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# Weekly Special Report

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## Ambassador Yamamoto Visited MARCH CDC's Program and the ARC

*Ambassador Yamamoto speaks to Federal police officers*

On February 11, 2008, Ambassador Yamamoto visited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Modeling and Reinforcement to Combat HIV/AIDS (MARCH) program at the Ethiopian Federal Police as well as the AIDS Resource Center (ARC).

MARCH uses models of positive behaviors that reduce the risk of HIV infection through entertaining serial dramas. MARCH reinforces these positive behaviors through peer-to-peer activities that initiate discussion and dialogue around HIV prevention, treatment, stigma, and discrimination. CDC/Ethiopia is currently supporting an innovative

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## Africa's Strategic Importance to U.S. Is Growing, Envoy Says

*Dr. Cindy L. Courville, U.S. Ambassador to the AU*

Washington -- A senior diplomat says her appointment as the first full-time U.S. envoy to the African Union (AU) highlights a growing U.S.-Africa partnership aimed at pursuing political stability and economic prosperity on a strategic continent.

"This is an historic moment, both for the African Union and the United States," as the focus of Africans' attention moves from a preoccupation with the colonial era to today's globalization, Ambassador Cindy Courville said.

In December 2006, Courville was named to represent the United States at AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, becoming the first non-

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# Bush Africa Trip To Highlight U.S. Partnership with Region

Bush Africa Trip To Highlight U.S. Partnership with Region

Washington -- President Bush's upcoming visit to Benin, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana and Liberia will demonstrate America's commitment to the people of Africa and highlight how the United States has partnered with African leaders to address the challenges of disease, poverty and security.

National Security Advisor Stephen J. Hadley told an audience at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington February 4 that "together we have made remarkable progress," with many U.S. and African programs making "a real difference."

Africa showcases the Bush administration's approach to economic development, he said.

"We help the people of the developing world because America is a compassionate nation. When Americans see people in need, they want to help because we believe as a nation that every individual deserves the opportunity to reach his or her potential."

*National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley speaks at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

He cited President Bush's 2008 State of the Union address, in which Bush said that building a freer, more hopeful, more compassionate world reflects the calling of the American conscience.

Hadley added that helping people in the developing world is also "very much in our national interest. People who are free, educated, healthy, empowered and able to use their freedom to enhance their economic well-being are less likely to support terror or attacks on others."

America's "own prosperity, freedom and security are increasingly intertwined with those of less-developed nations," he said.

Bush, Hadley said, "believes that U.S. development assistance is central to our nation's national security and foreign policy, and his budgets have reflected that commitment."

President Bush has more than doubled U.S. development assistance, from about $10 billion in 2000 to about $23 billion in 2006, Hadley said. "This is the largest increase in development assistance since the Marshall Plan," he said.

In his first four years in office, Hadley recalled, Bush doubled U.S. development assistance to Africa. "At

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Ambassador Yamamoto Visited MARCH CDC's Program and the ARC . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

program working with the military, the Federal Police and university students to prevent the spread of HIV among these high risk groups.

On the visit to the Federal Police, Ambassador Yamamoto witnessed peer group discussions on the third edition of the MARCH serial print drama. "The American people are committed to helping fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ethiopia," remarked Ambassador Yamamoto, "and we wish to empower you to lead a secure and safe life."

Through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, CDC has provided more than $2.4 million to local partners, such as the Federal Police Commission, to support the MARCH strategy for HIV prevention.

The Ambassador also visited the AIDS Resource Center and the 'Wegen' toll-free hotline. The AIDS Resource Center is a remarkable source of information, and includes a library, clearinghouse, virtual information center, radio diaries, the 'Wegen' AIDS Talkline, and a call center for health professionals. ♦

## Africa's Strategic Importance to U.S. Is Growing, Envoy Says . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

African envoy to be exclusively accredited to the 53-nation multilateral organization. Most other non-African envoys are accredited to the Ethiopian government and secondarily represent their countries at the AU, which was established in 2002 as a successor to the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

"We are the only non-African mission at the AU," Courville pointed out. She said Africans welcomed her new assignment because "serving as President Bush's special assistant for Africa, they knew my appointment had the highest level of attention at the White House."

Courville, a former analyst with the Defense Intelligence Agency, served most recently as Africa director at the White House National Security Council, where she developed and coordinated U.S. policy engagement with Africa.

While the United States has an economic interest in Africa -- close to 15 percent of all U.S. oil imports come from the continent -- it also is interested in helping the continent achieve political stability and economic prosperity. The result is that foreign assistance to the continent has tripled in the past six years to about $4 billion, Courville said.

"The United States recognizes the evolutionary change the continent is undergoing" and is partnering with Africans to find African solutions to problems such as health care, conflict resolution and good governance, Courville said. A former university professor, she wrote her doctoral dissertation on the struggle for independence in Zimbabwe.

In the critical area of conflict resolution, "the United States has provided over $400 million to the AU for peacekeeping operations in Darfur in the last four years alone," Courville said. "We know the AU has the political will and heart to go into crisis regions," but lacks the resources to undertake these missions, she added.

With that in mind, the U.S. aim has been to buttress AU peacekeeping capabilities through initiatives like the African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) program, which is working with a number of African militaries to build up an AU standby force of 25,000 troops to respond to emergencies.

To further that effort, Courville said, her small mission staff includes two military liaison officers, responsible for assistance to most African countries, and the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), the 1,500-troop force centered in Djibouti that is responsible for anti-terrorism efforts and regional humanitarian outreach.

Another "major step" in that direction was the decision by the U.S. Defense Department, in collaboration with the State Department, to establish a new geographic military command for the continent, to be called the U.S. Africa Command, Courville explained.

Also, more than $1.7 million in U.S. funding has been devoted to the support of the AU political affairs directorate with another $250,000 going for the support of diplomatic initiatives by the organization, Courville said.

In addition, the U.S. mission currently is working with the AU to help set up a "strategic planning cell" to monitor the growing crisis in Somalia. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer is behind the effort and is giving it her full attention, Courville added.

These initiatives are all line with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's transformational diplomacy, which is “based on a proactive rather than a reactive approach to international problems," Courville said.

"This means not only a high-level recognition of Africa's strategic importance as an integral part of the international community," she explained, but also "as a partner across the board."

