



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

April 16, 2002

DIRECTORS

- MELTON CERNY, Esq.
President, AFoCR
Former, *Callie & Drysdale*
- MICHAEL G. ROKOS
Vice President, AFoCR
Director, *Czech & Slovak Heritage Association*
- PHILIP M. KASK, P.E.
Treasurer, AFoCR
Former, *MFR Assoc. Engineers*
- RONALD J. BARTIK
Secretary, AFoCR
Former, *M&I, Griffin & Korol*
- DANIEL E. BALDWIN
Director, *Czech & Slovak Museum and Library*
- THOMAS R. CRICH
Nobel Laureate, Chemistry
President, *Howard Hughes Medical Institute*
- EUGENE CRIMAN
Architect
President, *Johson Engineering Corp.*
- WESLEY K. CLARK
General, U.S. Army, Ret.
Former *Supreme Allied Commander, Europe*
- TALBOT ("BANDY") D'ARMOSE
President, *Florida State University*
Former *CHIEF, Proc. Div. AF&C*
- ROBERT W. DOUBEK
Former *General Counsel, Dayton Research Foundation*
Former *President, AFoCR*
- THOMAS G. GRIHAN
Director, *Apharma Pharmaceuticals*
Former *Trustee, Carnegie Mellon University*
- VLADIMIR M. KARES
President, *VAM, Kaiser International Consultants*
- FREDERIC VINCENT MALEK
Chairman, *Thyco Capital Partners*
Former *Advisor to President Nixon, Reagan and G. Bush*
- PETER RAFAEL
Honorary *Czech Consul General of the Czech Republic, Philadelphia*
- RICHARD SCHUBERT
Former *President, American Red Cross*
Former *President, Points-of-Light Foundation*
- JOHN SHATTUCK
Chief/Executive Officer, *SPK Library*
Former *Ambassador to the Czech Republic (1998-2000)*
- JAN SVEJNAR
Executive Director, *The William Dawkins Institute, Univ. of Michigan*
Chairman, *CHARGE-EE Monetary Reform Institute, Prague*
- JUDY BAAR TOFDNA
Treasurer, *State of Illinois*
- ALEXANDR VONDERA
Former *Czech Ambassador to the United States*
- WILLIAM S. WHITE
President, *Charles Darnett Nat. Foundation*

Mr. John Chwat
Chwat & Company, Inc.
635 Slaters Lane
Suite 140
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: *The Masaryk Project*

Dear John:

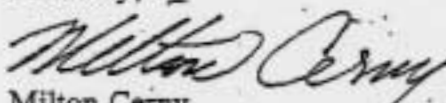
Let me express my deepest appreciation to you and Derek Riker for the wonderful job you did in helping us gain the necessary legislation and approval from the Congress and the President for Federal land in order to construct the Masaryk statute.

As you well know, it has taken many times organizations over ten years to obtain the necessary approvals in order to begin construction. We received our approval in less than a year from the time we applied for the appropriate legislation and are in the midst now of completing our fund-raising program in order to complete the project by September 2002. It was through your and Derek's expert knowledge that helped facilitate the processing of our request. We will always be indebted to you for your service in this regard.

The American Friends of the Czech Republic send you our very best wishes and look forward to working with you on other projects in the future.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,


Milton Cerny
President

MC/ih

ADVISORS

- ADRIAN A. BASORA
Former U.S. Ambassador
Czechoslovakia (1992-97)
 - ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
Center for Strategic and
International Studies
 - ELISKA HASEK COOLEGE
Former *Deputy Chief of Protocol, The White House*
 - ROBERT CHARTERIS
Former, *Visiting Professor*
 - ARTHUR J. COLLINGSWORTH
Consultant
 - MELOS FORDMAN
File Director
 - PATRICIA HAMPL
Writer
 - HENRY KIRSHINGER
Former U.S.
Secretary of State
 - JAMES A. LOVELL, JR.
Accountant
 - WENDY W. LILES
President, *The Foundation for a Civil Society*
 - SEN. RICHARD G. LUGAR
Chairman, *Senate Agriculture Committee*
 - MARTINA NAVRATILOVA
Tenor Professional
 - JULIAN M. NIEBICZEK
Former U.S. Ambassador
Czechoslovakia (1986-89)
 - MICHAEL NOVAK
American Enterprise Institute
 - MARTIN PALOUS
Former *Czech Ambassador to the United States*
 - RICHARD PYNICKA
Hon. *Consul General of the CR, San Francisco*
 - JAN POCHENT
FALA, Architect, Educator, Consultant, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
 - EPHRAIM RICHENT
Former *Czech Cultural Center*
 - PETER SIS
Artist
 - SIEG SPACK
Artist
 - CHRIS STARBUCK
Former U.S. Ambassador
to the Czech Republic
 - JIMMONE WALKER
Former U.S. Ambassador
to the Czech Republic (1997-01)
- SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS**
- AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION
 - CSA FRATERNAL LIFE
 - CZECH AND SLOVAK SOLIDARITY COUNCIL
 - CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA
 - NATIONAL CZECH AND SLOVAK MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

