

August 12, 2003

For Immediate Release

**The Czech Cultural Center Houston
Czech Center Houston Receives International Award**

Cernin Palace, monumental in size, one of the largest palace buildings north of the Alps and deep in the heart of the Czech Government complex Hradcany in Prague, was the scene of the annual Jan Masaryk Gratias Agit Award presentation on June 19, 2003. The beautiful Baroque architecture with classical accoutrements built to order by Count Humprecht Jan Czernin of Chudenice in 1667 still exudes an impression of infinity!

Accepting an award from Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Cyril Svoboda for the Czech Cultural Center Houston were the organization's founders, Effie and Bill Rosene. The award is made in appreciation of the promotion of the good name of the Czech Republic abroad to prominent personalities and organizations developing activities in nongovernmental fields. Along with the increasing role of civic society, this award is becoming an ever more prestigious prize for the voluntary activities of people committed to working for the benefit of the whole society, for the promotion of friendship among nations and for the promotion of the good name of the Czech Republic in the world.

While the Houston Center was a sole entity in that category other laureates generally Czech-born were from the countries of Israel, Malta, Switzerland, France, India, Germany, New Zealand, Russia, Sweden, Canada, Bulgaria, Austria, Poland, Hungary and Peter Rafaeli, Honorary Consul General in Philadelphia, USA

The Rosenes were proud to accept the award on behalf of the Center, whose new home is being constructed in the Museum District, receiving a blue velvet "Diplom" and a large crystal globe inscribed in a blue presentation box on this momentous occasion.

To be surrounded by such preeminent individuals was indeed a humbling experience!

Submitted by Effie M. Rosene, Chairman

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The Czech Cultural Center Houston is a 501[c][3] non-profit educational cultural organization, Volunteer office and The Market Place all volunteer museum gift shop is located in Northwest Mall Houston - Loop 610 N and W @ US 290, entrance B.