



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

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## U.S. Program Supports Business Growth

### Bank Loans Assists Small, Medium-Sized Companies

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – Helping Ethiopia’s private sector businesses develop and expand is the goal of a program agreement signed on

Tuesday, October 11 between the United States, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and Ethiopia’s Dashen Bank. The

program is the third Development Credit Authority loan-guarantee program made possible by U.S. support, and it will allow Dashen Bank to

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U.S. Chargé, Ambassador Vicki Huddleston (right), U.S. Embassy's Acting DCM, Brian Moran (center), and President of Dashen Bank, Ato Lulseged Teferi at the signing ceremony.

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## Media Workshop for Print Journalists

The U.S. Embassy, in partnership with Unity University's School of Journalism and Communications, has sponsored a two-week workshop, *Media Ethics and Investigative Journalism in a Multi-Party Environment*, for reporters from both state and private newspapers. The program, which opened on Tuesday, October 4 and runs through this Thursday, has been led by Unity's Tegest Heruy, Dean of the School of Journalism and Communications,



The Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) Director, Yerusalem Ashenafi, talks with participants about using IRC resources.

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## U.S. Program Supports Business Growth . . .

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make loans to small- and medium-sized enterprises in the services, manufacturing, and agriculture sectors nationwide.

The signing ceremony was attended by U.S. Chargé, Ambassador Vicki Huddleston, and U.S. Embassy's Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, Brian Moran. The agreement was signed by USAID's Mission Director in Ethiopia, William Hammink, and by the President of Dashen Bank, Ato Lulseged Teferi.

The new program provides Dashen Bank with a 50% collateral substitute, guaranteed under the terms of the agreement up to a total of \$10 million (over 86 million birr),

for new small and medium borrowers. These loans are expected to leverage short- and medium-term credit estimated at an equivalent to Birr 86 million over five years and will especially help businesses

led by women and those benefiting from the experience and expertise of entrepreneurs returning from overseas. The program builds on the success of similar agreements, focusing on agribusiness and agri-

Development Credit programs are only a part of the wider U.S. support for promoting economic development in Ethiopia. The United States supports Ethiopia's Sustain-

able Development Poverty Reduction Program (SDPRP) by encouraging job creation through new private-sector-led economic growth initiatives, by partnering with Ethiopia and other donors to develop an integrated framework for trade-led poverty reduction, and by creating a strategy for increasing trade through policy reforms and trade and investment incentives. U.S. and Ethiopian partners are also working together to find ways to increase Ethio-



**Ambassador Vicki Huddleston cutting a cake at the ceremony. On the right is USAID's Mission Director in Ethiopia, William Hammink, and on the left State Minister of Trade & Industry Tadesse Haile.**

pia's participation in the African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA, building on that program's ability to provide duty-free access to U.S. markets. ♦

## Media Workshop for Print Journalists . . .

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and by U.S.-based journalist and trainer Timothy Spence (who was a 2003-4 Knight Fellow in Addis Ababa before taking up his current post as chief of the Horn of Africa service of the Voice of America). The twenty partici-

pants used both local and international case studies to examine how techniques of investigative reporting can be used to give audiences the information they need, and how that reporting is shaped by internationally accepted norms of balance and ob-

jectivity. In addition, they participated in both classroom and field exercises and learned more about resources available to them as reporters through the Embassy and other institutions. ♦

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# USAID Working Urgently to Further Africa's Economic Development

By Charles W. Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – The U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID's) Africa Bureau is working "in an urgent way" to help sub-Saharan Africa achieve its economic growth and development goals, in line with President Bush's strong commitment to the continent, USAID Assistant Administrator for Africa Lloyd O. Pierson said September 29.

In an interview at USAID headquarters in Washington, Pierson told the Washington File: "We are approaching what we do in terms of development in an urgent way. People need jobs ... education ... food ... good health ... a good quality of life. And our view is we want results -- we want to show that we can respond in a very prompt, timely way."

Pierson – a longtime Africa specialist and formerly chief of staff/chief of operations at the Peace Corps, who also has served as director of the Africa Division at the International Republican Institute (IRI) -- recalled that over his long career, in hundreds of African villages, he has heard people talking about what they wanted in their lives.

Their needs and wants, he said, are not any different from those voiced in town hall meetings throughout the United States. "What were they talking about?" he asked rhetorically. "Better health care ... education ... a better quality of life. The ability to grow their

crops and get them to market. And a government that works."

"People are people, wherever they are, and have many of the same demands, he said, while not-



**A young Congolese girl carries her little brother as she receives food aid for her family from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) at a camp in Bunia, Democratic Republic of Congo.**

ing that his bureau is working to help the people of Africa realize those demands.

## **BUSH ADMINISTRATION FOCUS ON AFRICA**

To illustrate President Bush's compassionate and humanitarian commitment to Africa, Pierson said, "I can talk to career people who have been here [in USAID] for a long time, and they will tell me the budget that this bureau manages for support to Africa has vir-

tually doubled in the past 10 years." (See U.S. Aid to Africa ([http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid\\_to\\_africa.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid_to_africa.html).)

In fiscal year (FY) 2005, under Pierson's direction, USAID's Africa Bureau managed more than \$1.4 billion in development assistance, child survival and health and Global AIDS Initiative funding in Africa. Twelve of the 15 focus countries under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) are in Africa, and USAID is one of the key implementing agencies in this initiative's response. (See AIDS in Africa ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/hiv\\_aids/aids\\_in\\_africa.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hiv_aids/aids_in_africa.html).)

USAID programs in Africa contribute directly to the priorities outlined in the joint State Department/USAID Strategic Plan for FY 2004-2009, particularly those that advance sustainable development and global interests.

The centerpieces of USAID's assistance to the subcontinent are the four presidential initiatives launched in FY 2002: the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA), the TRADE initiative (which is now being subsumed under a new Global Competitiveness Initiative), the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Initiative, and the Africa Education Initiative, as well as PEPFAR, launched in FY 2004. Other key elements of the program include the continuation of the African Anti-Corruption Ini-

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## USAID Working Urgently to Further Africa's Economic . . .

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tiative, the Conflict Initiative, and the Leland Initiative to increase access to information technology.

