



35th

Anniversary
Velvet Revolution

25th

Hanno R. Ellenbogen
Citizenship Award
Ceremony

Bratislava, Slovak Republic
18 –19 November 2024

Brno, Czech Republic
20 November 2024

The
Prague Society
for International Cooperation

GLOBAL
PANEL® 



WELCOME

to the 35th Commemoration of the Velvet Revolution
and 25th Anniversary Hanno R. Ellenbogen Citizenship Award Ceremony

Wesley K. Clark
Honorary Chair

Marc S. Ellenbogen
Chair, President

Michael Stimson
Executive Vice-President

H.S.H. Elizabeth Princess Lobkowitz
Chair, Nomination Committee
Hanno R. Ellenbogen Citizenship Award

in cooperation with

Hon. Minister Dr. Tomáš Drucker



Hon. Minister Dr. Richard Raši



H.E. Rudolf Jindrák
Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Slovakia



H.E. Pasi Tuominen
*Ambassador of Finland
to the Czech Republic and Slovakia*

The Prague Society for International Cooperation

The Prague Society grew out of the dissident movement fighting communist regimes, and finally became a registered NGO in 1997 during the Presidency of Václav Havel.

Its main aims are to promote international cooperation in Central Europe by showing leadership against corruption and abuse.

The Prague Society creates and maintains a network of businessmen, diplomats, politicians and academics, who contribute to important policy issues. It organizes off-the-record discussions which allow decision makers to influence and act upon one another's thinking and endeavors to bring about a new generation of leaders and – most importantly – to give a voice to the unheard.

www.PragueSociety.org

Global Panel Foundation

The Global Panel Foundation was founded in the Netherlands in 1989 by Bas Spuybroek and Frans Lurvink, with the support of Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek.

It is known for its work – behind the scenes – in conflict zones around the world. Long before it was politically correct, the Global Panel was supporting Cuban dissidents and other political economic initiatives.

The Global Panel is a respected institution which takes no government funding thereby avoiding conflicts of interest and potential manipulation.

www.GlobalPanel.org

The Hanno R. Ellenbogen Citizenship Award

Honoring Achievement in Public
Service to Central and Eastern Europe

The Prague Society has presented the Hanno R. Ellenbogen Citizenship Award annually since 2000. The award, presented in partnership with the Global Panel Foundation, honors dedication to and achievement in public service, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe.

Traditionally, the recipient of the award donates the award's financial prize to an exceptional young person or organization of their choosing.

Former recipients include Magda Vášáryová, Gen. Wesley K. Clark, Madeleine Albright, Václav Havel, and the 14th Dalai Lama.

Lifelong Commitment to Public Service

The award is named in honor of a woman who grew up in post-war Germany. The years spent in a divided Europe instilled in her a firm belief in positive action. Her commitment to ideals of public service and the common good helped to break down the barriers which divide people in their shared destiny.



35th Commemoration of the Velvet Revolution
25th Anniversary Hanno R. Ellenbogen Citizenship Award Ceremony

Schedule

Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Monday 18th November

Pálffy Palace, Panská 19

18:00 Opening ceremony
Pálffy Palace Marc S. Ellenbogen
 Minister Dr. Tomáš Drukker
 H.E. Rudolf Jindrák
 H.E. Pasi Tuominen
 Hon. Magda Vášáryova

19:00 Comments by
Pálffy Palace PM Petr Nečas, Hon. Štefan Füle
 Hon. Martin Palouš, Roger Johnson

Evening
onwards Lord Robertson of Port Ellen
Pálffy Palace 4th Recipient of the HRE Award
 Secretary General of NATO 1999 – 2003
 UK Secretary of Defense 1997 – 1999
 (by video link)

Tuesday 19th November

Czech Center, Prepoštská 2088/6

Pálffy Palace, Panská 19

09:30 – 11:30 Offline Session
Czech Center

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Session
Czech Center

14:00 – 16:30 Offline Session
Czech Center

18:00 – 19:30 25th H.R.E Citizenship
Pálffy Palace Award Ceremony
 H.S.H Elisabeth Princess
 Lobkowitz
 Hon. Magda Vášáryova

