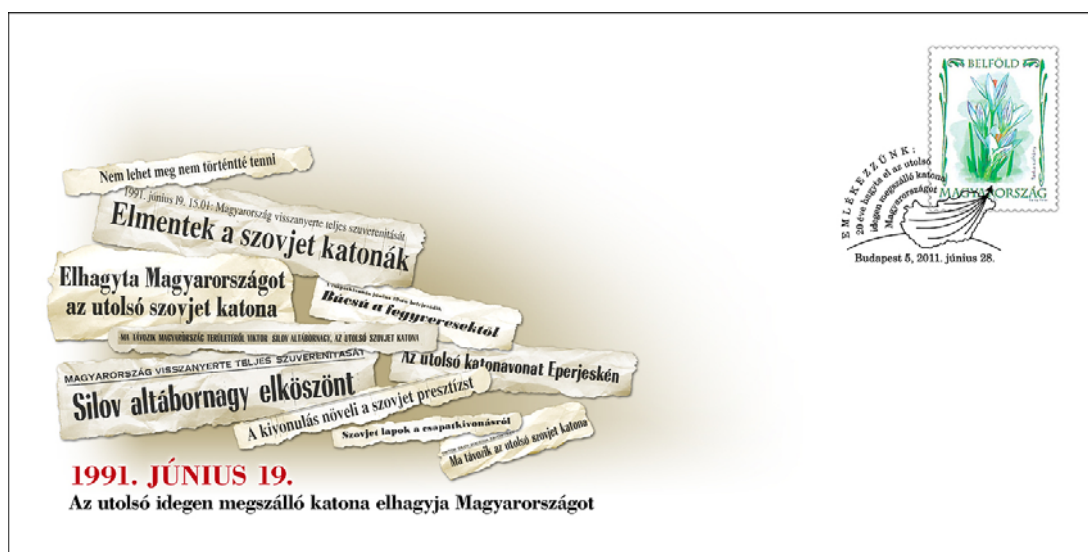


Hungarian Stamps 2011

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REMEMBRANCE: THE LAST FOREIGN OCCUPYING SOLDIER LEFT HUNGARY 20 YEARS AGO



The last foreign occupying soldier left Hungary 20 years ago. To mark this occasion, Magyar Posta is releasing a commemorative cover.

On 10 March 1990 the Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn and his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze signed the agreement on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary in Moscow. According to the agreement, all personnel including Soviet civilians together with all armaments, military technology and materiel had to leave the country by 30 June 1991. During this period movements related to military exercises of Soviet troops including flying were restricted. On 12 March 1990 the withdrawal of the soldiers, civilian employees, arms, military technology and materiel of the southern corps of the Soviet army temporarily stationed in Hungary started with the tank units based at Hajmáskér. This was in effect completed on 16 June instead of 30 June 1991. The

last military train left the country on 16 June 1991. The last Soviet soldier, Lieutenant General Viktor Shilov, commander of the southern corps, left Hungarian soil at 15.01 on 19 June.

The Hungarian Parliament adopted the bill on the significance of regaining the country's freedom and on the Day of Hungarian Freedom on 8 May 2001, which declared 19 June to be a national remembrance day and the last Saturday of June to be the Day of Hungarian Freedom. (Source: fn.hu)

The cover commemorating the anniversary shows a montage made of headlines from the dailies 20 years ago. The cover bears the postage stamp Protected Hungarian Flowers: Cloth of Gold Crocus issued in 2009, which is cancelled by a commemorative postmark with a graphic design symbolising the withdrawal.

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