast Asia and has officially invited Czech companies to begin submitting proposals to participate in the reconstruction. The Cabinet allocated 200 million Czech crowns (almost nine mil-

lion dollars) to fund the reconstruction projects. Individual regions and towns have provided further help as well.

Czechs were also operating a hospital in Galle (Sri Lanka), which is part of the field hospital sent to the island by the organization Hand for Help. Czech solidarity in Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka focused mainly on relief projects at the beginning. In the longer term, funds are supposed to be used to help fishermen and farmers to rebuild their villages, to resume their previous jobs and to help pre-school children and orphans.

News Brief

Karel Kovanda appointed to high post in the European Commission

Czech Ambassador to NATO Karel Kovanda was appointed European Commission deputy director general for external relations. Kovanda won in the selection process in which more than one hundred high-ranking diplomats from 10 EU new member countries contested each other. Kovanda said he was looking forward to the very responsible and interesting position.

URNA units to continue to guard Czech Embassy in Baghdad

Due to the unstable security situation in Iraq, the Czech Police's Rapid Deployment Unit (URNA) will go on to guard the Czech Embassy in Baghdad, the government decided. In connection with the Czech Republic's participation in the reconstruction of Iraq and the presence of Czech nationals, the ministry has proposed to prolong the stay of policemen in Iraq for the duration of 2005. Special police units in Baghdad are protecting the Embassy personnel and the premises of the Embassy.

Czech Republic and Haiti to re-establish diplomatic relations

The two countries first established diplomatic relations in the 1940s but they were broken off after the communist take-over. The Czech Republic plans to open an honorary consulate in Haiti in the near future.

News Brief

Czech Republic to send more instructors to Iraq

The Czech Republic will send more instructors to the emerging mission of NATO in Iraq. The new instructors are to be added to the 100-member contingent of the Czech military police which is operating in the Shaiba base in southern Iraq. Along with them, there is a small team of Czech surgeons that works in a British field hospital. Under the original plan, Czech soldiers were to be withdrawn from Iraq by the end of February, but Iraq and Britain, in whose zone the Czechs are operating, have asked to prolong the mission. The Czech Republic has complied with the request.

Ukrainians should be patient while implementing reforms

“Our way to the future is the way of a united Europe. We, along with the people of Europe, belong to one civilization. We share similar values,” Viktor Yushchenko, the new Ukrainian president told his supporters who gathered on Independence Square in Kiev to cheer him after his inauguration. Vaclav Havel said after a meeting with Yushchenko, that Ukrainians should be patient while implementing changes that their new President has promised them. The ideals are important, but it is also necessary to realize that everything cannot be achieved so quickly and easily as we would like, Havel said.

SVU Establishes a Special Studies Fund

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) has, for some time, been concerned about the deplorable state of Czech and Slovak related archival materials in America. Although some of these materials have been deposited in existing archives, the majority of documents are still in private hands. Their owners are frequently unaware of their historic value and, as a consequence, many of these precious materials are destroyed or lost. It is for this reason that SVU had convened in November 2003 in Washington, DC, in cooperation with the Embassies of the Czech and the Slovak Republics, respectively, a “Working Conference on Czech and Slovak American Archival Materials and their Preservation.”

The Conference was a huge success. It was attended by archivists from the major archival institutions on both sides of the Atlantic, historians, as well as ethnic community leaders representing Czech and Slovak communities in the US and Canada. This was not just a “show-and-tell” type of meeting, but a genuine working conference in which issues were presented, discussed and solutions sought.

As a result of the Conference, the participants unanimously agreed to launch a concerted effort leading to the preservation of Czech and Slovak documents and other memorabilia for the future, irrespective of where they are.

This goal, of course, is feasible and attainable only with the participation and cooperation of the entire Czech and Slovak community in the US and Canada. The mechanism for cooperation is already in place in the recently created National Heritage Commission, comprised of the major Czech ethnic organizations in America.

Several specific recommendations of the Conference have already been implemented, including the establishment of a new umbrella organization, “Czech & Slovak American Archival Consortium” (CSAAC), encompassing the major institutions that maintain such archival materials. The Consortium’s official website “Czech & Slovak American Archivalia,” hosted by SVU, can be accessed at: www.svu2000.org/archivalia/index.htm.

