

United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter

C O L L A G E



Global articles for your interest

Issue 3

February 16 - February 28, 2009

Contents:

1. Human Rights Report Sees Worldwide Demand for Greater Freedom

More people worldwide are demanding greater personal and political freedom, but many governments are resisting this trend, according to this year's human rights report. The Obama administration has vowed to make human rights "an essential piece" of its foreign policy, Secretary Clinton says. ...

2. Obama Submits US Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2010

"A budget is more than simply numbers on a page," President Obama says as he submits to Congress a summary of his fiscal year 2010 budget proposal for \$3.55 trillion. "It is a measure of how well we are living up to our obligations to ourselves and one another."...

3. Obama Administration Imposes Tough Lobbying Restrictions

President Obama has imposed some of the toughest lobbying restrictions in U.S. history, but it will take time to see if these restrictions have an impact. Lobbying is inherent to the U.S. system of governance, an expert tells journalists at the State Department's Foreign Press Center. ...

4. In Democracies, Political Rivals Work Together, Clinton Says

In democratic countries like the United States, political rivals often work together after an election, Secretary of State Clinton says. "We try after we have elections to come together and look for solutions to the problems that we face," Clinton tells Indonesian journalists. ...

5. Singer/Composer Stevie Wonder Honored at White House Ceremony

In accepting the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song at the White House, music legend Stevie Wonder becomes only the second recipient of the rare, prestigious award. Wonder also joins other artists to perform for President Obama, first lady Michelle Obama and their guests. ...

6. Language-Immersion Program Focuses on Teaching Through Play

Increasingly, U.S. families are eager to have their children learn languages at an early age. One program, CommuniKids Language School for Children, fulfills this desire by offering total-immersion classes in French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Mandarin Chinese and Arabic to children just beginning to...

In case you missed it:



Secretary Clinton releases the 2008 Human Rights Report

[Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Releases the 2008 Human Rights Report](#)

February 25, 2009

On February 24, Secretary Clinton spoke with the media about the importance of human rights as she released the State Department's annual report.

◇ To view the section related to **Macedonia**, please [click here](#).

◇ To see her comments, please [click here](#).

◇ To view the entire report, please [click here](#).



Ambassador Reeker and Prime Minister Gruevski sign partnership agreement (LP)

Kanal 5 TV video; (wmv - size 1.77MB)
ALSAT TV video; (wmv - size 8.52MB)

[Partnership between Macedonia and the U.S. Expands the Fulbright Program](#)

February 25, 2009

Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski and Ambassador Philip T. Reeker signed an agreement in which the Government of Macedonia will donate \$100,000 to strengthen the Fulbright program, increasing the number of available scholarships for Macedonian students to study in the U.S. and receive two-year master's degrees. Since Macedonia declared independence, the United States Government, through the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, has sent 77 citizens of Macedonia to the U.S. on this program. "Today we deepen the bilateral cooperation between the US and the Republic of Macedonia when we sign this agreement to expand the Fulbright Program here. This is an exciting moment in our partnership," said Ambassador Reeker at the signing ceremony. For more information on the Fulbright program, please [click here](#). | For the full text of his speech, please [click here](#).

◇ To view **Kanal 5 TV video** footage from this event (**WMV/size 1.77 MB**), please [click here](#).

◇ To view **ALSAT TV video** footage from this event (**WMV/size 8.52 MB**), please [click here](#).



Discussing the Upcoming Elections

February 23, 2009

Ambassador Reeker joined EU Ambassador Fouéré and OSCE Ambassador Herrero on the show X/O to discuss the upcoming presidential and local elections. They all recognized these elections were critical for Macedonia and would be important in helping the country attain its Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

Ambassador Reeker joined by EU Ambassador Fouéré and OSCE Ambassador Herrero discuss the upcoming elections.
📺 **video** - (WMV size 10.7MB)

◇ To see excerpts of the show (WMV file - size 10.7MB), please [click here](#).



Remembering President Trajkovski

February 26, 2009

Ambassador and Mrs. Reeker attended several events to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the tragic death of President Boris Trajkovski.

Ambassador Reeker visited President Trajkovski's grave as a part of the commemoration activities. (LP)

◇ To see a video clip of the Ambassador's tribute to the President, please [click here](#).

◇ To link to A1 news coverage of the Youth Leadership Forum, please [click here](#).



Ambassador Reeker addresses the audience at AC Skopje's Fourth Anniversary (LP)
video (WMV/size 7.04MB)

America through Macedonian Eyes; Macedonia's Elections through America's Eyes

February 18, 2009

To mark the fourth anniversary of American Corner Skopje, the Corner held a celebration that included live music from the QSI school and the announcement of the winners of a photo contest, "America Through Macedonian Eyes." Ambassador Philip T. Reeker presented the winner, Mihaljo Naumovski, with New York: Capital of Photography. Ambassador Reeker said that

"the American Corner in Skopje represents an opportunity for Macedonians, both young and the old, to come and learn about the US, but it is also an opportunity to tell the US story to the world." Approximately 120 people attended the event, including students from the past summer's creative writing camp and winners of the Corner's Thanksgiving essay contest. Journalists from three television stations were also present; afterwards, Ambassador Reeker spoke to them about how people around the world were watching Macedonia prepare for its upcoming elections in March. He discussed how important it is for Macedonia to conduct the elections in a free and fair manner and that "there is no room in the 21st century in Europe, in Macedonia, for intimidations or any violence or anything that would impair these very important elections because they are important for every single Macedonian."

◇ To view video footage from this event (WMV/size 7.04 MB), [please click here](#).



Ambassador and Mrs. Reeker tour the Macedonian Cinematheque. (LP)

Yee Haw! Western Film Festival Opens at Macedonian Cinematheque

February 24, 2009

February 24--Ambassador Philip T. Reeker opened the Western film program at the Macedonian Cinematheque. The program opened with a screening of High Noon, a classic Western from 1952 directed by Fred Zinnemann and starring Gary Cooper, Thomas Mitchell, Katy Jurado, Lloyd Bridges

and Grace Kelly. Before the opening, Ambassador Reeker toured the Cinematheque facility and admired old Western movie posters from the region. | To read the ambassador's speech and his text in the catalogue, please [click here](#).

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Small Grants information: http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small_grants_program.html

American Educational Exchange information: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/aec.html>

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