



EUROPE

Poles, Czechs Worry About Being Played In U.S.-Russia Reset

When President Obama scrapped Bush's missile defense shield plans, the move was cheered by some as practical, but it also reopened Cold War wounds for many Poles and Czechs who wonder if, 20 years after the fall of communism, Eastern Europe isn't again being sacrificed to appease Moscow. **PAGE 12**



ASIA

China, India Flirt With Danger Over Disputed Border

Though the two economic giants are often lumped together, China and India are hardly bosom buddies. In fact, they look more like two bickering neighbors in the wake of a border dispute that's sparked a heated war of words between them. **PAGE 21**

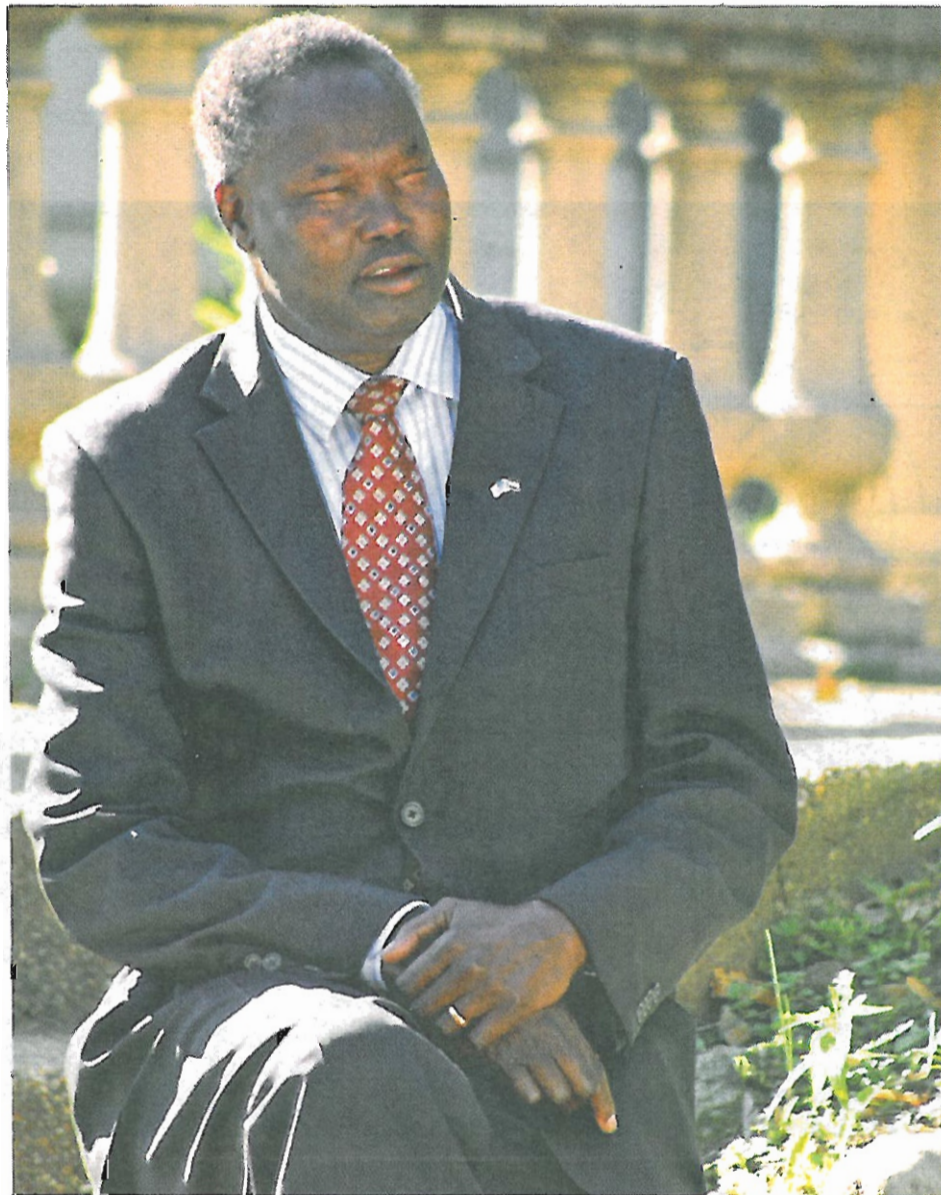
culture



'Oil' is Slick Contrast To Tranquil 'Sea'

