



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

Ambassador Yamamoto visits the CJTF-HOA Civic Action Team

"Ambassador Donald Yamamoto recently visited with the CJTF-HOA Civic Action Team in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia. The CA Teams, as a part of the Civil Military Operations staff section, help to coordinate, plan & execute Civic Assistance construction projects for the local population. The staff is also involved in non-construction activities (sports tournaments and cook-outs) that enhance our relationships in the region. LtCol Terry Gamble gave a current status brief and his junior staff provided a background brief to the Ambassador. After the briefs, AMB Yamamoto then traveled to the City administration offices to meet with the mayor. The two of them discussed the CJTF-HOA presence and disaster preparedness issues of the region. The final part of the trip involved a tour of one of the local community construction projects. Ambassador Yamamoto was pleased with the way in which the CJTF-HOA staff & CA Teams were addressing the needs of the community." ♦



Ambassador Yamamoto (center) with members of the CJTF-HOA Civic Action Team in Dire Dawa

U.S. Africa Command Builds Partnerships, Fosters Self-Sufficiency



Jendayi Frazer
U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for

By David McKeeby
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- The precise role the newly created U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) will play is to build on long-standing partnerships to deliver humanitarian assistance and foster self-sufficiency by helping African nations build strong, effective democracies, according to U.S. officials.

"We are not at war in Africa, nor do we expect to be," Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer told senators in an August 1 hearing. "Our embassies and AFRICOM

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will work in concert to keep it that way."

The United States monitors potential security threats by dividing its forces into regional combat commands. Despite Africa's many security challenges over the years, attention to the continent was divided among three separate military commands focused on Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

"Back in the Cold War, we were spending in the European Command only about 5 percent of our time in Africa. And now it's increasing," Jonathan Gration, a retired U.S. Air Force major general, told lawmakers. "AFRICOM is a concept that is good, and it needs to happen."

But since the February announcement of its formation, AFRICOM has been the subject of great concern among many Africa watchers, said Mark Malan, a former South African military officer working on behalf of the Washington-based advocacy group Refugees International.

"When the U.S. promotes a combatant military command in terms of development and humanitarianism, Africans will inevitably suspect that the true story is being kept from them," Malan said.

"There is strong fear and apprehension within Africa, within the United States, in Europe and elsewhere that AFRICOM signals the militarization of U.S. engagement in Africa at the expense of developmental and diplomatic interests," added

Stephen Morrison, an Africa expert from the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Frazer said these fears are unfounded.

Responsibility for U.S. diplomacy will remain as always with the State Department, she said. Unlike any other military commands, AFRICOM will feature a senior State Department diplomat serving as a deputy and adviser to AFRICOM's commander, with additional diplomats and aid workers joining military officers at the helm, she added.

"It is in many ways the marriage of State's expertise and authorities with the military's resources and security experience, and we are excited about it," said Frazer.

Such a collaborative approach is not new, said Stephen Hess, an assistant administrator with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), who highlighted the close collaboration between his agency and the U.S. military to save lives following disasters and to aid communities in need with civic action products that deliver food, health care, clean water, new schools and other necessities.

"AFRICOM will support, not shape, U.S. foreign policy on the continent," said Theresa Whelan, deputy assistant secretary for African affairs at the U.S. Defense Department, who added that AFRICOM in many respects is an effort by the United States to "catch up" with rapidly evolving governance and defense institutions in the region, such as the African Union.

"Africa has long been seen as a problem to be solved, a continent of failed states, faltering economies, regional conflicts, and corrupt leadership. This image, though, is a far cry from the Africa of today. With the support of international partners, Africans are slowly but surely instituting democracy and good governance across the continent," she said.

AFRICOM is another step in this process, but will not bring a large U.S. troop presence to the continent, Whelan said. Currently based in Germany while reviewing hosting offers from several African countries, AFRICOM will not include a complex of large military bases, but rather a small support staff, which will be able to summon forces and equipment as needed.

For decades, the U.S. military has helped train and equip Africa's militaries, allowing them to take charge of securing their own countries, the wider region through bodies such as the African Union, and around the world, through participation in U.N. peacekeeping missions. Although the structure is new, AFRICOM's mission will continue to stress the military's role as a guardian of democratic society that operates under civilian control and respects human rights.

"The purpose of AFRICOM is to encourage and support this African leadership and initiative, not to compete with it or to discourage it," Whelan said. "U.S. security is enhanced when African nations themselves endeavor successfully to address and resolve emerging

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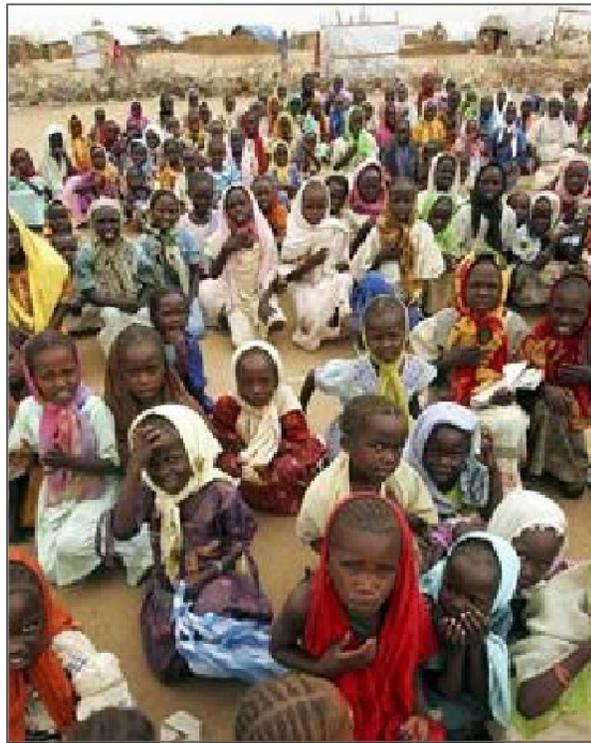
Youth Centers Provide Hope in Darfur Camps

After more than two years of living in refugee camps, Darfur's young people have begun to grow dissatisfied with their limited employment options and the continuous insecurity in the region that prevents them from venturing elsewhere.

In a camp in South Darfur that is home to 90,000 displaced people, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) partner CHF International has responded to this situation by introducing to youth the concept of community ownership and responsibility.

With support from CHF International, 200 enthusiastic young people constructed a camp youth center. Directly managed by a core group of youth leaders, the center has provided training in adult literacy, English, health, hygiene, carpentry, sewing and metal working to more than 2,000 young people.

