



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## INSIDE

### PEPFAR Making Strides in HIV Prevention and Care

*USAID HIV/AIDS Care and Support Program highlights results at annual performance review*

Wednesday, July 9, 2008 Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – Today, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) HIV/AIDS Care and Support Program unveiled impressive progress and achievements at its first annual review meeting at the Sheraton Hotel. Dr. Kebede



*Nancy Estes, USAID Acting Mission Director, highlights the accomplishments PEPFAR has made in Ethiopia.*

Worku, State Minister of Health, and Nancy Estes, USAID Acting Mission Director, delivered remarks at the event.

Since its June 2007 inception, the program has supported nearly 400 health centers. (Continued on page 5)

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### G8, African Leaders Discuss Food Aid, Zimbabwe

By Merle D. Kellerhals, Jr. Staff Writer

Washington -- Members of the Group of Eight major industrialized democracies met with leaders from seven African nations to discuss actions against Zimbabwe over its flawed presidential runoff election and an array of global issues confronting Africa, including



*President Bush shares a moment with President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana prior to the start of the G8 Working Session with Africa Outreach Representatives in Toyako, Japan.* (Continued on page 2)

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## G8, African Leaders Discuss Food Aid, Zimbabwe . . .

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health, food, trade and investment.

At a July 7 briefing, President Bush said he is deeply concerned for the Zimbabwean people in the aftermath of a presidential runoff election in June that re-elected Robert Mugabe. "I am extremely disappointed in the elections, which I labeled a 'sham' election," he said.

Mugabe was the only candidate in the June 27 election. Opposition presidential candidate Morgan Tsvangirai withdrew from the runoff after many of his supporters had been beaten or killed by state-sponsored enforcers. In the initial March election, Tsvangirai won 48 percent of the vote to Mugabe's 43 percent, but that was insufficient to win the election outright.

"Of course, we have discussed the issue of Zimbabwe, where we understand your concerns," Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete said at the press conference with Bush after the first day of the G8 forum. "But I want to assure you that the concerns that you have expressed are indeed the concerns of many of us in the African continent. At the last summit of the African Union, many leaders expressed their dissatisfaction at the way things happened."

Kikwete, the current head of the African Union, said the only area where African leaders may disagree with the G8 leaders is on the way forward. AU leaders at a recent meeting in Egypt expressed concern over the elections, but did not condemn the runoff election or Mugabe. Many African nations have expressed support for a power-sharing government, but the White

House has questioned how that might work, given the current environment in Zimbabwe.

Bush has proposed an international arms embargo and other measures, White House officials have said. The Zimbabwe presidential election is expected to come before the U.N. Security Council and there is a possibility of a Security Council resolution, says Dan Price, the U.S. deputy national security adviser for international economic affairs.

"All of the leaders are troubled by what's happening there. The African leaders have, of course, been working their own diplomacy in the region, and they talked about that," Price said at a briefing following the meeting. "I think all of the leaders recognized that we're facing a very tragic situation in Zimbabwe."

The G8 -- which includes Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States -- is meeting on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido through July 9 for its annual summit. Japan is host to this year's summit and has set the agenda. Energy security and climate change are on the agenda, and meetings are planned with other nations on an array of economic and security matters.

Price noted that leaders from Algeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania met with the G8 to discuss health, food, trade and investment issues.

"One thing that was very clear from these meetings, there was universal emphasis by virtually all African leaders on the essential need for G8 countries to honor their past commitments in respect [to] health and development assistance," he said.

Bush expressed concern about accountability by G8 nations regarding previous pledges of assistance to African nations.

At the 2005 summit, G8 nations pledged to provide up to \$25 billion in assistance by 2010. Bush noted that the United States has met its commitment and is encouraging other G8 partners to meet their pledges.

The African leaders also placed a great deal of emphasis on the looming food crisis that has gripped a large segment of the underdeveloped world, Price said. "They stressed the need for new technologies and for educating agricultural scientists and for having access not only to immediate food assistance but non-food assistance, such as fertilizer and high-yielding seeds," he said.

Price said the president emphasized the importance of using biotechnology in food production.

"The African leaders identified the importance of economic growth through trade and investment, acknowledging that part of this involves creating an attractive business climate at home," he said. And the leaders stressed the need for adopting improved trade access and market liberalization.

Price said Bush emphasized the importance of concluding the Doha round of trade-liberalization talks this year. The Doha round began at the 2001 World Trade Organization meeting and is designed to significantly reduce trade barriers among nations and lift millions out of poverty. ♦

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## Africa Forum to Focus on Expanded Trade, Economic Growth

By Merle D. Kellerhals, Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington -- When government leaders from sub-Saharan Africa meet in Washington July 14-16 at an annual economic forum, the focus will be on mobilizing private investment to expand trade and growth across the continent, say senior U.S. officials.

"The pace of economic growth and development in Africa is of paramount concern to the United States and the international community," said Todd Moss, deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs. "The future of sub-Saharan Africa continues to look brighter, as we're seeing a growing number of countries begin to reap the benefits of sound economic policy changes, improved governance and new investments in key sectors undertaken over the last decade."

In 2000 the United States took a bold step in seeking to help sub-Saharan Africa with enactment of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which seeks to provide the most liberal access to the U.S. market available to any country or region in sub-Saharan Africa where there is no free-trade agreement, Moss said.

Currently, 41 nations have been designated as eligible for the benefits of AGOA. The most recent additions are Togo and the Union of Comoros, Moss said at a Washington Foreign Press Center briefing July 1.

As part of the AGOA legislation, there is an annual meeting between the United States and African nations known as the AGOA Forum. The upcoming forum is the seventh



such event. Its theme focuses on encouraging private investment that will help expand trade and economic growth for the AGOA countries, Moss said.

"Under AGOA, eligible countries can export almost any product to the United States duty-free. Right now, that's nearly 6,500 products, from apparel to automobiles and footwear to fruit," Moss said. "AGOA also provides a framework for technical assistance to help countries take greater advantage of trade preferences."

In 2007, more than 98 percent of U.S. imports from AGOA countries entered duty-free, which gave them a considerable market advantage over similar products from other nations. Total trade between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa has grown to more than \$81 billion in the last year.

Moss said that since 2001, non-oil AGOA imports into the United States have nearly tripled. Andrew Baukol, deputy assistant treasury secretary for Africa and the Middle East, said expanding private investment is critical in Africa.

In the last seven years private capital flows into sub-Saharan Africa increased about five times, totaling more than \$50 billion last year.

"Africa has enjoyed a very rapidly growing economy in the last few years. We aim to try to help cement the gains in this progress, even in the face of some global pressures that might help detract from growth in the near term," Baukol said.

The Treasury Department has almost 20 technical advisers in Africa full time, helping African countries develop banking systems and budget processes.

Moss said AGOA was intended to provide opportunities for trade by providing market access, an essential element in boosting economic growth. "I don't think that AGOA was ever intended to be all-encompassing," he said.

What the United States is now seeing is interest from global investors in looking at Africa, and particularly at African infrastructure, he said. "One of the main restraints on greater trade is African infrastructure," Moss said. ♦

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## Africa Needs Transportation Capacity Now, Experts Say

By Charles W. Corey  
Staff Writer

Chicago -- No matter how good your product is, if you cannot transport it locally or internationally to market in a timely fashion, it will not sell. That is why improved transportation capacity and infrastructure are so important to Africa's long-term economic growth and development.

A group of Africa transportation and logistics specialists explored these ideas at the 2008 U.S.-Africa Agribusiness Forum, held recently in Chicago and hosted by the Corporate Council on Africa.

John M. Roller, an executive and partner with Africa Transportation and Logistics; Kevin Boyd, director of the Office of Africa at the U.S. Department of Commerce; and Carl Shoup, business liaison manager for KJAER Group, a large automotive distributor in Africa, told the audience that improving the transportation infrastructure is crucial to boosting agribusiness in Africa.

In Africa, "transportation capacity-building needs to happen now" and "can happen now," Roller said.

"It is much less expensive and has an immediate impact and needs to

happen up front, before infrastructure development. It will increase competition, lower prices, and empower local small and medium-sized enterprises to participate," he said.

Roller said transportation costs to, from and among African nations are

long in coming. "This is not going to be an overnight fix by any means, but requires complicated multilateral agreements between the governments" and private sector support, he said. "Can Africa wait?" he asked rhetorically.



*Men push a homemade train down the tracks near Monrovia, Liberia. In Africa, roads are often non-existent and railroads dilapidated.*

2.5 times higher than anywhere else on the globe, with transit times running two to four times higher than anywhere else. This results in "lost dollars" and a lower rate of economic growth for Africans. He said Africa lacks three things: infrastructure, competition and capacity.

In many parts of Africa, he said, roads and ports are nonexistent, railroads dilapidated, waterways in need of dredging and power unpredictable.