Another recommendation of the Conference was to

prepare a tentative Directory of Czech and Slovak related archival materials in America. Thanks to the efforts of SVU, which conducted a comprehensive survey in this regard, and which I had the pleasure to direct, and in fact, to carry out, such a Directory now exists.

As was previously announced, it was published a few months ago,

under the title *Czechoslovak American Archivalia*, through the courtesy of the Center for Czechoslovak Exile Studies of the Philosophical Faculty at Palacky University in Olomouc, as a two-volume set, which was available for everyone to see at the new book exhibit at the recent SVU Conference in Florida. It is a listing of US-based archival materials and library holdings relating to emigres and exiles from the territory of former Czechoslovakia and relevant holdings bearing on their ancestral land. The first volume encompasses US government repositories, university-based collections, collections maintained by public museums and libraries, collections of ethnic and other cultural organizations. The second volume covers personal papers and collections, including notable personalities, as well as lesser known individuals, emigrants and exiles, who have distinguished themselves in public life, and professions. It is an indispensable resource for scholars and students.

One of the major unresolved issues that was brought up by the above Working Archival Conference was the paucity of funds to prepare inventories of the existing archival collections and to



SVU President Rehcigl during a presentation of SVU Donation to Prof. Vecoli of IHRC for the New Fund

enable scholars and students to conduct research in the archives. Having this in mind, SVU, which has recently deposited its archives at the University of Minnesota’s Immigration History / Research Center (IHRC), has used the occasion of the SVU Florida Conference, to announce the establishment of a special Czech and Slovak Archival Study Fund at IHRC.

In my capacity as SVU President, I had the pleasure of presenting a check, in the amount of \$10,000, to Director of the Center, Prof. Rudolph Vecoli, at the banquet, attended by some 300 persons, including the representatives from the Czech and Slovak Embassies and other dignitaries, from the Czech and Slovak Republics, as well as a number of American Czech/Slovak community leaders.

Hopefully, SVU’s example will be infectious to inspire other Czech and Slovak ethnic organizations to join in this important and noble endeavor. When the Fund will reach the level of \$25,000, the University of Minnesota will start matching these donations with their own money. Just before I stepped on the platform to announce the SVU donation, I was gratified to

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Medek's 80th Birthday

On July 13, 2005, Ivan Medek will be celebrating his 80th birthday. Medek is from one of the Czech Republic's foremost families, and is himself a remarkable personality.

Born in Prague, he was the elder son of General Rudolf Medek, one of the leading officers of the Czechoslovak Legions that fought in the former Soviet Union during World War I. In his time, General Medek was also an influential writer, poet, and dramatist.

Medek's mother Eva was the daughter of a prominent Czech artist, impressionist painter Antonin Slavicek. After Slavicek's death, his grandmother Bohumila married another painter, Herbert Masaryk, the eldest son of Czech President Tomas G. Masaryk.

Medek's brother Mikulas was also a noted artist, a

surrealist painter.

Medek graduated from the Prague Conservatory and for many years made his living as a music editor and reviewer. In 1977, he signed the Charter 77 manifesto, critical of the communist government. After repeated interrogations and a brutal police attack, he was forced into exile in Austria, where he became instrumental in a variety of activities supporting an end to Czechoslovakia's communist dictatorship. His radio reports with Voice of America became especially famous. On the radio, he signed off saying, "Ivan Medek, at a European microphone for Voice of America," which became legendary among his many listeners.

In 1990, he returned from exile with his wife Helena, a concert pianist. From 1993 to 1998, he worked in the office of



Ivan Medek

President Havel, the last three years of which he served as Chief of Staff. His reflections, experiences, and viewpoints are expressed in the book, "How I See It," a summary of the commentaries he wrote in years 2000-2002 for Czech Radio Classic FM. Medek is an unusually modest man, and a man whose high moral principles are rooted in his Christian faith. We want to express our sincere gratitude to him, and to wish him the best possible health.

Contributed by Hana Palcova

2005 Czech MFA Grants

In the weeks to come, we will be proud to announce that the 2005 financial help is on its way to Czech-American institutions that applied for this assistance last spring. We are always honored when we can inform the organizations about financial assistance coming from Prague. We consider the grants, however symbolic the amounts may be, very important for the preservation of Czech heritage in the USA.