19:30 onwards Reception
Pálffy Palace

35th Commemoration of the Velvet Revolution
25th Anniversary Hanno R. Ellenbogen Citizenship Award Ceremony

Schedule

Grand Hotel
Brno, Czech Republic

Wednesday 20th November

Offline Sessions

12:00 – 14:00 Policy Chat / limited space
Opening comments by Roger Johnson,
Vice-Chair Republicans Overseas

14:00 – 15:00 Discussion Session
Marek Mora,
Deputy Minister of Finance of the Czech Republic

Marc S. Ellenbogen

Denis Bilunov,
Director Russia Policy Initiative



Recipients

25th Anniversary
Hanno R. Ellenbogen Citizenship Award

XXV. Cardinal Dominik Duka

Cardinal Archbishop Emeritus of Prague

Dominik Jaroslav Duka, born in 1943, is a prominent Czech Catholic leader who served as Archbishop of Prague from 2010 to 2022 and became a cardinal in 2012. Duka's early life was shaped by challenges; his father, an army officer, was imprisoned under Czechoslovakia's communist regime. Ordained as a Dominican priest in 1970, Duka faced restrictions when his priestly authorization was revoked in 1975, forcing him to work secretly in ministry and at the Škoda factory. He was briefly imprisoned in the 1980s due to his involvement in underground religious activities.

In 1998, Duka became Bishop of Hradec Králové, later appointed Archbishop of Prague by Pope Benedict XVI. He advocated for the restitution of church property seized during communism and presided over the funeral of Václav Havel in 2011. Pope Francis accepted his resignation as Archbishop of Prague in May 2022, concluding a notable tenure.



XXIV. Milan Kňažko

Actor & Politician



Milan Kňažko, born in 1945 in Horné Plachtinice, has had a varied career, starting as a theatre stage technician and miner before rising to fame as a film and television actor. He studied at the National Academy of Arts in Bratislava and performed with the Slovak National Theatre.

Politically active, Kňažko co-founded Public Against Violence, the first democratic party after the 1989 revolution, and later helped establish the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS), which he left in 1993 when Vladimír Mečiar became leader.

Kňažko served as an advisor to Czech President Václav Havel and was a deputy in the Czechoslovak Parliament. After Slovakia's independence in 1993, he held roles in the Slovak government, including as a minister without portfolio, vice-chairman of the Cabinet, and briefly as Foreign Minister in 1994. He has been a parliamentary deputy for the Democratic Union, now part of the SDK coalition, and served as Minister of Culture between 1998 - 2002

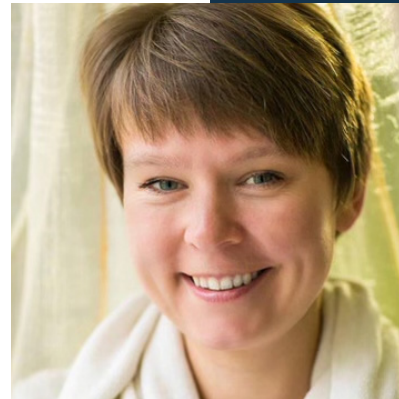
XXIII. Yevgeniya Chirikova

Dissident & Environmentalist

Yevgeniya Chirikova is a prominent Russian activist, based in Estonia since 2015.

Chirikova was primarily known for opposing the building of a motorway through Khimki Forest near Moscow. She managed to upgrade this local campaign to an environmental movement of national scale. Later Chirikova played a prominent role in the 2011–2013 Russian protests following disputed parliamentary elections in Russia.

In recent years, Chirikova has advocated for aid to Ukraine amid Russian aggression, focusing on support of Ukrainian civilian prisoners and Russian regiments fighting within the Ukrainian military forces. The Kremlin have initiated several criminal lawsuits against Chirikova labelling her as a “foreign agent”, an “extremist” and a “terrorist”.