He termed Africa's infrastructure needs "almost overwhelming" and said solutions are extraordinarily

"Without market access, there can be no success," Roller said. He cited Gabon, where oil from the interior can be transported to shipment points only by barge over inland waterways. There is little capacity on those barges to serve other businesses in Gabon, he said. He also cited Congo-Brazzaville, where there are only six locomotives to serve the entire country,

along with a few dilapidated rail wagons.

He said that in many African ports, if two ships pull in at the same time, one ship must wait -- at great cost -- because all trucks in the port are transporting goods from the first ship.

Roller's company, which supports locally owned or African small and medium-size companies in a franchise model, said most transportation companies servicing Africa are European-owned and not open to the African entrepreneur.

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## PEPFAR Making Strides in HIV Prevention and Care . . .

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ters that offer comprehensive HIV and TB counseling and testing services, including supporting life-saving antiretroviral treatment for more than 21,000 people and training approximately 1,500 health providers in HIV and TB counseling and testing curriculum. Working in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia to rapidly expand services, the program has also provided HIV counseling and testing for over 934,000 people.

The USAID HIV/AIDS Care and Support Program is funded through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the

largest international health initiative in history dedicated to a single disease. The five-year, \$18.8 billion, works in countries around the world to combat HIV/AIDS through programs to prevent HIV infection, and provide comprehensive care and treatment to those affected and infected by HIV/AIDS. Globally, PEPFAR supported life-saving antiretroviral treatment for approximately 1.73 million men, women and children through March 31, 2008.

The national expansion HIV/AIDS services at the community and health center level made possible by USAID's HIV/AIDS Care and

Support Program in Ethiopia is one of the largest in Africa. The three-year program in Ethiopia aims to strengthen health systems and rapidly scale up diagnostic and treatment services for HIV/AIDS and TB. The program uses a results-oriented framework, a family-focused approach, and performance-based contracting to engage a large number of public and private institutions in the rapid scale-up of services. The program targets five key regions: Amhara, Addis Ababa, Oromiya, SNNPR, and Tigray. ♦

## Africa Needs Transportation Capacity Now, Experts Say . . .

*(Continued from page 4)*

Kevin Boyd, who directs the Africa office at the U.S. Department of Commerce, provided some perspective. He cited a recently published World Bank study that ranks 150 countries worldwide on logistics, customs and transportation procedures.

Only one African country, he said, finished in the top 50 performers, but more than half of the bottom 50 countries came from Africa. "Clearly, transportation is quite a significant challenge on the continent," Boyd said.

He cited another study, which calculates that a day lost in getting a product to market equals a 1 percent tariff. "For those producers counting on a tariff preference [and thus a cost advantage], if you lose three to five days in transit at some point ... your cost advantage has just gone away."

Boyd said what is important is cost, time and, most of all, predictability.

"You may take a longer time to hit some place, but as long as you can hit your target, companies can plan their supply chains accordingly," he said.

If a company is used to receiving a product in five days and suddenly that moves to 12, he said, the seller probably will lose that customer due to missing deadlines.

Carl Shoup, who represented KJAER Group, which has distributed automobiles across Africa for more than 40 years, said his company faces logistical and transportation headaches in shipping vehicles into Africa, particularly into its many emergency zones.

Shoup, who lived in Africa for 18 years, said it often is considered normal for an African trucker to be stuck seven days at a border crossing while his documentation is being processed.

Despite such delays, he said that he remains optimistic. He acknowledged that Africa gradually is beginning to reduce transportation barriers. As a result, he said, more and more vehicles are being shipped to Africa. Some 3,000 to 4,000 used cars are shipped each month from Baltimore for unloading in Cotonou, Benin, he said, with many of them bound for Nigeria.

"What you find is that the small farmer and businessman are getting mobile," wiring money to the United States to pay for a new or used vehicle, he said. There are an additional 5,000 cars coming in monthly to Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi from Japan, he added.

Shoup credited Africans with "seeking solutions on their own as individuals" rather than depending on the government to solve their problems -- which, in terms of transportation, logistics and infrastructure, can be daunting. ♦

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## Uganda HIV/AIDS Meeting Targets Prevention, Way Forward

By Cheryl Pellerin  
Staff Writer

Washington – Prevention remains a major challenge for those who develop and implement programs to fight HIV/AIDS worldwide, according to attendees of the 2008 HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting held June 3-7 in Uganda.

"Implementers" are those engaged in bringing information and services to people affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. They include representatives from community- and faith-based organizations, nongovernmental organizations, governments and ministries, international partners, organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS, service providers and provider networks, academia and the private sector.

"We have done very well in treatment, we have done fairly well in care although we have a long way to go," Ambassador Mark Dybul, coordinator of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), said during a July 1 briefing, "but there is real recognition that we are trailing scientifically and in implementation in terms of prevention. Every speaker, every head of organization emphasized the need to focus on prevention."

The Ugandan government hosted the five-day meeting in Kampala. The theme of this second annual implementers' meeting was "Scaling Up Through Partnerships: Overcoming Obstacles to Implementation." It built on the first meeting held in Kigali, Rwanda, in 2007.

Cosponsors were PEPFAR; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); UNICEF; the World Bank; the World Health Organization (WHO); and the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS. (See "Best Practices to Fight HIV/AIDS Is Focus of Uganda Meeting ( <http://>

because more people are receiving antiretroviral treatment.

New HIV infections peaked in the late 1990s declined between 2001 and 2007 from 3.2 million to 2.5 million because of natural trends in the epidemic and prevention efforts. In 2007, 6,800 people a day were newly infected with HIV.



*Members of the Watoto Children's Choir, based in Kampala, Uganda, perform on World AIDS Day in New York in 2006.*

[www.america.gov/st/health-english/2008/April/20080408173352lcniellep08668634.html](http://www.america.gov/st/health-english/2008/April/20080408173352lcniellep08668634.html) ).")

### ON THE GROUND

According to the latest estimates from UNAIDS and WHO, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS globally rose from 29 million in 2001 to 33.2 million in 2007. Annual deaths increased from 1.7 million in 2001 to 2.1 million in 2007 but have declined recently, partly

At the meeting in Kampala, more than 1,600 implementers from 68 countries gathered to hear 110 invited speakers and to share their successes and challenges. From 1,600 abstracts describing a range of programs, 391 were accepted for oral presentations during the meeting and 144 for poster presentations.

The meeting's success, said J. Stephen Morrison, executive direc-

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## Uganda HIV/AIDS Meeting Targets Prevention, Way Forward . . .

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tor of the Center for Strategic and International Studies Task Force on HIV/AIDS, "reflects the emerging power and voice of the implementers who are on the ground in the focal countries and beyond, and the fact that their knowledge and experience is becoming so vital."

The PEPFAR focus countries -- those hardest hit by HIV/AIDS -- are Botswana, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guyana, Mozambique, Kenya, Nigeria, Haiti, Namibia, Rwanda, Vietnam, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Uganda.

### NEW APPROACHES

Common themes during the many plenary sessions, panels and breakout sessions included getting more people into treatment and care, keeping people in treatment and care, and ensuring quality services. A range of public and private partners joined forces to address community needs.

In Eastern Africa, Makerere University and the U.S. Military HIV Research Program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center teamed up in 2007 to identify hard-to-reach HIV-positive people at four rural clinics during regular health visits. Health workers were trained in the use of an HIV rapid test, counseling and routine testing and counseling policy. Today, the program is increasing the number of referrals to HIV clinics.

Tuberculosis (TB) is the leading cause of death in HIV-infected people globally, and a partnership be-

tween the Thailand Ministry of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention helped develop a province-level TB laboratory network in Thailand, which has a high burden of TB and a generalized HIV epidemic. The partners developed standardized indicators to routinely monitor the performance of culture and drug-susceptibility testing and maintain laboratory quality.



*A researcher in 2004 holds test tubes with HIV-infected blood that has separated into white and red blood cells, part of work into an HIV vaccine. (AP)*

One of the best practices that arose from the meeting is called task shifting. A major constraint to tackling HIV/AIDS and global access to essential health care services is a serious shortage of health workers. At least 57 countries have a crisis-level shortage of health workers, according to WHO, and 36 of those are in Africa.

Task shifting involves delegating some tasks to less specialized health workers. By reorganizing the workforce, task shifting offers a

workable way to improve health care coverage by making more efficient use of the human resources already available.

"One hour of a prescribing nurse's time saved a doctor 45 minutes," said Dr. Caroline Ryan, director of program services in the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator. "So it freed up time for the physicians to be involved in other consultations."

Several countries already use task shifting to strengthen their health systems and scale up access to HIV/AIDS treatment and care. WHO, PEPFAR and UNAIDS are working to develop global guidelines for task shifting.

"Task shifting was part of the response to the health care workforce crisis and it's part of the long-term solution," she added, "but more clinical and nonclinical staff need to be added."

More information about the implementers' meeting ( <http://www.hivimplementers.org/> ) is available on the meeting Web site.