This is also a transformational time for the AU, Courville said, "as they look at restructuring their own organization: how commissioners interface and the leadership's responsibilities -- their role politically, economically, socially and on the security front.

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: http://usinfo.state.gov)* ♦

# Military's Africa Command Will Promote Security, Spur Development

Washington -- The U.S. military's new Africa Command (AFRICOM) will do more than help the region confront security challenges, say officials. It also will be an essential tool to support governments across the continent as they develop African solutions to the continent's development challenges.

A secure and peaceful Africa is in the best geopolitical interests of the United States, and AFRICOM's chief priority will be to work with African nations toward that goal, says General William "Kip" Ward, AFRICOM's commanding officer.

"Our intent is to build mutual trust, respect and confidence with our partners in Africa and our international friends through sustained engagement by a single, unified command dedicated solely to Africa," Ward said in November 2007 testimony before the House Armed Services Committee.

The newest of six geographic divisions to monitor security threats, AFRICOM aims to build strong military-to-military partnerships in the region. By doing so, it also will support and complement, not overshadow, aid programs offered through American embassies by the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Ward was joined by Stephen Mull, acting assistant secretary of state for political-military affairs, who said that he continues to encounter many misperceptions about AFRICOM when he meets with leaders from Africa and Europe.

First of all, AFRICOM does not represent a military takeover of U.S. foreign policy toward Africa, the officials said.

Like other military commands monitoring Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia, Ward said, AFRICOM will coordinate its activities with embassies in the region.

*General William "Kip" Ward*
*AFRICOM's commanding officer*

But unlike other commands, AFRICOM will use an innovative new organizational structure that brings together military and civilian experts from across the U.S. government to formulate and exchange new policy ideas with their African partners.

"When coordinated and nested in this manner, AFRICOM's contributions can help African countries effectively address threats such as political instability, terrorism, human rights abuses, cross-border trafficking and international crime," Mull said.

"[AFRICOM] begins with understanding our African partners' definitions of their own environment and interests and understanding the complexities of the diverse countries and cultures across the continent," said Ward. "Appreciation of their perspective will allow us to jointly identify ways and means that address both African and American interests."

The United States spends $9 billion a year through the State Department and USAID to help Africans deliver medical care, promote trade and new business opportunities and build more effective governance structures. In contrast, he said, the United States spends only $250 million a year for security assistance programs -- half of which goes directly to supporting the African Union's peacekeeping mission in Sudan.

Another myth, the officials said, is that AFRICOM represents a move by the United States to place a large troop presence in Africa. AFRICOM is being created as an administrative headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, and plans to remain in Stuttgart for the foreseeable future.

While the United States is in consultations with several African nations on possible future locations for some AFRICOM offices, no new bases will be established, said Ryan Henry, principal Defense Department under secretary for policy. Unlike other U.S. military commands, he added, AFRICOM will have a relatively small staff that is able to "reach back" to the United States for resources if needed.

A top command priority will be helping Africans add capability to the African Union Standby Force, a group of regional brigades totaling

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## Bush Africa Trip To Highlight U.S. Partnership with Region . . .

*(Continued from page 2)*

the G8 Summit in 2005, he promised to double our assistance to Africa once again by 2010," Hadley added.

The president's budget request for 2009, released the same day Hadley spoke, "reflects that commitment. If approved by Congress and fully implemented, this budget request will ensure that our nation keeps its promise to our international partners and to the people of Africa," he said.

Hadley said the president strongly believes the best way to enhance development is to "invest in people: their health, their education. So this is what we are doing while encouraging governments in the developing world to make the choices that enable their people to achieve a better life."

Success, he added, is measured "by the number of lives that change, not by the number of dollars that change hands."

Hadley said the United States is "using our assistance to encourage innovation and reform, not to subsidize governments that have failed to invest in their people. We are helping nations open their economies to free markets and free trade so they emerge over time from dependence on foreign aid."

The United States, Hadley said, seeks to build "relationships based on partnership and not paternalism."

Hadley cited specific Bush administration programs that are helping to build a stronger U.S.-Africa partnership:

PEPFAR: The President's Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS -- which, Hadley pointed out, stands as the "largest international health initiative in history ever dedicated to a single disease." He credited PEPFAR for helping to bring lifesaving treatment to more than 1.4 million people worldwide. President Bush, Hadley said, has asked Congress to double this initial commitment with an additional $30 billion over the next five years, which will help provide treatment for 2.5 million people, preventing more than 12 million new infections and caring for more than 12 million people, including 5 million orphans and vulnerable children.

Malaria Initiative: The initiative is a five-year, $1.2 billion effort to provide insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor spraying and anti-malarial medicines to needy people. More than 6 million bed nets are being distributed through public-private partnership and an estimated 25 million people in 15 African countries already have benefited, Hadley said.

"Our goal is to reduce the mortality rate of this disease over five years in those 15 countries by 50 percent," he told his audience. Additionally, he said, the United States leads the world in the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, making the fund's founding contribution and contributing $2.5 billion to date, more than any other nation.

Africa Education Initiative: The initiative is providing $600 million over eight years to increase access to quality basic education. "By 2010," Hadley said, "this effort will have distributed over 15 million textbooks, trained nearly 1 million teachers and provided 550,000 scholarships for young women." Additionally, Hadley said, President Bush in May 2007 launched an International Education Initiative that also will aid Africa.

Anti-Hunger Initiative: Currently, more than half of the world's food assistance comes from the United States, Hadley said. In 2007, he said, U.S. emergency food aid reached 23 million people in 30 countries. President Bush has proposed that U.S. food aid be purchased from local and regional farmers to help "break the cycle of famine by encouraging local agriculture rather than displacing it."