### **STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF AFRICA**

The Bush administration made renewed commitments to Africa at the recent meeting of the Group of Eight major industrialized democracies (the G8 -- France, United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada, and Russia) in Gleneagles, Scotland, and at the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum in Dakar, Senegal. "We are talking about addressing the issues in Africa ... malaria, famine, HIV/AIDS, economic development. That commitment is there," Pierson said.

Although it is "not an easy road," Pierson said, the Bush administration will "fight" for the continued dedication of resources to Africa, a continent he called "strategically important" to the United States.

He said that when the new assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Jendayi Frazer, addressed the USAID Africa Bureau recently at an "all hands" meeting, it reaffirmed how "closely" the various departments of the U.S. government are working, under the leadership of President Bush and with bipartisan support from Congress, to achieve results for the continent.

As part of that effort, Pierson called attention to the Africa Education Initiative (AEI), which is doubling from \$200 million to \$400 million over a four-year period to improve educational opportunities for millions of children

across sub-Saharan Africa, and to President Bush's African Global Competitiveness Initiative, the new trade initiative that has targeted \$200 million over a five-year period to improve the climate for private business in Africa and encourage the diversification of exports.

### **POSITIVE TRENDS**

Additionally, he said, meeting participants talked about the importance of peace, democracy and economic growth in Africa and all of the progress that already has been made.

"While there are issues that we are all addressing, there are also so many positive things that have occurred in Africa," he said. U.S. officials also focused on the importance of working with African regional organizations such as the African Union and NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development).

Reviewing the positive trends that have affected Africa, Pierson identified two factors that have had a major impact: the end of the Cold War and the end of apartheid in South Africa. For so many years, those two trends influenced everything that happened in Africa, he said.

### **FOCUSING ON AFRICA'S YOUNG**

Looking to the future, Pierson said his bureau plans to focus more and more on Africa's youth. "Traditionally, young people have grown up in a community. They have moms and dads and grandparents there and they have a culture and tradition that they have grown up with. ... One

of the biggest demographic changes in Africa is occurring with regard to youth.

"When you look at the projections over the next five years of 40 million AIDS orphans, ... an incredible number of Africans will be growing up without family connections." Added to that, he said, are "the numbers of kids growing up in guerrilla movements and the 'night children' in northern Uganda. ... These are kids that are growing up without any traditional culture."

Ways must be found, he said, through agri-business and other such ventures to increase the opportunity for these children, as they grow, to stay in the rural areas.

He also pointed to expectations that the Gulf of Guinea will generate more than \$200 billion in oil revenue in the next 10 years -- and warned that that "staggering number" opens the door to interesting dynamics involving wealth and conflict.

"If that amount of money is being generated in different countries, then how we work with those countries," he said, is of prime importance "to encourage them to use their own revenue to address their own development needs."

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

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## Senate Learns of U.S. Military Partnerships in Africa



**Marine General James Jones  
Commander of the EUCOM**

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The American military is more dedicated now than ever before to helping Africans deal with security concerns that threaten their stability and hard-won economic gains, says Marine General James Jones, commander of the U.S. European Command (EUCOM).

Jones told a September 28 hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee looking into the crisis in Sudan, that Africa remains a top priority for U.S. civilian and military policymakers because conflict, poverty, disease and terrorism on the continent "will continue to directly affect our homeland [American] security."

Economic ties with Africa also are growing, he added, and with "25 percent of [America's] oil coming from Africa in 10 years," security cooperation is more important now than ever. "Modest near-term investments will enable us to avert crises that may require

costly U.S. intervention in the future," he said.

The Marine, who is also supreme allied commander (SACEUR) of the 26-member NATO alliance, told the lawmakers that in Sudan, EUCOM, NATO and the European Union (EU) are cooperating on a humanitarian mission to provide airlift for 7,000 African Union (AU) peacekeepers, a number of whom will provide security for beleaguered refugees in the war-torn Darfur region.

In other sub-Saharan African nations, Jones said, EUCOM is working with the State Department "to assist the African Union and African regional organizations to develop their security structures." Security challenges in Africa range from protecting vulnerable fishing grounds and offshore oil platforms to countering al Qaeda-related terrorist operations in the Sahel region.

"The centerpiece of our efforts," Jones told lawmakers, is EUCOM's theater security cooperation (TSC) programs, which involve military training and education aimed at peacekeeping operations and managing military resources and infrastructure. They are focused on countries that "possess the capability and show the desire to lead Africa into the future."

The jewel in that crown in many respects is the African contingency operations training and assistance (ACOTA) program, which followed up on an earlier training partnership called the African crisis response initiative (ACRI). Since 1996, more than 12,000 African troops from 10 nations have been trained in peacekeeping operations

under the program.

Jones said the \$40 million ACOTA program got a boost recently when the White House chose it to be the leading training element in Africa in the Bush administration's Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), aimed at increasing the ability of foreign militaries to increase their "peace operations" skills.

Senate support for the popular training partnership was emphasized when the body re-authorized funding for ACOTA in 2005. "This committee finds that several years of experience with ACOTA and its predecessor, the African Crisis Response Initiative (ACRI), have confirmed their value," it stated.

Another ongoing EUCOM program Jones mentioned was the Tran-Sahara Counterterrorism Initiative (TSCTI). Again, that program builds on and expands a popular former security training partnership, the Pan Sahel Initiative (PSI) with Mali, Niger, Mauritania and Chad. The initiative had some success last year when a PSI force engaged the extremist Salafist Group for Call and Combat, capturing a key commander, Abderrazak al-Para.

Noting that TSCTI has been expanded to include Algeria, Morocco, Nigeria, Tunisia "and possibly Libya," Jones told lawmakers, "The overall approach is straightforward: build indigenous capacity and facilitate cooperation among governments in the region that are willing partners in the struggle with Islamic extremism in the Sahel region."

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## United States Wants Action, Not Words for Darfur

By Judy Aita  
Washington File Staff Writer

United Nations -- In an effort to emphasize that the Security Council must be more active in trying to improve security in Sudan's Darfur region, the United States blocked a briefing by a U.N. human rights envoy October 10.