More information about PEPFAR ( <http://www.pepfar.gov/> ) is available at that organization's Web site.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

## Arab-American Writers Reveal Life's Richness and Frustrations

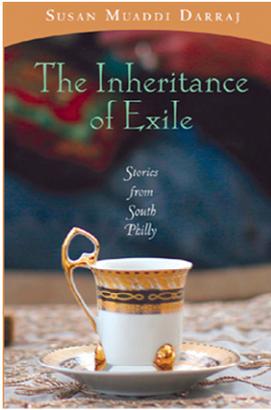
By Burton Bollag  
Special Correspondent

Washington -- In one of the stories in Susan Muaddi Darraj's collection *The Inheritance of Exile: Stories from South Philly*, Hanan, an 8-year-old girl, doesn't want her Palestinian-born mother to come to her Philadelphia classroom on Parents' Day.

The girl, embarrassed by her mother's accent and flawed English, tells the teacher her mother is ill and then sits alone on the swing in the school playground. Her mother stays home feeling hurt and rejected.

The story had a ring of authenticity for the participants in a panel on Arab-American authors and literature at the annual conference of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, held June 13-15 in Washington. Much of the growing body of literature by Arab-American writers reflects the struggles of Middle Eastern immigrants, or their children, as they go down the bumpy and sometimes painful road to making America their new home.

In this respect, Arab-American literature shares much with the literatures of other immigrant communities -- such as the Irish, the Italians and the Jews -- who faced many challenges, including bigotry, as they navigated life in a foreign place.



*Susan Muaddi Darraj, author of "The Inheritance of Exile"*

It is a pattern that has repeated itself for much of the history of the United States, said Jeffrey Passel, senior demographer at the Pew Hispanic Center, which studies immigration from Latin America. "We pride ourselves with being a nation of immigrants," he said. But in each new generation, there have been many who feel the most recent immigrants "are from an alien culture and won't be able to assimilate as our grandfathers did."

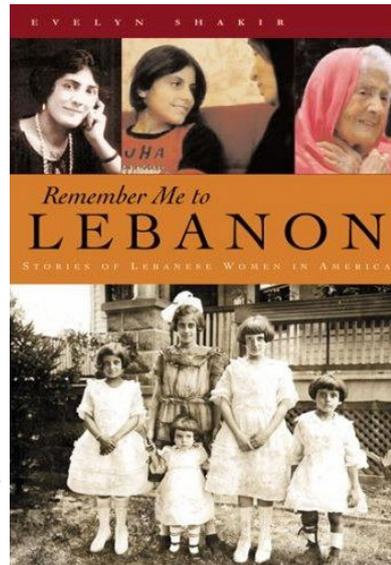
In their literatures, America's immigrant and ethnic groups share the richness -- and the burden -- of being "in between two cultures," said Nathalie Handal, a Palestinian-American poet who chaired the session. Sometimes they are not at home in either, she added.

Like the girl in Darraj's story, Evelyn Shakir used to cringe when she heard her Lebanese-born parents speak in front of neighbors. "I started out being embarrassed by my parents' accent," she said. That feeling ebbed after Shakir started her academic career and "was influenced by the whole ethnic revival of the 1970s," when ethnic communities began celebrat-

ing their distinct heritages.

At the time, she said, there was very little Arab-American literature. Shakir, a retired literature professor at Bentley College near Boston, started interviewing women from her community. "They didn't know me, but they told me rather intimate, painful memories," she said. One woman had enrolled in the 1960s at Radcliffe College, then an elite women's institution. One day her dormitory sisters all got up from the table and left after she revealed that her grandparents were immigrants from Lebanon.

Shakir said the willingness of the women she interviewed to share



*Evelyn Shakir, author of "Remember Me to Lebanon"*

their stories "gave me courage." She wrote a book of nonfiction and then a collection of 10 short stories, *Remember Me to Lebanon: Stories of Lebanese Women in America*, about their experiences.

In the 1960s almost all of Radcliffe's students were white, Protestant and affluent, said Marlyn

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## Arab-American Writers Reveal Life's Richness and Frustrations . . .

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McGrath, who also studied there. (Radcliffe is now a research institution within Harvard University.) Harvard "is a much more diverse place today," said McGrath, the university's director of admissions. Fully 40 percent of new students entering next fall are nonwhite, she said.

Few works by Arab Americans contain the collective trauma or provoke as much controversy as those by Palestinian Americans. Susan Abulhawa was born into a Palestinian family that became refugees as a result of the 1967 Six Day War. The Scar of David, her provocatively titled 2007 historical novel, tells the story of four generations of a Palestinian family who lost their land with the creation of the state of Israel, an event known to many Palestinians as "el Naqba" -- the Catastrophe. In the United States the book has provoked some controversy, and charges of anti-Semitism. It has sold better in several European translations.

Abulhawa told the panel, "I've heard from readers of my book who said, 'I finally understand why the Palestinians are so angry.' Nothing pleases me more than those e-mails."

A feeling of not being understood in America has weighed heavily on the work of other Arab-American writers. "The one thing that has really helped me is reading the work of African-American authors," Darraj said. From Langston Hughes and

others she learned that characters can carry a writer's anger but still be richly constructed individuals.

"Even angry people have a love life," said Darraj.

The terrorist attacks of September 2001 were a turning point for

more is being reviewed in prestigious publications like the New York Times book review. If the work of an Arab-American writer is good, Darraj said, it will eventually find a publisher.

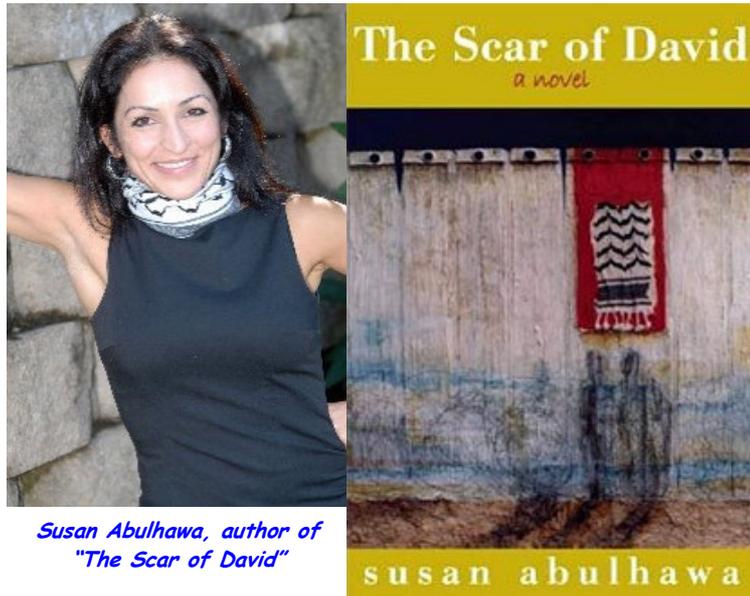
Lebanese-American poet Hayan Charara agreed. He is the editor of

a new collection featuring the works of 39 poets, Inclined to Speak: An Anthology of Contemporary Arab American Poetry. "Not 10 years ago, I would have been hard-pressed to find half as many Arab-American fiction writers," he said.

See "Arab-American Writers Offer Universal Themes, Unique Perspective" ([http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2006/](http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2006/0.4654047.html)

[June/20050601180626cpataruK0.2645685.html](http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2005/June/20050601180626cpataruK0.2645685.html) ) and "Arab Americans Recount Experiences of Growing up in America" (<http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2006/June/20060620140038GLnesnoM0.4654047.html> )"

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦



Susan Abulhawa, author of "The Scar of David"

Americans, including those of Middle Eastern origin. Some Arab Americans experienced increased hostility and suspicion. At the same time, Americans have become more interested in understanding the Arab world.

Yet, the panelists argued, even the desire to understand has been colored by preconceived ideas. "There's been a lot more interest in Arab-American literature," Darraj said. "But we need to be careful; it is not genuine interest. Editors want recycled stories about women and girls being liberated from wearing the veil."

Still, more and more Arab-American literature is being published -- and

## A Teenager's View of Islam in America

Washington -- Of all the faiths practiced in the United States, Islam is the fastest growing, the most questioned and the least understood.

"Will you wear Muslim clothes to school tomorrow?" "When we go to your house can we eat Muslim food?" "Do you know where Osama bin Laden is?"

These are some of the questions that young American Muslims are faced with from their non-Muslim peers in the post-9/11 era.

The Hafiz family -- Imran, 16, Yasmine, 18, and their mother, Dilara -- wrote *The American Muslim Teenager's Handbook* in 2006 to begin to shed some light on many of these questions and to provide a resource to other young Muslims trying to balance the American culture with their religion.

"There were lots of resources for Christians and Jews, but it is good to have resources for Muslims," Yasmine said.