Debt relief: President Bush has worked with the G8 partners to help free poor countries of up to $60 billion of debt, which has trapped millions of people in poverty. The G8 members are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Additionally, Hadley said the Bush administration has strongly worked to help do the following:

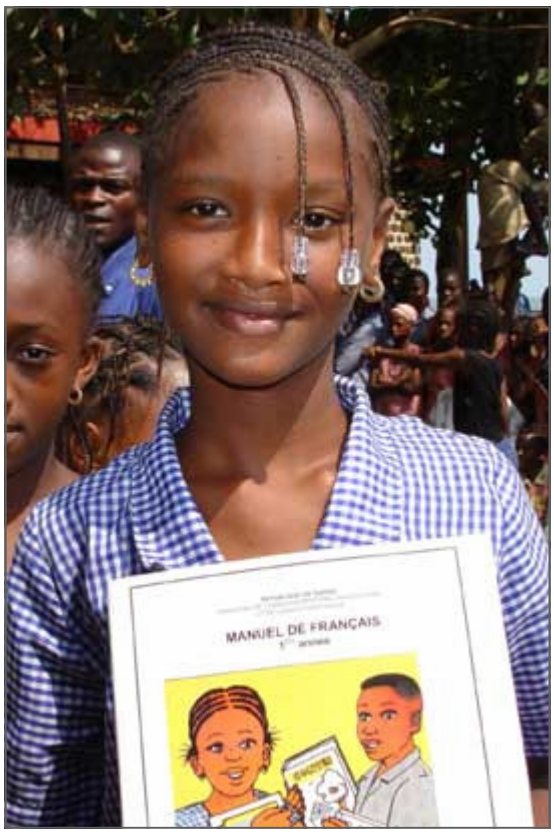
promote democratic, transparent and accountable governments in the developing world through the Millennium Challenge Corporation, which since 2004 has approved compacts of more than $5.5 billion with 16 partner countries, many of which are in Africa; and expand trade and open markets to help lift people from poverty. The United States is working for a successful conclusion of the Doha round of trade negotiations in 2008 and to promote peace and security to attract investors to the developing world. ♦

# President's Initiative Increases Access to Education in Africa

Washington -- When President Bush and first lady Laura Bush travel to Africa February 15-21, one of the programs in which they will have keen interest is the President's Africa Education Initiative (AEI), a multiyear effort that focuses on increasing access to quality basic education in more than 30 sub-Saharan countries through scholarships, teacher-training programs and textbooks.

Launched in 2002, AEI is a $600 million program that will have provided scholarships to 550,000 African girls and trained more than 920,000 teachers by 2010.

"If boys and girls in Africa, and other developing nations don't learn how to read, write, and add and subtract ... all the aid efforts we'll be trying will go to naught, in my judgment," President Bush said in 2007, in explaining the impetus for the AEI.




*A Guinean schoolgirl with a brand new textbook produced as part of the Africa Education Initiative. (USAID)*

"Educated women will pass their knowledge along to their communities and to their children," the first lady said in Senegal in 2007 of AEI's focus on girls' education.

After returning from her 2007 Africa trip, her third as first lady, Laura Bush spoke of her experience at the Grand Medine Primary School in Dakar, Senegal, where she met five young women who are receiving AEI Ambassadors' Girls Scholarships.

"They come from rural Senegalese villages -- their villages are without electricity or running water. In that village, education for women is rare. One of the young women, Nango Dang, hopes to become the first girl in her village to ever go to college. And since her community has no nurses or doctors, she wants to study medicine so she can return to her village and serve her people," the first lady said.

"I helped distribute books produced through the AEI's Textbooks and Learning Materials program. Six African countries have partnered with six American universities -- primarily minority-serving universities -- to produce 15 million school textbooks. Through the program, more than a million books that are Africa-centered, tailored to the culture and curriculum of Senegal, written in French, [and] printed in Senegal are being delivered to that nation's schools.

"Many of these books were pilot-tested at Grand Medine School. For the first time, the school's math texts teach basic statistics. From their health books, the students learn how to prevent HIV/AIDS. They go home and inform their parents that mosquitoes transmit malaria, and they pass along lessons about basic first aid. Grand Medine teachers say their students are so excited by these new books that they skip ahead of their teachers and can't wait for the next lessons," she said.

**THE AMBASSADORS GIRLS' SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The first of AEI's three main components is the Ambassadors Girls' Scholarship Program.

The 100 local nongovernmental organizations that administer the scholarship program seek to select the neediest girls who are likely to succeed in the program, according to Judy Benjamin, the project director for the program at the Academy for Educational Development, a nonprofit organization that specializes in implementing development programs. "Many of them are orphans because of HIV/AIDS," she said. "We deliberately are working in the very poorest neighborhoods."

In 15 of the participating countries, respected women from the community who have some education and leadership skills are chosen to be mentors for the girls.

*(Continued on page 7)*

# President's Initiative Increases Access to Education in Africa . . .

*(Continued from page 6)*

**TEXTBOOKS TAILORED TO THE CULTURE**

Another component of AEI focuses on improving the quality and quantity of textbooks and learning materials in Africa. AEI is working to develop and distribute 15 million textbooks and related learning and teaching materials in partnership with African institutions and American universities.

"That young girl takes the book home with her, shares it with the parents, shares it with the grandparents," said Cindy Courville, U.S. ambassador to the African Union. "This child becomes a fundamental instrument in changing that family's life."

"We saw that we could make a difference by helping the educational institutions in Africa to partner with minority-serving institutions in the United States to write, to publish and distribute textbooks and other learning materials for children, so that eventually every African child would have at least one book they could call their own," said Sarah Moten, AEI director at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

In Tanzania, for example, USAID funding is enabling South Carolina State University and Zanzibar's Ministry of Education to collaborate on the production of more than one million textbooks and learning materials.

"The beauty of this program is its respect and support for local resources and traditional customs," former Assistant USAID Administrator Lloyd Pierson said when the agreement was signed. "The books will be published locally in Zanzibar. The characters will have names like 'Halima and Hassan.' The pictures will look like Zanzibari children and draw examples from the local context."

*Mrs. Laura Bush delivers remarks at the launch of the President's Africa Education Initiative video at the Academy for Educational Development Tuesday, 04/24/07*

**TRAINING 920,000 TEACHERS**

A third major component of AEI involves teacher training. AEI is developing, promoting and expanding innovative methods for training more than 920,000 teachers and administrators to improve the quality of learning for millions of African children. These in-service and pre-service training programs are implemented through the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help in Africa (IFESH), a nonprofit development organization based in Phoenix.

IFESH teacher-trainers, who receive a stipend of $800 per month, do not just participate in classroom teaching, in-service workshops, demonstrative teaching and administrative management. They also develop learning modules, curricula and resource centers; participate in English as a second language training and English clubs; train in information technology and promote gender equity, HIV/AIDS awareness and child-centered teaching.