"The real issue we should be talking about is the deteriorating security situation," U.S. Ambassador John Bolton told journalists after a closed council meeting during which the council was briefed on Darfur by Under Secretary-General Hedi Annabi.

Annabi told the council that the situation in Darfur has been deteriorating over the past six weeks. Following his briefing, the United States, China, Algeria and Russia prevented Juan Mendez, U. N. special adviser for the prevention of genocide, from conducting a separate briefing on his recent visit to Darfur.

"Why isn't the council talking more about steps it could take to do something about the deteriorating security situation? That's what the council should be talking about and not who's sitting in what chair," Bolton said. "How many officials from the secretariat does it take to give a briefing?"

"My concern with this briefing is that we don't simply react from incident to incident, but that the council try and look at the bigger picture and try to put a more effective, more comprehensive policy in place," Bolton said.

For example, the ambassador continued, "We have to consider

whether the sanctions that are in place are working or whether there are other steps the council should take, steps other than talking."

"We have got to decide if we're going to do something or sit around here hearing briefings and issue another press statement and wash our hands for another four to five months," another U.S. official said on the condition of anonymity.

Bolton also said that since he became the chief U.S. envoy to the United Nations, he has been trying to analyze how the Security Council deals with difficult situations such as Darfur and how the council "can most effectively contribute."

At a press conference, Mendez, the U.N. special adviser, said that during his September visit he found the situation "more dangerous and worrisome" than he expected, with renewed fighting, especially in north and south Darfur, and unprecedented indiscriminate attacks against civilians in two camps for internally displaced persons. "It's an escalation of violence against civilians," he explained.

"There hasn't been any move to disarm the Jingaweit, not even a plan," Mendez said. "No one even talks about Jingaweit any more. ... I don't have any doubt that a fighting force that has ties to the government of Sudan is still operating."

Unless the Jingaweit is disarmed, "we will be muddling through in ways that [make] new outbreaks of violence against civilians ... more likely than in the last six

months," the envoy said.

"International public opinion has not paid as much attention to Darfur as it should," he said, "and we have assumed the African Union [AU] is taking care of business. In a way, we are setting up the AU to an impossible task."

The situation in Darfur is stabilized "in a way that is unacceptable and now beginning to show signs of breaking up again," Mendez said. "So this is the moment we have to strengthen what the international community is doing."

Mendez recommended that the AU peacekeeping presence be strengthened and given more financial help. The international community must "stop paying lip service and put pressure on the government of Sudan" to allow the AU to fulfill its mandate and also to cooperate with the International Criminal Court [ICC]."

"I am convinced that the government of Sudan is saying they don't need the ICC and don't feel bound by the decisions of the Security Council."

Traveling in Geneva October 10, Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned that the increasing violence in Darfur may force the United Nations to suspend some aid operations.

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

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## FBI Now Aims to Thwart Terror, Not Just Gather Clues Afterward

By David Anthony Denny  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- In a world in which communications technology has flattened former barriers, the FBI is using those tools to battle crime and terror, its director says.

Robert Mueller, the 10th director of the FBI since its creation in 1908, told attendees at a recent training session in Edinburgh, Scotland, that the bureau is "creating our own 'flat world,'" both inside the FBI and in the intelligence and law enforcement communities.

He spoke on "Global Law Enforcement Partnerships: A New Way of Doing Business" September 27 during the National Academy Associates European Retraîner Conference.

"Before September 11, we collected intelligence to solve crimes," Mueller said. "Today, we are sharing information and working together every day to prevent crime, to prevent the next terrorist attack.

"We understand that we cannot afford to meet our international counterparts at crime scenes after the fact. We must work together to dismantle criminal enterprises and terrorist cells, destroy their financial networks, and disrupt their plans before they strike."

To illustrate the ways in which the FBI is doing these things, Mueller gave three sets of examples: international partnerships, joint international task forces and training initiatives.



**Robert Mueller**  
Director of the FBI

### INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The FBI uses its 52 legal attaché offices, based in U.S. embassies and consulates, to share information with foreign law enforcement and intelligence partners and assist with international investigations, Mueller said. He cited two recent examples:

-- On September 7, a notorious British fraud perpetrator was sentenced to life in prison for kidnapping, theft and deception. He had convinced his victims that he was a British MI5 spy conducting an undercover campaign against the Irish Republican Army, defrauding the victims of almost \$2 million during 10 years.

-- Also in September, a large operation against violent gang members in the United States and Central America resulted in more than 650 arrests. More than 6,000 government agents in five countries -- the United States, El Salva-

dor, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico -- took part.

### JOINT INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCES

Mueller said one of the most important ongoing partnerships of the FBI is the investigation of terrorist financing mechanisms. The FBI's Terrorist Financing Section has teamed up with Saudi Arabia's police and its monetary authority to identify people or groups that provide support to terrorists.

U.S.-Russia counterterrorism collaboration is close, he said. FBI and CIA agents work with their Russian counterparts "to monitor, prevent, and disrupt terrorist attacks both here and abroad."

Because a significant number of Web sites that market child pornography originate in Eastern Europe, Mueller said, the FBI formed the Innocent Images International Task Force, to share information and work cases jointly with -- among others -- Australia, Great Britain, Norway, Finland and several Eastern European countries.

### TRAINING INITIATIVES

Since 2001, the FBI has trained more than 20,000 law enforcement officers, intelligence analysts and state officials worldwide, Mueller said. In addition, the FBI offers specific training tailored to the needs of the international participants, including:

-- Police executives from Qatar

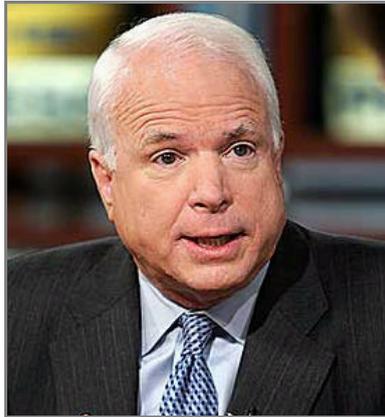
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## Senate Votes to Define, Limit Detainee Interrogation Process

By Alexandra Abboud  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. Senate voted October 5 to define and limit techniques used by U.S. troops to interrogate suspects detained in connection with terrorism, both in the United States and abroad.