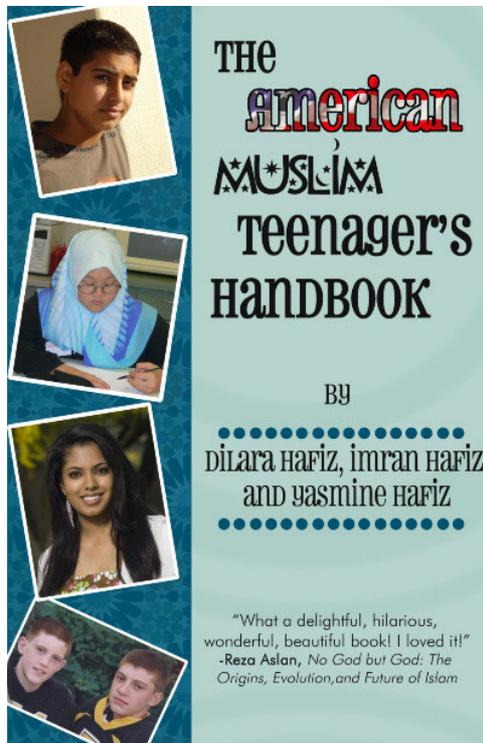
She saw a need to provide American Muslims teenagers like herself with a guide to help them better understand their religion and how to be a good Muslim.

Both Yasmine and Imran encountered stereotypes at their school, such as that all Muslims share the same dress, food and rituals. They wrote this book to show that Islam is a religion and not connected to a specific culture of its own.

Those who practice Islam are just as diverse as Americans who practice any other faith. Muslims come from a variety of countries, speak many different languages, and have different cultures. To the Hafiz fam-

ily there is no one way to be a Muslim, and this is what they emphasize in their book.

Their book stresses the basics, or the "fundamentals" as Imran puts it, of Islam. It talks to people who are new to the faith and want to learn more, and it provides how-to instructions for young Muslims who may be unclear about all the nuances of their faith.



The book is written in approachable and accepting language. It does not try to convert anyone to the religion, nor does it admonish those who are more secular in practicing their faith and do not strictly follow every rule.

It explains why Muslims pray five times a day, what the pillars of the faith are, who Mohammed was and how to fast. It probes more contro-

versial issues about what Muslims can eat, wearing the hijab and what every teenager wants to know about dancing, drinking and dating.

Since there is no single head of Islam, American Muslims lacked a unified authority to address the public's fear of Islam after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"We sensed a trend in alienation," Dilara said.

The family said they saw Muslims who were more secular begin to turn away from the faith, and they also saw Muslims become more conservative or radicalized in response to the tension regarding Islam in America.

"Why not define ourselves," said Yasmine about being an American Muslim during this time.

The family also discussed how the attacks made Muslims abroad fearful of coming to America. The family said they want to enlighten others about Islam, but also let Muslims abroad know that America is not a bad place for Muslims.

"People abroad say, 'Wow, you live in America as a Muslim and it's okay,'" Dilara said.

"The way terrorism is fought is through education. Promoting this is our 'jihad,'" Imran said.

The handbook is available in 600 libraries.

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

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## U.S. Independence Day a Civic and Social Event

By Michael Jay Friedman  
Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States celebrates its Independence Day on July 4, a day of patriotic celebration and family events throughout the country. In the words of Founding Father John Adams, the holiday would be "the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance. ... It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

The Fourth of July holiday is a major civic occasion, with roots deep in the Anglo-American tradition of political freedom.

### A SUMMER HOLIDAY

Each year crowds of visitors flock to the National Mall -- the grassy expanse between the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument -- for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, which always takes place on two weekends overlapping the Fourth of July holiday. This year's festival celebrates the culture of Bhutan, the music, food and wine of Texas and the history of NASA. In 2007, the festival's international exhibits focused on the Mekong River region and Northern Ireland. Throughout the United States, Fourth of July fireworks displays are popular, from the spectacular exhibition on the National Mall to more modest fireworks shows in city parks across the land. In New York City, Macy's department store for 31 years has sponsored what it bills as the nation's largest July 4 fireworks display. In 2008, the 30-

minute show will feature 35,000 shells launched from six barges afloat in the East River and in New York Harbor. Macy's estimates that more than 3 million will watch in person. The event has been televised nationally in recent years.



"The Fourth" is a family celebration. Picnics and barbecues are common. July is summer in the United States, and millions of Americans escape the heat at beaches and other vacation spots. Independence Day is not among the legal holidays fixed on a Monday or Friday, but many employees use vacation time to create an extended weekend.

Construction of important public works sometimes begins on July 4. The Erie Canal, Washington Monument and Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (the nation's first) all broke ground on Independence Day. The date reflects a desire symbolically to stamp these projects as true

civic improvements.

### A CIVIC OCCASION

The Fourth of July is a time when elected officials and other public figures often give speeches extolling American traditions and values.

Independence Day has provided some of this nation's most stirring words of freedom. In 1788, Founding Father James Wilson addressed a Philadelphia gathering that was possibly the largest July 4 celebration in the young nation's history. He exhorted his fellow citizens to ratify the proposed Constitution. "A people, free and enlightened," he said, "establishing and ratifying a system of government ... A WHOLE PEOPLE exercising its first and greatest power -- performing an act of SOVEREIGNTY, ORIGINAL and UNLIMITED."

On July 4, 1852, the black journalist and abolitionist Frederick Douglass decried the evils of slavery, still prevalent in the American South at that time, but identified forces "drawing encouragement from the Declaration of Independence, the great principles it contains, and the genius of American Institutions in operation" that "must inevitably work The downfall of slavery."

Ninety years later, near the darkest moments of World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt reminded the nation that for the "weary, hungry, unequipped Army of the American Revolution ... the Fourth of July was a tonic of hope and inspiration. So is it now.... The tough, grim men who fight for freedom in this dark hour take heart in its message -- the assurance of the right to liberty under God -- for all peoples and

*(Continued on page 14)*

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## Strong Forces Now Reshaping World Food Markets

By Charles Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Chicago -- Strong forces are reshaping agricultural markets in Africa and worldwide. Those forces tell us that the world needs more food and that Africa can play a key part in helping feed the hungry worldwide.

This is according to Terry Duffy, executive chairman of the CME Group -- the world's largest and most diverse derivatives and agricultural commodity exchange. Duffy spoke June 26 to the 2008 U.S.-Africa Agribusiness Forum here.

"Many people are saying, 'It is the best of times or the worst of times' for agriculture," Duffy told his audience. "Your view, I suppose, depends on where you are in the industry food chain."

Duffy -- whose exchange sets global benchmarks for commodity prices -- said increased demand and limited supply on a worldwide scale are pushing up commodity prices.

He said for some, like U.S. corn farmers, price increases are welcome. For others, mills that buy wheat to make flour or restaurants that buy bulk food supplies, high prices are unwelcome.

Meeting increasing demand for more food worldwide will require more investment, innovation and infrastructure throughout the industry, Duffy said, "and that means more opportunity for agribusiness globally."

Despite tremendous challenges on the continent, there are also tremendous opportunities for agribusi-

ness all across Africa -- "opportunities to invest in and produce everything from grain to grapes to infrastructure," he told his audience.



*Chicago Mercantile Exchange Executive Chairman Terry Duffy.*

Last year, Duffy said, agriculture produced more than one-third of Africa's gross domestic product (GDP).

"That said, Africa is a net importer of agricultural commodities. At a time when the world needs more from agriculture, we need Africa to reach its potential and become a partner in the global commodity production," Duffy said.

Global food shortages, rising commodity prices and the debate about bio-fuels have affected the agribusiness marketplace tremendously, he said. And fertilizer and farmland are at a premium.

Duffy said the CME free-market trading system has recently been tested in the face of some of the highest grain prices in history --

which he attributed to a number of factors:

-- bio-fuels production mandated in both the United States and Europe, which has created additional market stress and will continue to do so well into the future.

-- limited farmland caused by floods in much of the Midwestern United States, where many of the U.S. crops are grown.

-- a U.S. dollar that has depreciated by 28 percent since 2000. The U.S. dollar is the currency in which international grain trade is conducted. "This means that commodity prices are, on average, 28 percent lower for these importers than they would have been if the value of the dollar had remained constant" and that helps fuel demand.

-- slower growth in production vs. rapid growth in demand: The average annual growth rate in the production of grains and oilseeds has slowed from 2.2 percent per year in the 1970s and 1980s to only 1.3 percent since 1990. The U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts further declines in the next 10 years.

-- additional livestock, which requires more grain: "As the demand for meat rises -- especially from fast-developing countries like China and India -- the demand for grain and protein feeds grows at an even faster rate."

-- adverse weather: Multi- and single-year droughts in Australia, Black Sea states, Russia and Canada and the United States have driven up prices.

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## For Many Americans, Hard Work Is Badge of Honor

By Michael Gelb  
Special Correspondent

Washington -- Americans generally work more hours and take fewer vacations than workers in other advanced economies.