The goal of the training is to improve the young people's work skills and prepare displaced youth to engage in small business endeavors. Based on the success of this pilot project, CHF International



Children at Kalma Camp, South Darfur (Photo: AAP)

centers, independently acquiring several contributions to support further training programs and awareness-raising drama activities.

Since CHF International began working in Darfur in 2004, the organization has constructed 14 community centers in rural villages and camps for internally displaced persons, with help from USAID. CHF International's support for these centers includes educational services, cash-for-work and income-generating activities, and vocational training opportunities for thousands affected by the Darfur conflict.

worked with youth to replicate the model and build a youth center in another South Darfur camp.

Youth at these centers have demonstrated a high level of self-sufficiency and commitment to their

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security issues before they become so serious that they require considerable international resources and intervention to resolve."

The full text (<http://www.state.gov/p/af/rls/rm/89905.htm>) of Frazer's testimony is available on the State Department Web site.

Prepared statements from Whelan (<http://foreign.senate.gov/>

[testimony/2007/WhelanTestimony070801.pdf](#)) (PDF, 25KB), Hess (<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2007/HessTestimony070801.pdf>) (PDF, 34KB), Morrison (<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2007/MorrisonTestimony070801.pdf>) (PDF, 42KB), Malan (<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2007/MalanTestimony070801.pdf>) (PDF, 43KB), and Gration (<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2007/GrationTestimony070801.pdf>) (PDF, 17KB) are available from the

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Web site.

For more information on U.S. policies, see Africa: Peace and Security (http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/peace_security.html).

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U.N.-A.U. Hybrid Force in Darfur Must Deploy “Without Delay”

By Stephen Kaufman
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- U.N. Security Council Resolution 1769, which authorizes the deployment of a U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force to Sudan's Darfur region, is a “new and unique form of cooperation” between the two international organizations, U.S. officials said. They called for the immediate deployment of the 26,000-member force to protect civilians and humanitarian workers in the area.

Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, the U.S. representative to the United Nations, said the unanimous passage of the resolution mandating the hybrid military and police force, to be known as UNAMID, “is the culmination of intense efforts by many in the international community over the past several months. It now must be implemented without delay.” Khalilzad spoke in New York July 31, shortly after the resolution was approved.

More than 200,000 people have died and more than 2 million were forced to flee their homes for refugee camps as a result of the Darfur conflict, and Khalilzad described the human toll as “staggering.” He said those in the camps need immediate help because they are “highly vulnerable to attack, malnutrition, and disease.”

The central objective of UNAMID personnel and their commander is to “do their utmost to protect the civilian population of Darfur,” he said.

“The brutal treatment of innocent civilians in Darfur is unacceptable to the United States. Since 2005, the American people have given more

than \$2 billion to humanitarian relief and development.”

Resolution 1769 gives UNAMID “full authority under Chapter 7 to use force to prevent armed attacks, to protect civilians, and to prevent any disruption of the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement,” he said.

The operation will draw most of its initial forces from the existing African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) and the U.N.'s Light and Heavy Support Packages of assistance to AMIS. Khalilzad said the transfer of authority from AMIS to UNAMID “must occur as soon as possible ...

because it will combine the resources of the U.N. and the AU under a unified command and control,” and allow additional forces to deploy rapidly to support those already on the ground.

“This should take place well before December 31, 2007, and we call on the U.N. and the AU to take all necessary steps to expedite this transition,” he said.

The ambassador said it is “imperative” that the Sudanese government and rebel forces fully cooperate with the implementation of the resolution and its predecessors in the Security Council, as well as “comply fully” with their require-

ments under the 2006 Darfur Peace Agreement, which prohibits “all attacks, harassment, abduction, intimidation and injury to civilians,” and other actions that would impede humanitarian assistance or civilian protection.

Khalilzad called on Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to “provide maximum cooperation with the de-



Refugees from Chad waiting to collect water supplies at the Um Shalaya refugee camp in the Darfur region of Sudan.
(AP Images)

ployment of the new peacekeeping force,” but warned that Sudan's noncompliance with the resolution or the Darfur Peace Agreement would result in the “swift adoption of unilateral and multilateral measures” by the United States.

Sudan faces a choice between “the path of cooperation or defiance,” he said, and the international community is looking to Bashir's government to “do the right thing and pursue the path of peace.”

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Resolution 1769 opens a “new chapter” in Sudan's history and paid tribute to those who

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Lesotho Gets Boost with Five-Year U.S. Millennium Grant

By Kathryn McConnell
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Lesotho's economic growth prospects have become brighter with the recent Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) decision to help the small southern African country build a much-needed dam.

The dam, in Lesotho's Metolong region, will capture water from mountain springs. The harnessed water then can be stored in tanks for later use by households and by the country's growing garment manufacturing industry.

The project will preserve 28,000 existing jobs in garment factories and in communities around the dam waterway and create 6,000 new jobs, Kumar Ranganathan told US-INFO. Export sales of garments are Lesotho's main income generator, said Ranganathan, MCC's director of infrastructure.

No residents will be moved permanently because of the project, although some livestock may be moved temporarily to other grazing areas, he said.

MCC agreed in July to invest \$164 million in the dam and in urban area water system upgrades. An estimated 304,000 people will benefit from the urban water activities.

The U.S. aid agency agreed to fund the dam project following its analysis of initial designs prepared by international experts recruited by Lesotho's government and a World Bank-supported independent environmental impact study, Ranganathan said.

The Lesotho water project funding is a key part of an overall \$362.6 million grant that includes \$122 million for strengthening the country's health care infrastructure and increasing access to anti-retroviral drug therapy for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Approximately 24 percent of Lesotho's adults are HIV-positive. That is the third-highest prevalence rate in the world, according to MCC.



Two women walk to fetch water from a community water point. Millennium Challenge Corporation is funding water system upgrades to achieve a reliable supply of water and better sanitation in urban and rural areas. (MCC)

Another portion of the grant -- \$36 million -- will be used to help Lesotho expand its private sector through legal reforms and efforts to help women become more involved in the country's economy, according to MCC.

MCC Chief Executive Officer John Danilovich signed the grant agreement -- which is called a compact -- with Lesotho Minister of Foreign

Affairs and International Relations Mhlabi Kenneth Tsekoa June 23.

"By unlocking the potential of its two greatest resources -- its water and its people -- and by fully engaging private enterprise, Lesotho is maximizing the impact of its compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation to tackle poverty and make the promise of sustainable development a reality," Danilovich said at the signing ceremony at the State Department.