Senator John McCain

"Confusion about the rules results in abuses in the field," said Senator John McCain, the Arizona Republican who sponsored the amendment, and who is a former Vietnam-era prisoner of war. "We need a clear, consistent standard," he told his colleagues as they prepared to vote on the measure.

In a 90-to-9 bipartisan vote, the

Senate passed an amendment that calls for specific and uniform interrogation standards for U.S. military personnel that prohibits its "cruel, inhumane or degrading" treatment of enemy combatants who are being held in U.S. facilities in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Iraq and elsewhere as part of the global war against terrorism. The amendment was attached to a large Senate appropriations bill funding the U.S. military. The Senate continued to work on the bill October 6.

Although the Senate overwhelmingly supported the amendment, Senate approval is only the first step in the final passage of the defense bill to which the amendment is attached. The Senate must complete action on its version of the bill. The bill also must be approved by the U.S. House of Representa-

tives. If the president vetoes the final product, the House and Senate each would need to override the veto by a two-thirds majority for it to become law.

The White House expressed concerns that this measure would hinder the effort against terrorism. On October 5 White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the amendment is "unnecessary and duplicative" because existing law prohibits abuse of prisoners. McClellan indicated that President Bush would likely veto the bill if the amendment were included because it limits "the president's ability as commander-in-chief to effectively carry out the war on terrorism."

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

## Senate Learns of U.S. Military Partnerships . . .

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### NATIONAL GUARD STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Jones touched on another innovative program EUCOM hopes will create close relationships with African militaries and their counterparts in the individual states and territories of the United States, called the National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP).

In America each of the 50 states

has its own National Guard military establishment, commanded by its governor. The units, consisting of part-time soldiers from the local communities, take time out from their civilian jobs to train on a regular basis. They might at times be federalized -- called up for duty by the president -- for natural disasters and other emergencies and for service overseas.

The EUCOM commander said, "The unique civil-military nature of the Guard allows it actively to par-

ticipate in a wide range of security cooperation activities" that can help "partner nations make the transition from authoritarian to democratic governments."

As well as providing training, and in some cases equipment, the military contacts forged between Africans and Americans under the State Partnership Program "build valuable, often lifelong relationships at all levels that serve to enhance cooperation and advance U.

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## Stories of Generosity, Compassion Abound in Hurricanes' Wake

By John Matel  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The story of Hurricane Katrina, which struck the Gulf Coast of the United States on August 29, is not just about destruction and loss but also about generosity, compassion and resilience.

The storm devastated around 240,000 square kilometers (about the size of the United Kingdom), and so recovery will take time. But throughout the destruction, the strength of society has been clear.

Volunteers from around the country and around the world, as well as donations of goods and money, have poured into the Gulf Coast region, which was hit by Hurricane Rita less than a month after Hurricane Katrina struck the area. The American Red Cross ([http://www.redcross.org/pressrelease/0,1077,0\\_314\\_4682,00.html](http://www.redcross.org/pressrelease/0,1077,0_314_4682,00.html)) has raised more than \$1.1 billion and expects to raise and spend about \$2 billion on Katrina relief efforts. It has deployed 176,000 relief workers to the region and to shelters in the many states that have taken in hurricane evacuees.

Web sites such as Charity Navigator (<http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm/bay/content.view/catid/68/cpid/310.htm>) list other charities also raising money for hurricane relief. The Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, headed by former presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, has raised more than \$100 million. Relief efforts are not just helping people: some charities are

focusing on saving the thousands of dogs and cats found by rescue workers and police sifting through the destruction and debris left by Hurricane Katrina.

money to help tribes affected by Katrina. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, for example, gave all of its casino profits and gasoline sales over a holiday weekend –



**President Bush poses for a photo with volunteers at a Habitat for Humanity building project in Covington, La., Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2005. Hurricane Katrina left an estimated 350,000 families homeless. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)**

U.S. federal workers have already given \$250,000 to aid hurricane victims even though the annual fund drive aimed at federal civilian, postal and military donors – the Combined Federal Campaign – has not yet begun.

In Montana, some 2,300 miles from hurricane-stricken Texas, the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre tribes on the Fort Belknap Reservation packed and shipped two tons of bison meat to evacuees and relief workers in Texas – a donation worth \$20,000.

Other Native American tribes around the country are raising

nearly \$444,000 – to the American Red Cross.

Private firms are doing their part. On October 5, more than 16,000 restaurants donated a portion of that day's proceeds to the American Red Cross to aid hurricane victims. "Dine for America" day was sponsored by the National Restaurant Association.

Home improvement centers stockpiled things they knew people would need after the storm passed - such as flashlights, batteries, tools and lumber. Many also guaranteed jobs to workers

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## Stories of Generosity, Compassion Abound in Hurricanes' Wakes . . .

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whose places of employment were destroyed. Firms quickly resumed their operations providing needed goods and services to the affected communities.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce (<http://www.uschamber.com/cccdisaster.htm>) and its Center for Corporate Citizenship set up a place where firms could coordinate donations and provide jobs to the displaced. Electrical power was restored to most areas within days of the storm and electrical cooperatives from around the country helped the stricken areas.

But some of the most rewarding help came from individuals, up close and very personal. Thousands of people from all over the U.S. opened their homes to strangers. Some of them got together through charities or friends, others through the Internet, where there are sites devoted to home stay registration.

Americans were also grateful for the help that reached them from other countries. Over 130 countries and more than a dozen inter-

national organizations have offered assistance. Among the donors were Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Sri Lanka, recently hit by their own natural disasters and still working with the United States on the aftermath of the tsunami.

October 2 marked the 12th and final NATO relief flight in support of Hurricane Katrina response and recovery efforts. The NATO flights included donated items such as cots from the Czech Republic, Austria and Slovakia, blankets from Norway and Denmark, first aid kits from Slovenia and Finland, towels from Greece, and tents from Romania, which were distributed in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

Although Hurricane Katrina was the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history, with estimates of privately insured damage range from \$40 billion to \$60 billion, it will probably reduce U.S. economic growth by only about a half a percentage point, according to a recent Congressional Budget Office (<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/66xx/doc6627/09-06-ImpactKatrina.pdf>) study. A sur-

vey by the National Association of Business Economists shows that its members expect a "solid expansion" of the economy. Even with the hurricane, they expect the economy to grow 3 percent to 4 percent. The United States is resilient and so is society.