But are they enjoying life less?

That question is a matter of considerable debate in the United States, where some say "overwork" means greater stress and more illness and others counter that a "strong work ethic" brings material success to individuals and is a key to the nation's economic success.

For advocates of more leisure time, the list of grievances is long. Lois Backon of the Families and Work Institute said long hours have been "a red badge of courage" that show the boss you deserve a promotion. But, she said, long hours reduce workers' effectiveness and are partly to blame for increases in heart disease and depression.

Economists say Americans' work ethic produces substantial rewards. "Americans are a lot better off economically than the Europeans or Japanese," economist Robert J. Shapiro observes in his book *Futurecast*.

Among the advanced economies,

the United States is the only one that does not require employers to provide a minimum number of paid vacation days. While most U.S. businesses typically provide five to 10 days in vacation for new employees and an average of eight paid holidays -- such as Christmas and New Year's Day, days on which the business is closed -- government data indicate it takes about 10 years with the same employer to

a minimum of 30 or more paid days off every year. They often get more. The World Tourism Organization pegs average vacation time at 42 days a year in Italy, 37 days in France and 35 in Germany. It says Japanese and South Korean workers enjoy 25 days off every year.

### WHEN IT'S TOUGH TO TEAR ONE-SELF AWAY



*U.S. tech workers are known for long hours and short vacations.*

What's more, a quarter or more of American workers don't use all of the leave time they have coming.

Twenty percent of Americans do some work even while they are on vacation, according to the Families and Work Institute.

Thanks to the proliferation of mobile phones and e-mail devices, many workers, especially senior managers, check in with their offices routinely during

non-work hours. "It's harder and harder to tell what is work and what is leisure," said Cheryl Russell, an independent demographer who studies social trends.

In contrast, workers in the European Union can count on a minimum of 20 days of paid leave every year, and most get substantially more than that. When paid leave and paid holidays are combined, workers in many EU countries enjoy

Pat Engel, an executive at Amplify Public Affairs in Washington, is addicted to her Blackberry -- a device that combines cell phone and Internet access. "I never let it out of my

*(Continued on page 14)*

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## For Many Americans, Hard Work Is Badge of Honor . . .

*(Continued from page 13)*

possession," she said, explaining that her clients expect her to be available at all hours and during vacations.

"[Clients] e-mail me at 10 p.m. I e-mail back my answer, and at midnight, they e-mail a 'thanks' back," Engel said. "Sometimes I turn it off during religious services, but it's right back on when the service is over."

John de Graff, founder of Take Back Your Time, an advocacy group that wants Congress to mandate three weeks of paid leave each year, said Americans suffer from "time poverty."

"Americans feel enormous pressure to work so they won't be seen as slackers," de Graaf told [america.gov](http://america.gov). He said Americans would be better off if they swapped some productivity for more time off and cut their consumption of material goods.

American workers also work longer work weeks and put in more hours over the course of the year than

counterparts in many advanced economies. About 80 percent of Americans work 40 hours or more each week; fewer than half of Danes, Finns, the French or Germans work that many hours, according to the International Labor Organization (ILO). On an annual basis, the ILO says, Americans spend about 1,800 hours a year at work, compared to 1,600 hours or fewer in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. (Americans take it easy compared to South Koreans, however, who work about 2,400 hours every year.)

### REAL BENEFITS

Economists note that European economies, when compared to the U.S. economy, create fewer jobs, have higher unemployment that lasts longer, and produce less wealth.

For example, unemployment rates in France and Germany have hovered near or above 10 percent in recent years and have been double the U.S. rate at times.

The ILO, in a 2007 report, says the

United States leads the world in labor productivity per person employed and that "the productivity gap between the US and most other developed economies continued to widen."

Shapiro, in his recent book on globalization, warns of danger ahead for most EU countries and Japan unless they make their economies more productive. He says current work trends will make it extremely difficult for EU countries to continue to finance their social welfare programs.

"From 1990 to 2005, the combined output of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom, adjusted for inflation, grew about 34 percent -- barely 2 percent a year -- and Japan grew at half that unremarkable rate. Over the same 15 years, the American economy expanded 58 percent," he wrote.

"Europe and Japan seem set on handicapping their future prosperity with ostensible acts of social kindness. ... Such regulations are slowly draining the competitiveness of thousands of European businesses," he said. ♦

## U.S. Independence Day a Civic and Social Event . . .

*(Continued from page 11)*

racess and groups and nations, everywhere in the world."

On July 4, 2001, President George W. Bush spoke outside Independence Hall, Philadelphia, birthplace of the Declaration of Independence. That document, he said, continues

to represent "the standard to which we hold others, and the standard by which we measure ourselves. Our greatest achievements have come when we have lived up to these ideals. Our greatest tragedies have come when we have failed to uphold them."

Across the nation, civic leaders of

even the most humble station echo these words, and their audiences give thanks for the freedom and liberties that the founding generation won for all Americans.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

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## Transport Costs Make U.S. Producers Think Anew About Outsourcing

By Andrzej Zwanecki  
Staff Writer

Washington -- High shipping costs may prompt some U.S. companies to return their overseas manufacturing operations to the United States but will not cause a dramatic shift in globalization, according to experts.

U.S. manufacturers have welcomed the low dollar because it has boosted competitiveness of their exports. In 2007, manufactured exports rose by 12 percent over the previous year.

What worries manufacturers are unprecedented high fuel prices and related soaring transport costs.

The cost of shipping a standard container from Shanghai, China, to the U.S. eastern seaboard, including inland costs, has tripled since 2000 and will triple again if oil prices reach \$200 per barrel as some experts predict, according to a paper by CIBC World Markets, a Canadian investment bank.

The report claims that soaring transport costs may encourage some U.S. companies, which for years have been moving production to low-wage countries, mostly in Asia, to relocate their manufacturing operations to the United States or Mexico.

How much trade ultimately will be diverted depends on how significant freight costs are in relation to the total costs of a product and how much of the huge wage differential between, for instance, Chinese labor and North American labor will be trimmed by shipping costs, say Jeff Rubin and Benjamin Tal, the

authors of the report. Nevertheless, they expect a significant shift by U.S. companies away from manufacturing in Asia and other changes in international trade patterns as well as a major slowdown in the growth of world trade.

However, transport experts say shipping rates are affected not only by fuel costs but also by demand for transport services, availability of cargo ships and efficiency of major ports. For example, a slowing Chinese economy and expected significant increase in the number of cargo ships operating worldwide are likely to put downward pressure on shipping rates.

Other experts say the near future of U.S. manufacturing also is more complex than the study suggests. Because high transport costs affect both U.S. imports and U.S. exports, it is difficult to establish without further research what their net effects will be on U.S. manufacturers that both export and source their supplies overseas, they say.

Alan Deardorff, an international trade expert at the University of Michigan, said some industries or firms may find out it is not in their interest to relocate production to other countries in the current economic conditions.

"But I would be surprised to see an across-the-board reversal from outsourcing," he told America.gov.

In many sectors, the wage difference between the United States and Asian countries is so great, Deardorff said, that rising shipping costs are unlikely to erase it in the near term. This will continue to push U.S. companies to rely on

overseas manufacturing, particularly of labor-intensive products.

In 2004, U.S. wages were on average 20 times higher than those in China, according to the International Labor Organization.

More important, corporations do not change plans directly in response to currency or fuel-cost fluctuations if the outsourcing is part of their overall strategies, experts say.

Helen Zak, chief executive of the Lean Enterprise Institute, a non-profit management consulting group based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, told America.gov that companies' executives rarely base major decisions on single factors such as shipping costs or foreign exchange rates.

"It is a complicated equation with many variables," she said.

Zak said companies are taking a "hard look" at their competitive positions in the changing economic landscape. But outcomes of those considerations, including possible changes in manufacturing locations, will depend on specific characteristics and conditions of particular industries and even particular firms within those industries, she said.

Wendy Waters, an investment strategy researcher, states in her blog All About Cities that multinational corporations, which distribute their products around the world, may try to shift some manufacturing closer to their final markets. But these days, those markets often are in China, India and other emerging economies, not in the United States. Also, U.S. manufacturers

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## Vertical Farms Grow Food by Growing Up, Not Out

By Kathryn McConnell  
Staff Writer

Washington -- People in urban areas in the future may be able to buy their food from a truly local source -- a farmer who has raised crops and small livestock in or on top of the buildings where they live or work.

Columbia University professor Dickson Despommier is one person who believes that the concept can become a reality.

Despommier, an environmental health expert, says that if all farmers continue to use current land-intensive agriculture practices, they will not be able to produce enough food to feed the world's population, which will increase by an estimated 3 billion people by 2050. By that time, 80 percent of the world's inhabitants will live in or close to cities, according to [verticalfarm.com](http://verticalfarm.com), which grew out of a student project Despommier initiated in 2000.