This past January, unfortunately, several organizations failed to present the correct accounting, send us the receipts with the 2004 grant final report, spend the appropriate percentage, or return the unused portion in due time. We will try to do our

best to ensure that nothing similar will happen concerning this year's grants. We will, as each year, provide all the applicants with all the relevant information, including the rules for spending the money, which are clear and simple enough. We hope that our cooperation with the presidents, treasurers and other officials of the organizations will be fruitful.

We intend to help the recipients, especially the first-timers, by sending them the money only after receiving their documentation proving that the grant had been spent and accounted properly. We will be more than happy to provide our continuous advice so that the financial assistance would meet the goals planned. Those who would be interested

in counsel and insight regarding the final reports can also address the officials of Czech Society of Oregon who would be kind enough and ready to help. Their report was one of those few flawless, and they provided it without any additional consultations from our part.

Again, we are always happy when we can send checks with financial help for the Czech-American organizations in all parts of the US. We are as well pleased when we can submit reports to Prague confirming that the grants had been used accordingly. The MFA money is a grant of the Czech government, and it must be treated as such.

SVU Establishes a Special Studies Fund continued...

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get commitment from Prof. Jan Hird Pokorny, on behalf of their American Fund for Czechoslovak Relief (AFCSR), to give a comparable amount to IHRC next year.

We want our members to be aware of this, in the hope that they will send in additional

donations so that the Fund can grow and become an important financial resource to enable the students and scholars from CR and SR, as well as from the United States, to conduct serious research in our Archives and at IHRC. At the same time, we appeal to our members and to ethnic organizations to assure

that their archival materials are deposited in IHRC or other comparable archival institutions and thus preserved for the future.

Contributed by Mila Rechcigl, SVU President

News Brief

More foreigners arrive in the Czech Republic, seeking better pay

The number of foreigners staying in the Czech Republic has been rising since the mid-1990s. At the end of 2004, the amount of foreign nationals reached over 200,000. According to the Czech Statistical Office, foreigners arrive in the Czech Republic mainly because of economic reasons, with Vietnamese being almost exclusively businessmen, most Slovak and Polish citizens getting employed, and people from Russia and Ukraine more often setting up or joining small companies.

Czech Republic intending to trim Network of Embassies

The proposal envisages the closure of eight embassies and consulates. The Czech embassy in Abidjan, the capital of Ivory Coast torn by a civic war, is to be closed. A Czech office in Lagos, Nigeria, is to be closed because the Czech embassy is moving to the new capital of Abuja. In South America, a consulate in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is to be closed due to the introduction of visa-free relations between the two countries, and the closure of an embassy and consulates in Uruguay is being considered. The general consulate in Kosice, Slovakia, will be closed. The Czech Republic is also planning to establish new offices abroad, including an embassy in Kabul. Another is to be opened in Kishinev, Moldova, apparently to strengthen the Czech Republic's mission as part of the European Union in the region of East and Southeast Europe.

Business Buzz

Czech vine growers yield 5.6 tons per hectare in 2004

Last year's grapevine harvest of 5.6 tons of grapes per hectare was close to that in the top-quality 2002 year, the Czech Vine-Growers Association announced. Growers sent grapes worth CZK 1.1 billion to processors. "Comparing prices and yields, vine growers suffered losses of some five per cent, while last year they made a 10 per cent profit," said Martin Pucek, secretary of the Association. According to data released earlier, this year's wine output will reach about 400,000 hectoliters, a year-to-year drop of 20 per cent. Domestic wine production covers about 40 per cent of domestic consumption.

Czechs leaving industry and agriculture

Almost one million people have left the industrial and agriculture sectors since 1989, according to the Czech Statistical Office (CSU). Liquidation of a number of enterprises and massive lay-offs has resulted in a workforce cut by 550,000 in Czech industry. Since the early 1990s the number of Czech farmers has also been reduced from 630,000 to 200,000. In contrast, staff numbers in trade, accommodation, catering and other services have been rising. Labor productivity is growing faster than wages. Experts say the inflow of foreign investment and global economic recovery are the main contributors to this positive development.

