



Opening of the permanent exhibition of Emanuel and Josef Zima at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Budapest

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On June 13th, 2018, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Budapest celebrated the opening of a permanent exhibition devoted to the memory of former Czech citizens, Emanuel and Jozef Zima, former MFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) employees, who at the end of World War II bravely rescued 13 Slovak and Hungarian Jews.

The opening ceremony was a part of the planned public diplomacy events to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovakia. Among the invited guests of the opening ceremony were representatives of the Hungarian Jewish community, state administration, diplomatic corps, business representatives, Czechs and Slovaks permanently living in Hungary. The Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Hungary Juraj Chmiel and the Slovak Ambassador to Hungary Rastislav Káčer welcomed the participants.

The opening part of the ceremony was a concert of the Ensemble Moscheles, which was not only interested in its national composition: a Czech citizen Tomáš Tuláček - violin, a Slovak citizen Angelika Pavlechová - mezzosoprano and a citizen of Israel Shaked Shahr - piano, but mainly by the brilliant musical performance.

The musicians introduced a program consisting of works by Jewish authors (U. Brener, A. Shitomirsky, F. Drdla, M. Wiesenberg, S. Sharar and M. Zur) supplemented by compositions by A. Dvořák, J. Suk, M. Schneider - Trnavský and J. Hubai. The artistic performance of the songs was highly appreciated by the audience, who rewarded the artists with long-lasting applause.

Subsequently, visitors had the opportunity to get acquainted with a permanent exhibition located in the basement of the Embassy of the Czech Republic, which is where Emanuel and Josef Zima hid their protectors.

It was already the fourth event that the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Budapest prepared to honor the heroism of E. and J. Zima (in 2014 the ceremony was held to hand over the diploma and the Yad Vashem medal to the family members of E. and J. Zima. In 2015 a memorial plaque was unveiled at the embassy wall and in 2016 the names of E. and J. Zima were carved on the commemorative plaque "The Truth of the World" in the park of the Jewish Synagogue in Budapest.

The exhibition, the author of which is H.E. Juraj Chmiel, has awoken a warm welcome among visitors.

The exhibition will be open to the public on a regular basis on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11:00 and 14:00, after a prior agreement with the Embassy Secretariat.

As part of the supplementary program, invited guests were also able to get acquainted with the life story of Aron Grünhut, an important representative of the Jewish community in Bratislava from 1930 to 1945. Presenting the exhibition was also her curator, Slovak journalist Martin Mozer, who in 2013 discovered and drew attention to the brave action of Emanuel and Josef Zima.

JOSEF
ZIMA



A part of the permanent exhibition – Josef Zima

EMANUEL
ZIMA



A part of the permanent exhibition – Emanuel Zima



Ensemble Moscheles – S. Shahar and A. Pavlech



Ensemble Moscheles – S. Shahar and T. Tuláček



A photo from the permanent exhibition



An interview of H. E. Juraj Chmiel for TV JOJ



An interview of H. E. Rastislav Káčer for TV JOJ



an interview of H. E. Yossi Amrani for TV JOJ



An introduction to the permanent exhibition

1944

Úkryt na ambasádě v Budapešti Hiding at the Embassy in Budapest

V říjnu 1944 se Aron Grünhut před koloběžnou identitou v Maďarsku. Na své cestě roku 1944 ho odhalilo maďarské tajné police a začal se jeho vztahy bo o Šveď. Pomohl mu odvědit kulič. Emanuel Šveď. Měl ho v první budově bývalé (maďarské) ambasády v Budapešti, která se v říjnu 1944 po válce Československé dostala do rukou Němcům. Šveď i A. Grünhutem a jeho manželkou se v přelichotivě budově ambasády skrývali a čekali na záchrán. Místní police od října přehodily Červenou armádu. A. Grünhut se s manželkou od října 20. listopadu přesunul v tzv. zónu Evropské zóny. Za jeho osvobození německé úřady nepředložily žádné vyšetřování. Šveď se však ocitl v nebezpečí a od října 20. listopadu v Budapešti bylo vyhlášené právo občanství pro Maďary. Šveď se poté vydal na území Maďarska.

In 1944 Aron Grünhut fled Hungary in Hungary. In autumn 1944, he was discovered by the Hungarian secret police and the search for his life began. He was helped by a doctor, Emanuel Šveď, who hid him in the corner of the building of the former Czechoslovak embassy in Budapest, which was taken over by the German Empire in 1939 after the conquest of Czechoslovakia. Other Jewish refugees were hiding on the premises of the former embassy together with A. Grünhut and his wife. All survived to the arrival of the Red army. In the year 1944, A. Grünhut ensured that Emanuel Šveď would be awarded the highest Soviet honor of honor for his delivery, but A. Šveď did not see for him. The secret was accepted in Budapest as late as 2014 by the great grandson of the doctor, Mr. Miloš Šveď, who was found by the journalist Miroslav Bláha.



A panel from the exhibition dedicated to A. Grünhut



A photo from the permanent exhibition