A new model of farming is needed, Despommier says. That is, farming "up, not out," because nearly 85 percent of the world's arable land already is in use. More land still could be lost to erosion, other experts say.

The idea is "vertical farming" -- using the space of tall buildings to grow food year-round in environments cooled and heated by energy produced by rooftop solar panels.

The idea depends upon use of existing greenhouse hydroponic technologies, which grow plants using mineral nutrient solutions in an inert medium such as gravel. Research-



*Chris Jacobs, Creative Director of United Future, LA California, has brought the Vertical Farm concepts into the spotlight, especially after his article about Dickson's Vertical Farm concept was featured in the New York Magazine.*

ers see this as a way to grow pesticide-free food while saving limited and costly energy and water resources. The controlled environments would prevent the airborne spread of pests and diseases, Despommier said.

Greenhouses can grow any crop anywhere, said Gene Giacomelli, director of the Controlled Environ-

ment Agriculture Program at the University of Arizona.

He told America.gov that with greenhouses, "we can adjust the plant environment to the conditions of the site to produce a crop." That means adjusting for such variables as air temperature, day length and sun intensity.

Despommier argues that the price of weather- and pest-related crop failure is growing ever steeper as the global population mushrooms. "The world is running out of resources faster than what it can replace," he said. In addition, he said, "the climate is changing more rapidly than we can adjust to."

Other proponents of indoor farming say it would eliminate environmentally damaging runoff because nitrogen and other nutrients would be filtered out of animal waste

and used as fertilizer.

Vertical farms also would allow cities to grow enough food to replace lost productivity as farmland is urbanized, some supporters say.

Despommier says some world cities -- Inchon, Korea; Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; and Dongtan, China

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## Vertical Farms Grow Food by Growing Up, Not Out . . .

(Continued from page 16)

-- already plan on incorporating vertical farm buildings into their schemes to become environmentally sustainable population centers and that several companies are interested in helping.

He said vertical farms also could be a boost to developing countries that have ample sun, but limited water, and could give worn-out soils a rest.

Despommier estimates that a 30-story building taking up one city block could feed 50,000 people with vegetables, fruit, eggs and chicken. Upper floors would grow crops; lower floors would house chickens and fish ponds. Hydroponics would be used.

The main obstacle is finding money for more research and development, the researcher said.

Other proponents say a more ambi-

tious approach would be to design office buildings with double glass facades that would allow winter sun in, while insulating against noise and heat loss.

As oil prices rise, the efficient use of resources in greenhouses looks more attractive, Giacomelli said. Cheap food is based on cheap energy for transportation, on nitrogen-based fertilizer and on cheap water, he added.

Giacomelli said that greenhouses in America are already producing tomatoes for fresh consumption and have the potential to grow even more high-value vegetables. Up to 50 percent of the fresh tomatoes Americans buy in winter months, he said, are grown in greenhouses.

He said greenhouses will gradually begin to increase in the United States as they have in Europe and that several large agricultural companies with operations in California, Nevada, Florida, Arizona, Texas and

northern New York have invested in them.

The idea of indoor farming isn't without controversy. Some say getting adaptable sowing and harvesting equipment into buildings would be difficult. Others cite the labor-intensity of this form of farming.

Despommier said his interest in vertical farming began with his interest in preventing disease transmission among humans. But now he says he also is excited about the potential to help solve impending food shortages.

"We want to help feed the country and the world with controlled-environment crops," Giacomelli said.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

## Transport Costs Make U.S. Producers Think Anew About Outsourcing . . .

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and importers that have invested millions of dollars in their overseas production or supply chains will think twice before they scale down those operations, Waters says.

Some experts expect more manufacturing to be done in the United States in coming years as a result of more foreign manufacturers moving in and more U.S. companies re-inventing themselves as lean, more

efficient and innovative producers. There is evidence that the U.S. manufacturing sector already has begun regaining ground. Nearly half of North American manufacturers consider the United States the most desirable country for business expansion in the next three years, and more than half expect to become more globally competitive in the next five years, according to a June survey conducted for a U.S. manufacturing trade group.

The full text of the CIBC World Markets report ( [http://research.cibcwm.com/economic\\_public/download/smayer08.pdf](http://research.cibcwm.com/economic_public/download/smayer08.pdf) ) (PDF document) is available on the firm's Web site. *(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

## G8 Supports Cutting Greenhouse Emissions 50 Percent by 2050

By Merle D. Kellerhals, Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington -- The Group of Eight (G8) major economies agree that the deteriorating effects of greenhouse gas emissions on the environment require cutting emissions 50 percent by 2050 to rein in global warming, says a senior U.S. official.

"There was recognition by the G8 ... that all major economies, developed and developing, must commit to meaningful ... actions," said Dan Price, U.S. deputy national security adviser for international economic affairs. Achieving the ultimate objective of stabilizing greenhouse gases will only be possible through common action of major economies, he noted at an afternoon briefing July 8.

The G8 -- which consists of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States -- adopted a position on the global environment and climate change that is designed to support the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. The new U.N. framework convention is designed to succeed the Kyoto Protocol when its first phase expires in 2012. The new U.N. framework convention must be concluded by December 2009.

"We are committed to its successful conclusion," the G8 said in a

joint declaration on the environment. The three-day 2008 summit is being held in Toyako on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said in a pre-

broad international agreement in the [United Nations] at the end of next year," Price said. "The G8 declaration is a significant contribution both to the U.N. negotiations as well as to the major economies process."



*Leaders of the Group of Eight take shovels to plant trees commemorating the G8 summit prior to a group photo session in Toyako, northern Japan Tuesday, July 8, 2008. From left: British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, U.S. President George W. Bush, Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.*

pared statement that the G8 agreement is a "new, shared vision by the major economies. This is a strong signal to citizens around the world." The European Union also participates in the annual G8 Summits.

Price said the G8 made a strong link between the emissions-reduction goal and developing a new generation of environmental technologies. Previously the two issues were treated separately, weakening the effects of both efforts, he said.

"All of the leaders now understand that the progress we make this year is essential to making possible

James Connaughton, chairman of President Bush's Council on Environmental Quality, said the G8 had agreed at the 2007 summit to set long-term goals, but since then there has been convergence on the G8 vision.

"It has always been the case that a long-term goal is a goal that must be shared. So what the G8 has offered today is a G8 view of what that goal could be and should be, but that can only occur with the agreement of all of the other parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change," Connaughton said.

At President Bush's urging, the G8 collectively committed to dedicating \$10 billion annually for technology research and development, Price said, and the United States will be investing nearly half of that amount to cover a broad range of technology needs.

To help developing countries also develop new energy technologies, the G8 agreed to a proposal from the United States to support the Clean Technology Fund with more than \$5 billion in commitments,

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## G8 Supports Cutting Greenhouse Emissions 50 Percent by 2050 . . .

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Price said. The fund will lower the cost of financing clean-energy projects in developing countries, and will help leverage greater amounts of public and private financing.

### FOOD AND FUEL SECURITY

In another G8 statement, the leaders expressed deep concern over the steep rise in global food prices and oil prices along with the availability problems in a number of developing countries. "The negative impacts of this recent trend could push millions more back into poverty, rolling back progress made toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals," the joint statement said.

The G8 leaders said oil production and refining capacities should be increased in the short term while the underlying causes are exam-

ined. And the G8 pledged to make more than \$10 billion available to support food aid, nutrition interventions, social protection activities and measures to increase agricultural output in affected countries.

"In the short term, we are addressing the urgent needs of the most vulnerable people," the G8 statement says.

The G8 said food security requires an open world market and trading system for food and agriculture. "Rising food prices are adding inflationary pressures and generating macroeconomic imbalances, especially for some low-income countries," the group statement said.

To help improve the economic prospects of many low-income nations, the G8 said it will work for the successful conclusion of global trade negotiations to reduce trade barriers.

"There was wide recognition and support for the importance of the conclusion of a balanced Doha [Trade] Round that achieves positive and tangible results in agriculture, industrial goods and services," Price said. But achieving trade liberalization is not something developed economies can achieve alone, he said.

"Given the vast amount of trade that is among developing countries, for the Doha Round to fulfill its mission of lifting millions out of poverty, we will need market openings and trade liberalization in the major emerging markets as well," he said.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

## Strong Forces Now Reshaping World Food Markets . . .

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-- export tariffs: In the past few months, export tariffs have increasingly hindered the free shipment of food grains worldwide. That trend has come about in concert with the lowering of import tariffs on grains and oilseeds. "The pattern we are witnessing is keeping local production off the global market, while at the same time lowering barriers for the import of grains and oilseeds,"

Duffy said.

-- low inventories: U.S. wheat stocks are at their lowest level in 60 years, and global wheat stocks are forecasted to be at their lowest level in 30 years.