"The compact will help the government and people of Lesotho to build the infrastructure for long-term progress and prosperity by encouraging economic and legal reform," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said at the signing.

The compact will nearly double Lesotho's rate of economic growth in five years, Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili said at a public forum the next day.

Lesotho, located within the expanding Southern African Development Community, now stands to gain from that soon-to-be common market.

Since 2004, MCC has awarded 14 multiyear development grants to countries that have involved their communities in setting priorities for their poverty reduction goals. Seven of the grants, totaling more than \$2.4 billion, have been made to African countries.

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West African Companies Gain Export Markets with U.S. Assistance

By Kathryn McConnell
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Ghanaian crafters of wooden furniture and other home accessories wanted to increase sales so they could expand their small businesses.

But they lacked the business know-how and funds to do that.

Now, with help from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) West African Trade Hub (WATH) -- a competitiveness assistance center -- Ghana-based Premium Ex-Im Company is getting its products into thousands of homes in the United States by selling to the major U.S. retailers Target and Cost Plus World Market.

WATH taught Premium's owners how to style products for export markets, and ways to improve their operational efficiency.

Kweku Forson, one of Premium's founders, said the trade hub helped his managers learn how to fill the larger orders the business received as it expanded.

"WATH brought in technical assistance for us in design and production and in finance. With that assistance, we were able to complete 100 percent of [a large Target order] on time," Forson said.

The assistance center also helps producers exhibit at trade fairs and encourages them to contact it for information about businesses with which they may want to link.

The center also helped another Premium founder, Robert Ellis, learn how to serve as an export agent for other producers.

"For the first time in Ghana, producers can show their wares to international buyers at no cost during buyer visits. This is free international advertisement for them [producers], and their production is growing," Ellis said.

Individual producers and their families also benefited from the trade hub's assistance.

"It used to be that artisans would work for a few days and then have to go search for more work. Now, with increased exports and regular orders, there is more job stability," Ellis said.

Job-creation has helped reduce local tensions, according to Forson.



"When people have no work to do they are more likely to cause problems in the community, and that has decreased," he said.

From two sites -- Accra, Ghana, and Dakar, Senegal -- the West African hub helps businesses in 21 countries take better advantage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). It is one of three USAID trade hubs in Africa.

AGOA provides U.S. trade preferences to sub-Saharan countries that

are making progress in economic, legal and human rights reforms.

"Going from local to global sales is a whole-scale change in product offering, target market[ing] and production and quality requirements," said Vanessa Adams, WATH business development director.

Nora Bannerman of the Ghana company Sleek Garments said the trade hub has help her solve a variety of problems experienced by small businesses wanting to export, in areas such as in marketing, negotiating prices and packaging products to meet international standards.

"I see that WATH assistance is a total package," providing trade show sponsorship and information about international standards, skills in price negotiation and buying quality production materials, Bannerman said.

"Handicrafts is a huge, international market. If we can grow and gain a larger part of the market, other Ghanaian companies will see how to do it too," Forson said.

The trade hub also provides training for people in business and government in customs documentation, and AGOA visa and product certification requirements.

For more information on the export preference program, see African Growth and Opportunity Act (http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade_economic_development/agoa.html).

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Peace Corps Has Adapted to a Changing World, Director Says

By Lauren Monsen
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Since its founding in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, the U.S. Peace Corps has sent volunteers to developing nations not only to help provide essential services, but to promote a better understanding between Americans and people of other cultures.

Kennedy hoped the Peace Corps would advance the cause of world peace and friendship, said Ronald Tschetter, the agency's current director. Today's Peace Corps has adapted to a changing world while remaining true to its mission, he told reporters August 6 in New York City on the Peace Corps' 46th anniversary.

From the beginning, Peace Corps volunteers have lived and worked alongside citizens of host countries, teaching sustainable skills while respecting the local culture. The Peace Corps has served in 139 countries, and projects are designed to meet "host country needs," said Tschetter.

The largest Peace Corps program is education -- including English-language teaching -- followed by health programs such as immunization and health education. "The largest single area of our health work is HIV/AIDS prevention, primarily in Africa," Tschetter said. There are also programs to support small business development, protect the environment, promote advances in agriculture and counsel young people.

The average age of a Peace Corps volunteer is 27, Tschetter said, "but

right now, the oldest volunteer is an 81-year-old woman serving in Thailand." There are only two requirements to be eligible to join the Peace Corps: a candidate must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen.

He said the agency is trying to attract more of the Baby Boom generation -- people born between 1946 and 1964. Volunteers in their 50s already may have 30 years of professional experience and can bring a tremendous amount of expertise and skill to the countries in which they serve, he said.

Volunteers are given a place to live in the host country and a living allowance, plus a small stipend when they return from their two-year assignments. They are provided with transportation and medical care while in the Peace Corps.

Although not enriching in a monetary sense, Peace Corps service is deeply rewarding, Tschetter said. Volunteers often describe their service as "a life-changing event."

"They teach skills at the grassroots level, they share American values with others around the world, and since they live amongst the people they serve, they become a part of the local infrastructure," he said.

Many volunteers extend their assignments for a third year, and sometimes return to the Corps after decades of absence, said Tschetter.

Volunteers frequently report that they feel entirely at home and secure in their host communities, he said. "One young woman serving in a predominantly Muslim country said that if she's gone for two

months from her apartment in California, no one would miss her, but if she's gone from her adopted village for two hours, people come knocking at her door, asking if she's all right," Tschetter recalled.

Tschetter told a reporter from Cameroon that there are now about 140 volunteers in his country. In Cameroon, the Peace Corps' environmental programs are important because of deforestation and lack of clean drinking water, Tschetter said. "These programs have transformed local villages."

The Peace Corps is making a difference elsewhere in Africa, he said, citing an active health campaign in Botswana that is helping that country make "good progress against HIV/AIDS."

The agency has adapted to a rapidly changing world, Tschetter said. "The biggest change is technology. Its impact has been felt even in small villages in India and Africa. Today, almost all of our volunteers have cell phones to facilitate their work and keep in touch with their families."

However, such changes do not alter the Peace Corps' fundamental mission, "and as far as I can see into the future, the need for what we're doing at the grassroots level will always be there," he said.

Ukraine now hosts the largest contingent of volunteers, between 375 and 400, but "we'll probably phase down as development continues," Tschetter said.