The U.S. Gulf Coast is beginning to recover. The energy company Entergy reported that it has restored electricity to 36 percent of New Orleans customers and 99 percent of the customers in neighboring Jefferson Parish affected by Katrina, as well as 80 percent of customers affected by Rita. A special \$3.5 million fund, started with a \$1 million donation from Entergy, will help people pay for home repairs.

Most of the negative stories initially coming out of the disaster have proven to be exaggerations and the death toll turned out to be much lower than initially feared. According to recent press reports, the hurricane killed 972 people in Louisiana and 221 in Mississippi, which is about one-tenth of some early estimates. ♦

## FBI Now Aims to Thwart Terror . . .

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recently attended a two-week counterterrorism course at the FBI Academy.

-- In May, explosives experts from Russia's Federal Security Service trained with their FBI counterparts at the Hazardous Devices School in Alabama.

-- In 2004, FBI special agents

trained law enforcement officers from Kazakhstan in human trafficking, terrorist financing and public corruption investigations.

-- A new training program, "Leadership in Counterterrorism," combines the resources of the FBI, the Scottish Police College, and the Police College of Northern Ireland.

Mueller called these training ef-

forts "vital weapons in the war against global crime and terrorism."

The text (<http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/speeches/mueller092705.htm>) of Mueller's speech is available on the FBI Web site.

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo>.)*

## State Department Issues Update on U.S. Aid to Earthquake Victims

U.S. efforts to assist those affected by the 7.6-magnitude earthquake that struck South Asia October 8 were summarized by the Department of State in a fact sheet issued October 11.

The fact sheet, which includes details on assistance provided as of 4:30 p.m. EDT (2030 GMT) updates information initially released by the White House early on October 10. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/sa/Archive/2005/Oct/10-92226.html>).

The earthquake, which hit a remote region in northern Pakistan near Islamabad, Pakistan, is estimated to have killed at least 30,000 people. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng->

Office of the Spokesman  
October 11, 2005

### FACT SHEET

U.S Assistance for Earthquake in Pakistan

ment personnel. We continue to coordinate with the government of Pakistan to assess needs.

For the many Americans who will want to make private contributions to assist the victims of this disaster, we recommend that they contact the American Red Cross at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) (<http://www.redcross.org/>) or the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies at [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org) (<http://www.ifrc.org/>).

Following are details on the material assistance that has been provided as of 4:30 PM EDT, October 11.

Emergency Relief Supplies:

-- A C-17 and two C-130 arrived on October 10, carrying relief sup-



**U.S. and Pakistani army soldiers load relief goods onto a U.S. helicopter bound for earthquake-affected areas at Chaklala air base in Rawalpindi October 11, 2005.**

lish&y=2005&m=October&x=20051010142737TJkcolluB0.7701685&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html).

For additional information on the earthquake and its aftermath, see U.S. Response to Earthquake in South Asia ([http://usinfo.state.gov/sa/south\\_asia/earthquake.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/sa/south_asia/earthquake.html)).

Following is the State Department fact sheet:

(begin fact sheet)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The destruction and loss of life in Pakistan is massive, and the United States is responding rapidly and robustly. In response to the request of President Musharraf and the Government of Pakistan, the United States is providing an initial contribution of up to \$50 million for relief and reconstruction following the earthquake that struck on October 8. The Department of Defense is also providing additional assistance and capabilities. Pakistan's initial request includes emergency shelter, food, water and medical supplies, transportation assets, and emergency manage-

plies, a 10-ton forklift and two cargo handlers, as well as a humanitarian coordination team.

-- Two additional C-17s are scheduled to arrive in Pakistan by October 11 and other military relief missions will follow.

-- A IL-76 carrying initial USAID/OFDA relief supplies arrived in Islamabad on October 10, including 250 rolls of plastic sheeting-sufficient for approximately 2,500 families- 5,000 blankets, and 5,000 water containers.

(Continued on page 13)

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## State Department Issues Update on U.S. Aid . . .

*(Continued from page 12)*

-- USAID/OFDA in Washington committed \$1 million to be provided through the American Red Cross in response to a Preliminary Emergency Appeal issued by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. This was in addition to the \$100,000 announced yesterday by the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad.

-- A convoy of 16 trucks containing relief supplies is moving through Mansehra to Batagram.

### Transportation Assets:

-- Eight U.S. military helicopters (five CH-47 Chinooks and three UH-60 Blackhawks) arrived October 10 and completed 14 sorties on October 11, and several other sorties returned due to adverse weather conditions. The helos transported 223 passengers, more than 32,000 lbs. of supplies, and

evacuated 102 casualties to Islamabad. Some of the most severe damage from the earthquake has been sustained in remote areas not easily accessible by road.

-- Additional capabilities for damage assessment, heavy lift ground equipment, and medical support are being identified and dispatched from within the Central Command region.

Emergency Management Assistance:

-- The head of a nine-person Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) has arrived in Islamabad. The rest of the team will arrive on October 12. The team's mission is to assess humanitarian needs, assist with targeting and coordination of U.S. assistance, and provide technical assistance as needed.

-- Department of Defense an-

nounced on October 11 that Navy Rear Admiral Michael Lefever has been designated to coordinate the Humanitarian Coordination Center, in Islamabad.

-- A 23-member Contingency Support Group from MacGuire Air Force Base is en route and will be involved in planning and logistics support.

-- The United States Central Command will also be supplying capabilities for damage assessment to assist the Pakistani authorities.

(end fact sheet)

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## Senate Learns of U.S. Military Partnerships . . .

*(Continued from page 9)*

S. strategic interests," Jones told the Senate panel.

Most of EUCOM's SPP partnerships are with Eastern European countries, but two years ago the program was extended to Africa and formed the following matches: South Africa-New York; Morocco-Utah; Ghana-North Dakota; and Tunisia-Wyoming.