Previous Recipients

Hanno R. Ellenbogen Citizenship Award
2000 - 2022

XXII. Dr. Ma Thida

Surgeon, Dissident & Human Rights Activist

Ma Thida was born in 1966 in Yangon, Myanmar, where she also completed her medical studies. As a doctor and as an editor, she was involved in various democratization initiatives in her home country. She edited brochures, evaluated tapes and videos, and became involved in providing medical care to family members of political prisoners. In 1993, Ma Thida was sentenced to twenty years in prison for supporting the pro-democracy movement, especially the party of Nobel Peace Prize winner, Aung San Suu Kyi. Ma Thida is considered one of her country's leading intellectuals. She currently lives in Berlin, and continues to advocate for democratic government and human rights in Myanmar.

Secondary recipients:

Burma Center Prague

The Burma Center Prague is a non-profit and non-governmental organization based in the Czech Republic which aims to restore peace, justice, democracy and human rights in Burma and to support and empower Burmese refugees.





XXI. Ivo Josipovic

Former President of Croatia & Composer

Ivo Josipovic, born in Zagreb, served as the President of Croatia from 2010 to 2015. As a politician, he promoted reconciliation in S.E. Europe, human rights and the fight against corruption. He contributed to just society, promoting accountability for those who profited from war and performed criminal activities during the process of privatization during the transitional period in Croatia. In addition to political activism, Josipovic is a composer and director of one of the world's biggest festivals of contemporary music. Today, he is Professor Emeritus at University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law and member of many national and international organizations.

Secondary recipients:

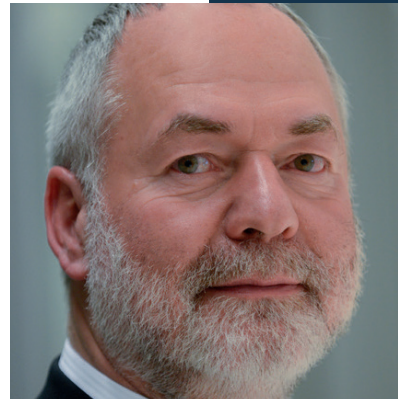
Humanitarian Law Center & DOCUMENTA

The work of the Humanitarian Law Center and Documenta in Belgrade, Serbia, encompasses documentation, justice and memory, supporting post-Yugoslav societies in acceptance of the legacy of human rights violations in order to establish the criminal responsibility of perpetrators, and prevent recurrence.

XX. Rev. Markus Meckel

Foreign Minister, German Democratic Republic

Markus Meckel is a German theologian and politician. He was the penultimate foreign minister of the GDR, a member of the German Bundestag, and has been involved with domestic opposition to the East German communist regime since the 1970's. In October 1989, he initiated the establishment of the Social Democratic Party in the GDR (SDP) together with Martin Gutzzeit. In the Bundestag, Meckel focuses on European politics and German-Polish relations, and has been the chairman of the German-Polish Parliamentary Group since 1994. Since 1998 he is director/conductor of the German parliamentary delegation to NATO. Currently, Meckel is an advisory Chairman of the Foundation for the Processing of the SED Dictatorship, and member of the advisory for the Federal Authority for the Processing of GDR State Intelligence Files.



Secondary recipients:

Widows Care

Widows Care is an organization founded by eight female pastors from Mainz, Germany, to support widows in the northern regions of Nigeria.

XX. Hans-Dietrich Genscher

Former Foreign Minister,
Federal Republic of Germany



Hans-Dietrich Genscher was a German statesman and a member of the liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP), who served as Federal Minister of the Interior from 1969 to 1974, and as Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs and Vice Chancellor of Germany from 1974 to 1992, making him the longest-serving occupant of either post and the only person to have held one of these positions under two different Chancellors of the Federal Republic of Germany. In 1991, he was chairman of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). He played a pivotal role in international diplomacy surrounding the breakup of Yugoslavia by successfully pushing for international recognition of Croatia, Slovenia and other republics declaring independence.

Secondary recipients:

Deutsche Herzstiftung

Deutsche Herzstiftung is a German patient organization founded 1979 in the field of cardiovascular diseases based in Frankfurt am Main.

