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U.S. Embassy Honors Victims and Heroes of September 11 Attacks and Renews Commitment to Defeat Terrorism

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On September 11, 2002, the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat held a commemorative ceremony at the Embassy to honor victims and heroes of September 11, 2001. Ambassador Laura Kennedy and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov gave speeches before an audience of American guests, government officials, the diplomatic corps and the religious community in Turkmenistan.

"On this day, as we remember those individuals lost and those families shattered on September 11, let us renew our commitment to defeat terrorism and to build a better future for the civilized community", said Ambassador Kennedy concluding her speech, in which she emphasized the need to continue to combat global terrorism. Minister Meredov spoke about Turkmenistan's condemnation of the attacks, emphasizing Turkmenistan's support for continued international efforts within the framework of the U.N.

After the commemorative ceremony, Ambassador Kennedy invited all guests to a public photograph exhibit and a concert of classical music held at the Mollanepes Theater. The exhibit featured 47 photographs of the sites of the attacks, sympathy and support from



Representatives of the Turkmen Government and diplomatic and religious community attended the ceremony



Ambassador Kennedy opens the September 11 Commemoration Ceremony. Next to Ambassador Kennedy is Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov

around the world, the war on terrorism and humanitarian aid efforts to Afghanistan. At the exhibit, the Embassy gave away publications related to September 11.

A packed house of 700 attended the public concert, which opened with Mozart's "Requiem" which was also being performed simultaneously around the world. The "Saz" Orchestra performed other compositions by a variety of international and Turkmen composers. The premiere of an original piece by noted Turkmen composer Rejep Allayarov commemorating September 11 was the highlight of the concert.

Expressions of sympathy and support from the public and the Government of Turkmenistan and members of the international community arrived at the Embassy over several days. Many Turkmen citizens signed the Embassy's Condolence Book, including Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Mukhammet Khudaykulyev who wrote words of sympathy on behalf of the Turkmen Government. Turkmen people laid numerous bouquets in front of the Embassy.

Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia William Taylor Visits Turkmenistan

Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia in the Department of State William B. Taylor Jr. visited Ashgabat August 25-27, 2002. Ambassador William Taylor met with President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Niyazov to discuss U.S. assistance programs for Turkmenistan.

As part of his program in Turkmenistan, Ambassador Taylor visited some of the activities undertaken



Ambassador Taylor (left), National Library Director Maral Jumayeva and British Ambassador Paul Brummel during the opening of the IATP public site

by the implementing partners of USAID and the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat. USAID Central Asian Mission Director George Deikun, USAID Turkmenistan Country Representative Bradford Camp, and Public Affairs staff accompanied him. Within the framework of his stay, Ambassador Taylor had the opportunity to meet with local NGOs and alumni of U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs. Together with Ambassador of Great Britain in Turkmenistan Paul Brummel, Ambassador Taylor officially opened the first Internet Access and Training Program (IATP) public site at the National Library. After his meeting with President Niyazov, Ambassador Taylor gave a press conference at the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat.

Ambassador Taylor oversees the bilateral economic, security, democracy, and humanitarian assistance of U.S. Government agencies providing assistance to 27 states of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. U.S. assistance to Turkmenistan reached \$16.4 million in fiscal year 2002, compared to \$12.2 million in fiscal year 2001.

Ambassador Kennedy Visits the Society of Petroleum Engineers Student Chapter

United States Ambassador to Turkmenistan Laura Kennedy visited the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Student Chapter Resource Center at the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute on September 10, 2002. Ambassador Kennedy learned about activities of the SPE Student Chapter and materials available at its resource center.

The visit began with a tour of the resource center given by the head of the SPE Student Chapter Yakub Karryev. Ambassador Kennedy and member students engaged in a lively discussion about the new educational reform in Turkmenistan. Students also reported that SPE in Ashgabat provides many opportunities for direct contact with SPE members in other parts of the world. This worldwide communication is ensured by its Internet connection, which also enables SPE Student Chapter members to exchange experiences, participate in international oil and gas engineering conferences and enrich their knowledge of new technology. Yakub Karryev told Ambassador Kennedy about SPE's current activities, including joint projects with local and foreign oil and gas companies operating in Turkmenistan.

USAID/CAR Energy Specialist Ted Streit, USAID/CAR Country Representative Bradford Camp, Rector of the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute faculty members participated at this event along with active members of the Student Chapter.

USAID's Central Asia Natural Resources Management Program and the Government of

Turkmenistan took an active part in creating the SPE Student Chapter Office and its resource center at the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute. The Student Chapter and its resource center started functioning in 2001 in the framework of technical assistance provided by USAID/NRMP as a partnership program. The resource center now has a large collection of books on oil and gas industry by leading specialists, magazines issued in different countries, various newspapers on technical and management issues, which are available for all students and faculty members as well as participating engineers.