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: http://usinfo.state.gov)* ♦

# U.S. Congress Examines Situation in Kenya

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki, opposition candidate Raila Odinga and other political leaders must unite to stop the violence in their country, which has occurred in the wake of its deeply flawed December 27, 2007, presidential election, and act to promote stability in Kenya.

*A supporter of presidential candidate Raila Odinga runs as a poster of President Mwai Kibaki burns in Nairobi. Mr. Odinga is running for president, but must win a seat in Kibera, where he faces united opposition. (Reuters)*

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs James Swan made those points February 6 in testimony before House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health.

In his written testimony, Swan told the lawmakers that both Kibaki and Odinga "need to reach a political agreement that will allow the country to move forward and that will create a platform for addressing critical longer-term institutional reforms and interethnic reconciliation."

Stability in Kenya requires immediate action from both Kibaki and Odinga, Swan stressed. He also outlined three key prerequisites: that President Kibaki and his party "offer tangible access to power and authority to the opposition"; that Odinga and his party "engage seriously with the government in an effort to find a compromise"; and that "both make every effort to denounce and delegitimize the violence" perpetrated in their names.

"The closeness of the election and the deep flaws make a winner-take-all solution to the government a nonstarter," Swan told the lawmakers. "Power sharing is an essential element to a viable short-term solution for Kenya," he added.

Swan stressed that "Kenyans themselves should determine the precise nature and framework of the resulting political solution" and that critical reforms for Kenya should include constitutional reform, land reform and reforms of the electoral commission, police and judiciary.

Swan was joined in his testimony by Gregory Gottlieb, deputy assistant administrator at the U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance. (See text ( http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2008/February/20080207174605xjsnommis6.484622e-02.html ) of Gottlieb's testimony.)

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: http://usinfo.state.gov)* ♦

# Remarks by Presidents Bush, Touré of Mali in Photo Opportunity

(begin transcript)

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BUSH AND MALI PRESIDENT AMADOU TOURÉ
IN PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Oval Office
10:33 A.M. EST

PRESIDENT BUSH: It's been a honor and a pleasure to welcome the President of Mali here to the Oval Office.

We discussed a variety of issues. I was touched by the President's concern about the life of the average citizen in Mali. We are partners with the -- with the President and the people of Mali, through the Millennium Challenge Account. And one reason we worked with the government is because they've agreed to fight corruption, and support the education and health of its citizens. This is a country that's committed to the rights of its people, and we're proud to be standing side-by-side with you.

Two issues that are very important to this administration, Mr. President, were the issues that my wife, Laura, discussed when she came to your country. One is literacy, and two is the eradication of malaria. And I assured the President that our commitment remains strong to both important issues. And I thank him very much for his hard work in helping his citizens deal with HIV/AIDS.

And finally, the President and I spent a fair amount of time talking about the dangers of radicals and extremists associated with groups like al Qaeda. And we talked about the need for close cooperation to protect the innocent people from those who murder the innocent in order to achieve their dark political vision.

*President George W. Bush and Mali President Amadou Touré meet in the Oval Office Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008, at the White House.*

So it's been my honor to welcome a good man here to the Oval Office.

PRESIDENT TOURÉ: (As translated.) First of all, I would like to convey to the President of the United States the sympathies and solidarity of the people of Mali because of the destruction --

PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you.

PRESIDENT TOURÉ -- caused by the tornados in some of the southern states of the United States.

And then I told Mr. President that we were sensitive and impressed by the impression that we had from the visit of Mrs. Laura Bush to Mali sometime ago. Also, thank the President for the -- our friendship between the people of the United States and the people of Mali, and the cooperation between Mali and the United States that we do entertain on both sides since the independence of Mali in 1960.

But I could also come to the United States just to tell Mr. President, thank you, because the President had some initiatives not only for Mali, but also for Africa, which we believe are historical initiatives, and which we do have the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the greater participation against the fight against AIDS through the Global Fund, the initiative on the eradication of malaria, and not to forget the presidential initiative on literacy in Africa, which is very important in our view, because when you want to develop you need to also improve basic education.

PRESIDENT BUSH: That's right.

PRESIDENT TOURÉ: So I emphasized to the President that -- and I reaffirm -- that Mali signed and Mali averred to all different initiatives on

*(Continued on page 10)*

# PEPFAR Official Kenyon Discusses Fight Against HIV/AIDS

The speaker is Dr. Tom Kenyon, principal deputy coordinator and chief medical officer for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

(begin transcript)

December 1 is World AIDS Day, an opportunity to remember the more than 25 million who have died from AIDS, and to support the over 33 million people who are living with HIV around the world. The American people, through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, also known as PEPFAR, are very proud to be working in partnership with the people of Africa to support your efforts to fight HIV/AIDS.

The continent of Africa has made significant strides in the fight against HIV/AIDS, with support from the U.S. government as well as other partners. When the Emergency Plan was announced, only 50,000 people living with HIV in all of sub-Saharan Africa were receiving anti-retroviral treatment. We'll announce new numbers on World AIDS Day, but through March 2007, PEPFAR supported anti-retroviral treatment for over 1.1 million men, women and children – and 1 million of those being in sub-Saharan Africa.

And it's together through the power of partnerships that we're able to be on the right track, but we also recognize the more we do, the more we recognize how much more there is to be done.

*Dr. Tom Kenyon, principal deputy coordinator and chief medical officer for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)*

The international theme for World AIDS Day this year is "Stop AIDS, keep the promise." And this is a challenge to us all, as international development partners, as governments, organizations, and most importantly, as individuals, to do all that we can to make the right choices and to turn the tide against this epidemic. We encourage our African brothers and sisters to get tested for HIV, for those who have tested negative to continue to commit to a lifestyle for maintaining that status. We encourage those who have tested positive to learn to live a positive lifestyle by knowing how to prevent the further spread of HIV and by being informed about the importance of drug adherence when it's time to start anti-retroviral treatment.

We also have to be very frank and have open discussions about the epidemic. These are challenging, particularly at a cultural level, because sexual matters are traditionally not discussed in many societies. But we also need to bring out the inequities which women have in decision-making around their own sexuality. So, in closing on this World AIDS Day 2007, we urge you all to take action and join in this very important partnership to stop HIV/AIDS globally. Thank you.

