

News Coverage Zemst Visit

VRT 1PM News

http://www.deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws/videozone/programmas/journaal/EP_130617_J1?video=1.1656571

Anchor: “Howard Gutman, the American Ambassador in our country repeats that the accusations towards him are not correct. He did so during his visit to the commune Zemst, the final Belgian commune that he will visit before he steps down as ambassador in a number of weeks. He did not discuss the content of the accusations—that he visited prostitutes and walked in a park at night-- that appeared in the US press last week.”

(images of Ambassador Gutman arriving in Zemst.)

Reporter Ann De Bie: “Mayor Koopman receives Ambassador Gutman and his wife Michelle in Zemst. A choir that sings American classics awaits him. The Gutmans sing along happily.”

(Ambassador Gutman and Michelle Loewinger singing Yankee Doodle Dandee.)

Ann De Bie: “But of course every wants to hear what the ambassador has to say about his alleged prostitute visit, so he immediately bites the bullet in the beginning of the speech.”

Amb. Gutman *(Public Statement)*: “Everybody is aware of the controversy that came out of Washington last week. I gave a statement explaining I never did anything wrong. We love being in Belgium. We have a few more weeks here. And I continue to represent a country I love dearly—The United States—in a country I love dearly—Belgium. And I will do so with the same honor and dignity as I have for the last four years.”

Ann De Bie: “So the ambassador continues to do the work that he is supposed to do, even though he had likely imaged his last weeks in Belgium differently.”

Ann De Bie: Question to Ambassador Gutman: “Mr. Ambassador, how do you feel today in your first public appearance after the allegations?”

Amb. Gutman: It’s not my first public appearance. I have given comment and I have kept all of my activities all last week.”

Ann De Bie: “And this is what they call ‘saved by the bell’ in English, although in this case, it’s saved by the choir.”

(Choir singing have a nice day)

VTM news 1PM

<http://nieuws.vtm.be/binnenland/50519-gutman-verschijnt-weer-het-openbaar>

(Images of Ambassador Gutman and Michelle Loewinger arriving in Zemst)

Elke Pattyn: “Michelle Loewinger does not always join him. Today she does, when her husband appears in public for the first time after last week’s scandal. He looks tense. She clearly holds on to him. The message is clear. She stands behind her husband, despite the accusations”

Amb. Gutman (*public statement*): “Let me quickly say, everybody is aware of the controversy that came out of Washington last week. I gave a statement explaining I never did anything wrong. We love being in Belgium. We have a few more weeks here. And I continue to represent a country I love dearly—The United States—in a country I love dearly—Belgium. And I will do so with the same honor and dignity as I have for the last four years.”

Elke Pattyn: “Last week, a whistle blower alleged last week that he had had sex with underage prostitutes. Gutman does not want to say anything more about it.”

Elke Pattyn: “What’s your reaction on last week’s allegations?”

Amb. Gutman: “I already addressed that. This is about the visit to Zemst. And I am looking forward to this visit.”

(Ambassador Gutman and Michelle Loewinger singing America the Beautiful)

Elke Pattyn: “Zemst receives Gutman in a very festive manner with a choir singing American patriotic songs. This is Ambassador Gutman’s last official visit to a Belgian town. He will step down as Ambassador on July 23.”

(Elke Pattyn in front of the camera)

Elke Pattyn: “Howard Gutman will come back to Belgium at least a week a month to work as a consultant and to be a board member of a company in Antwerp. Elke Pattyn for the VTM news in Zemst.”

Nieuwsblad Website (Local Edition Zemst)

http://www.nieuwsblad.be/article/detail.aspx?articleid=BLPVA_20130617_001

US Ambassador Howard Gutman visited Zemst on June 17. Gutman visited his tour of Flanders, but a number of communes did not receive a visit from the ambassador. In order to make up for this, Gutman today visited Zemst with a lot of attention from the press. He received a farewell with the song: ‘Have a nice day’ by the Elewijt Bach choir led by Heidi Jacobs. The embassy had given very clear instructions today that the ambassador would not give any interviews. He who tried this was given the response: “no comment.”