XIX. Ivan Havel

Dissident & Scientist

Ivan Havel, was an influential scientist and philosopher. An expert in cybernetics, artificial intelligence and robotics, he was editor-in-chief of Vesmír Magazine from 1990 to 2019 and held several teaching positions at prominent Universities in the Czech Republic. His achievements in the field of cognitive science, theoretical computer science, and artificial intelligence have been recognized with both the Silver (2003) and Gold (2008) medals of Charles University, the Memorial Medal of Civic Forum Foundation (2008) and the Memorial Medal of the Third Faculty of Medicine at Charles University (2008). Together with his brother Vaclav, Ivan is the founder of Civic Forum, an organization formed with the purpose of unifying the dissident forces in Czechoslovakia and overthrowing the communist regime during the Velvet Revolution.

Secondary recipients:

Robert Krumphanzl, TRIADA



XIX. Ivan Chvatík

Philosopher & Scientist



Ivan Chvatík was a Czech philosopher and scientist who worked for over 20 years as the head of the Technical Department of the Computer Centre of the Machine Technology Factories in Prague. He attended lectures of Jan Patočka, initiated philosophy seminars and the lecture series, “Care of the Soul,” and together with friends saved the philosopher’s writings to release in samizdat prior to the Velvet Revolution. In the 1990’s, he became involved in founding the Central European University in Prague, and continues to publish Patočka’s collected writings to maintain Patočka’s legacy. He was awarded for his work by Charles University, the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and the Vision 97 Foundation. In 2021, he continued to work as the Deputy Head of the Archive, Jan Patočka.

Secondary recipients:

Robert Krumphanzl, TRIADA

Robert Krumphanzl studied journalism at FSV UK and was editor of Souvislosti magazine from 1992-1994. He founded TRIADA publishing house in 1994, and continues to manage it today.

Tom Nicholson

Investigative Journalist
Special Recognition Award

Tom Nicholson is an investigative journalist who has covered Slovakia for the past 20 years. He was editor-in-chief at the The Slovak Spectator and head of investigative reporting at the SME daily. Later he worked for the weekly Trend.

He is best known for making public the 'Gorilla' scandal in Slovakia in 2012. 'Gorilla' is considered by many the biggest corruption story in Slovak history. It is named after a Slovak Secret Service wiretap file which alleges massive fraud at the highest level of Slovak politics and business. It exposed politicians, public officials and business representatives discussing kickbacks in return for procurement and privatisation contracts and rocked the Slovak political scene.

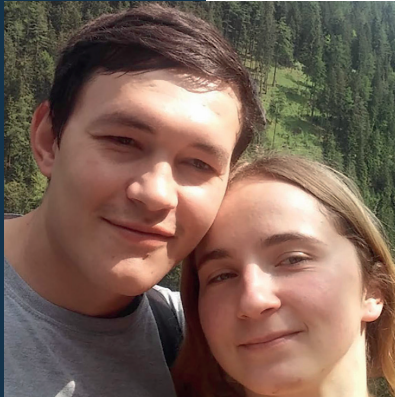
Nicholson lives in Canada and is finishing a book on ties between politics and organized crime.



Ján Kuciak & Martina Kušnírová

Investigative Journalists

Special Recognition Award



Ján Kuciak and **Martina Kušnírová** receive a Special Award in memoriam for their courageous commitment to Kuciak's work as an investigative reporter. The couple were murdered in their home in February 2018 in an attempt to silence them. Kuciak, in his work, focused on politically related fraud. At the time of his death he had been working on a story on the influence of the Calabrian mafia, the 'Ndrangheta,' on business and politics in Slovakia.

The murders caused mass protests and a lasting political crisis in Slovakia. They led to the resignation of the prime minister and his cabinet, as well as the head of police.

XVIII. His Eminence Vincent Cardinal Nichols

President, Santa Marta Group

His Eminence Vincent Cardinal Nichols is the President of the Santa Marta Group, Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The Santa Marta Group combats modern slavery and human trafficking globally. In particular it focuses on bringing together the heads of national and international police and law enforcement agencies along with international organizations to look at how they can work with the Catholic Church to help victims.