It is said that oil and water don't mix, but a pair of stellar exhibitions at the Corcoran Gallery of Art beg to differ. **PAGE 50**

AFRICA



SUDAN'S PRECIPICE

With violence in Darfur down but tensions erupting in the south — and the U.S. administration rethinking its Khartoum strategy — Sudan is facing a crucial turning point in its long odyssey toward stability — something that has so far eluded Africa's largest nation for decades. **PAGE 17**

PEOPLE OF WORLD INFLUENCE

Author Says History Is Both Helpful, Humbling

Historian Margaret MacMillan believes everyone can benefit from a deep understanding of history, but she



cautions that the past offers no clear roadmap for future crises — if anything, history should engender humility, for it is replete with examples of intelligent people whose failures belied their best intentions. **PAGE 6**

SOUTH ASIA

Singh's Visit Sign of Robust U.S.-India Ties

India's new envoy, Meera Shankar, says Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's trip to Washington this



month — Obama's first state visit — is just the latest confirmation of the growing ties between the world's two largest democracies. **PAGE 8**

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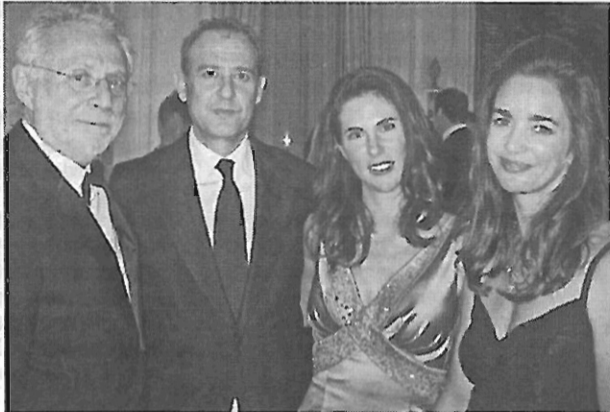
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DIPLOMATIC SPOTLIGHT

The Washington Diplomat | November 2009

2009 Meridian Ball

From left, CNN's Wolf Blitzer, Ambassador of Mexico and Mrs. Arturo Sarukhan, and Gwen Holliday attend the 41st annual Meridian Ball at the Meridian International Center, which was preceded by dinners at ambassador residences throughout the city.



PHOTOS: THOMAS COLEMAN



From left, Ambassador of Switzerland and Mrs. Urs Ziswiler, and Meridian Ball congressional chairs Marie Therese Royce and Rep. Ed Royce (R-Calif.) attend the 2009 Meridian Ball.



PHOTO: GAIL SCOTT

From left, Ambassador of Cyprus Andreas S. Kakouris, Mrs. and Ambassador of Monaco Gilles Noghès, and Kareen Farrell Kakouris attend the ball at the Meridian International Center.

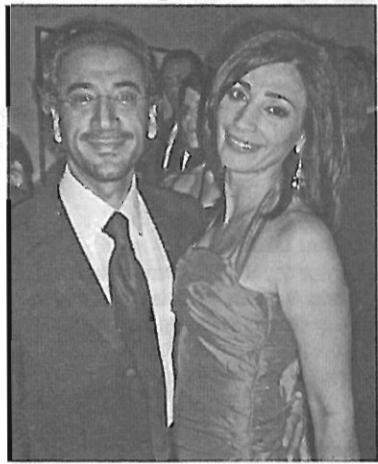
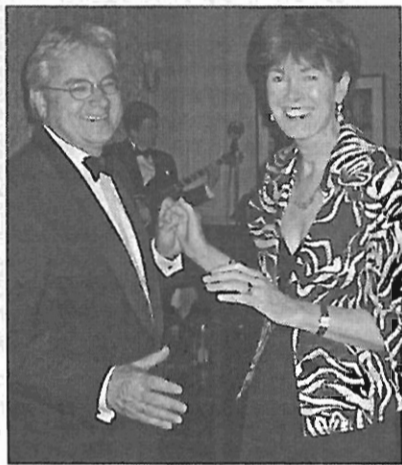


PHOTO: GAIL SCOTT

Ambassador of Yemen Abdulwahab A. Al-Hajjri and public relations executive Bayanne Surdashi enjoy the Meridian Ball festivities.



