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Lt.Gen. Frank Gorenc Visits Slovenian Embassy

On Wednesday, July 25, Ambassador Roman Kirn, jointly with Defense attaché, Colonel Ladislav Graber, received at the Slovenian Embassy Lieutenant General Frank Gorenc and Colonel Stuart K. Archer.

Lieutenant General Frank Gorenc is Assistant Vice Chief of Staff and Director, Air Staff, at the U.S. Air Force Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and a Deputy Chairman of the Air Force Council. He



From left: Colonel Ladislav Graber, Lieutenant General Frank Gorenc, Ambassador Roman Kirn and Colonel Stuart K. Archer.

also serves as the Air Force accreditation official for the international Corps of Air Attachés.

The four discussed cooperation between Slovenian and American Armed Forces, focusing on the partnership within the North Atlantic Alliance. They also talked about the topics in connection with EUCOM and its role in

the implementation of security operations in Afghanistan.

Lt.Gen. Frank Gorenc was born in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and is a distinguished member of the Slovenian community in the U.S. Moreover, together with his family back in Milwaukee, WI, he actively endeavors to preserve his Slovenian heritage, and foster genuine relations with Slovenia.



Strunjan, a Place of Superlatives

With the longest part of natural sea coast, the highest flysch cliffs, the only Slovenian marine lagoon, the smallest salt pans and best preserved cultural landscape, Strunjan is a place of superlatives. Its name derives from Slovenian word for strings (*strune*), due to the legend that shepherds pasturing near the cliffs were very proficient in playing the strings ("strune").

Strunjan peninsula stretches along the coast between Piran and Izola. The first thing you see coming to Strunjan is the Pine Avenue with its 116 trees. The locals say that the trees were planted some time between 1920 and 1930. Strunjan encompasses the hamlets of Marčane, Karbonar, Ronek, Sveti Duh, and Pretski Grič.

In the vicinity of the Strunjan cape, are located the church of St. Mary's Apparition and the former Benedictine



Strunjan.

monastery. Legend has it that in the night between the 14th and 15th of August in 1512, Our Lady appeared to two vineyard watchmen. She pleaded with them to give a message to the authorities regarding the renovation of the church, which was in a really bad shape. In the following years, the church was enlarged and decorated with

the painting of the Apparition of St. Mary by Francesco Valerio in 1520. In the course of time, the church became the most important pilgrimage center of Istria.

The northern side of Strunjan is most remarkable because of its huge flysch cliff, various geological phenomena, sub-Mediterranean vegetation, and diverse types of marine species and habitats. The 262-foot high overhanging wall of the cliff is composed of soft flysch layers that the sea, rain, and wind constantly shape and modify. The Strunjan cliffs are the largest known coastal flysch wall on the entire Adriatic coast. Its southern slopes, turned into fruitful terraces, are gradually sweeping down toward the Strunjan salt pans.

The estuary of the river Roja has turned into salt pans already in the Middle Ages. But, today, only a small portion of



Strunjan Salt pans.

them is still active. The saltpans are a technical, environmental, ethnological and aesthetic monument, very specific and very rare. In the immediate vicinity of the saltpans lies the Stjuža lagoon, the only lagoon on the Slovenian coast. Once it was

an open bay, but over 200 years ago, a dike was built between the bay and the sea, creating the saltpans. These and the lagoon are particularly important because of the ecosystems and rare plants that thrive on salt and, hence, are called halophytes.

Beside its salt-making, this part of the coast is also known for fishing and, especially, agriculture, it has, moreover, been proclaimed in 1990 a Landscape Park. The area of the Strunjan Landscape Park covers about 400 acres.

SPORTS

Goran Dragić Joins Phoenix Suns

A young Slovenian basketball national team player will soon begin preparations for the next NBA season, when he will be defending the colors of his new/old team, the Phoenix Suns from Arizona.



In his fifth NBA season, Goran Dragić is coming back to the environment where he started his career as a professional NBA league player. With four offers on the table, he chose to return to Phoenix Suns, disappointing many fans of his former team, the Houston Rockets. He recently signed a contract for three seasons with the possibility of extension for an additional one. He says that the number one on his basketball jersey means a fresh start and a new era, and believes the role of point guard will bring on him increased pressure, and also ups and downs, but that all that can be managed, since he has grown

tremendously as a player in the past four years.