SVU Extravaganza in FLORIDA

*"Here comes the sun... always behind rain
Rain brings tears, the sun warms away pain
Gone now the doubts that seemed to loom ahead
Now bright sunshine to fill my life instead!"*

On March 17-20, 2005, SVU held its annual conference in North Miami, Florida, in conjunction with the Festival of the American Czech-Slovak Cultural Club (ACSCC).

The Club building was purchased by the Czechs, sometimes after the war, who refurbished it into the meeting place for their American Czechoslovak Social Club, with a restaurant, bar, library and sport and picnic facilities. They had their dances there, with Czech music bands, serving Czech cuisine with Czech beer. As I was informed, Alice Masarykova, the daughter of President Tomas Garrigue Masaryk, used to come to the Club occasionally, when she lived in her retirement in the area, as did such personalities as Minister Jan Masaryk or Czechoslovak Ambassador to the UN Jan Papanek.

From the point of view of the ACSCC Club, the SVU Conference brought them a new dimension, by acquainting their members, many of whom having descended from early settlers from the territory of former Czechoslovakia, with the outstanding contributions of Czechs and Slovaks worldwide, as well as bringing them new information in the area of history, literature and the arts, sciences technology, business and medicine. The SVU members, on the other hand, benefitted by being exposed to the ways Czech and Slovak Americans maintain the Czech and Slovak historic and family traditions, from generation to the next, especially the folklore, music, and the cuisine. It was a happy marriage with genuine cordiality and good spirit.

By combining the SVU efforts with those of the Florida-based American Czech-Slovak Cultural Club, we were able to put together an outstanding

academic program and cultural events. The general theme of our joint program was "Czech and Slovak Heritage on Both Sides of the Atlantic." This was our fifth SVU Conference devoted to the subject of Czech and Slovak Americans, which is one of SVU priorities. The conference was co-sponsored by the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad and was held under the aegis of President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Klaus and President of the Slovak Republic Ivan Gasparovic. The academic program was organized into several major topics, including Czech and Slovak Historic Tradition, Czech and Slovak Contemporary Issues, Echoes from the Old Country, Czechs and Slovaks in the New World, and Presidential Symposium on Preserving Czech and Slovak Heritage. The latter session featured the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the U.S., H.E. Rastislav Kacer, the Czech Ambassador to the U.S., H.E. Martin Palous, and the Director of the Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) of the University of Minnesota, Prof. Rudolf Vecoli. I used the occasion, in my capacity as SVU President, to announce establishment of the new Czech and Slovak Studies Fund.

Apart from the various sessions bearing on the general theme of the Conference, there was a special symposium and a discussion panel relating to Czech and Slovak Universities and their Cooperation with the Institutions of Higher Learning, with the participation of University Rectors and other high-level university officials from the University of West Bohemia in Plzen, University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice, Technical University in Ostrava and the Catholic

University in Ruzomberok. The US institutions were represented by the University of Florida and the University of Southern Illinois in Carbondale, both of which have active cooperative agreements with Czech and Slovak Universities.

The attendees had an opportunity to view a special exhibit "Czechs in America," organized by curator David Kraft, and the new SVU publications, which were exhibited in the Club's library.

The cultural program featured Czech country and western singers, Slovak folk dancers from Masaryktown, FL, the Europa Band from Orlando, Czech folk singers from Key West, etc. Other heritage events included ethnic food and craft demonstrations, folk art booths, ethnic food tasting, an accordion jamboree, and last but not least, the Miss Czech and Slovak Florida Pageant. The latter was a highly enjoyable charming event, involving young ladies, mostly college students, dressed in Czech and Slovak picturesque folk costumes ("kroje") from different parts of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia who had to demonstrate their poise and particular skills and respond to questions before a group of judges. The Matuska Concert on Friday night was a real hit. The tunes he and his wife Olga sang were familiar to most of the audience who frequently joined them in singing.

There were some 150 pre-registrants for the Conference but a number of additional attendees registered later at the registration desk. Some of the cultural events drew as many as 300-400 visitors.

We were glad to see so many
(Continued on page 9)



SVU Extravaganza in Florida continued...

