



This was Hazel's 70th birthday party which we helped organize in Prague. Havel is talking to Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and Joan Baez. I am just behind Havel. This picture was front page news in the Prague Post the next day. In the 1970s, Havel escaped communist capture by carrying out Joan Baez's guitar. She came especially for Havel's birthday party. At the concert in the 1970s, the communists turned off her sound system hunting for Havel. She continued singing acapella and both escaped. This reunion birthday party was very special. Elie Weisel, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor also attended. Elie Weisel was one of our first PSSI board members, along with Madeleine Albright and Henry Kissinger. Although he was not on our Board, the Dalai Lama would also visit Havel. How did this all get started? Havel and his closest friend Uda Cerny wanted to start a school for national security studies in Prague. Roger Robinson and I had created the Robinson-Martin Security Studies Program to

educate 20 Czech students a year in national security. Havel was attracted by the idea and allowed us to use the Presidential house to have our classes. In addition, Havel used the house for his “Forum 2000” humanitarian conference headquarters. Havel refused to officially live in the Presidential House and so he “donated” it to Olda Cerny who ran both the Robinson-Martin security scholars program and Forum 2000. In those days, Prague was an exciting place to be post-Communist period. Havel was a playwright and so the arts were honored. And everyone was trying to figure out ways to get the Russians and communists out of Prague as it became a very key center for spying in the wake of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Later the Robinson-Martin security program became part of the Prague Security Studies Institute with Olda and Roger Robinson being the co-founders of that Institute – which today is ranked number 1 I think tank in the Czech Republic by the University of Pennsylvania rankings.