The Peace Corps had to leave Ethiopia because of political instability, but it was "recently invited to come

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Video Game Music Played by Orchestras Draws Audiences

By Elizabeth Kelleher
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- "Video games are culturally significant." Try that statement, made by industry insider Tommy Tallarico, on a group of friends, and you are likely to unleash heated debate.

Tallarico co-produces a live concert with renowned symphony orchestras playing music from video games, and he says the show's popularity among "gamers" and musicians alike underscores the growing cultural importance of video games.

Video Games Live – which features costumed characters, orchestras playing music, choral groups singing, and a light show that rivals any rock concert – started with three performances in 2005. It has progressed to a schedule of 30 performances around the world in 2007, some of which draw thousands.

Music in video games is composed to be no more than background music but is as "emotional, powerful as any movie score out there," said Tallarico.

Audiences tend to be rowdy, cheering or chanting frequently. One oboe player said that, before he played Video Games Live, he never had someone cheer for him, despite having played in orchestras for 40 years. He liked it.

"It looks like these types of productions are catching on," said Daniel Ozment, assistant conductor of the Master Chorale of Washington. "It's a lot of fun to do."

Concerts are not advertised in large-city newspapers but rather rely on

"cell-phone movies" posted on YouTube, buzz from social networking sites and flyers in video game stores. "It is a huge shift from what we traditionally do," said Ozment.

ATTRACTING YOUNGER AUDIENCES

As traditional, classical orchestras struggle as a result of dwindling audiences, they are trying more popular fare to attract younger people. In 2004, when the Los Angeles Philharmonic took what was then a bold step by playing music by Japanese composer Nobuo Uematsu from the video game Final Fantasy, the concert sold out in three days, according to a trade journal.

Craig Mulcahy, trombonist for the National Symphony Orchestra, said the Video Games Live concert his orchestra played at the Kennedy Center for

the Performing Arts in Washington in June drew "the youngest crowd we have had. There were lots of teens there, and both nights we did it were completely sold out. I imagine we'll do more in the future."

The National Symphony Orchestra's summer concert schedule also includes "Fantastic Planet" -- music by Beethoven, Debussy, Vaughn Williams and Stravinsky played with outer-space film footage from NASA – and "Bugs on Broadway," symphonic accompaniment to cartoons.

"Operas were created to bring in people who might be attracted by the costumes or the stories," Tallarico said. He gets e-mails from audience members who never had been to the symphony before. "I tell them about Beethoven's Ninth, about Wagner," he said.

Ozment said his group, which sang some portions of the concert in a "made-up language," enjoyed rehearsals. "It's still classical music, in a way. The only difference is that some of our singers who performed in this concert were very excited about this music, because they



Tommy Tallarico

grew up playing these [video] games."

Mulcahy, who at 33 is one of the younger members of the orchestra, said that he has played several of the games featured in Video Games Live. "Even when I was not playing [trombone], I was turning around, watching the screen and enjoying the music," he said.

The \$30 billion video game industry has changed significantly in the last 15 years, according to Joseph Olin, president of the Academy of Inter-

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The Luminous Characters of Anne Tyler

By Howard Cincotta
USINFO Special Correspondent

Novelist John Updike once wrote memorably that fellow writer Anne Tyler "is not merely good, she is wickedly good."

For more than 40 years, in meticulous "wickedly good" prose, Tyler has written quietly luminous novels



Anne Tyler

that examine the nuances of character and the foibles of American family life. Her many novels may not provide broad-scale social commentary, but they offer extraordinary insight into the lives of ordinary, largely middle-class individuals struggling to balance the search for individuality with the iron ties of obligation to and love for their families.

Her books celebrate the heroism and failures of small-scale domestic

life. Though her characters often are described as eccentric, quirky or wounded, such terms do not capture the warm generosity, the dispassionate, yet caring, attitude that Tyler takes toward the characters in all her books.

Family is the preoccupation in virtually all her work. In 1979, Tyler observed, "My interest in families is a result of my curiosity about how people endure together — adapt, adjust, grate against each other, give up, and start over again in the morning — and families are simply the most convenient vehicle for studying this."

Tyler's latest novel, *Digging to America*, is no exception, but it does introduce a new ethnic element to her fictional American world. In a beautifully etched scene that captures the swirling, multicultural aspect of the United States today, the novel opens with two families — the Donaldsons and the Iranian-born Yazdans — waiting at the airport in Baltimore, Maryland, for the arrival of their newly adopted infant daughters from Korea.

Tyler creates a set of wonderfully idiosyncratic characters in both families and explores the inevitable cultural confusions and tensions over the next few years as both families celebrate the annual "Arrival Day" of their daughters. Yet, the dominant character in the novel is Maryam Yazdan, an immigrant turned American citizen, a widow and grandmother to one

newly adopted child, who is caught between two worlds and tries to hold herself aloof from the near gravitational demands of her son's family as well as the sometimes over-eager embrace of the Donaldson clan.

Tyler was born in 1941 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to a pacifist Quaker family that moved frequently before settling in a remote North Carolina community; she graduated from Duke University, where she majored in Russian. In 1963, she married Iranian-born child psychiatrist Taghi Modarressi and launched her writing career.

She met her new husband's extended family on a monthlong trip to Iran after they married — a memory that obviously shaped her depiction of the Yazdan family in *Digging to America* many years later:

"At the time we married, he had over 300 close relatives, all intricately involved with each other," Tyler said in a recent e-mail interview. "They were so much fun to watch that I thought I would like to invent a similar family for my book."

While she obviously draws upon personal experience, Tyler insists that none of her characters are autobiographical. "All of my pleasure in writing comes from inventing another world — a believable world, I hope, so that readers think it's true, but an entirely imaginary one." (See interview (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile->

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Gee's Bend Quilters Create Art from Scraps of Fabric

By Louise Fenner
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Generations of black women in the tiny, isolated town of Gee's Bend, Alabama, have created quilts with stunningly beautiful geometric designs and colors, but until the late 1990s, the quilts were little known beyond the community.

Most of the 750 residents of Gee's Bend are descendents of slaves who worked on a local plantation and became sharecroppers after slavery was abolished in 1863. The women of the community made quilts from whatever was available

than \$20,000. The quilts have been exhibited in more than a dozen American museums as well as U.S. embassies in Armenia, Georgia and Kazakhstan. Their images are printed on U.S. postage stamps.

"This is art that deserves to be recognized," said Bernard Herman, chair of art history at the University of Delaware. "It speaks to something that we lose sight of, which is the presence of art in everyday life."