(end transcript)

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# Remarks by Presidents Bush, Touré of Mali in Photo Opportunity . . .

*(Continued from page 9)*

the fight against terrorism. So it is humanly inadmissable, unacceptable to see or to assist or to be indifferent to the suggestion that we are seeing to some practices which really do not deserve to exist.

So we had a fruitful exchange of views on our cooperation.

So I said to Mr. President that I would like to thank him and also to convey all the gratitude of the people of Mali, but I emphasized also the fact that may God save Mali and the United States. President, thank you very much.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you, sir.

(end transcript)

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# Many U.S. Leaders Are Graduates of Historically Black Colleges

Washington -- "Education is a fundamental part of achieving the American dream, and historically black colleges and universities help ensure that every student has the opportunity to pursue a quality education," said President Bush in his most recent proclamation of an official week celebrating those institutions.

Today, the United States has 105 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) across the nation. They graduate more than 50 percent of African-American professionals and public school teachers, and 70 percent of African-American dentists, according to the United Negro College Fund.

Half of African Americans who graduate from HBCUs go on to graduate or professional schools. HBCUs award more than one-third of the degrees held by African Americans in natural sciences and half of the degrees in mathematics. Overall, the average graduation rate at HBCUs is higher than the average graduation rate for African Americans at majority institutions.

Today, most historically black institutions of education welcome all students, regardless of race. Until the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, however, most blacks who wanted a college education could get it only from an HBCU, so these institutions became the primary source of community leaders as well as centers of African-American intellectual life.

Some were founded before the American Civil War (1861-1865) -- Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio, for example, was founded in 1856 at a destination of the Underground Railroad, a network of clandestine routes and safe havens by which slaves escaped to freedom. Wilberforce University depended on private funding and was affiliated first with the Methodist Episcopal Church and later the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Many HBCUs were created immediately after the Civil War, when the U.S. Congress established the U.S. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands to aid the 4 million black Americans who were making the transition from slavery to freedom. More than 1,000 black schools were built and more than $400,000 -- a large sum at the time -- was spent to establish teacher-training institutions.

Government support continues today through a White House Initiative for which President Bush has requested $402.8 million in fiscal year 2008 to strengthen institutions of higher education that serve high proportions of minority and disadvantaged students, including HBCUs.

Most of these institutions, however, rely mainly on private sources and churches. They now put special emphasis on educating not just scholars but community leaders.

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI OF HBCU'S**

Morehouse College in Atlanta, founded in 1867, is the only private, historically black four-year liberal arts college for men. With more than 3,000 students, Morehouse confers more bachelor's degrees on African-American men than any other institution in the United States. Its alumni include Nobel Peace Prize laureate Martin Luther King Jr., as well as award-winning filmmaker Spike Lee and Olympic champion Edwin Moses.

Spelman College, also in Atlanta, is the oldest four-year liberal arts institution for black women, and it is consistently ranked by national publications as one of the best under-

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## Many U.S. Leaders Are Graduates of Historically Black Colleges . . .

*(Continued from page 11)*

graduate institutions in the United States. Founded in 1881 with 11 students in the basement of a church, Spelman was recently ranked number 1 by a national poll for "social mobility" because its graduation rate of 77 percent far exceeds what is expected of an institution with such a high percentage of students from lower-income families. Its alumni include author Alice Walker and Children's Defense Fund founder Marian Wright Edelman.

Size is not a good measure of a school's influence. Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, founded in 1866, has an enrollment of just 825 students, but it has played a significant role since educating in the 19th century W.E.B. Dubois, who argued that civil rights and political power were essential for blacks, and who co-founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Fisk faculty and students include such major figures in American literature as Arna Bontemps, Sterling A. Brown, Robert Hayden and James Weldon Johnson; the eminent historian John Hope Franklin; civil rights leader John Lewis, now a member of the Democratic Party leadership in Congress; and award-winning contemporary poet Nikki Giovanni.

Dubois' opponent in what became the greatest debate in the African-American community was Booker T. Washington, the founder and president of what is now called Tuskegee University. Washington argued that hard work and education in the industrial sciences, rather than political power, were the keys to progress for blacks. Among Tuskegee's best-known alumni are novelist Ralph Ellison, who implicitly criticizes Washington in his influential novel Invisible Man; five-time Grammy Award-winning musician Lionel Richie; and the Tuskegee airmen, a group of African-American combat pilots whose outstanding performance during World War II represented a milestone toward integration of the U.S. military. ♦

## Military's Africa Command Will Promote Security, Spur Development . . .

*(Continued from page 4)*

25,000 troops that could respond quickly to conflict on the continent without waiting for the United Nations to act, said Defense Department official Theresa Whelan.

This structure, Ward said, reflects AFRICOM's mission to work with regional organizations such as the African Union and its regional economic communities, the nations of Africa and their citizens to provide the tools and training needed to solve regional security challenges before they grow into international crises. Other activities will include programs related to humanitarian assistance, humanitarian land mine removal, responding to natural disasters and security reform.

A third myth is that AFRICOM is geared exclusively to fighting terrorism and countering a rising Chinese presence at the expense of other challenges facing the region.

"The United States, China and other countries share a common interest in a stable, secure and rising Africa," Henry said. "And though we may differ on the means, we look forward to cooperating with China as a responsible international stakeholder to achieve that end."

While helping governments combat terrorists will be one mission, Ward highlighted several other ongoing activities in the region that illustrate AFRICOM's future, including joint medical training programs that provide aid to poor communities, training African troops to serve as peacekeepers and the Africa Partnership Station -- a U.S. Navy ship in the Gulf of Guinea that serves as a "floating school" for military and law enforcement personnel from across the region.

The Bush administration is requesting $389 million for AFRICOM operations in its 2009 budget.

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: http://usinfo.state.gov)* ♦

# Pennies from American Schoolchildren Build Afghan Schools

Washington -- American students as young as age 5 are among those now contributing actively to Afghanistan's recovery from war and land mines as they raise funds through Roots of Peace to build schools and playgrounds to benefit their peers on the other side of the globe.