USAID/NRMP also assists the SPE Student Chapter by conducting various trainings. PA Consulting, which administers the USAID/NRMP program in Turkmenistan, conducted a one-week training on Web Page Designing for Student Chapter members on August 5-9, 2002. Twelve members of the Student Chapter learned the basics of the Internet and website designing, and upon completion of the course each received a certificate on successful completion of the Basic Course of Web-Design.



Ambassador Kennedy with officials of the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute and SPE Student Chapter members.

Jazz Ambassadors Pack in the Crowds in Ashgabat

A trio of Jazz Ambassadors visited Ashgabat September 18 - 21, 2002, as part of their regional concert tour of Central Asian and Caucasus countries, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Jazz Ambassadors David Gilmore (guitar), Eddie Allen (trumpet) and Mark Peterson (bass guitar) conducted various concerts and master classes in Ashgabat.



Jazz Ambassadors (from left) Mark Peterson, Eddie Allen and David Gilmore performing at the public concert at Mollanepes Theater

At the Jazz Festival held at the Sheraton Ak Altin Hotel on September 19, the Jazz Ambassadors and several local bands performed for the audience of about 200 guests. It was a relaxing evening in the rear garden of the hotel with great food and lively jazz music. On Friday, September 20, the jazz trio gave a free public concert at Mollanepes Theater, introduced by the U.S. Ambassador in Turkmenistan Laura E. Kennedy. About 450 people attended the concert, gave the trio a standing ovation and requested an encore. After the concert, the trio was swamped by audience members coming to the stage to request autographs. The Jazz Ambassadors' final concert was an intimate performance at a local bar.

The Gilmore, Peterson, and Allen Trio conducted several masterclass workshops with the orchestra of

the National Cultural Center. Approximately 50 musicians and performers of the Center attended the workshops. The trio discussed the origins and history of jazz and demonstrated different styles of jazz music for the orchestra. Orchestra members, for whom the workshops provided their first experience with jazz music and with American musicians, were curious and engaged throughout the workshops. The U.S. Embassy arranged a small press conference for the Gilmore, Peterson, and Allen Trio, which was attended by several members of the local press corps and many members of the orchestra.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the United States Department of State, now engaged in the fifth year of their cooperative "Jazz Ambassadors" project, announced the Fall 2002 Millennium Stage concerts and tours of seven exemplary jazz trios. These trios, all selected through highly competitive auditions, are touring in countries across Africa, Latin America, Central and South Asia with programs representing American "blues" music. The Jazz Ambassador tour by Gilmore, Allen, and Peterson Trio coincides with the 100th anniversary of jazz great Louis Armstrong this year.



Guitar player David Gilmore signing autographs after the concert

The U.S. Embassy Welcomes New Staff Members

On September 27, 2002, U.S. Ambassador in Turkmenistan Laura E. Kennedy gave a reception at the Sheraton Grand Turkmen Hotel to welcome the U.S. Embassy's new staff members and to bid farewell to departing employees of the Embassy. Over 400 guests from the Government of Turkmenistan, foreign embassies and international companies in Turkmenistan had the opportunity to personally meet and welcome new members of the Embassy and their spouses. New staff introduced included Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Tansey, Political/Economic Officer John Godfrey, Consular Officer Jennifer Hall, Administrative Officer Daniel Hirsch, Political/Military Officer David Tyson, USAID Country Director Bradford Camp,

General Services Officer Francis Nelson, Export Control and Border Security Advisor Steven Parker, and Facility Management Specialist William Crummey. Peace Corps Country Director Sharon Sugarek was also officially introduced and welcomed at the reception as well as new members of the U.S. Marine Security Guard Detachment, Rust, Brown, and Byrd.

Counterparts, colleagues and friends of departing Embassy members Political/Military Officer Henry Mau, Community Liaison Officer Sabine Mau and Facility Management Specialist Eric Wood bade farewell to them and expressed appreciation for their service in Turkmenistan.

Embassy Announces 2003-2004 Academic Exchange Programs

The U.S. Embassy Ashgabat held a press conference at the American Center in Ashgabat on September 18, 2002, to officially announce the opening of recruitment season for eight [academic exchange programs for citizens of Turkmenistan in the 2003-2004 academic year](#). Representatives of higher educational institutions and the National Library of Turkmenistan attended the presentation along with journalists.

Opening the presentation, Acting Public Affairs Officer of the U.S. Embassy Jennifer Hall Godfrey said, "The U.S. Government considers the development of educational cooperation with Turkmenistan a very high priority and the U.S. Embassy in Turkmenistan is glad to contribute educational opportunities for the citizens of Turkmenistan."