Herman, who spoke at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, where 45 Gee's Bend quilts are on exhibition,

"Quiltmaking is as much about the construction of community and kin networks as it is about learning to make bed coverings," Herman observed.

"So many things now are mechanized; this is handmade," said Tasha Grantham, co-curator of the Walters exhibition. "Even if you use a machine to piece the little [fabric] squares together, a lot of people still do all the topstitching by hand." The women come together as a community to quilt, sing and tell stories, Grantham said, "and that's also a part of this."



Mary Lee Bendolph, 69, poses with several of her quilts at her home in Gee's Bend, Alabama.
(Globe Staff Photo / Michele McDonald)

to them, using their imagination and worn-out dresses and work clothes, remnants from a corduroy factory, flour and fertilizer sacks, and even fabric scraps they found by the road. They used leftover lint from a cotton gin as filler. Many worked in the cotton fields during the day and quilted at night.

Now, the art world has taken notice, and prices for the quilts range from a few hundred dollars to more

described how some quiltmakers, such as Mary Lee Bendolph, make the entire quilt at home, while others take pieced-together fabric squares to the Gee's Bend community center for finishing. Most now purchase their fabrics. The quiltmakers pass on their techniques and the tradition of quiltmaking to their daughters, granddaughters and other girls in the community.

In the documentary *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*, quiltmaker Nettie Young sums up how she designs a quilt: "You think over it, and it come in your mind one thing after another. You get it all together. You say, 'Um hum, I could do that.' And you do it."

Essie Mae Bendolph is shown in the film at her sewing machine. "I don't know what I got in my mind,"

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Video Game Music Played by Orchestras Draws . . .

(Continued from page 8)

active Arts and Sciences. As computers store more digital information, the musicality of video games has improved dramatically.

In 1972, the first commercial game, Pong, went on the market. Video Games Live starts with an orchestral imitation of the game's bleeps and bloops. The music progresses to the complex score from Halo 3, a game not yet released.

Today, Electronic Arts Inc., a leading game publisher, has its own music label to develop bands for its video game music. A soundtrack for Katamari Damacy, a video game released in Japan by Namco Bandai Holdings Inc., has become a popular music CD in Japan and the United States.

BUT DOES THE MUSIC SILENCE GUNS?

Douglas Gentile, a psychology professor at Iowa State University and

a critic of the violent content of many video games, said that as video games become more of an art form, they also could become more dangerous.

Gentile wrote a book about the violent effects of video games on children and adolescents. "Great art does have an effect on us," he said, noting that the American Academy of Pediatrics will release an update on media violence in the next year that will include more information about video games.

Gentile said violent games "increase aggressive thoughts, feelings and behaviors in the short-term and the long-term."

Video Games Live producers support the video game industry and do not see its products as a danger to young people. But they also are happy to think the show is turning some members of its audiences toward serious music.

"We do want to get in touch with that younger generation and find a way to make them aware of what we do and how cool this music is, even when it doesn't have a video on the screen," said Ozment, the chorale director.

"There are hundreds of thousands of pieces of music written in the last 200 years that have stories in them – you find the picture in your head."

More information (<http://www.videogameslive.com/index.php?s=home>) on Video Games Live is available on its Web site.

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The Luminous Characters of Anne Tyler

(Continued from page 9)

English&y=2007&m=August&x=20070807183753attocnich0.945492) with Tyler.)

Tyler lives in Baltimore, which provides the setting for most of her novels. Her husband died in 1997; she has two grown daughters and two grandchildren.

Book by book, eschewing any personal publicity, Anne Tyler has built a powerful literary reputation, and

the intense loyalty of an international readership that has likened her — not without cause—to a modern-day Jane Austen.

In addition to Digging to America, her work includes If Morning Ever Comes (1964), The Tin Can Tree (1965), A Slipping Down Life (1970), Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant (1982, winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award for fiction), The Accidental Tourist (1985, National Book Critics Circle Award, made into an Oscar winning movie

starring William Hurt, Kathleen Turner, and Geena Davis), and Breathing Lessons (1988, which won both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize).

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U.S. Laws Protect Right To Wear Religious Garb at Work

By Jane Morse
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- A refugee from war-torn Somalia, Bilan Nur, came to the United States and succeeded in getting a job as a customer sales representative with Alamo Car Rental in Phoenix. As a Muslim, she wore a hijab, or head scarf, during the holy month of Ramadan.

But after the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, her employer refused to permit Nur to continue to cover her head at all, even though Nur was willing to wear an approved scarf with the Alamo Car Rental logo. The company fired Nur in December 2001 -- only eight days before Ramadan ended that year -- and declared her ineligible for rehire.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) -- the federal government agency that enforces U.S. anti-discrimination laws in the workplace -- took up Nur's case. Hers was the first post-September 11 backlash case brought by the EEOC's Phoenix District Office.

After a six-year battle, EEOC won Nur's religious discrimination suit. In June, a Phoenix jury awarded Nur more than \$287,000 in back pay and compensatory and punitive damages.

In a statement released by the EEOC, Mary Jo O'Neill, the regional attorney for the EEOC Phoenix District Office, said Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects people of all religious beliefs. "No one should ever have to sacrifice her religious beliefs in order to keep a job," O'Neill said.

EEOC trial attorney David Lopez, who tried Nur's case, said in a statement that the jury's award provided reassurance that even after the September 11 terrorist attacks, "Americans still believe in justice for all people."

The victory also was applauded by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC). "This is a fair and just end to the racist dismissal of Ms. Nur from her job," ADC National Executive Director Kareem Shora said in a statement. "We hope that this case will serve as an example that discrimination will not be tolerated in any environment, and that those who engage in such unlawful action will be held accountable."

PROTECTING RELIGIOUS RIGHTS IN THE POST-SEPTEMBER 11 ENVIRONMENT

President Bush repeatedly has spoken out in defense of religious freedom for all people. "America rejects bigotry," he said in a 2002 speech. "We reject every act of hatred against people of Arab background or Muslim faith.

"America values and welcomes peaceful people of all faiths -- Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu and many others," the president said. "Every faith is practiced and protected here, because we are one country. Every immigrant can be fully and equally American because we're one country."

Nonetheless, the years following the September 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington saw an increase in the total number of cases filed with the EEOC because of discrimination based on religion and/or national origin. According to EEOC figures, the num-

ber of religion-based charges rose from 2,127 in fiscal year 2001 to 2,541 in fiscal year 2006.

Of the 2,541 charges of religious discrimination received in fiscal year 2006, EEOC resolved 2,387 and recovered \$5.7 million in monetary benefits for the people who placed the charges, EEOC figures show.