Despite all the problems, challenges and adversities worldwide, Duffy said, "These are the most exciting times to be in our business" in which the demand for agricultural

commodities is growing and will continue to grow.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦

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## Significant Peacekeeping and Nonproliferation Successes

The United States long has assumed a position of global leadership to counter weapons proliferation and promote viable peacekeeping efforts. U.S. assistance takes varying forms, such as financial aid, organizing workshops, offering training, providing grants or lending personnel and equipment.

In 2003, President Bush launched the Proliferation Security Initiative in Poland. The initiative brings together like-minded nations, on a voluntary basis, to coordinate efforts to prevent weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems or key components from falling into the hands of terrorists or criminals. More than 80 nations are participating in some way through the efforts of their military, diplomatic, intelligence, law enforcement, treasury and customs officials.

Here are more examples of other efforts completed or under way in various parts of the world.

**AFRICA** – Some examples of U.S. efforts to improve regional security:

The United States has awarded a \$271,000 State Department grant to the Mines Advisory Group to help destroy small arms and light weapons in the Horn of Africa and Africa's Great Lakes region.

The United States is helping Angola convert more than 500 light weapons into scrap metal and to eliminate safely more than 800 artillery shells, abandoned land mines and unexploded munitions through a grant with the British Halo Trust.

The Democratic Republic of Congo has been using more than \$2 million in U.S. assistance given to the Mine Advisory Group to destroy surplus conventional weapons.

**EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC** – Some examples of U.S. efforts to improve regional security:

After extended Six Party Talks -- with participation by North and South Korea, the United States, China, Japan and Russia -- North Korea released a report on its past nuclear activity and demolished the main cooling tower at the nuclear complex where it produced plutonium for its nuclear weapons.

Cambodia's casualty rate from land mines has dropped by more than 70 percent in the past decade.

**SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA** - Some examples of U.S. efforts to improve regional security:

India and the United States have signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement to promote nuclear trade after India implements measures to ensure there will be no ensuing nuclear proliferation risks.

Afghans who have successfully completed land mine removal operations are now training for new work through a State Department-funded program designed to keep them employed as plumbers, carpenters and electricians.

A large swath of Bagram Junction in Afghanistan has been cleared of mines and deadly ordnance so that fertile land can be returned to productive use.

**MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA** – Some examples of U.S. efforts to improve regional security:

Algerian casualties from land mines have averaged less than 10 per year during the past decade.

Morocco has endorsed the state-

ment of principles for the Proliferation Security Initiative that seeks to prevent the spread of illicit nuclear, chemical or biological weapons by air, land or sea.

Saudia Arabia and the United States signed an agreement in May 2008 on civil nuclear energy. It paves the way for Saudi Arabia to demonstrate a positive nonproliferation model for the Gulf region.

The United States and the United Kingdom are working with Libya to implement the Libyan government's decision to give up weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles.

The Multinational Force and Observers group, established in 1982 with support from the United States and 10 other nations, has been keeping the peace between Egypt and Israel on the Sinai Peninsula.

To overcome the threat posed by unexploded munitions in southern Lebanon, the United States has provided more than \$2 million to British and American nongovernmental organizations.

A Landmine Impact Survey in 13 of 18 Iraqi provinces represents one of the many ways the United States is helping Iraq by working to remove land mines, artillery shells, unexploded munitions and other remnants of conflict.

**EUROPE** – Some examples of U.S. efforts to improve regional security:

The European Union issued a June 2008 statement of support for the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism that seeks to deter, detect and deny potential nuclear terrorists safe haven or access to ma-

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## Countering Violence with Words

By Esther Agbaje  
Special Correspondent

It is said that actions are louder than words, but in the world of foreign policy, it may actually be the reverse.

A recent program at the EastWest Institute (EWI) is focused on countering violent extremism and the weapon of choice is language.

"The media can help make the world a safer and better place," said S. Azmat Hassan, director of the Countering Violent Extremism Initiative at EWI.

The project began in 2006 and strives to understand the root causes of violent extremism and find a way to counter it.

One idea is to hold a media leaders summit to discuss the creation of a code of conduct. This code would provide guidelines media outlets could use when deciding on language and images to present in stories dealing with violent extremism.

Hassan explained that this code would change the tone and tenor toward violent extremism. The informal code would be voluntary.

"Why make it worse by sensitizing viewers," said Hassan about the often grisly images different media outlets show when covering violent extremism. "Children should not be seeing things like this."

### MORE THAN WORDS

The institute's work focuses on research and writing policy papers with recommendations on countering violent extremism. In May a paper by Amy Zalmen, "Countering Violent Extremism: Beyond Words," focused on the harmful and helpful qualities of language.

In it she gave six recommendations to governments and civil society groups about crafting their message. These include taking political context out of personal faith, no longer using "us versus them," using specifics when talking about involved persons and actions

and working within the global media realities.

The advance of the Internet and satellite television means media no longer is bound by geography. Entities must craft their message with the understanding that it will be seen by more than the intended audience.

The institute avoids using the word "terrorism," believing the word has become diluted in the post September 11 world. Has-

san said the term is used by states to denounce people who oppose the government or those with whom the state disagrees because of political, social, economical, or legal reasons.

He said EWI uses the term "violent



*Amy Zalmen, author of "Countering Violent Extremism: Beyond Words"*

extremism" because unlike the word "terrorist," "it can apply to institutions, people, and states."

The initiative also uses the term "mainstream" instead of "moderate" when describing everyday Muslims.

"Because of their religion, some Muslims don't want to be seen as moderate. Mainstream is a more neutral term," he said.

### PUTTING RESEARCH INTO ACTION

EWI is a policy research entity, but it is unique in that it actively lobbies for its recommendations.

They, in essence, go door to door to the entities that they want to see make a difference in the world. Activists meet with policy makers, opinion leaders, media and private enterprise leaders to ensure that their visions can become a reality.

The institute does not have concrete measures of the effect of its recommendations, but is receiving feedback, particularly from Middle East countries like the United Arab Emirates and Jordan. Influential leaders in the region are reading the institute's papers and responding positively to them.

EWI will set up an Internet Network Series to collect data on the effect of its recommendations.

The youth demographic is important to EWI because more than ever young people can be engaged

*(Continued on page 24)*



*S. Azmat Hassan, director of the Countering Violent Extremism Initiative at EWI*

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## William Safire, Bill Moyers Discuss Post-Government Journalism

By Eric Green  
Staff Writer

Washington -- Famed U.S. journalists William Safire and Bill Moyers tell America.gov that their work in the news media was aided enormously by having served in high positions in the White House.

Safire, a former New York Times political columnist and before that a senior speechwriter for President Richard Nixon, said, "I think it's great" for people "to have a background in the realities of politics before ... analyzing politics for the news media."

Safire, author of the newly released Safire's Political Dictionary, said he does not see any negatives about former government workers going into journalism.

"Nor do I see anything wrong with journalists going into politics," Safire said. "Frankly, the cut and thrust of opinion journalism is great preparation for the battles that go on in politics."

As for people going back and forth between journalism and government, "that gets a little tricky because the reading public wonders where the basic loyalties" of a journalist lie, said Safire, who now is chairman of the board of the nonprofit Dana Foundation in New York, which is involved with brain science research.

Safire said the revolving door between journalism and government

service is something over which "great journalists can disagree." The 1978 Pulitzer Prize winner said he has had friendly conversations with his journalistic colleagues about this issue for years.

On the question of whether journalists should inform their readers/listeners about their previous professional life, Safire said commentators should "let their readers know where their background lies."



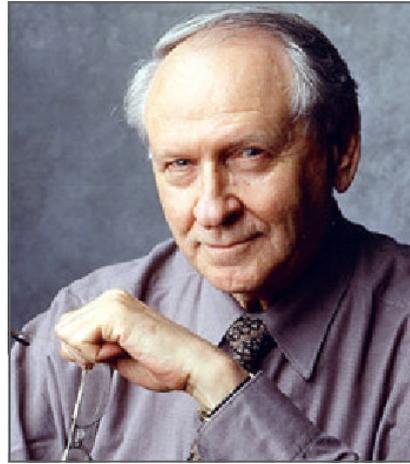
*Bill Moyers says journalists must remain permanent outsiders to the Washington establishment*

Safire said journalists should not have to "belabor" the point of where they once worked, after "having established the fact that they're not hiding their previous [professional] affiliation." Safire continues to write his column "On Language" for the New York Times Magazine.

Safire said in his case, "every now and then I call up an anecdote" about "my Nixon years when it applies to something that just happened" in the news.

### **JOURNALISTS SHOULD BE "OUTSIDERS," MOYERS SAYS**

Moyers said ex-government and political types who turn to journalism careers should remember that



*William Safire says journalists are helped greatly by previous government service.*

journalists must be "permanent outsiders" and keep a skeptical eye on the Washington establishment.

Moyers, who was White House press secretary for President Lyndon Johnson in the 1960s and now hosts a weekly program from New York on the PBS television network called Bill Moyers Journal, said serving in gov-

ernment "provides the experience to assess intuitively what as a journalist you are told by insiders."