The Marin County, California-based organization's "Penny Campaign" program raised $20,000 through school and community outreach. Recently, it used some of the funds to finance completion of a 10-room school in northeast Afghanistan for 260 Afghan boys and girls in an area that slowly is being reclaimed from the presence of land mines. The school is one of four in the country that the campaign has helped.

The idea behind the Penny Campaign, Roots of Peace founder Heidi Kuhn said, was to ask for the smallest money denomination so that every American child -- from Harlem in New York City to Oakland in California -- could participate. She told America.gov February 10 she was inspired by the Latin motto -- E Pluribus Unum (from many, one) -- that appears on U.S. coins.

"So from many pennies of children, come one vision for education and fair play on former mine fields," she said.

She founded Roots of Peace in 1997, inspired in part by the late Princess Diana's work to eradicate land mines, as well as Kuhn's experience as a cancer survivor. The organization has been a long-time partner of the State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (RWA) located in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, which has provided $200,000 to help Roots of Peace's main mission of converting former mine fields into agricultural land.

*On the five-year anniversary of 9/11, 'Roots of Peace Penny', a campaign to give children in Afghanistan safe schools and soccer fields, was launched at a special junior high school in Fremont California.*

The United States remains the top financial contributor for land mine safety and eradication, providing more than $1.2 billion since 1993. (See "U.S. Still Top Financial Contributor to Humanitarian Mine Action ( http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2007/December/20071214110213sjhtrop0.828869.html ).")

**PENNY CAMPAIGN HAS WIDE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

Kuhn said many American mothers easily can identify with the plight of mothers in Afghanistan and other war-torn areas when they consider the dangers faced by the children.

"You kick a soccer [football] ball out of bounds and there is a grave consequence. When they think their mom or dad isn't looking, off they go to fetch the only ball in the community, and off goes a limb," Kuhn said, adding it only takes eight pounds (3.6 kilograms) of pressure to detonate a land mine.

"Each one of my children weighed eight pounds [at birth]. So I really approached this from the heart of a mother."

Hundred of schools across the country got involved in the Penny Campaign, and Kuhn said the wider

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## Pennies from American Schoolchildren Build Afghan Schools . . .

*(Continued from page 13)*

communities also were motivated, recounting that even some homeless people in the community, who often receive charity themselves, had mobilized to collect pennies on behalf of Afghan children.

Contributors not only have given money to build schools and safe places to play football, but also have provided educational supplies.

The Afghan children "need just the basics," she said. "We got the Napa Valley [California] Sheriff's Department, the police department, everybody was out collecting pens and pencils and tools for these kids."

Kuhn said children everywhere can relate to football and the effect land mines have on everyday activities such as playing outdoors and walking to school. They also understand the importance of building bridges across cultures.

On February 8, Marin County students, on their own initiative, established the Peacegram program as part of the Penny Campaign, choosing to forgo the 25-cent Candygrams they normally would receive for the Valentine's Day holiday and use the money instead to fund the establishment of more Afghan schools and football fields.

"To give up your candy, that's a pretty big thing for a little kid," Kuhn said, but children that young, ranging from 5 years old to 12, understand what is at stake. They "get it from the heart," Kuhn said.

When Kuhn, her daughter, Kyleigh, and California television news anchor Cheryl Jennings traveled to Afghanistan in 2005, then 16-year-old Kyleigh saw children in a village near Bagram forced to study in tents. She made the goal of raising money to build them a school.

Kuhn returned one year later with Shamim Jawad, the wife of Afghanistan's ambassador to the United States, Said Tayeb Jawad, to lay the cornerstone of the new school. She said the grateful Afghan students, who named the school in Kyleigh's honor, were surprised to see them again.

"The tradition in Afghanistan [is] people come and do a 'look-see,' but they never come back, and here we came back to these same kids with not only a look-see, looking around, but we laid the cornerstone [for the school] in the cement," she said.

Shamin Jawad also was instrumental in helping Roots of Peace secure a $10,000 grant from the U.S. Afghan Women's Council to complete work on Mir Bocha Kot School's football field as well as a safety perimeter wall and in obtaining football uniforms and equipment.

**KUHN BELIEVES AFGHANISTAN WILL CHANGE THROUGH EDUCATION**

Despite Roots of Peace's accomplishments in Afghanistan, Kuhn worries that "this window of opportunity is narrowing," to provide hope because the country continues to face severe challenges.

She said her organization is seeking to build hope "from the ground up" with a special emphasis on Afghanistan's rising generation.

"I think it has to be done genuinely and I think it needs to be done aggressively," she said.

Roots of Peace, which also currently funds projects in Croatia and Angola to reduce the risk of land mines, now is looking for a fifth school to build in Afghanistan. Kuhn hopes that number eventually will expand to 50 or 100 schools.

"This is how Afghanistan is going to change," she said, "though education."

More information is available on the Roots of Peace Web site ( http://www.rootsofpeace.org/ ).

Additional information about the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement partnerships ( http://www.state.gov/t/pm/wra/partners ) is available on the State Department's Web site.

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: http://usinfo.state.gov)* ♦

# Investigative Journalism Often Dangerous Business

Washington -- Despite the dangers they face, reporters worldwide continue to expose corruption in government and the influence of organized crime in national politics, an official from a global anti-corruption agency and a journalist from Thailand tell America.gov.

Transparency International's Marta Erquicia, speaking from her agency's headquarters in Berlin, said investigative reporters play a "key role in fighting corruption" and countries need such reporters for their "oversight role."

Reporters continue to investigate corruption even though figures by the United Nations show that more than 1,000 media professionals worldwide have been murdered in the last decade, most of them victims of targeted killings.

Erquicia, Transparency's program coordinator for the Americas, said a number of presidents in that region were imprisoned after newspaper investigations showed the presidents were running corrupt governments.

She lamented that many reporters are assaulted or killed in retaliation for their work, and that the follow-up criminal investigation results in the "hired gun" -- but not the masterminds who planned the crime -- being jailed. Investigative journalists, she said, often must practice self-censorship in their reporting to keep the newspaper from losing its advertising income and financial backing. A paper she presented at a conference, held during World Press Freedom Day in May 2007, demonstrated the perils faced by investigative journalists. More reporters are murdered, often for covering organized crime or investigating corruption, than die in the battlefield covering armed conflicts, she said.