To help victims of the post-September 11 backlash, EEOC has a Web site devoted to questions and answers about the workplace rights of Muslims, Arabs, South Asians and Sikhs under U.S. equal employment opportunity laws. It notes that employers are required by U.S. law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to allow employees to practice their religion. That includes allowing employees to work free of unlawful harassment because of their religious preferences and to wear religious garb within safety guidelines.

RELIGIOUS GARB AND SAFETY ISSUES

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 says, however, that an employer is not required to accommodate an employee's religious practices -- including religious clothing -- if they impair workplace safety, cause co-workers to carry the accommodated employee's share of potentially hazardous or burdensome work or conflict with another law or regulation.

For example, a member of the Sikh religion, which generally does not permit shaving, lost his religious-discrimination case with Chevron USA Inc., which has a clean-shaven policy. The employee's job required the use of a respirator that formed a tight seal with the face to prevent

(Continued on page 13)

Gee's Bend Quilters Create Art from Scraps of . . .

(Continued from page 10)

she says, "but it's going to turn out to be a pretty nice quilt."

"I love my quilts when I make them," she adds. "They be beautiful to me."

In 2003, about 50 quilters, with the assistance of Tinwood Alliance, a nonprofit foundation supporting African-American vernacular art, formed the Gee's Bend Quilters Collective to market their quilts. Proceeds are shared by members of the collective, although some quilters also sell their work independently. Many quiltmakers have made repairs to their homes, bought appliances and donated money to their church with their earnings.

Nonetheless, Gee's Bend remains economically depressed, said Herman. "They don't just lack money, they lack the basic services."

One reason has been its isolation. Forty-five miles from Selma, it is

bounded on three sides by a bend in the Alabama River. It is an hour's drive to Camden, the county seat and nearest place for supplies, schools and medical services. Ferry service to Camden, suspended for more than 40 years, was not restored until November 2006.

Despite these circumstances, or perhaps inspired by them, Gee's Bend quilts are "one of the most remarkable artistic practices in the United States today," said Herman. "I've looked at between 800 and 900 quilts. I've never seen two the same."

"What a great thing it is for [the quiltmakers] to receive this type of critical success and attention at this point in their careers," after lacking "the material resources many Americans benefit from," Grantham told USINFO.

"Out of necessity, the women of Gee's Bend made these really beautiful objects that weren't necessarily art for them, but were ways to

keep warm," said Grantham. "I think it's a very triumphant story of perseverance and faith and creativity."

Read more about the exhibition of Gee's Bend quilts, which is traveling to seven U.S. cities, on the Web sites of The Walters Art Museum (<http://thewalters.org/>) and the Tinwood Alliance (<http://www.quiltsofgeesbend.com/>). The exhibition is sponsored by the Houston Museum of Fine Arts and the Tinwood Alliance. The Walters exhibition (June 15-August 26) includes a gallery of 25 photos by Baltimore resident Lynda Day Clark taken in Gee's Bend.

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U.S. Laws Protect Right To Wear Religious Garb . . .

(Continued from page 12)

exposure to chemical fumes, which the company said was not possible with the employee's beard. The circuit court determined in *Bhatia v. Chevron USA, Inc.* that the company had tried to accommodate the employee by attempting to find the employee a different but comparable job that did not require the use of a respirator, and that the company's safety precautions were in line with federal regulations.

Safety issues aside, Title VII says employers must include "modification of grooming requirements" where possible to accommodate employees' religious practices and dress.

Remarks (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/ramadan/islam.html>) by President Bush on Islam are available on the White House Web site.

More information (<http://www.eeoc.gov/types/>

[religion.html](#)) on Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is available on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Web site.

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Presidential Proclamation for Women's Equality Day, 2007

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
August 6, 2007

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY, 2007

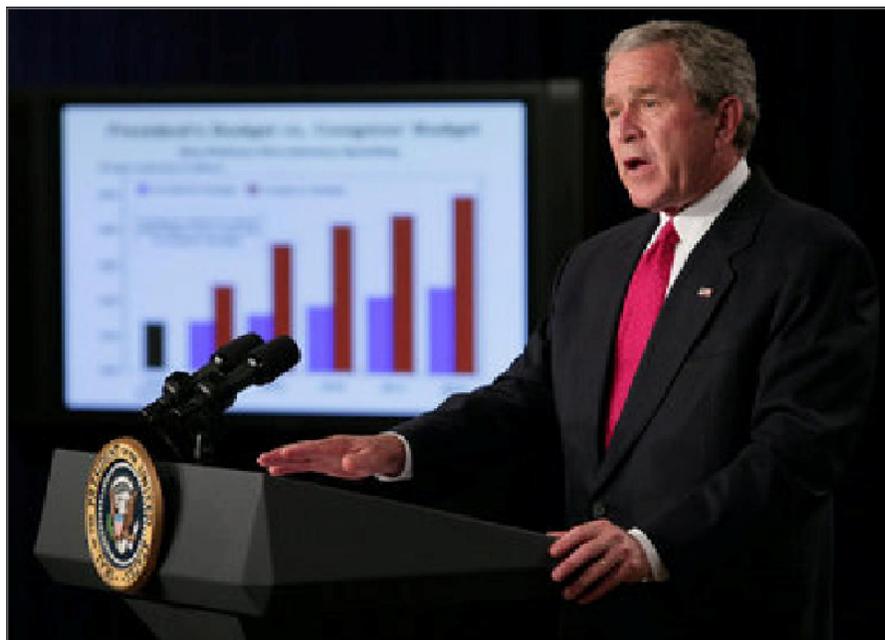
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

On Women's Equality Day, we commemorate the adoption of the 19th Amendment to our Constitution and the strong leadership of extraordinary women who have made America a more perfect Union by advancing women's suffrage.

At the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848, a group of visionaries gathered to proclaim the ideas that "all men and women are created equal" and "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights." That gathering grew into a national movement that led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote. This achievement reflects the vision and determination of the suffragists who stood for a freer society and changed our Nation's history.

Since the passage of the 19th Amendment, pioneers such as Margaret Chase Smith and Sandra Day O'Connor rose above obstacles and broke down barriers to equality. Today, American women are shaping our Nation and the world by serving in all walks of life. Many brave women volunteer to wear the uniform of the United States, and they serve as an inspiration to all.