Moyers, who also worked as a news correspondent for the NBC and CBS television networks and publisher for Newsday, a daily newspaper in Long Island, New York, said that having served in government "you know how the game is played and you can see what others can't."

Government experience gives the journalist insider knowledge "on how the [political] process works," said Moyers, who has won many journalistic honors including lifetime Emmy and Peabody awards in his more than 30 years in journalism.

Moyers offered a sports analogy to show how prior government service helps a reporter.

"Just as some of the best sportscasters are former players and coaches, it helps you call the game if you have been on the field yourself," he said.

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## Zimbabweans Relying on Foreign Broadcasts for Political News

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington -- Zimbabwe's people have needed information more than ever as the political crisis has intensified in recent months between President Robert Mugabe and his opposition led by Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) founder Morgan Tsvangirai.

Electronic news media inside the country are dominated by the state-controlled, pro-Mugabe Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC), but, in the face of increased violence and chaos, the Washington-based news program Studio 7 at the Voice of America has emerged as an information lifeline for listeners in the troubled country.

Agence France Presse (AFP) reports the state broadcasting system offers only pro-government news and the regime is restricting access to other sources. On June 24, AFP said Mugabe supporters forced Zimbabweans to remove their television satellite dishes and the government imposed import duties on foreign newspapers, making them prohibitively expensive.

"We are starved of entertainment and we need real news ... not the dreary ZBC," AFP quoted one resident as saying.

Studio 7 is run by the U.S. government-funded Voice of America (VOA), but the Washington-based staff of Zimbabwean journalists seeks interviews with Mugabe government ministers and opposition leaders alike, as well as ordinary Zimbabwean citizens, civil society

and clerics. Launched in January 2003, the program also draws on a network of independent reporters on the ground in Zimbabwe and in neighboring countries.

"Our objective is simply to tell listeners the truth – a truth that is as accurate and unbiased as we can make it. We have a special responsibility to countries like Zimbabwe

English and Ndebele languages. Since June 1, programs have been repeated, doubling Studio 7's time on the air.

Although Studio 7 offers music, lighter features and sports, Murphy said surveys show listeners mostly want hard political news about what is happening in their country.



*VOA Studio 7 is offering balanced, accurate information to Zimbabweans at a time of political chaos*

with a closed media environment," said VOA's Africa Division Director Gwen Dillard June 30. "Our purpose isn't to alter the government of Zimbabwe. It's to give Zimbabweans the information to make their own choices and decisions."

Studio 7 coordinator Brendan Murphy told America.gov that the program's news staff "hits the ground running" every morning to identify news stories, conduct and tape phone interviews and assemble a dense 90-minute information package with elements in the Shona,

"They look to this little short program to find out what's actually going on," he said. "They really count on it."

### HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH REPORT

According to the Human Rights Watch (HRW) June 2008 report on Zimbabwe, a "systematic and brutal campaign of violence" has been waged by Mugabe supporters against suspected Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) activists and those deemed lacking in loyalty

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## Zimbabweans Relying on Foreign Broadcasts for Political News . . .

(Continued from page 23)

to Mugabe.

The report lists abuses by war veterans and youth militia affiliated with Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) who have been beating, torturing and abducting suspected MDC activists and supporters.

Many accounts of violence come firsthand to Studio 7 from listeners. Since the run-up to the March election, Studio 7 has used text messaging to send bulletins and receive opinions, requests and news tips.

As in other African countries, cell phones are in wide use in Zimbabwe and text messages are a key means of communicating. For people driven from their homes, on the run and needing to contact loved ones, a cell phone is a high priority. Studio 7's inbox was overloaded with 900 texts just from June 28 to 30. Many were subscription requests, but others offered eyewitness accounts of the unfolding political crisis:

"Elections not free & fair, war vets, village headmen, chiefs forcing people to vote for Bob [Mugabe], saying if

MDC won we will burn your houses. People are beaten on daily basis, some are beaten to death, especially in Bikita and Zaka areas of Masvingo. Last week SADC observers forced to flee from ZANU PF rallies coz these rallies are not for encouraging people to vote but are for beatings & killings."

"Hie STDO 7 I M IN MAZOWE 28 KMs FROM HRE THERE ARE MORE THAN 30 ZANU PF THUGS WHO HAVE CAMPED HERE I THINK THERE ARE UP TO NO GOOD PLIZ INFORM YO NEWS"

"Beatings continue in Chitungwiza despite ZPF victory in Pres poll. Residents along Chimanimani street in Zengeza 2 were robbed of their property by these thugs."

A recent survey found more than 800,000 listeners had tuned into Studio 7 the week of June 22, and more than a million had listened in the past year. But listening to Studio 7 is not without risks.

HRW reported how on May 5 Joseph Madzuramhende was beaten and tortured to death by ZANU-PF youth militia. They allegedly told him: "Your particular crime is that you have a radio at your place and

other villagers were coming to your home to listen to Studio 7."

AFP reported June 25 that a street vendor named Noel Tichawana was arrested for listening to Studio 7. He was charged with committing "criminal nuisance" and faces up to six months in jail if found guilty.

Since mid-2006, the Mugabe regime has jammed the 909 kHz AM signal from Botswana, but short-wave signals on 4930, 12080 and 15775 kHz can reach rural parts of the country that government broadcasters cannot.

Other media outlets such as Zim Online and SW Radio Africa also are trying to meet Zimbabwe's demand for information. According to Murphy, listeners get "a daily fix of reality" from Studio 7 and tell the staff in e-mails and text messages that they trust the broadcasts and consider them reliable and balanced.

"For a lot of our listeners, we are a beacon of hope," he says.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦

## Countering Violence with Words . . .

(Continued from page 21)

through a variety of social networking sites such as Facebook and YouTube.

Though there never will be a consensus on what is the perfect word to use when describing and denouncing terrorists or violent ex-

tremism, Hassan said EWI is taking steps to lead to a more responsible media that is sensitive about the language used and its effects.

"Language can mitigate violence," said Hassan, "but it can also play a very healing role."

More information about EWI ( <http://www.iew.org/> ) is available on the institute's Web site.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦

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See also

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Telling America's story

**William Safire, Bill Moyers Discuss Post-Government Journalism . . .**

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The challenge facing those who go from government service to journalism, Moyers said, is "if being on the inside once makes you feel like you are always an insider, then when you move to journalism you take your inclinations with you. You identify with the players still on the field. You see them too much and sympathize too easily."

Moyers harshly criticized the "malady" of the Sunday morning television news interview programs where the interviewer and interviewee often have too cozy a bond.

"You ask questions that need to be asked knowing that you won't get an honest answer," Moyers said. The interviewer plays "skeptical when you really are not, the two of you wink, and at the same party that evening you congratulate each

other. You still consider yourself on the team and you don't want to be ostracized."

Moyers recommended former insider politico and government types should be sent "out of Washington - - make them report from the ground up for a long time ... don't let them near the game again" to keep them objective in their reporting.

He said he left Washington and spent three years publishing *Newsday* in New York, and then "based my reporting and producing" from that state, "keeping an emotional and intellectual distance from the [Washington] establishment."

By doing that, he said, "you become a permanent outsider, which is what journalists should be. It took me awhile when I left the White House to realize that it is more important to be closer to reality than to power." ♦

**Significant Peacekeeping and Nonproliferation Successes . . .**

*(Continued from page 20)*

material to make an explosive device.

The United States has helped Russia secure 50 naval sites to prevent nuclear smuggling by installing radiation sensors and access controls.

With U.S. assistance, Albania has destroyed completely 16 tons of chemical weapons.

Macedonia is now free of deadly land mines. The United States contributed financially to humanitarian mine action efforts that made this possible.

Ukraine is destroying small arms, light weapons and munitions that are surplus to its needs through a NATO program that is funded by the United States. In 2006, it de-

stroyed 1,000 shoulder-launched missiles.

The United States and Russia are implementing measures to convert excess weapon-grade plutonium into mixed oxide fuel for use in civilian nuclear reactors. The 68 metric tons otherwise would provide enough material to produce 16,000 nuclear weapons.

**WESTERN HEMISPHERE** – Some examples of U.S. efforts to improve regional security:

The United States and the community of Caribbean countries (CARICOM) have pledged to improve regional cooperation to prevent illicit small arms and light weapon trafficking from fueling a black market that supplies weapons to criminal gangs, terrorists and drug traffickers operating in

the Western Hemisphere.

The United States has partnered with the Organization of American States to remove land mines through the Central America Munitions Stockpile Destruction Pilot program. Central and South American nations such as Nicaragua, Honduras and Chile have received more than \$30 million in U.S. assistance for mine removal research and development programs, educational messages and survivor assistance.

Jamaica joined an international effort to prevent smuggling of nuclear and other radioactive materials by ship when it signed the Customs' Container Security Initiative and the National Nuclear Security Initiative's Megaports Initiative. ♦