*Kavi Chongkittavorn, executive editor of The Nation*

Erquicia said investigative journalism is essential to ensure that elected politicians remain accountable to their citizens and for "democratic institutions to remain operational."

Investigative reporting is even more important, she said, when a country's judiciary and parliament "show no interest" in monitoring corruption "or lack the capabilities and resources to do so."

Transparency International and the Peru-based Press and Society Institute, a nongovernmental organization, jointly present an annual $25,000 first-prize award to the best investigative journalism stories on corruption in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The 2007 award co-winners were journalists from the Colombian news magazine Semana and the Brazilian daily Correio Braziliense. The Brazilian newspaper exposed one of the largest parliamentary corruption cases in the history of Brazil, while the Colombian magazine exposed the infiltration of paramilitary groups into national politics.

Erquicia said the award promotes international interest in the investigative work performed by the winning journalists, which helps protect them from retribution in their own country.

**THAI EDITOR PRAISES REPORTERS' COURAGE**

Kavi Chongkittavorn, executive editor of The Nation, an English-language newspaper in Thailand, said investigative journalists are "pivotal" in countering corruption, "especially during a formative period" when "corrupt deals are being planned." He indicated that in his part of the world, where the killing of reporters is not unusual, journalists need "courage, good support from their offices, and good insurance policies."

Chongkittavorn said most successful corruption stories come from "internal sources" in a government agency, from sources that do not benefit from corrupt deals, or from those who seek to expose shady politicians.

*A memorial in Arlington, Virginia, lists the names of journalists who have died in the line of duty. (© AP Images)*

Thailand has no laws to protect "whistleblowers" or eyewitnesses to crime, unlike in the United States and other countries that have instituted such anti-corruption measures, he said. Chongkittavorn expressed hope that Thailand will

*(Continued on page 19)*

# Videos Show al-Qaida in Iraq Recruiting Children for Terrorism

Washington -- Al-Qaida in Iraq is recruiting and training boys -- some younger than 11 -- to kidnap and kill, senior U.S. and Iraqi military spokesmen said during a February 6 press briefing in Iraq.

Five training tapes recovered in a December 2007 raid show as many as 20 boys, most thought to be younger than 11 years old, carrying automatic weapons and grenades, storming homes in mock kidnappings and assassinations and sitting in a circle chanting their allegiance to al-Qaida.

In the videos, which carry what appear to be July 13, 2007, date stamps, the boys carry weapons, including pistols, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers.

Multi-National Force - Iraq spokesman Navy Rear Admiral Gregory J. Smith said that this is not the first such recovery of videos and photos showing al-Qaida in Iraq training children, but that the "the volume and content was the most significant and disturbing we've found to date."

Iraqi Major General Mohammad al Askari, a spokesman for Iraq's Defense Ministry, said al-Qaida in Iraq is using children ages 8 to 14 as suicide bombers. He also cited a recent trend by al-Qaida to kidnap children and hold them for ransom to fund the organization's operations.

The rescue of an 11-year-old boy who had been kidnapped was documented in a video shown at the briefing. Al-Qaida in Iraq demanded that $100,000 be given for the boy's return or, the group said, he would be beheaded, Askari said.

**WOMEN ALSO TARGETED**

Al-Qaida often refers to children as the "new generation of the Mujahidin," or warriors engaged in a jihad, Smith said. There are also reports of al-Qaida entering schools and distributing its propaganda. Thousands of al-Qaida-sponsored Web sites target children, he said.

*This still image of a child soldier was taken from a video reportedly made by al-Qaida. (Department of Defense)*

Recently, two 15-year-old boys were used in suicide bombings in Iraq. Al-Qaida also appears to be increasing the use of women as suicide bombers. Prior to 2007, only five women were known to have carried out suicide attacks. In 2007, there were 10 such attacks, and attacks using women already have taken place in 2008, Smith said.

Terrorism experts say that the use of children and women by terrorist groups is becoming increasingly common as a method that is designed to thwart anti-terrorist and security measures. (See "Using Children as Suicide Attackers Increases Sense of Barbarity ( http://www.america.gov/st/peacesec-english/2007/October/20071023103907dmslahrellek0.3075373.html ).")

Some 300,000 children under 18 are being exploited in more than 30 armed conflicts worldwide, according to estimates from UNICEF. The United Nations' International Labour Organization condemns the forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict at one of "the worst forms of child labour."

For additional information, see a transcript of the press briefing ( http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=16863&Itemid=1 ) and a video link to the briefing ( http://www.dvidshub.net/vjump.php?vid=34818 ) on the Defense Department Web site.

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

# Trade Has Little Bearing on U.S. Income Inequality

Washington -- Imports and outsourcing of jobs affect the income gap among U.S. earners only minimally, according to a new study.

The study, titled "Blue Collar Blues" and published by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, says the recent increase in U.S. income inequality has little to do with globalization, which is perceived by some Americans as harming unskilled workers.

In the study, income inequality is defined as the difference between real, or inflation-adjusted, blue-collar wages and business-sector output per hour. In 2000-2006, it has roughly increased by 30 percent.

But because a large part of the gap can be explained by technical factors, real income inequality makes up about 30 percent of it.

In the same period, trade with developing countries had an impact on income inequality that was too small to register, the study says.

Polls show increased anxiety about trade among American workers, and trade has appeared as one of the significant 2008 campaign issues.

Democratic presidential candidate Senator Hillary Clinton has proposed a temporary moratorium on future trade agreements and called for "smart trade" that encompasses labor and environmental standards. On the Republican side, former governor Mike Huckabee called for "fair trade." However, Senator Barack Obama, an Illinois Democrat, has put more emphasis on opportunities created by trade and Senator John McCain, an Arizona Republican, has said free trade should guide the U.S. economy. (See presidential candidates' views ( http://uspolitics.america.gov/uspolitics/elections/issues.html ) on this and other issues.)

*Robert Lawrence*
*the author of the study titled*
*"Blue Collar Blues"*

Some lawmakers and presidential candidates blame sluggish wage increases and rising income inequality on imports from low-wage countries and off-shoring of U.S. jobs overseas.

But the study's author, Robert Lawrence, says there is little evidence to support these views.

Import competition may cause displacement and could put downward pressure on wages in general, he says, but it does not increase wage inequality.