The Santa Marta Group was established in Rome in 2014 when police chiefs and Catholic bishops came together in the presence of Pope Francis.



XVII. Zdeněk Tůma

Economist



Zdeněk Tůma spent 10 years as Governor of the Czech National Bank. He was often listed in leading international magazines as one of the World's top 5 central bankers. An economist, he has dedicated his life to public service. He served as economic advisor to the Minister of Industry and Trade in the newly established Czech Republic, worked for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and received great acclaim for steering the Czech Economy.

Secondary recipients:

Petr Koukal

Petr Koukal is a Czech professional badminton player who successfully overcame testicular cancer. Koukal is considered a role model for his relentless fighting spirit and overall positivism and was chosen as the flag bearer of the Czech team during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

XVII. Magdaléna Vášáryová

Actress and Diplomat

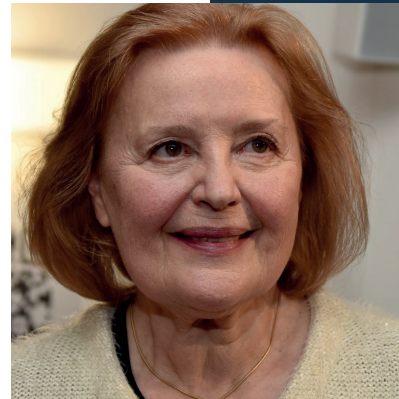
Magdaléna Vášáryová is a Slovak actress and diplomat, recognized for her liberal anti-nationalist stances and her fight against corruption and the remnants of the former communist regime in her country. She served as Slovak State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and as ambassador to Austria and Poland. In 1999, she became the first female presidential candidate in Slovakia. She was asked, but declined to be Vice-President of Democratic Czechoslovakia.

Secondary recipients:

Živena

Živena is the oldest women's association in the region – established as early as 1869 – to address concerns of education and emancipation of young Slovak women during Austria-Hungarian times.

It remains an active campaigner for women's rights.



XVI. Souad Mekhennet

Author and Journalist



Souad Mekhennet is a German author and journalist of Turkish-Moroccan descent who is known for her critical and insightful reporting for major international news organizations, including The New York Times, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, The Washington Post and German television channel ZDF. She wrote world-famous books such as, The Eternal Nazi: From Mauthausen to Cairo, the Relentless Pursuit of SS Doctor Aribert Heim, in 2014. She has covered some of the world's dangerous conflicts and is best known for her brave reports on radical Islamic movements. Her latest book, "I Was Told to Come Alone: My Journey Behind the Lines of Jihad," recounts some of her most perilous assignments.

Secondary recipients:

Praunheimer Werkstätten

Praunheimer Werkstätten supports and employs people with intellectual disability, or, in the words of Mekhennet "the very special people of our societies." Weißer Ring is a crime victim support organization independent from state funding.

XVI. Tony Fitzjohn OBE

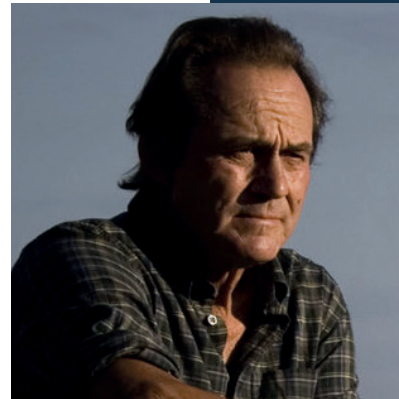
Wildlife Conservationist

Tony Fitzjohn is a legendary British conservationist who has dedicated his life to nature conservation in Africa. He was involved in developing anti-poaching units and veterinary research in endangered species. He has worked successfully for 30 years in rehabilitation of zoo animals into the wild and has cooperated with many Central European zoo. He currently runs a rhino sanctuary within the Mkomazi National Park in Tanzania. In recognition of his service to wildlife conservation, Fitzjohn was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2006.