(Continued from page 8)
people from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Apart from the two Ambassadors, the roster of attendees included DCM from the Slovak Embassy Miroslav Wlachovsky, Senator Jaroslava Moserova from Prague, Senator and the former Rector of the Technical University in Ostrava Vaclav Roubicek, Rector Josef Prusa and Past Rector Zdenek Vostracky of the University of West Bohemia, Vice Rector Vladimir Palousek and Docent Michael Bauer of the University of South Bohemia, Vice Rector Dalibor Mikulas of the Catholic University of Ruzomberok, Mayor of Ruzomberok Hon. Juraj Cech and his Deputy Pavlik. Palacky University in Olomouc was represented by historian Dr. Karel Konecny and the head of the musicology department Dr. Jan Vicar. The Conference was also attended by the Director of the Czech Academy's Institute for Contemporary History Oldrich Tuma and the historian of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

Slavomir Michalek. There was also an official representation from the Cs. obec legionarska (The Czechoslovak Association of Legionnaires) at the Conference led by Col. Ing. Jan Horal, who used the occasion to award medals to selected individuals. Also in attendance was Eva Strizovska, Editor-in-Chief of Cesky Dialog, and her assistant. Czech media were also there, including CTK, the Radio Prague and the Czech TV, who were very busy, recording the proceedings and interviewing the participants.

Overall speaking, it was a grand event. I did not find a single person who did not enjoy it. Above all, everybody had a good time and there was plenty of opportunity to rub shoulders with pretty important people from the Czech and Slovak Republics, as well as from the US. The joint SVU Conference and the ACSCC Festival clearly



Women and girls sport their traditional costumes at festivities in Florida.

Photo courtesy of Mila Rechigl

demonstrated that it is possible to arrange concurrently a high level academic event with cultural and social community activities, to the benefit of both. Those of you who missed this great event will regret that you were not there!

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our hosts, Bob Petrik, ACSCC President and Cecilia Rokusek, Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University, who have really outdone themselves to make the event such a memorable happening. They were also very helpful to me in the preparation of the Conference program.

Mila Rechigl
SVU President

Happy Anniversary!

140 years

American Sokol Organization

135 years

Bohemian Free Thinking School Society (Cicero, IL)

85 years

American Czech Women's and Men's Club (Northridge, CA)

70 years

Circle of Czech Women (Dallas, TX)

Czech Cultural Garden Association (Avon, OH)

First Czechoslovak Garden Club of America (Berwyn, IL)

50 years

Czech and Slovak Club (Tucson, AZ)

Special Photo Exhibit

Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Liberation of Western Bohemia by US Armed Forces

The Czech and Slovak Heritage Association's "Philadelphia Branch" with the support of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic – Philadelphia, the Czech Center in New York City and International House in Philadelphia are pleased to announce the showing of the photo exhibit about the liberation of Plzen (Pilsen) by U.S. Army.

When: June 10 – July 8, 2005

Where: International House
3701 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA

Admission charge: none
Voluntary contributions will be gratefully accepted by:
CZSLHA
c/o P.O.Box 777
Spring House, PA 19477



Photo courtesy of the City of Plzen

The picture above is a sample picture from the exhibition.

Further detailed announcement will be posted at the following web sites:
www.mzv.cz/philadelphia under "Current and Upcoming Events"
www.ihousephilly.org
www.czslha.org

Business Buzz

Czech Republic has the cheapest cars in the EU

The Czech Republic has the lowest prices of new passenger cars in the EU as well as in the whole of Western Europe. According to eurocarprice.com statistics, Czech car prices were 8 per cent lower than the average in countries using the EURO. Last year, car prices in the Czech Republic fell by 0.3 per cent. In contrast, cars in the whole of Europe became 2.4 per cent more expensive on average.

European air carriers interested in flights to Prague

Various companies are now interested in the Prague airport owing to the airport operator Ceska sprava letistv's business policy. The Czech Republic has the second lowest airport fees in Europe after Santa Maria (Azores Islands). The Ruzyně airport cleared a record 9.7 million passengers in 2004, a year-on-year growth of almost 30 percent.

