

H.E. Mr. András Simonyi
Ambassador of Hungary

Personal

Born May 16, 1952 in Budapest, Hungary.

Education & Professional Training

Graduated from the Karl Marx University of Economics (now Budapest Corvinus University) in 1975. Holds a PhD in political science. Wrote his thesis on Denmark's security policy in the 20th Century.

Professional Career

2002 – Ambassador to the United States of America.

2001 – 2002 Ran his own consulting company, Danison Ltd.

1999 – 2001 Became the first Hungarian Permanent Representative on the NATO Council. Represented Hungary on the NAC during the Kosovo campaign.

1995 – 1999 Headed the Hungarian Liaison Office to NATO in Brussels. Was a key player in preparing Hungarian membership in NATO and was a member of the delegation to negotiate Hungary's accession to the Alliance. Initiated the stationing of U.S. troops in Hungary as part of NATO's IFOR-SFOR campaign in Bosnia. Headed PR efforts prior to the referendum on NATO membership.

1992 – 1995 Deputy chief of mission (DCM) at the Mission of Hungary to the European Communities and NATO in Brussels.

1991 – 1992 Deputy chief of mission (DCM) in the Hague.

1989 Joined the Foreign Ministry to work with the so-called Central European Initiative a.k.a. Pentagone as a personal assistant to then foreign minister László Kovács. He also headed the Nordic department of the Ministry.

1984 – 1989 Worked at the foreign relations department of the now defunct Socialist Workers' Party.

1980s Worked with different organizations in the field of youth exchange, in particular promoting East-West contacts, including programs with the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL).

Ambassador Simonyi was also Hungary's representative to the Western European Union Council for five years. He is vice-president of the Hungarian Atlantic Council, co-founder of the Center for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy, and President of the Danish–Hungarian Friendship Society. He is also a frequent lecturer on security issues, trans-Atlantic relations, the problems of military reform, and NATO enlargement. He has published numerous articles on the accession process to NATO, trans-Atlantic relations, European security, and the war on terror.

Languages

English, Danish, German, Dutch and French.

Family

Married to Náda Peják and has two children, Dániel (25) and Sonja (24). His interests include blues music, plays the electric guitar.

Musical Interests

Ambassador Simonyi is a long-time supporter of rock and roll music. He played lead guitar in his own band in his youth. Upon arrival in Washington, he formed a band, called the "Coalition of the Willing." They have performed on various occasions, of which the following stand out: the Knitting Factory in New York; Walter Reed Military Hospital to honor coalition troops; and the House of Blues in Cleveland that raised \$150K for victims of Hurricane Katrina. He has also performed occasionally in Fort Worth, Atlanta, Iowa City and various Washington, DC, clubs.