

# HHRF

## HUNGARIAN HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION



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### **DR. OTTO VON HABSBURG COMPLETES FINAL LEG OF U.S. TOUR**

*European Statesman Promotes US-European Relations in New York City: April 18—April 21, 2005*

**Dr. Otto von Habsburg**, a legendary statesman and one of the initial architects of the European Union, completed a four-day program in New York City on Thursday, the last stop on his three-week visit to the United States.

*"I'm delighted that Dr. Otto von Habsburg chose New York, as he has done so often in the past, to spread his message of optimism for the betterment of US-European relations and the prospects for national minorities in the new Europe,"* said **George E. Pataki**, Governor of New York.

Eldest son of the last Austro-Hungarian Emperor and scion of the historic House of Habsburg, the 93-year-old former European Parliament representative had private meetings, gave three lectures, and was the guest of honor at formal events with prominent members of New York society. In his public and private meetings he emphasized the significance for the United States of the expanding European Union and advocated closer ties between the US and the new, larger Europe. Dr. Habsburg's visit to New York City was the final stop on his US tour, which also took him to Cleveland and Washington, D.C. He was accompanied by his wife **Archduchess Regina von Habsburg**, son **Archduke Ambassador Georg von Habsburg**, daughter **Archduchess Gabriela von Habsburg** and grandson **Mr. Severin Meister**.

On April 18, the first day of his visit, 200 guests attended a lecture at the New York Hungarian House given by Dr. Habsburg on the importance of securing the rightful place for minorities in the new Europe. In attendance were leaders of the Hungarian-American community: Rev. Les Martin, director of the Hungarian Reformed Federation of America and Mr. Stephen J. Varga, president of the William Penn Association.

On Wednesday Dr. Habsburg gave a talk at the New School followed by a luncheon hosted by the University's President, former Nebraska **Senator Bob Kerrey**. Dr. Habsburg concentrated on the major issues facing Europe today, including the problems of a changing Russia, while emphasizing the support of the peoples of the "New Europe" for the United States. *"I am enchanted by what my Hungarian-American friends are doing here for Central Europe,"* said Dr. Habsburg.

Prominent members of New York Society were in attendance at two formal events in honor of Dr. Habsburg. His Excellency **Sir Emyr Jones Parry**, the United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and **Lady Lynn Jones Parry** hosted a dinner in his honor on April 20 and the **Foreign Policy Association** hosted a reception at the home of **Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kimmelman** on April 22.

Additionally, Dr. Habsburg met with former Secretary of State **Dr. Henry Kissinger**, UNDP Administrator **Mark Malloch Brown**, and was the guest of honor in a luncheon at the Hungarian Consulate hosted by Dr. Gábor Horváth, Consul General of Hungary.

Dr. Habsburg's U.S. tour was organized by the **Hungarian American Coalition (HAC)** and the **Hungarian Human Rights Foundation (HHRF)** with support from the **Manhattan Hungarian Network** in New York. HAC and HHRF are not-for-profit organizations which work to promote U.S.-Hungarian relations and promote the aspirations of Hungarian minorities in Central Europe.