The program has proved so successful, Jones said, that "EUCOM is planning to seek funding to expand the program in Africa."

Jones' testimony (<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2005/JonesTestimony050928.pdf>) (PDF, 25 pages) is available on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Web site.

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

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## Bush Pleased with Increasing Security Role of Iraqi Forces

Washington -- President Bush said Iraqi forces are demonstrating "more and more capability to take the fight to the enemy," and praised the role of 3,000 Iraqi soldiers who have joined coalition troops in offensive operations against insurgents.

Speaking October 5 at the White House with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Lieutenant General David Petraeus, the former commander of Multinational Security and Transition Command-Iraq, Bush said he and his advisers "fully understand" that "insurgents and terrorists ... intend to disrupt the constitutional process ... as well as stop the progress of democracy."

To deal with that threat, the president said U.S. and coalition troops are staying on the offensive, and he expressed his pleasure that 3,000 Iraqi forces have joined the fight and are "making a difference on the battlefield."

White House press secretary Scott McClellan later compared the status of Iraqi troops from one year ago, saying that in 2004 "there were less than 50 Iraqi battalions in various states of readiness" versus the approximately 88 army battalions now fighting alongside coalition forces, including 30 that are taking the lead in operations in places like Karbala, Najaf and parts of Baghdad.

In his remarks, Bush thanked Petraeus, who until recently was helping train Iraqi forces, and said that the large numbers of Iraqi recruits only was part of the success.

proved. (See Iraq's Political Process ([http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/middle\\_east\\_north\\_africa/iraq/political\\_process.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/middle_east_north_africa/iraq/political_process.html))).



**President Bush addresses the media, Oct. 5, 2005, in the Rose Garden, flanked by Gen. David Petraeus, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.**

"We've got a quality control program in place to make sure that the troops we train are capable of taking the fight to the enemy," Bush said. "Over 30 percent of the Iraqi troops are in the lead on these offensive operations. We've got troops embedded with them and it's important for the training mission."

Besides progress in security, the president said the country is making progress on the political front with the drafting of Iraq's Constitution, the upcoming October 15 national referendum on the document and subsequent elections for a permanent government, assuming the constitution is ap-

"[D]emocracy is moving forward in a part of the world that is so desperate for democracy and so desperate for freedom," Bush said.

Earlier, press secretary McClellan welcomed the Iraqi National Assembly's decision to restore the original voting rules for the referendum on the constitution, which will allow the document to be vetoed if two-thirds of voters in at least three provinces vote against it, despite majority approval

nationwide.

The legislature previously had changed the interpretation of the rules to require two-thirds of registered voters in three provinces to vote against the document, regardless of the level of voter turnout.

"The Iraqi leaders found an Iraqi solution and we view it very positively," McClellan said.

Although emphasizing that the decision was taken solely by Iraqi leaders, McClellan said the Bush administration always has encouraged Iraqis to "take steps that are consistent with international standards and the transitional adminis-

*(Continued on page 20)*

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## U.N. Group Calls for Global Cooperation on Migration Policies

By Judy Aita  
Washington File United Nations  
Correspondent

United Nations -- The international community has yet to realize the full potential of the growing number of international migrants and has not met the challenges they represent, according to the report of the Global Commission on International Migration released October 5.

The report, *Migration in an interconnected world: New directions for action*, says that the number of migrants has increased from 75 million to more than 200 million in the past 30 years. Expansion in both the scale and scope of migration seems certain to continue for the foreseeable future and may well accelerate due to the growing developmental, geographic and democratic disparities that exist among regions of the world, the report said.

Migration makes a large but mainly unrecognized contribution to the global economy, the report said. And continued expansion of the economy depends on human mobility. In developing countries, for example, the remittances (money transfers) that migrants send to families back home amount to some \$150 billion a year, three times the value of official development assistance. Experts estimate that another \$300 billion in remittances are transferred informally.

Over the past 30 years the proportion of foreign-born residents living in developed countries has increased, with about 60 percent of migrants now living in the world's more prosperous coun-

tries. Nevertheless, large numbers of people do move from one developing country to another, the report noted. According to U.N. statistics, Asia has about 49 million migrants, Africa 16 million and the Latin American and Caribbean region 6 million.

The United States has some 35 million, 20 percent of the world's migrants, the report said. The other major host countries are: Russia with some 13.3 million or 7.6 percent of the world's migrants; Germany with 7.3 million (4.2 percent); Ukraine with 6.9 million (4 percent) and India with 6.3 million (3.6 percent).

"In the 21st century one of our most important challenges is to find ways to manage migration for the benefit of all -- of sending countries, receiving countries, transit countries, and migrants themselves. I agree with the commission that we are not rising to this challenge yet," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said at the release of the report.

The starting point must be "respect for the human rights of migrants themselves" Annan said. Effective migration policy needs to be linked to sound policies on development, trade, aid and security as well, he said.

The secretary-general called for the establishment of the Global Commission in 2003 and challenged the group of 19 commissioners to provide tools that states and other participants could use to address the issue of international migration in a more effective and comprehensive manner.

Jan Karlsson, Sweden's former

minister for migration and development and co-chair of the Global Commission, reported a need for greater coherence, cooperation and capacity in forming and implementing migration policies at national, regional and global levels.

"The commission has concluded that an inherently transnational issue such as migration cannot possibly be addressed by national policies alone," he said. "We believe that the time is now right to strengthen regional and global approaches, while recognizing the right of sovereign states to control their borders and to protect their national security."

The commission is not calling for the creation of new organizations or conventions, but rather better coordination between existing institutions, more efficient use of resources, greater pooling of expertise, and a more integrated approach to policy, Karlsson said.

Mamphela Ramphela, former managing director of the World Bank and co-chair of the commission, said the group had concluded that migration policies at the national, regional and global levels should be guided by six principles for action.

The commission's six principles are:

- Those who immigrate should be able to do so out of choice rather than necessity and do so in a safe and authorized manner because their skills are valued and needed;
- The role of migrants in promoting development and reducing poverty must be recognized and reinforced;

*(Continued on page 16)*

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## Rice Congratulates El Baradei, IAEA on Nobel Peace Prize

Washington -- The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded its 2005 peace prize jointly on October 7 to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its director-general, Mohamed ElBaradei, for efforts to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons and associated technology.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice quickly offered her congratulations October 7 to the Egyptian-born director-general and the Vienna-based international organization. The secretary said the United States "is committed to working with the IAEA to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons technology."