Skoda Auto introduces offroad Yeti

Czech car maker Skoda Auto has introduced its small offroad Yeti at the Geneva motor show. The concept stands between classical offroads and sports utility vehicles and is suitable both for city traffic and for off-road driving.



Photo courtesy of Skoda Auto

Business Buzz

Budvar wins in Benelux

The Commercial Court in Brussels ruled in favor of the Czech brewer Budejovický Budvar in a dispute with its US rival Anheuser-Busch over the use of trademarks in the Benelux countries (Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg). The court confirmed the right of the Czech state-owned brewery to use their Budweiser Budvar, Budvar, Budweiser and Budiwoyz trademarks in all the Benelux countries. In 1979, the US brewing concern filed a legal complaint with the court to revoke Budvar's trademarks on the grounds that the Czech brewer did not use them to promote its beer. In 1990, the legal battle was suspended and renewed in 1998 on Anheuser's request. Budvar has registered some 380 trademarks in more than 100 countries of the world.

Number of foreign tourists at almost 8 million in 2004

The number of foreign tourists who visited the Czech Republic last year was 19.4 percent higher year-on-year at a record 7.9 million, according to an estimate of the government agency CzechTourism based on statistical data. Most visitors traditionally come from Germany. CzechTourism estimates the number of Germans in the Czech Republic at about 2 million last year, Slovakia ranks second and arrivals from Great Britain affected the statistical data as well. CzechTourism assigns the growth to cheap return tickets offered by air companies.

Partnership Foundation and Prague-Vienna Greenways



Bikers get ready to tackle the trail.

Brno, April 17, 2005 - the quickly approaching Earth Day celebrations of May 22 and 23 bring with them the official spring opening of Prague-Vienna Greenways. In many places along the trail between Prague and Vienna, people will be planting trees, revitalizing streams, cleaning public spaces, and preparing for the first spring bike ride.

The people caring for the Prague-Vienna Greenways are brought together by a common interest in the health of the environment, cultural preservation, natural heritage, and sustainable development in the communities where they live.

"The Opening of Greenways is the year's first community activity arranged by the civic organization Prague-Vienna Greenways," explains Chair Olga Zampova. "As in the last year, the theme this year is again 'tree planting.' We would like the Prague-Vienna Greenway to be a real 'green way'."

"One of the most exciting events of the opening will definitely be the bike ride organized by the Town of Telc, which starts at the Town Hall and ends at the Rostejn Castle."

The cyclists will stop at the new rest station in Vanov where Senator Jehlicka, along with the Mr. Zahradník, the Governor of the South Bohemia region and

Mr. Fabes, the Mayor of Telc will unveil Greenway's new information panel and plant four trees. This ceremony will mark the official opening of the rest station, which will provide a place for tired cyclists or weary wanderers to gather strength for the next part of their journey," according to Eva Bilikova, the Program Manager at Partnership Foundation, which provides coordination and financial support to the



Map of Prague-Vienna Greenways

Greenways program. Upon their arrival at the Rostejn Castle, cyclists will be treated to "The Way of the Sword," a performance by fencers and fakirs. Those wanting to help with the work along the trail can join the bike ride connected to planting of linden trees at the village centers in Czech Merano. This bike ride will start in the old Husite town of Jistebnice with a parade of historic bicycles. Or, they can get involved by helping to clean the new trail in Znojmo, or taking part in the cyclist's exchange and celebration at the opening of the trail at the town center.

"Without the wide cooperation of local partners, the Prague-Vienna Greenways couldn't exist," says Eva Bilikova. "The Partnership Foundation collaborates on the development of the trail with local partners who established the civic organization Prague-Vienna Greenways."

Today, there are more than 30 community associations, cities, municipalities, and private individuals joined together in cooperation on the project. It is very unique that Greenways succeed in bringing so many different people together to pursue a common goal."

Since the Prague-Vienna Greenways is an international trail, the Austrian partners will naturally also take part in the opening of the trail. They are organizing a bike ride called "Celtic Memories on Greenways" with the participation of local politicians favoring low-impact tourism and bicycle transport.

The Prague-Vienna Greenways is a network of nearly 700 km trails and paths for cyclists, pedestrians, horseback riders, and water sports enthusiasts. Along the main backbone of the long-distance path between Prague and Vienna are many shorter thematic trails, such as the Crafts and Believes Greenway in Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, the Rozmberk Heritage Greenway in the South Bohemia, or the Lichtenstein Heritage Greenway in South Moravia.