The main sources of inequality have been the rising share of national income held by a group he calls "superrich" -- corporate heads, sports stars and popular entertainers -- and the increasing share of corporate profits in national income. He said those corporate profits may be a cyclical phenomenon.

These two factors are mostly domestic and have little relation to the manufacturing sector that is viewed as harmed most by trade, he says. The growth in corporate profits has been concentrated in the financial, not manufacturing, sector.

Lawrence acknowledges that isolating trade's contribution to its impact on growing income inequality and worker dislocation in the United States is difficult because trade is one of many sources of structural change in the U.S. economy. There are also technological changes, financial deregulation, corporate governance reforms and other influences.

He suggests that policymakers deal directly with inequality and dislocation through a more progressive tax system and structural adjustment programs rather than trying to isolate and limit the pressures of globalization.

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: http://usinfo.state.gov)* ♦

# Microsoft Founder Urges "Creative Capitalism" To Fight Poverty

Washington -- The man who helped make computers a part of modern life -- and in the process became the world's richest person -- is shifting his primary focus to dealing with the problems of the world's poor.

Bill Gates, co-founder and chairman of Microsoft Inc., will give up day-to-day leadership of the company in July and turn his attention to piloting the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which he and his wife began in 2000, and pushing his concept of "creative capitalism."

"There are roughly a billion people in the world who don't get enough food, who don't have clean drinking water, who don't have electricity, the things that we take for granted," Gates said in a recent speech. Those problems reflect a situation he is determined to change -- both through the foundation and by enlisting the forces of the broader global economy.

The Gates Foundation, boasting a $37.6 billion endowment as of mid-2007, has directed its attention largely to improving health care and fighting poverty in the developing world, and boosting access to education and information technology in the United States.

Now, Gates has announced an ambitious goal of moving the corporate world toward "creative capitalism" -- an approach under which, he says, "governments, businesses and nonprofits work together to stretch the reach of market forces so that more people can make a profit, or gain recognition, doing work that eases the world's inequities."

*Bill Gates, Co-founder and Chairman of Microsoft Inc.*

Convinced that "there are two great forces of human nature: self-interest and caring for others," Gates used a speech to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in January to outline his vision of "a system where market incentives, including profits and recognition, drive those principles to do more for the poor."

Gates quoted, in support of his thesis, the 18th-century political economist Adam Smith, widely regarded as the father of capitalism.

Though Smith believed strongly in the value of self-interest for society, Gates said, he also wrote of "some principles in ... ([man's] nature, which interest him in the fortunes of others, and render their happiness necessary to him, though he derives nothing from it, except the pleasure of seeing it."

Indeed, the recognition a company gets for its good works can have business value, Gates said in Davos. It "enhances a company's reputation, appeals to customers and attracts good people to an organization. In a market where profits aren't possible, recognition becomes a proxy for profit," he said.

Gates pointed out examples of what can be accomplished in the vital area of public health.

In one case, he said, the World Health Organization (WHO) determined that a meningitis vaccine would have to be priced at less than 50 cents a dose to achieve meaningfully wide use in Africa. The WHO then got India's Serum Institute -- which found a new way to make the vaccine for 40 cents a dose -- to agree to supply 250 million doses to public health systems over the next decade, while also being allowed to sell into the private sector.

Similarly, he reported, a Dutch company shared royalty-free rights to a cholera vaccine with manufacturers in developing countries while retaining the rights for the developed world. The result: a vaccine made in Vietnam that costs less than a dollar a dose.

This concept of "tiered pricing to offer valuable goods for the poor in a way they can afford" can be applied broadly throughout other critical industries, he said.

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## Investigative Journalism Often Dangerous . . .

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"create an environment" in which "whistleblowers are not treated as evil doers, but as people who are responsible, decent and want to protect" the country's national interest.

In his presentation to the 2007 World Press Freedom Day conference, held in Medellin, Colombia, Chongkittavorn said Thailand was the first country in Southeast Asia to enact a freedom of information law. Despite its flaws as it applies to Thailand, Chongkittavorn said the 1997 law helped journalists in that country "dig up several big corruption scandals involving high-level officials."

But he said the law has not worked as well as intended and serves as a "barrier for information dissemination" instead of promoting disclosure. Because of the law's shortcomings, journalists in Thailand have tended over the years to avoid using the freedom of information law.

**U.N. VIEWPOINT**

Abdul Waheed Khan, of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which organized the 2007 Medellin press freedom day conference, said that "all too often governments devise laws and informal means of keeping their activities hidden from public view."

Khan, UNESCO's assistant director-general for communication and information, said at the conference that governments often make only information that supports their viewpoint available to media.

In recent years, he said, "many governments have tried to co-opt journalists by paying part of their salaries. If the media are to function in the public interest, governments must protect the independence and plurality of the media, including critical voices." ♦

## Microsoft Founder Urges "Creative Capitalism" To Fight Poverty . . .

*(Continued from page 18)*

Gates used his Davos visit to announce his foundation's expanded foray into agriculture, pledging $306 million in grants to improve seeds, soil and market access for rice farmers, coffee growers and others in poor countries, largely in Africa and South Asia. "If we are serious about ending extreme hunger and poverty around the world, we must be serious about transforming agriculture for small farmers, most of whom are women," he told reporters.

Gates' own unmatched resources provide just a starting point for his and his foundation's philanthropic potential. Financier Warren Buffett, chief executive officer of Berkshire Hathaway -- ranked as the world's second richest person behind Gates -- in 2006 committed much of his own wealth to the Gates Foundation, in the form of matching funds that effectively will double annual giving.

Gate has been supportive of rock star and social activist Bono and his Product Red initiative, under which companies share the proceeds of specially Red-branded merchandise with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Microsoft and Dell Inc. have become the latest companies to join the campaign. They jointly advised users by e-mail February 4 that they would contribute between $50 and $80 to the Global Fund for each purchase of a Red-branded Dell personal computer running Microsoft's Windows Vista. "$50 is enough to pay for almost four months of life-saving anti-retroviral treatment for one person suffering from AIDS," the e-mail said.

Gates has estimated that money generated by the Red campaign has been used to save more than 2 million lives.

At Davos, Bono said of Gates' impending transition to full-time philanthropy: "I think it is an extraordinary thing that this man has not just changed the world once, but has now set aside the next act of his life to change the world again."

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