Dr. Richard Huw Jones dances with his wife, Dutch Ambassador Renée Jones-Bos, at the Meridian Ball.



Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, the State Department's first special representative for global partnerships, left, joins Paula Dobriansky, also formerly of the State Department and now a senior fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center, at the 2009 Meridian Ball.



From left, Mrs. and Ambassador of Iraq Samir Mahmood Sumaida'ie, and Ambassador of Sweden and Mrs. Jonas Hafström attend the 2009 Meridian Ball to benefit the Meridian International Center, a nonpartisan non-profit public diplomacy institution dedicated to strengthening international understanding.



Ambassador of Luxembourg and Mrs. Jean-Paul Senninger attend the 2009 Meridian Ball.



From left, Ambassador of New Zealand and Mrs. Roy Ferguson, and Ambassador of Peru Luis Valdivieso attend the 2009 Meridian Ball.



Mrs. and Ambassador of Egypt Sameh Shoukry enjoy desserts and dancing at the after-party of the 2009 Meridian Ball held at the Meridian International Center.



PHOTO: GAIL SCOTT



Liechtenstein PM Visit

From left, Ambassador of Liechtenstein Claudia Fritsche, Prime Minister of Liechtenstein Klaus Tschütscher, and U.S. Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr. (R-Wis.) attend a reception at the Liechtenstein Embassy in honor of Tschütscher's D.C. visit.

Indonesian Independence



Outgoing Ambassador of Indonesia Sudjadhan Parnohadiningrat and his wife Nunung Parnohadiningrat enjoy Indonesia's 64th Independence and Armed Forced Day reception at the embassy.



Ambassador of South Korea Han Duk-soo, left, greets Indonesian Deputy Chief of Mission and Mrs. Salman Al-Farisi at Indonesia's 64th Independence and Armed Forced Day reception.

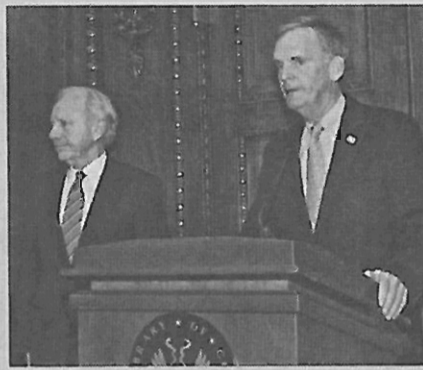


From left, former Nevada Congressman Jim Santini, Ambassador of China Zhou Wenzhong, and Ann Santini, director of international affairs at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, attend the Indonesian Independence reception.

Jordan Marks Two Big Anniversaries



From left, newly appointed Ambassador of Greece Vassilis Kaskarelis, and Ambassador of Jordan Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini and his wife Princess Sarah Zeid attend a reception at the Library of Congress commemorating the 10th anniversary of King Abdullah's accession to the throne and the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Jordan and the United States.



Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.), left, and Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.), co-chairs of the Friends of Jordan Caucus in the Senate, celebrate the 10th anniversary of King Abdullah's accession to the throne and the 60th anniversary of U.S.-Jordan relations.



From left, Ambassador of Kuwait Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Princess Sarah Zeid and Rima Al-Sabah attend the Jordanian anniversary reception at the Library of Congress.

American-Palestinian Gala



Veteran journalist Helen Thomas of the White House press corps, left, and Palestinian-American businessman Farouk Shami attend the fourth annual American Task Force on Palestine Gala, which honors the contribution of Palestinian Americans to U.S. society.

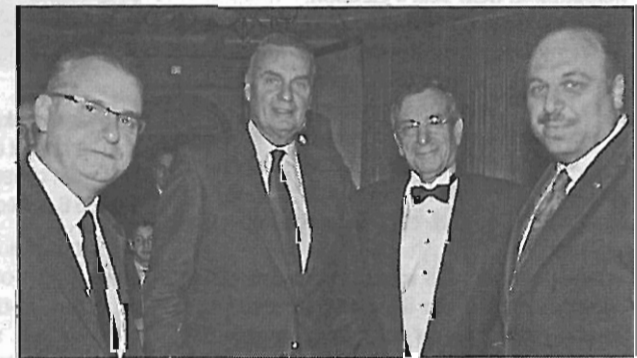


From left, Ambassador of the Arab League Hussein Hassouna, Ambassador of Qatar Ali Bin Fahad Al-Hajri, Ambassador of Jordan Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini, and Ambassador of Ecuador Luis Benigno Gallegos Chiriboga attend the Jordanian reception at the Library of Congress.