President George W. Bush

Our Nation is grateful for the bold leadership of American women who have opened doors of opportunity for women of future generations. On Women's Equality Day we honor the suffragists and all those who seek to expand equality in our world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2007, as Women's Equality Day. I call upon the people of the United States to celebrate the achievements of women and observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

I
N WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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Rice Calls for Substantive Mideast Peace Meeting

By David Shelby
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington – An upcoming international meeting on Israeli-Palestinian efforts to achieve a two-state solution will be a forum for substantive discussions, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told Palestinian journalists in Ramallah August 2.

“This is to call people together so that we can really advance ... Palestinian statehood,” she said.

President Bush July 16 called for a Middle East peace conference this fall to be led by Secretary Rice and include Palestinians, Israelis and regional neighbors who support creation of a Palestinian state. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2007&m=July&x=20070716171356idybeekcm0.8116571>)

Rice said that many of the leaders with whom she has met during her current four-day trip to the region, including Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, expressed a desire to see the fall meeting produce tangible progress towards the two-state solution.

The secretary said Olmert “is ready to discuss fundamental issues that will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state,” and she urged the Israelis and Palestinians to deepen their dialogue on these issues.\

Rice welcomed a recently revived Arab League peace initiative as a useful element in advancing regional peace negotiations. In the initiative, the Arab League proposed full normalization of relations between Israel and the Arab world in exchange for an Israeli withdrawal to its pre-1967 borders, the creation

sibility of any functioning government.

For more information on U.S. policies, see The Middle East: A Vision for the Future (http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/middle_east_north_africa/me_vision.html).



Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad greets Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Ramallah, the West Bank, August 2. (© AP Images)

of a Palestinian state and a right of return for Palestinian refugees displaced during the various Israeli-Palestinian conflicts.

While in Ramallah, Rice and Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad also signed an \$80 million assistance package aimed at supporting efforts to reform and professionalize the Palestinian security forces. Rice said the ability to provide security for the population is a core respon-

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Technical Meetings Begin in North Korea Nuclear Talks

Washington -- Diplomats from six nations will begin working in early August on the technical details of an agreement aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program, a senior U.S. official says.

The five working groups established February 13 during the Six-Party Talks will meet in August, and another meeting of the six parties probably will take place at the beginning of September, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said August 1 during the ASEAN Regional Forum meeting in Manila, the Philippines.

"The denuclearization working group will be in Beijing. The Northeast Asia working group will be in Moscow," Hill said. One of a series of bilateral meetings involving the United States and North Korea will be held in a Southeast Asian nation to be determined later, he continued.

The six-party negotiating process involves North and South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the United States.

North Korea shut down its Yongbyon nuclear reactor in July as part of an arrangement with the five other nations in return for energy assistance. Hill said the parties hope to complete the second phase outlined in the February 13 agree-

ment, in which North Korea will provide a complete declaration of all its nuclear programs and disable all existing nuclear facilities, by the end of 2007.

Hill emphasized that the working group meetings are essential in defining precisely what is involved in nuclear disablement – how long it will take, and what steps are involved.

The six nations also are looking at fuel oil equivalents such as building fuel storage capacity in North Ko-

In talks with Chinese counterparts at the ASEAN Forum, Hill said both sides agreed that "this is a real bright spot in U.S.-China relations, and we want to continue to cooperate on this issue."

A transcript (<http://www.state.gov/p/eap/rls/rm/2007/89908.htm>) of Hill's remarks is available on the State Department Web site.

For more information on U.S. policy, see The U.S. and the Korean Peninsula (<http://usinfo.state.gov/>



U.S. negotiator Christopher Hill stands with his counterparts from Japan, South Korea, North Korea, China and Russia at the closing ceremony of the Six-Party Talks on North Korea's nuclear program February 13 in Beijing. This round of talks resulted in an agreement that calls for North Korea to close a nuclear reactor and allow reentry of U.N. inspectors. (© AP Images)

rea, buying electricity or refurbishing electricity plants. Under the current plan, North Korea is being supplied with about 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil a month to support the country's energy needs.

Once the technical questions are resolved, it will be possible to determine if all of this can be done by the end of this year, Hill said.

[eap/east_asia_pacific/north_korea.html](http://www.state.gov/p/eap/east_asia_pacific/north_korea.html)).

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Corporate Social Responsibility Seen as Smart Business Move

By Eric Green
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Times have changed since famed economist Milton Friedman wrote in his 1962 book *Capitalism and Freedom* that the only social responsibility for corporate executives was to maximize the income and wealth of their companies' stockholders.

Progressive companies today are recognizing that maximizing profits is not all that should matter in their business practices: companies also should contribute to the broader public good and treat their employees, at a minimum, with dignity and respect. Such business practice is termed corporate social responsibility (CSR).

James Viray, director of the State Department's Office of International Labor and Corporate Social Responsibility, told USINFO August 2 that companies have "multiple motivations" for being good citizens in their community, nation and world.

Viray said some companies practice CSR "because they believe that being socially responsible is good for their business -- whether it's through building their brand reputation, mitigating risk or improving employee retention and productivity, just to name a few benefits." Other companies engage in CSR, he added, "because they just believe that it's the right thing to do," while "others may do it for a combination of those reasons."

Viray said the participation of companies in the State Department's own CSR initiatives demonstrates a "genuine concern for human rights and worker rights."

State Department initiatives, Viray said, include the Voluntary Principles

on Security and Human Rights and the "multistakeholder dialogue on child labor in the cocoa sector."

The Voluntary Principles are a set of standards that guide companies in maintaining the safety and security of their operations while ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The dialogue on child labor involves a project in West Africa where U.S. funding for nongovernmental organizations provided education and training to children who had been forced into cocoa production. More than 6,000 children rescued from some of the worst forms of child labor through this program now are enrolled in school.

Larry Palmer, president of the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), told USINFO that "prosperous communities are good for business," as are "quality companies that care for their communities."

"When businesses and communities combine forces at the local level, where people live and face their daily problems, they create stronger societies," said Palmer, whose foundation is a U.S. agency dedicated to promoting development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Palmer said his agency has "witnessed the spread" of CSR in Latin America. In this connection, he said, "we have tried, successfully, to persuade leading Latin American companies and corporate foundations that resources channeled into their CSR programs can be wisely invested in the grassroots efforts that we have effectively funded for four decades."

Palmer said RedEAmerica, a network of 61 Latin American and Caribbean corporate foundations that have joined with his agency to sup-

port grassroots development, is the IAF's main vehicle for drawing more corporate resources into community self-help efforts. In addition, as part of its program of development grants, the IAF has funded projects that bring corporations and nongovernmental and grassroots organizations into "dynamic partnerships," Palmer said.

