

HUNGARY— U.S. RELATIONS



THURSDAY, 18 MARCH
II:00 A.M.
B-002 JFSB



His Excellency
Béla Szombati

HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.

His Excellency Béla Szombati was appointed Hungarian ambassador to the U.S. in 2009. During Szombati's distinguished diplomatic career, he has served as head of the Strategic Planning and Information Management Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2006–09), as ambassador to the UK (2002–06) and to France (1994–99), as deputy head of the State Secretariat for European Integration (1999–2002), and foreign policy advisor to the Hungarian president and head of the Foreign Relations Department of the President's Office in Budapest (1991–94). Having previously served in

Washington as cultural attaché at the Hungarian Embassy (1988–91), Szombati has also held posts at the Hungarian Embassy in Vietnam as well as in the Foreign Ministry's Departments for North America, Asia, Western Europe, and International Security. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1980, having completed his higher education at London University and Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, and is fluent in English and French as well as some Russian and Spanish. Szombati and his wife, Zsuzsa Mihályi, are the parents of two sons, Kristóf and Daniel.