Dragić started his professional career with Ilirija Ljubljana in 2003 at the age of 17. After playing for a few Slovenian and Spanish clubs, he attended the 2008 NBA Draft, where he was selected in the second round by the San Antonio Spurs and then traded to the Phoenix Suns. In his second NBA season, Dragić scored a career high of 32 points against Utah Jazz. In 2011, the Suns traded Dragić to the Houston Rockets. His game, with great defensive abilities, numerous basketball steals and fast counterattacks marks him as one of the most successful Slovenian NBA players.

CULTURE

Pieces for Peace Exhibit

The Slovenian Center for Citizenship Education, in partnership with the American organization CITYarts from New York, organized in Maribor an opening event and presentation of the famous international travelling exhibition "Pieces for Peace". The exhibition consists of 300 "pieces" - selected artwork of children from 65 countries and six continents.

Participating children have tried to express their shared vision of peace through the creative process while answering the question: "What does peace look like to me?"

Among the favorites was one from Eve Merriam, who wrote: 'I dream of giving birth to a child who will ask: 'Mother, what was war?'"

The project was created after the tragic events of 9/11, with the aim of promoting multiculturalism, a shared vision of peace, and common values among youth in an artistic way. For the first time, there is included also artwork of Slovenian children, created at several workshops during 2011-2012. (Slovenian Times)

Yoko Ono's Project Showcased in Ptuj

Skywatch Ladders, a project by the Japanese-American, avant-garde artist Yoko Ono, was unveiled on Ptuj on Tuesday, July 24, as part of the modern visual art festival Art Stays. The conceptual exhibition was first set up in 1968 and was dedicated to Ono's late husband and famous musician, John Lennon (1940-1980).

The installation, showcasing Ono's paintings,

hanging from ladders, was conceived at the time of the U.S. race to the moon and has now been revived to mark the 50th anniversary of the Fluxus movement, of which Ono was a notable member.

Since the project was intended to have a variety of aspects, the attendees are invited to take part in it by creating the atmosphere of a party and dressing up as ladies

with parasols and spectacles or gentlemen with top hats and monocles.

The 10th Art Stays festival, bringing modern artists from around the globe to Ptuj between July 17 and September 1, is one of the main projects organized by Ptuj as a partner town in Maribor's stint as the European Capital of Culture. (STA)

SPORTS

Slovenian Athletes at the London 2012 Olympics

Games of the XXX Olympiad, to be held from July 27 to August 12, 2012, will also be a great challenge for 65 Slovenian athletes, who will struggle for great results and for the bronze, silver or gold medal around their neck. The achievements of Slovenian Olympic contestants can greatly contribute to international reconciliation and to promotion of Slovenia and its tourist offer.

Slovenian athletes will be competing in 15 different sports: swimming, athletics, kayaking, canoeing, cycling, judo, rowing, sailing, shooting, tennis, gymnastics, table-tennis, badminton, taekwondo, and the triathlon. Five sportsmen and sportswomen will be defending their medals won in the last, Beijing, Olympics. One of them is Iztok Čop, a very successful rower, who has participated in every Olympics since Slovenia gained its independence in 1991, and for Rajmond Debevec,



2008 bronze Olympic medalist, this will be already his eighth Olympic contest.

During the Olympic Games, Slovenia keep open an Olympic meeting place for competitors, representatives of the Olympic Committee of Slovenia and their sponsors, the media, fans, and visitors from Slovenia and other parts of the world -- a place for musical events, gatherings, and celebrations of achievements of

Slovenian sports in this year's Olympic capital. Slovenian Tourist Board, the Government Communications Office of the Republic of Slovenia, and Pivovarna Laško will participate as partners.

So far, independent Slovenia has won 15 summer Olympic medals: three gold, five silver, and seven bronze. The most successful Slovenian Olympic athlete ever is Leon Štukelj with a total of six medals.