He pointed to Bolivia-based Irupana Andean Organic Foods, which works closely with an IAF grantee called the Bolivian Association for Rural Development (known as PRO RURAL) that helps indigenous farmers improve the quality of their organically grown quinoa and grow amaranth for use as an herb. Quinoa is a grain used as a substitute for rice.

"A strong world market for good quinoa has meant more profits for the farmers and for Irupana [Foods], whose quinoa exports have increased more than tenfold in just four years," Palmer said. He added that "this is a promising example involving a socially responsible corporation, an effective nongovernmental organization and various organizations of hardworking people, all engaged at the grassroots."

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH ON CSR

A dramatic shift in corporate attitudes toward CSR has occurred in the past decade, says Arvind Ganesan of the nongovernmental group Human Rights Watch.

Ganesan, the group's program director for business and human rights, told USINFO that companies 10 years ago might have denied they have human rights responsibilities. Now, all companies, to some degree, recognize their responsibilities on this issue.

(Continued on page 18)

Security Council Concerned About Syria-Lebanon Arms Shipments

By David Shelby
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.N. Security Council adopted a presidential statement August 3 expressing its concern over reports of arms shipments from Syria to nonstate armed groups in Lebanon in violation of Security Council Resolution 1701.

Among the provisions of resolution 1701, which put an end to a month of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah in August 2006, the council declared that there should be no arms shipments to Lebanon except those approved by the Lebanese government.

In its August 3 statement, the council expressed "grave concern at persistent reports of breaches of the arms embargo along the Lebanon-Syria border" and reiterated that all U.N. member states have an obligation to enforce the embargo.

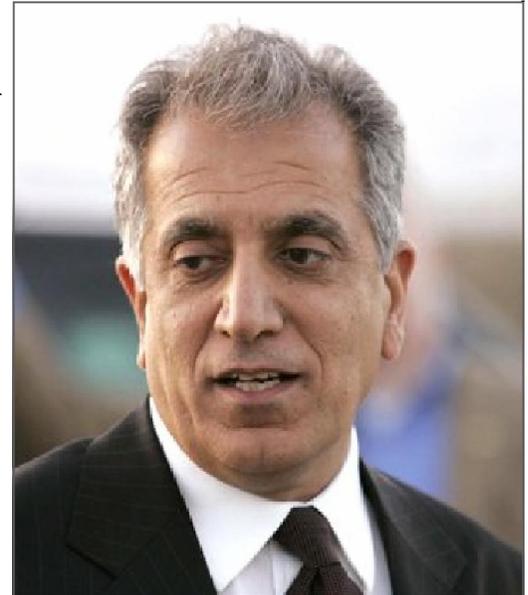
The council welcomed statements from the Syrian government that it has taken measures to control the border and called on Damascus to do more in that regard.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Zalmay Khalilzad told reporters in New York the statement sends "a strong message that Syria needs to do more ... to stop arms shipments across its border into Lebanon."

The Security Council's statement comes in the wake of claims by Hezbollah that it retains the military capacity to strike all parts of Israel.

A transcript (http://www.un.int/usa/07_188.htm) of Khalilzad's comments to reporters is available on the Web site of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

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Zalmay Khalilzad

Corporate Social Responsibility Seen as Smart Business . . .

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Whether companies actually carry out those human rights responsibilities is "a separate issue," said Ganesan, who also spoke on CSR at a July 18-20 State Department conference on human rights

Ganesan said CSR can work when a company puts human rights policies and procedures in its portfolio and is committed to carrying them out.

Ganesan will be one of a number of speakers at an October 23-26 CSR conference in San Francisco. Sev-

eral U.S. officials also are expected to attend the conference, which is sponsored by the group Business for Social Responsibility.

More information about the conference (<http://www.bsr.org/>) is available on the group's Web site.

A fact sheet (<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/2931.htm>) on the Voluntary Principles is available on the State Department Web site.

See more about child labor in the electronic journal Ending Abusive Child Labor ([\[usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/0505/ijee/ijee0505.htm#intro\]\(http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/0505/ijee/ijee0505.htm#intro\) \).](http://</p></div><div data-bbox=)

More information about RedEAmerica (<http://www.redeamerica.org/>) is available (in Spanish) on the network's Web site.

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Peace Corps Has Adapted to a Changing World, . . .

(Continued from page 7)

back, and we will return in September 2007," Tschetter said. "We will establish an exclusively HIV/AIDS program there, and we may eventually expand into other areas. We're greatly looking forward to serving the people of Ethiopia again."

Americans increasingly are aware of the need for greater engagement with the outside world, said Tschetter, and the Peace Corps has been attracting more and more volunteers. After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against New York and Washington, "our applications shot up, and they've stayed up," he said.

Tschetter stressed that the Peace Corps has a presence only in countries that invite it, and that the

agency is not part of the U.S. foreign policy apparatus.

"We don't report to the U.S. State Department; we report directly to the White House," he said. "It's important for us to present the real face of America to the countries we serve in."

For more information (<http://www.peacecorps.gov/>), see the Peace Corps Web site.

See also Volunteerism & Philanthropy (http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life_and_culture/volunteerism.html).

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U.N.-A.U. Hybrid Force in Darfur Must Deploy . . .

(Continued from page 4)

served in the AMIS force, and "[gave] their all in the service of peace -- some paying the ultimate price."

"We must now move forward, in all haste, to build on their work. We must put in place the complex and vital peacekeeping operation which you have authorized today," Ban said, calling on U.N. member states to "provide every support" to the Darfur mission.

State Department deputy spokesman Tom Casey said August 1 that the United States expects to pay "about a quarter of the costs of the hybrid force as part of our assessed contributions" to the existing AMIS force.

The Bush administration also will work with other NATO members to assess logistical support that can be provided, such as airlifting troops to Darfur, which NATO previously did for AMIS.

"We're also going to make sure that we continue to provide logistical and financial support to AMIS as we move through this transition period," Casey said.

Soon after Security Council Resolution 1769 was approved, the U.S. Senate passed Resolution 276 on July 31. It calls on President Bush to "work with Congress to ensure robust funding" for the hybrid peacekeeping force, and for its "urgent deployment."

The U.S. Congress had declared on July 22, 2004, that the atrocities in Darfur constituted genocide.

The full text (http://www.un.int/usa/07_184.htm) of Khalilzad's comments as prepared for delivery is available on the Web site of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

For more information on U.S. policy, see Darfur Humanitarian Emergency (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/darfur.html>).

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