Millennium Technology at Finland

From left, Dr. Robert Langer, winner of the 2008 Millennium Technology Prize; Dr. Shuji Nakamura, 2006 prize winner; Ambassador of Finland Pekka Lintu; and inventor of the World Wide Web Sir Tim Berners-Lee, the first Millennium Prize recipient in 2004, attend a discussion on Finland's Millennium Technology Prize, which awards \$1 million euro and is the world's largest technology prize.



From left, President and CEO of ConTrack International Karim Camel-Tueig, National Security Advisor Gen. James Jones, President of the American Task Force on Palestine (ATFP) Ziad Asali, and former Jordanian Ambassador Karim Kavar attend the fourth annual ATFP Gala, "Palestine Alongside Israel: Liberty, Security, Prosperity," at the Ritz-Carlton hotel.

New U.S. Chief of Protocol



Capricia Marshall, seated, is sworn in as the U.S. chief of protocol at the State Department, flanked by her husband, cardiologist Robert Marshall, left, their son, 9-year-old Cole, right, and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, far right.



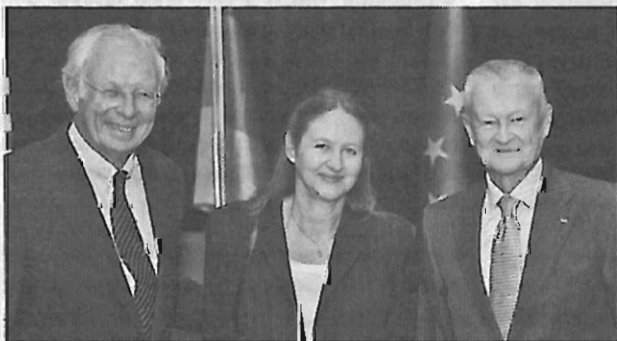
Longtime Clinton staffer Capricia Marshall had 38 relatives attend her swearing-in as chief of protocol, including members from her Croatian father's side and Mexican mother's side. Representing the Croatian contingent are from left, one of Marshall's aunts, uncles, her father, Frank Penavic, and Croatian Ambassador Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic and her husband Jakov Kitarovic.

Iceland's New Digs



From left, Ambassador of Iceland Hjalmar Hannesson, President of Iceland Ólafur Ragnar Grimsson, and Ambassador of Sweden Jonas Hafström attend a reception celebrating the opening of the new Icelandic Embassy offices in the House of Sweden in Georgetown.

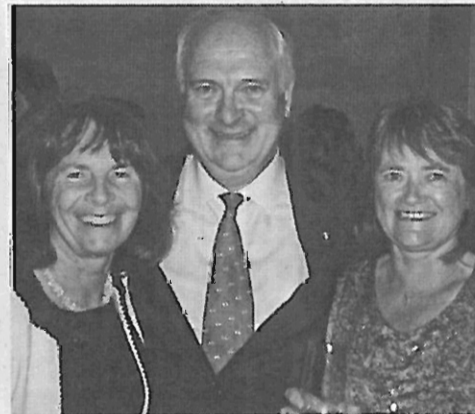
Germany Breaking Down Walls



From left, Ambassador of Germany Klaus Scharioth, Ulrike Scharioth, and guest of honor Zbigniew Brzezinski, who served as national security advisor to President Jimmy Carter, attend the Day of German Unity celebration at the German Residence honoring the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, a replica of which was also featured at the event.



Mrs. and Ambassador of Poland Robert Kupiecki attend the Germany Unity Day reception, which celebrated "Freedom Without Walls" on the 20th anniversary of the Berlin Wall's collapse.



From left, Mrs. and outgoing Ambassador of the European Union John Bruton join Noreen King of Ashford County, Wicklow, Ireland, at the Germany Unity Day reception.



Ambassador of Luxembourg Jean-Paul Senninger, left, joins the wife of the Icelandic ambassador Anna Birgisdóttir Hannesson at the opening of the new Icelandic Embassy in Georgetown.