A Hero of Democracy Finds a Home

D.C. Park Location Approved for Stored Statue of Czechoslovakia's Founder

By MANNY FERNANDEZ
Washington Post Staff Writer

A bronze statue of the founding father of Czechoslovakia—stored away under the rule of the Nazis and banned under communist leaders—finally will have its own turf in a small Northwest Washington park.

The 12-foot likeness of Tomas G. Masaryk, created in 1937 and currently in storage at the National Gallery in Prague, has never been exhibited in the country Masaryk founded. In Washington, it is to be the centerpiece of a memorial to Masaryk, an ardent democrat inspired by American political philosophy who organized Czech resistance against Austria during World War I and championed his country's independence.

Yesterday, the Commission of Fine Arts approved the location for the memorial, which was authorized by Congress and received President Bush's approval last year.

The National Park Service said it plans to erect the statue of Czechoslovakia's first president on a small patch of land at Massachusetts Avenue and 22nd Street NW.

Commission Chairman J. Carter Brown said the sculpture of Masaryk—hat in one hand and the Declaration of Czech Independence from Austria in the other—would be in a fitting neighborhood: A memorial to Mohandas K. Gandhi is about a block away on Massachusetts.

The plan is to unveil the statue at a joint presidential ceremony—featuring Bush and Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel—in September.

"We thought it was only fitting that this person, who is one of the foremost champions of liberty, be honored in the capital of the world's leading democracy," said Milton Cerny, president of the D.C.-based nonprofit group American Friends of the Czech Republic, which has been leading the campaign to honor Masaryk.



COURTESY OF AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

This statue of Tomas G. Masaryk will go from Prague to the city where he wrote the Declaration of Czech Independence.

Masaryk, the son of a coachman and a cook, became a philosophy professor. He fought anti-Semitism and advocated women's rights, even taking the family name of his American-born wife, Charlotte Garrigue, as his middle name.

Throughout his life, Masaryk

made visits to the United States. He became a visiting professor at the University of Chicago and wrote the Declaration of Czech Independence in Washington in 1918. The document was held for safekeeping by the Library of Congress until about a decade ago, when Bush's father pre-

sented it to Havel.

The statue, created by the Czech sculptor Vincenc Makovsky, traveled a similar path.

The writings and images of Masaryk, president from 1918 to 1935, were forbidden during the Nazi occupation in the early 1940s and in the following decades of communist rule. Cerny said those regimes sought to "obliterate any memory" of Masaryk because he was a symbol of democracy.

Another bronze statue of the Czech leader spent three decades in a crate in a California garage before it was donated to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. That statue's first public exhibition was at the museum in May 2000. It was cast in 1938 and "immediately buried so that the Nazis would not melt it down," said Dan Baldwin, the museum's president and chief executive.

Even after communism's fall in 1989 and Czechoslovakia's breakup in 1992, the statue now planned for the District remained at the National Gallery in Prague. As the Czech Republic underwent dramatic transitions in recent years, Cerny said, "putting up a statue wasn't a priority activity."

The statue, which Cerny said is in excellent condition, will be a gift to the United States from the Czech Republic. The triangular park that will be its home will undergo a redesign and be designated Masaryk Park.

The names of the project's supporters read like a guest list at a state dinner, from Havel to Czech-born former secretary of state Madeleine K. Albright to Rep. Henry J. Hyde (R-Ill.) to Ambassador of the Slovak Republic Martin Butora.

Masaryk, who died at age 87 the year his statue was sculpted, is remembered today among world leaders, Cerny said, because "he stood up for the truth while others feared to face the truth. He attacked prejudice when bigotry was almost universal in Europe."



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 19, 2001

Mr. Milton Cerny
American Friends of the Czech Republic
One Thomas Circle, N.W.
Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Cerny:

I am very pleased to offer my support to your project to raise a statue to Tomas Masaryk in Washington.

The efforts of the American Friends of the Czech Republic to realize this project are evidence of the strong ties between America and the Czech Republic. I am reminded of the many Czech and Slovak immigrants who helped build this country and who continue to play a vital role in our success as a democracy and a nation of economic opportunity. I think too of the strong friendship between President Wilson and President Masaryk, and the widespread admiration of all Americans for his successful creation of a free, democratic Czechoslovakia.

I am delighted to see that many Members of Congress join me in supporting this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GWB", written over a large, stylized flourish.

George W. Bush