For more information, contact:
Eva Bilikova
Phone: (420) 542 422 764,
(420) 608 337 137.
eva.bilikova@ecn.cz
www.prahawien.greenways.info

Prague-Vienna
Greenways



Upcoming Cultural Events

May 11 - 7:00 pm Elementary School

(Obecna skola)
An Academy Award nominee in 1992 for best foreign film, this charming movie takes place in an all-boy school in the suburbs of Prague following the end of World War II.

May 19 - 7:00 pm Most

The Embassy will host a special screening and discussion on the film *Most* with director and co-writers Bobby Garabedian and William Zabka ("Johnny" from the "Karate Kid").

May 25 - Time to be announced Plastic People of the Universe

Join the legendary rock band for an informal discussion, film screening and reception. Although the Plastic People never defined themselves as a protest or political group, they

were a major symbol of resistance to the former Czechoslovakia's communist regime. They will also be performing at the Black Cat in Washington, DC on May 26. For info on that concert, go to: <http://www.blackcatdc.com>.

June 8 - 7:00 pm Wild Flowers (Kytice)

In the film, seven ballads of Czech poet K.J. Erben equal seven intense stories which could have happened anywhere about human love, passion, desire, obsession and selfishness.

June 15, 7:30 pm Beer in Czech Films

Spent the evening relaxing and looking at a selection of Czech films highlighting hilarious footage of Czech beer while drinking a pint yourself! The evening includes great beer, fare, and much merriment.



Plastic People of the Universe perform in concert.

Photo courtesy of WPU website

June 22 - 7:00 pm Capricious Summer

(Rozmarne leto)
The film comedy focuses on middle age as it approaches the film's characters. Set during the turn of the century, *Capricious Summer* reveals a group of vacationers who feel they are rapidly aging.

For reservations, please call: 202/274-9100 x.3413. For more information regarding a particular event, please call 202/275-9105. To view our complete cultural program, visit: www.mzv.cz/washington/culture.

Dear Friends of Czech Cuisine,

We would like to ask you for help with the publication of a booklet concerning various aspects of life and activities of Czechs Living Abroad. The editors would be happy to receive the following information (see also the message in this year's second issue of *Ceske Listy* newsletter, under the title "Beseda," page 21):

1) Recipes of popular meals in your communities

The recipe should specify the ingredients, the cooking procedures, type and character of the meal (used for holidays, weddings, etc.) The examples should also cover soups, sweets/cakes/desserts, and other types of meals (sides, sauces, salads, fillings/stuffings, drinks.) The names and localities of the contributors would be highly welcome.

2) Other texts connected with cuisine and cooking

Customs, proverbs, sayings, anecdotes, stories and experiences, short descriptions of family holidays, festivals, gatherings, reunions, examples of songs performed at various ceremonies.

3) Pictures and photos (sent electronically, 300 dpi, or mailed in envelopes)

Meals and their settings during concrete events (holidays, customs, festivities), written recipes, pages from cookbooks, traditional kitchen utensils, tools used to process food products, special furniture, typical houses, out-buildings, portraits of individuals, families, and the like. All pictures should be supplied with captions, "rich" and informative enough, mainly for the outsiders, those ignorant of and unfamiliar with the issues.

The contributions should be provided in the Czech language. We know that there are thousands of Czech Americans of all generations able to communicate – orally and in the written form – in Czech, their own mother tongue, or the native language of their ancestors. We are aware that some of them may consider the level of their knowledge inappropriate for official communication – how-

ever, please be rest assured that just the opposite is true – all variations of the Czech language (as is the case of English and of other tongues) are identically relevant, communicative, magical, all of them prove the vitality and viability of our language in all corners of the world. No one should feel embarrassed or shy to respond. Your responses are highly welcome, interesting, valuable and crucial for the generations to come.