In acknowledging the prestigious honor, Rice cited the committee's language in conveying the prize: "At a time when ... there is a danger that nuclear arms will spread both to states and to terrorist groups, and when nuclear power again appears to be playing an increasingly significant role, [the] IAEA's work is of incalculable importance."

The White House also extended its congratulations October 7, with



Mohamed ElBaradei

press secretary Scott McClellan welcoming the committee's focus on the need to halt nuclear weapons proliferation. "The committee recognized the importance of stopping the spread of nuclear weapons," he said, adding, "that has been a high priority for this administration, and we've taken steps to strengthen the agency in that regard."

As the largest financial contributor to the IAEA, the United States strongly supports its nonproliferation efforts as well as measures taken to strengthen the IAEA, McClellan said. Some of those

steps include "efforts to have states sign the [IAEA's] Additional Protocol [on Nuclear Safeguards] which would greatly expand their [inspectors] tools to detect clandestine nuclear activities," he said.

Speaking during an informal gathering with White House reporters soon after the news of the award was announced, McClellan said U.S. officials are looking forward to continuing to work with ElBaradei "to meet the dangers posed by proliferation, including the threats posed by North Korea and Iran's nuclear programs."

For additional information on U.S. policy, see Arms Control and Non-Proliferation ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/arms\\_control.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/arms_control.html)).

More information on the IAEA (<http://www.iaea.org/>) is available on the agency's Web site.

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## U.N. Group Calls for Global Cooperation . . .

*(Continued from page 15)*

- States should fulfill their responsibility and obligation to protect the rights of migrants and re-admit those citizens who return to their country of origin;
- Migrants should be integrated effectively in the societies where they settle to accommodate social

diversity and foster social cohesion;

- Protection and labor standards available to migrants should be implemented and improved; and
- Migration policies should be enhanced by improved coherence, strengthened capacity and greater cooperation.

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

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## Bird Flu Concerns Take U.S. Health Secretary to Asia

By Charlene Porter  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt is getting an on-the-ground look at the steps Asian nations are taking to control bird flu as he visits Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

Leavitt will visit facilities such as poultry farms, markets, agricultural districts and medical laboratories, according to a Washington-based spokesman, to see the environments where avian influenza has flourished since December 2003.

A highly pathogenic form of avian influenza – H5N1 – has been confirmed in 11 nations and has caused the deaths of more than 150 million birds.

Humans also have been infected in almost 120 cases confirmed by the World Health Organization (WHO) so far, and more infections are expected. Sixty of those cases have proved fatal.

Leavitt and other global health leaders warn that this infectious strain of bird flu could set off a global pandemic, causing the deaths of millions.

That outcome would depend on whether H5N1 mutates to become a disease easily transmitted among humans. So far, most patients have been exposed to the disease through direct contact with infected birds.

H5N1 has proved lethal in its own right, but epidemiologists have further reason to believe that a global disease outbreak is looming. Flu epidemics come in cycles, with three in the last century in 1918-1919, 1957-1958 and 1968-1969.



**U.S. Health Secretary Michael Leavitt tours a commercial poultry farm in Saraburi province, about 120 east of Bangkok, on October 11, 2005.**

“The likelihood of another is very high, some say even certain,” Leavitt said October 11 in Bangkok briefing after meeting with Thai officials.

WHO Director General Dr. Lee Jong-wook and U.S. Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky are accompanying Leavitt on this trip.

### LEAVITT’S MISSION

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one of the agencies with the Department of Health and Human Services, is involved in a partnership with the

Thai Ministry of Public Health to operate an International Emerging Infections Program that is conducting disease surveillance in Thailand to track the movement of bird flu.

Leavitt is visiting that program on this tour. In all four nations he will meet with ministers of health, and in some countries he will also meet with ministers of agriculture and heads of state, in what Washington-based spokeswoman Christina Pearson describes as a relationship-building tour.

Leavitt’s trip began just days after the United States on October 7 hosted the first meeting of some 80 nations joined in an International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza.

President Bush announced formation of the partnership at the U.N. General Assembly in September. A senior State Department official said the partnership meetings focused on three primary topics:

Prevention -- Limiting the spread of the disease and reducing the risk to humans;

Response and containment -- Planning rapid action at the first sign of sustained human transmission; and

Preparedness and planning -- Developing national plans for action in the event of outbreaks. (See re-

*(Continued on page 20)*

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## Chronic Disease Is a Global Epidemic, New WHO Report Says

A new World Health Organization (WHO) report says global action to prevent chronic disease could save the lives of 36 million people who would otherwise be dead by 2015.

According to an October 3 WHO press release, chronic diseases are by far the leading cause of death in the world and their impact is growing steadily.

The report, *Preventing Chronic Diseases: A Vital Investment*, projects that about 17 million people die prematurely each year as a result of the global epidemic of chronic disease. Such diseases include heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes.

"This is a very serious situation, both for public health and for the societies and economies affected, and the toll is projected to increase," said WHO Director-General Dr. Lee Jong-wook.

"The cost of inaction is clear and unacceptable," he added. "It is vital that countries review and implement the health actions we know will reduce premature death from chronic diseases."

The largely invisible epidemic is worst in low- and middle-income

countries, where 80 percent of chronic disease deaths occur.

Most cases of chronic diseases are caused by a small number of known, preventable risk factors. Three of the most important are unhealthful diet, physical inactivity and tobacco use.

Globally, according to WHO, such risk factors are increasing as dietary habits change to foods high in fats and sugars, and people's work and living situations make them much less physically active.

One billion people globally are overweight or obese, and WHO predicts that will rise beyond 1.5 billion by 2015 without immediate action.

The report details the latest findings from nine countries – Brazil, Canada, China, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, the United Kingdom and Tanzania.

The report also provides new projections for the economic impact of chronic diseases. For example, China, India and the Russian Federation could forgo billions of dollars in national income over the next 10 years because of chronic diseases.