Country Director Brendan Dallas and other staff members of the American Councils for International Education (ACCELS) introduced four programs administered by their office in Turkmenistan. They are the Edmund Muskie Graduate Program, the Future Leaders Exchange Program for high school students, the Teaching Excellence Awards Program for English language

teachers of Turkmen schools, and the Junior Faculty Development Program for young university teachers. Bahar Atayeva and Kaia Benson introduced two programs administered by the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX): the Undergraduate Program for university students and the Contemporary Issues Fellowship Program for professionals and specialists. Anjela Begjanova of the U.S. Embassy familiarized participants with the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship program for mid-level professionals in leadership positions, and the Fulbright Program, which provides opportunities for academic research.

These educational and research exchange programs are designed to build better understanding between students, teachers and scholars of Turkmenistan and the U.S. Since 1992, these programs have helped Turkmenistan's citizens explore American society, culture and traditions. During the past nine years, more than 700 Turkmen citizens have successfully completed their studies via these programs in the United States. Now they are successfully working or continuing their education in many industries such as business, law, government and public policy.

English Teachers of Turkmenistan Gather for a Conference in Gokdere

English language teachers from all over Turkmenistan gathered for the Fourth English Teachers' Conference in Gokdere August 20-25, 2002. Thirty-five teachers from all five welayats of Turkmenistan had five days of learning and fun in a small resort settlement outside of Ashgabat.

The program of the conference included workshops, seminars, discussions with guest speakers, and



English teachers from all over Turkmenistan gathered for a conference in Gokdere resort settlement.

evening activities, which were conducted in an English-only environment. Teachers learned about being effective in teaching, using movies and songs in their classes, and taking TOEFL tests. Speakers who visited the conference, including Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat Mr. Robert Tansey and ACCELS Country Director Mr. Brendan Dallas, talked about education, teachers' needs in Turkmenistan, conflict resolution, and ethnic diversity and held lively discussions with participants.

Teachers were encouraged to bring their children to the conference. Young boys and girls participated in special activities for kids, which focused on developing their self-expression and creativity, and fostering their identity and aspiration for friendship through constructive games and crafts. All participants found the conference very useful for their professional development and went back to their hometowns full of energy and enthusiasm to teach English in a new academic year.

National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan Distributes Aid from U.S.

Another humanitarian assistance shipment arrived in Ashgabat on August 26, 2002, as part of U.S. Department of State initiative to support the population of Turkmenistan. Counterpart International Community and Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP) supplied the shipment valued at \$166,000, which consists of daily rations and medical, kitchen and office supplies and equipment. CHAP's distribution partner - the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan (TRCS) received the shipment and will distribute it to the elderly, orphans, the disabled, and large

families, as well as to organizations which support them. Moreover, the TRCS will supply its charity houses in Ashgabat and all welayats of Turkmenistan, where needy people are served a hot meal every day, with kitchen accessories received from CHAP.

CHAP has been working with the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan for almost four years. Since 1998, the TRCS has received from CHAP and distributed throughout the country \$ 4.1 million worth of assistance.

Students Conduct a Street Law Seminar in School #12 in Turkmenabat

Through funds provided by a U.S. Embassy Democracy grant to the Student Law Club "Adalat" (the Turkmen word for "Justice"), students from the Law Department of Turkmen State University (TSU) conduct "Street Law" seminars to school students and teachers throughout Turkmenistan. The Street Law Program and the student law club are supported by the American Bar Association's Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI). The seminars are designed to inform and educate participants about their basic human rights and other legal concepts through interactive methods, including role-playing, debates, and mock trials.

On September 8, in School #12 in the City of Turkmenabat, Bahar Tekaeva, Maral Sapargeldieva,

and Selbi Annalievna, all active members of the student law club "Adalat", trained teachers and pupils in the right to life and the right to education. Thirty-two school students from the 7th to 9th grades and four teachers participated in the seminar. Other observers included the Director of School #12, Elena Georgiyevna Yaskina, and the Head of the Welayat Children and Youth Center, Shakir Zairovich Turayev. All participants were required to take positions and support their decisions on issues such as the death penalty and mercy killing. The lessons include relevant international treaties of which Turkmenistan is a signatory, and other Turkmen laws. The lesson concluded with a mock trial, with different groups of students acting as prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges.



Law students conduct seminar on the "right to life" and its implications to the citizens of Turkmenistan.

Other Street Law seminars delivered to Turkmen students include lessons on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the role of law in Turkmen society, and gender equality in Turkmenistan. More than 200 students and educators have participated in the program initiated earlier this year. Additional student/trainers from the law department of TSU, as well as teachers from schools throughout Turkmenistan, will be trained by ABA/CEELI and Street Law, Inc., in November on delivering Street Law lessons in an effort to further expand the program's reach.

If you have any comments on the newsletter,
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