Secondary recipients:

Arthur Sniegon

Arthur Sniegon is a young Czech student on course to become a recognized wildlife conservationist himself, with a focus on saving the African elephant. He has been making documentary films, investigated the ivory business, helped to provide healthcare to local tribesmen and is now launching a project to utilize drones to fight poaching.





XV. Iva Drápalová Journalist and Translator

Iva Drápalová was an Associated Press correspondent in Prague between 1968 and 1988. As a journalist, she refused to yield to constant pressure and surveillance applied by the communist regime. With hard work, courage and dedication, she helped to keep Czechoslovakia relevant and in the Western press until after the Velvet Revolution. She was a translator at Velvet Revolution press conferences and, after 1989, she worked as a consultant for the Los Angeles Times, operating as a sounding board and offering guidance to foreign journalists until her retirement.

Secondary recipients:

Štěpán Ripka

Štěpán Ripka is the chair of the Platform for Social Housing and a social researcher and policy analyst who studies Roma communities and advises the Open Society Institute and the Czech Government.

XIV. Věra Čáslavská

Olympic Gold Medal Athlete

Former President of Czech Olympic Committee

Věra Čáslavská was the most successful Czechoslovak gymnast of all time, winner of seven individual Olympic Gold Medals, still a record for all female athletes today. During the 1968 Olympic Games, she took her protest against the occupation of Czechoslovakia to the world stage by quietly looking down and away while the Soviet national anthem was being played during a medal ceremony. Following this public protest – and despite her immense popularity – she became a persona non grata for the new communist regime, was forced into retirement and was denied the right to travel and attend sporting events. After the Velvet Revolution, she regained the recognition she deserved and was elected President of the Czech Olympic Committee. After the 1989 Revolution, she was an advisor to President Havel and served as President of the Czech Olympic Committee (1990–1996).

Secondary recipients:

Gymnasium Černošice

The financial part of Věra Čáslavská's Award went to support the Gymnasium Černošice to help with the funding of a Sports & Athletic Hall.



XIII. Andrés Pastrana

Former President of Colombia

Andrés Pastrana was the Mayor of Bogotá and served as President of Colombia from 1998 to 2002. Already as a journalist and lawyer, before his political career, he had dedicated his life to fight corruption, and the Colombian drug trade that lies at the root of the country's civil war. In 1988, he was kidnapped by the Medellín Cartel, which was pressuring the Colombian government into preventing the extradition of Pablo Escobar and other drug lords to the United States. As President of his country, he was determined to solve the violent conflict with the FARC and ELN guerrilla groups peacefully.



XII. Jiří Dienstbier

Czech Senator and Commentator

As one of Czechoslovakia's most respected foreign correspondents, **Jiří Dienstbier** lost his job after the end of Prague Spring and held menial jobs for the following two decades. He is a signatory of Charta 77 and helped to restart Lidové Noviny, one of the country's major newspapers. In 1989 he became the first Foreign Minister of post- communist Czechoslovakia.

He played a pre-eminent role in shaping post-communist foreign policy in a democratic Czechoslovakia between 1989 and 1993 and from Central Europe to Asia to the Middle East. When the Czech Republic and Slovakia separated as states, he played a leading role as a commentator and thoughtful rebel. Finally he entered politics again in the 21st century as a Senator and Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Secondary recipients:

Jiří Dienstbier – rozhlasový zpravodaj

The financial part of the Award went to fund the design and publishing of a new book, “Jiří Dienstbier – rozhlasový zpravodaj.”



XI. General Wesley K. Clark

United States Army and NATO



General Wesley K. Clark is a much decorated and honored four-star general of the United States Army. He was the Supreme Allied Commander of Nato (SACEUR). Almost immediately after becoming SACEUR, Clark started pushing for NATO membership for Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. He became the first NATO commander to visit Prague after the fall of Communism.

His legacy in the region is marked by these efforts and his effort to bring peace to Kosovo. He was a candidate for President of the United States in 2004.