In the report, WHO proposes a new global goal: reduce the projected trend of chronic disease death rates by 2 percent each year until 2015 to prevent 36 million people from dying of chronic diseases in the next 10 years, nearly half before they turn 70.

The report examines evidence-based knowledge about inexpensive, cost-effective measures that can produce rapid health gains and for which benefits far outweigh costs. Examples include salt reduction in processed foods, improved school meals and taxation of tobacco products.

The report ([http://www.who.int/chp/chronic\\_disease\\_report/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/chp/chronic_disease_report/en/index.html)) is available on the WHO Web site.

Information on chronic diseases ([http://www.who.int/topics/chronic\\_disease/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/topics/chronic_disease/en/index.html)) is also available on the WHO Web site.

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## Malaria Considered an Ongoing Public Health Problem in Americas

By Eric Green  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Malaria remains a public health problem in the Americas despite an overall reduction in recent years in malaria cases around the region, says the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

In a September 30 statement, PAHO said an estimated 40 million people in the region live in areas of moderate and high risk of contracting malaria. About 1 million cases of malaria in the Americas have been reported annually since 1997, said PAHO. Malaria is an infectious disease transmitted to humans by the bite of infected mosquitoes, and continues to be endemic in countries with tropical climates. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/May/05-289362.html>).

PAHO's findings were made in a 20-page report presented at a September 26-30 conference in Washington of health ministers of the Americas. The report, *Malaria and the Internationally Agreed-Upon Development Goals, Including Those Contained in the [U.N.] Millennium Declaration* (<http://www.paho.org/english/gov/cd/CD46-17-e.pdf>), (PDF, 20 pages) is available on the PAHO Web site.

PAHO said that despite the reduction in the overall incidence of malaria, the disease "still constitutes a public health problem" in the Americas, "with a disparity in the outcome of efforts in different countries related to a number of factors."

Among those factors are varia-

tions in ecological conditions, diagnostic and treatment coverage, and weaknesses in national health systems of various countries in the Western Hemisphere.

The PAHO report said that of the 865 million people in the Americas, about 250 million live in areas at "ecological risk" of malaria transmission.

The report said that of 21 countries in the Americas where malaria is endemic, 15 reported decreases in the numbers of cases of the disease between 2000 and 2004. However, PAHO said six countries reported increases of malaria cases: Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has been a leader in the global effort to control malaria since the 1950s, and is the U.S. government's lead agency for implementing malaria prevention and treatment programs in affected countries around the world. Between 1998 and 2005, USAID increased its annual commitment to fighting malaria around the world from \$22 million to \$89 million.

USAID in 2001 launched a five-year program called the "Amazon Malaria Initiative" (AMI) to prevent the spread of malaria in the Amazon Basin region of Latin America. The program complements ongoing USAID mission bilateral programs in Latin America and has a budget of about \$2 million per year. The AMI involves eight target countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

The program was launched, according to USAID, in recognition of the fact that "there is little control over population migration between countries in the Amazon region," and diseases such as malaria "do not respect borders." More information ([http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/global\\_health/id/malaria/techareas/amazon\\_resistant.html](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/id/malaria/techareas/amazon_resistant.html)) about the AMI is available on USAID's Web site.

Among those speaking at the PAHO conference were Randall Tobias, coordinator of the U.S. Global AIDS program, and Michael Leavitt, U.S. secretary of health and human services. Tobias confined his remarks at the conference to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, saying that more than 3 million people in the Western Hemisphere are living with HIV/AIDS, including about 340,000 people who became infected in 2004.

Leavitt touched on the threat of a potential worldwide influenza pandemic, noting that the threat prompted President Bush to launch the International Partnership for Avian and Pandemic Influenza on September 14. For more information about the partnership see a State Department fact sheet (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2005&m=September&x=20050922140802cmretrop0.6551477&t=xarchives/xarchitem.html>) and the related article, "U.S. Launches International Partnership To Fight Bird Flu" (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Sep/15-86476.html>).

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## Bush Pleased with Increasing Security Role . . .

*(Continued from page 14)*  
trative law."

"[T]hey should encourage broader political participation and the vote today does that and we think that's positive," he said.

McClellan said later that the United States sees the draft constitution as being a "strong" document.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said Iraqis are currently engaged in "a healthy political debate about their future and ... what political institutions, what laws, what political documents are going to govern them."

Encouraging the "broadest possible participation," McCormack welcomed the participation of Sunnis and all Iraqi groups in the political process, and said an increasing num-

ber have shown their desire to participate.

"We think that that's positive. This is a young democracy. They are just getting started. And what they deserve and what they need is our support," he said.

For additional information, see Iraq Update ([http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/middle\\_east\\_north\\_africa/iraq.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/middle_east_north_africa/iraq.html)).

A transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/10/20051005-1.html>) of the president's remarks is available on the White House Web site.

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## Bird Flu Concerns Take U.S. Health Secretary to Asia . . .

*(Continued from page 17)*  
lated article. (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Oct/08-60246.html>)

### DISEASE REPORTS IN EUROPE

This almost two-year-old outbreak of avian influenza began in Southeast Asia. It moved into Central Asia in August with reports of disease in Kazakhstan and Russia.

Now, Turkey and Romania report sickness in birds that appears to be avian influenza, though official laboratory confirmation is still in process.

In western Turkey, 1,700 domestic birds succumbed to illness, according to a report submitted to the World Organisation for Animal

Health (OIE).

Authorities have followed up with roadblocks around the village involved, according to press reports, as tests are conducted to identify the pathogen.

From eastern Romania near the Black Sea comes another report of avian flu among 100 ducks and hens on a single farm, though H5N1 is not confirmed.

Romania reports to the OIE that it has undertaken various approaches to control the outbreak, including quarantine, disinfection of the scene and screening of birds.

Romania also reports that wild birds are suspected as the source of infection.

When Russia confirmed avian influenza in August with 120,000 birds dead or destroyed, likelihood was raised that the virus could follow migratory bird routes into the Balkans and the rest of Europe. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Sep/02-911688.html>).

For more information, see Bird Flu ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/bird\\_flu.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/bird_flu.html)).

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