The deadline for your submissions (marked as "CL – Kucharka") is set by the editors for May 15, 2005. They should be sent directly to Prague (Vladimir Chaloupka, MZV CR, OKKV, Skokanska 3, 169 09 Praha 6, Czech Republic, phone: +420 – 2 2046 6515, fax: 2 2046 6509, vladimir_chaloupka@mzv.cz, vlachal@seznam.cz) Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Business Buzz

Pilzensky Prazdroj raised sales abroad in 2004

The foreign sales of Prazdroj brewery grew by 13 per cent to 1.7 million hectoliters. The number of countries to which Prazdroj is exported stays at fifty. Prazdroj has also launched production at the Hungarian brewery Dreher, its sister company in the SABMiller group. The main export targets are still Germany, the USA, Slovakia and Great Britain. Prazdroj produces beer under a licence above all in Poland, Russia and Slovakia.



Sokol Announcement

Sokol Washington will organize a summer camp in the Monongahela State Park in West Virginia in the second half of August. Children age 7-15 are welcome. Price: 100\$.

For pictures from previous summer camps, visit: www.washingtonsokol.org
If interested, please contact Pavel Klein: 301/424-1658 kleinp@epilepsydc.com

28th Annual Sokol Detroit Czech and Slovak Festival will be held on July 23 and 24, 2005 at the Sokol Detroit Cultural Center in Dearborn Heights, MI.

For more information, please call:
Chairman James Mack: 248/932-5450(w)
248/539-5117(c) or
Anne Eisner: 313/ 382-0406

Prague-Vienna Greenways: *Lubomir and Tíree Chmelar*

On Earth Day weekend, the tourist season started at *Prague-Vienna Greenways*, a 250-mile network of trails connecting towns and villages through the countryside. It includes UNESCO Heritage Sites and Biospheres in Bohemia and Moravia. Twenty-five organizations and towns along the route work together in the Prague-Vienna GW Association.

Fifteen years ago, *Prague-Vienna GW* was Lubomir Chmelar's fledgling idea. As a Czech-American living in New York, he thought of using the concept of American Greenways in his homeland to help preserve its heritage through tourism.

He and his English wife, and a close collaborator, Tíree Chmelar, created their second home in Mikulov, Czechoslovakia. With four other partners they

founded in 1992 a Czech non-profit organization, Greenways-Zelene stezky (GWZS). The group decided to establish *Prague-Vienna Greenways* using Prague's and Vienna's name recognition and the existing hiking trails network between these two cities. For the first 6 years, Lubomir and Tíree Chmelar were running the GWZS's operations from either their kitchen in Manhattan or the hectic one-room office in the Valtice Chateau with old computers and one phone line.

The successful start and further development of the *Prague-Vienna GW* wouldn't have been possible without the help and support by organizations such as the Hickory Foundation, the Kress Foundation, World Monuments Fund, the American Express Philanthropic Program, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Trust for Mutual Understanding

and the Foundation for Civil Society.

The Czech Greenways program helps local organizations in their efforts to create new trails, reviving traditional arts and crafts, restoring historic monuments, planting new trees, and encouraging local business communities to provide quality services to visitors. Greenways Travel Club arranges tours and contributes a percentage of its income to the Greenways program.

Lubomir and Tíree Chmelar also formed Friends of Czech Greenways in New York to reach out to the international community. Tíree Chmelar initiated their latest project to recreate an Herb Garden at the Valtice Chateau. Sadly, in January 2005, her work was cut short when she died in a tragic car accident in upstate New York. Her love for the Czech people, her dedication to the Czech greenways program



Lubomir and Tíree C. Chmelar

and her "it-can-be-done" optimism will be terribly missed by all in the Czech Greenways family.

Contributions to Valtice Herb Garden can be sent to:
*Friends of Czech Greenways/
Valtice Herb Garden
410 West 20th Street
New York, NY 10011*

Contact: Zuzana Halsey
Friends of Czech Greenways
718-258-5468
friendsgw@aol.com
www.PragueViennaGreenways.org

Embassy of the Czech Republic
3900 Spring of Freedom Street
Washington, DC 20008
Tel.: 202/274-9100 Fax: 202/966-8540
www.mzv.cz/washington
Petr Janousek, Chief Editor
Mary Fezko, Art Director
Veronika Spacakova, News Digest
Petra Zizkova, Editor
Marketa Janikova, Business Editor
Veronika Lukasova, Photography