X. Adam Michnik

Historian and Essayist

Adam Michnik is a Polish historian and essayist. He is editor-in-chief of the Polish newspaper, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, the first independent news daily in Poland after the fall of Communism. As activist for the Workers Defence Committee (KOR) and for the dissident *Solidarność* movement, he was detained many times and imprisoned for a total of six years for opposing the communist regime in Poland. He played a crucial role during the Polish Round Table Talks, as a result of which the communists agreed to call elections in 1989. He has maintained an influential voice through journalism ever after.

Secondary recipients:

Juliusz Kurkiewicz, Aleksandra Klich-Siewiorek

The financial portion of the award was given to two young journalists at the Polish daily *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Juliusz Kurkiewicz and Aleksandra Klich-Siewiorek.



IX. Tenzin Gyatso

14th Dalai Lama



The 14th Dalai Lama, **Tenzin Gyatso**, is head of state and spiritual leader of Tibet. As Dalai Lama, he is the centre of hope and trust for the Tibetan people, working to preserve their culture and obtain the right for self-governance. In 1989, He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent struggle for the self-determination of the people of Tibet. He is also recognized for his genuine concern for global environmental problems.

Secondary recipients:

Dobrý Anjel

The Slovak charity Dobrý Anjel (“Good Angel”) helps families of children that suffer from cancer or other insidious diseases. One of its co-founders is entrepreneur and philanthropist, Andrej Kiska, who served as President of Slovakia between 2014-2019.

VIII. Desmond Mullan

Honorary Award for Lifetime Achievement

Desmond Mullan was one of the Prague Society's staunchest supporters and a remarkable individual who contributed greatly to the world of business, education (International School in Prague), religion (congregation of the Roman Catholic Church of St Thomas in Mala Strana), civil society and the arts in the Czech Republic. His sudden passing in a tragic accident touched the Society and beyond. This was a special award – given in Memoriam – with no secondary recipient.



VII. Alexander Millinkevich

Chairman of Movement for Freedom,
Belarussia



Alexander Millinkevich is a Belarusian politician who entered politics after the fall of the Soviet Union. He was chosen by the United Democratic Forces of Belarus as joint candidate of the opposition in the presidential elections of 2006, to stand against Alexander Lukashenko. He was awarded the Sakharov Prize by the European Parliament and became chairman of the Movement for Freedom, pleading for greater liberties and the right to choose for the Belarusian people.

Secondary recipients:

Pavel Sieviarynets

Pavel Sieviarynets is the founder of the Young Front and former leader of the Belarusian Christian Democracy Party. As a publicist, Sieviarynets called for peaceful but active protest against autocratic rule; he was sentenced to 3 years of hard labour.

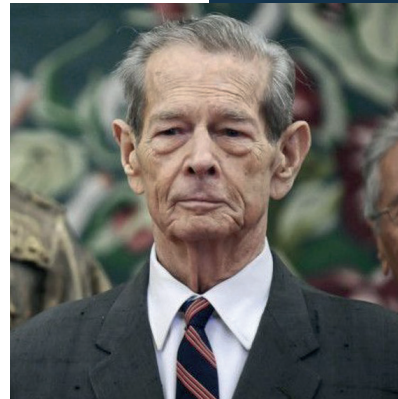
VI. King Michael I. of Romania

His Majesty **King Michael I. of Romania**, the last living Monarch who headed a country during World War Two, was deposed by the Communists, stripped of his citizenship, and banished from his own country in 1947. Never forgetting his people, over the next fifty-five years he worked as a mechanic, commercial pilot and businessman. He is famously quoted as saying, “The King is head of state but he is also the first servant of the people. Never forget that.” In 1992, he was permitted to return to Romania where he was greeted by over a million people, only to be banished again until 1996.

Secondary recipients:

Petrisor Ostafie

The financial part of the award went to Petrisor Ostafie, a student of Medical Bio-Engineering in Iasi. Ostafie is HIV-positive and actively campaigns in the fight against discrimination and prejudice facing people with HIV in Romania. Under great discriminatory pressure, he bravely set up an institution to advocate and help people with HIV.



V. Miloš Forman

Film Director



Miloš Forman, was a Czech film director. He made his first feature film in 1963 and quickly gained international recognition. His 1967 movie, *The Fireman's Ball*, is a biting satire on East European Communism and was banned in Czechoslovakia. After the Soviet invasion of 1968, Forman settled in America, winning international fame with *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. It was only the second film to win all five major Academy Awards. From his earliest works to his last film in 2006, Forman's films remained close to the reality of life, its absurdity and transforming joys.

Secondary recipients:

Film Academy Miroslav Ondříček

Miloš Forman elected to divide the financial part of the award into three equal parts to provide scholarships for three students of the Film Academy Miroslav Ondříček in Písek.

IV. George Robertson

Politician

George Robertson, Baron Robertson of Port Ellen is a Scottish politician who served as Defense Secretary of the United Kingdom and tenth Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). He was appointed to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Privy Council and received many high honors and awards, including a knighthood and the US Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Secondary recipients:

David Hodan

Lord Robertson donated the financial part of the Award to David Hodan, a quadriplegic Czech student who, at 13, won an essay competition against thousands of competitors. The subject was, "What I would do if I were Secretary General of NATO."





III. Václav Havel

Former President of Czech Republic

Václav Havel was a Czech writer and dissident who became an icon of resistance and freedom. Excluded by the communists from higher education, he made his name in the 1960s with satirical plays which contributed to the intellectual atmosphere of the Prague Spring. A spokesman for Charta 77, member of the Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Prosecuted, and opposition leader against the communist regime, he spent more than four years in prison. Following the Velvet Revolution of 1989, he was elected the first President of free Czechoslovakia, and, later the Czech Republic.

Secondary recipients:

Andrej Dynko

The financial part of the award went to Andrej Dynko, the award-winning editor-in-chief of the newspaper, *Nasha Niva*, which became legal again thanks to EU pressure in 2008, and the former head of Belarusian PEN.

II. Madeleine Albright

Former Secretary of State, United States

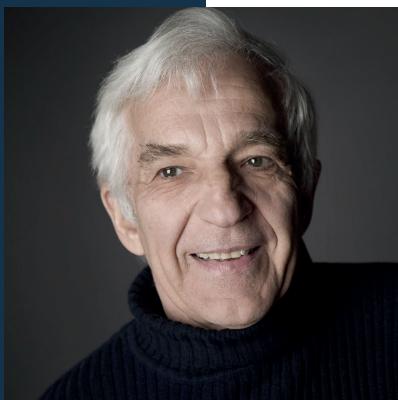
Born **Marie Jana Korbelová** in Prague in 1937, Madeleine Albright had a stellar career in diplomacy and government dedicating her life to serving the common good. In 1993, she became the American ambassador to the United Nations and three years later she was appointed Secretary of State, becoming the first woman to hold the position and the highest-ranking woman in the history of the US government.

Secondary recipients:

Petra Procházková

The financial part of the award went to Petra Procházková, a Czech journalist and humanitarian worker. She is best known as a war correspondent reporting from conflict areas of the former Soviet Union (Chechnya, Abkhazia, Ossetia ...).





I. Vladimir Ashkenazy

Chief Conductor, Czech Philharmonic
Orchestra

Vladimir Ashkenazy is an internationally acclaimed solo artist and conductor of the greatest orchestras in the world who escaped Russia during Soviet Times. He belongs among the foremost musical figures of our time. He was honoured together with fellow colleagues of the Conducting Corp of the Czech Philharmonic - Vladimír Válek, Sir Charles Mackerras and Ken-Ichiro Kobayashi. Through their music and inspirational leadership, they have touched many hearts and have brought different cultures and people together.

Secondary recipients:

Lukáš Vondráček

At the time of the award, Lukáš Vondráček was a promising 14-year-old musician. Today he is an internationally celebrated piano virtuoso. He is the winner of the International Queen Elisabeth Piano Competition 2016.

“The challenge for all of us is
to live in a way,
to act in a way,
where we make a difference,
to bring about a better world.”

F. W. de Klerk, Nobel Laureate,
Honorary President of the Prague Society 1999 - 2022



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35th Commemoration of the Velvet Revolution
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