



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

U.S. Government Donates Over U.S. \$1.1 Million Worth of Equipment, Supplies, and Drugs for HIV/AIDS

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) -- The United States Government (USG), through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR),

has donated equipment, supplies, and drugs worth over U.S. \$1.1 (over 9.9 Million Birr) for HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment to the Ethiopian

Federal Ministry of Health (MOH).

At a ceremony held on August 2, 2006, Dr. Kebede Worku, State Minister of Health, received the donation on behalf of the Ministry of Health from the Country Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office in Ethiopia, Dr. Tadesse Wuhib. The donation includes diagnostic laboratory machines, microscopes, sterilizers, water distillers, centrifuges, incubators, drugs, and computers and office equipment.

The materials were pro-

(Continued on page 2)



CDC Ethiopia Director Dr. Tadesse Wuhib (right) hands over one of the donated equipment to State Minister Dr. Kebede Worku.

Africa Center for Strategic Studies Opens Annex in Ethiopia

By Rachel J. King
Washington File Staff
Writer

Washington -- The Africa Center for Strategic Studies hopes to strengthen U.S. security interests and missions in Ethiopia when it opens its first annex at the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa in September.

The Africa Center, based in Washington, is one of five U.S. Department of Defense regional centers for security studies. It works in support of the U.S. Department of Defense and other U.S. agencies to counter ideological support of terrorism, foster regional collaboration and cooperation on security matters

and strengthen defense establishments in Africa. It also works to promote long-term, mutually beneficial relationships between the United States and African nations through consultations and seminars.

The Addis Ababa annex's primary function will be

(Continued on page 7)

INSIDE

African issues

USAID Helping To Expand Ethiopia's Agricultural Exports (P 2)

World Bank President Cites Economic Progress in Africa (P 3)

State Department Commends "Historic" Congolese Elections (P 4)

U.S. Delegation Tracks Democratic Process in Seychelles Election (P 5)

American news

International Charities Attract Donations Through Internet (P 6)

Congress Moves To Change Foreign Investment Review Process (P 8)

international issues

United States Lauds U.N. Action on Iran's Nuclear Programs (P 9)

Comprehensive Strategy Required To Thwart Nuclear Terrorism (P 10)

Leadership Exchange Program for Iraqi Students Announced (P 11)

One Laptop per Child Association Aims To Revolutionize Education (P 12)

Middle east crisis

Bush Outlines Effort To Resolve Middle East Crisis (P 14)

Rice Says Settlement of Israel-Hizbullah Conflict Taking Form (P 16)

Security Council Deplores Lebanese Deaths (P 18)

Rice Sees Lebanese Statement a Positive Step (P 19)

U.S., U.K. Leaders Say Peacekeeper Needed in Lebanon "Quickly" (P 20)

U.S. Assistance Reaches South Lebanon (P 21)

health issues

Malaria Costly for Businesses in sub-Saharan Africa (P 23)

HIV Can Hide in Tissue, Eluding Treatment, Research Finds (P 24)

Medications for Pediatric AIDS Work Like "Magic," Experts Say (P 25)

U.S. Government Donates Over U.S. \$1.1 Million . . .

(Continued from page 1)

vided to strengthen the national program of anti-retroviral treatment (ART) that currently treats 41,000 HIV-positive individuals through MOH-PEPFAR collaboration. They will be used for the diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) services, and to support monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS programs at the national level. The drugs, equipment, and supplies will be delivered to hospitals and laboratories currently implementing these programs across Ethiopia.

Under PEPFAR, the U.S. Government collaborates with Ethiopian Ministry of Health and local and international civil society organiza-

tions, universities, and private sector institutions for HIV/AIDS pre-



vention, care, and treatment. PEPFAR's goal for Ethiopia is to provide (by 2008) treatment to 210,000 people with HIV/AIDS, to render care and support services to 1.05 million people, and to prevent the occurrence of 550,000 new HIV infections in order to turn the tide of the HIV/

AIDS pandemic in Ethiopia. Over the past three years, the U.S. Government has provided 2 Billion Birr under PEPFAR for this effort.♦



Some of the donated equipment

USAID Helping To Expand Ethiopia's Agricultural Exports

In Ziway, Ethiopia, a few dozen women and children pick fresh green beans in mid-afternoon, occasionally munching on them. They fill their baskets, weigh them and pour the contents into plastic crates that are hauled away by tractor to a nearby farm.

There the beans are graded, packed and shipped to the airport in Ethiopia's capital city of Addis Ababa. In a few days, a European grocery shopper will be able to purchase fresh Ethiopian green beans.

Farmers in Ziway once worked independently on small plots, selling their produce locally for a few cents a kilo. Meanwhile, an ex-

porter, Ethioflora Horticulture Farm, was losing potential sales because it could not produce all the beans export markets demanded.

That changed when a \$1.1 million project of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) began helping farmers organize into cooperatives, improve irrigation and produce high-quality beans to sell to Ethioflora at four times local market prices.

Now that the program is increasing production on small farms, Ethioflora has expanded sales in Europe and successfully lobbied the Ethiopian government to allow more cargo flights.

"We had a lot of problems before these linkages were made," says Ethioflora manager Mulugeta Abebe. "The farmers were not coordinating ... they needed to learn how to cultivate and use irrigation. All of these things were not possible to do before."

Ayu Deme's life has changed since she joined the Dodicha Vegetable Cooperative. In 2004, the cooperative began supplying green beans to Ethioflora at a significant profit. Ayu can now send her older children to school, buy clothes for the family and purchase oxen.

Helping improve livelihoods for rul

(Continued on page 13)

World Bank President Cites Economic Progress in Africa

By Elizabeth Kelleher
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Paul Wolfowitz, president of the World Bank, said African countries are turning a corner in their efforts to fight poverty and disease.

Having returned from an eight-country trip through sub-Saharan Africa one week earlier, Wolfowitz spoke July 31 to an audience at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative research organization in Washington.

Citing progress made in East Asia, Wolfowitz predicted that Africa too would succeed at improving people's health and economic well-being. He rejected a view that a country's culture could stop economic progress, saying that, as recently as the 1960s, written accounts depicted South Korea as a hopeless mess and argued that cultural views -- "oriental fatalism" and a belief that manual work is unsavory -- would keep it that way.

"But government policy can trump culture," Wolfowitz said. He said the two main messages that other countries should take from progress in South Korea are that educational attainment and a good business environment will turn a difficult situation around.

He said a turnaround is beginning in Africa, although big problems remain: the number of people in extreme poverty, or living on less than \$1 a day, has reached 300 million in sub-Saharan Africa, more than double the level 20 years ago. Nearly two-thirds of people who have AIDS live in sub-Saharan Africa, and 90 percent of the world's annual 3,000 malaria

deaths occur there. One-third of boys and one-half of girls do not complete grammar school on the subcontinent, he said.

But Wolfowitz said he did not see Africa as a hopeless case and said he found "energy and ambition among ordinary Africans." He cited annual economic expansion of 4 percent or better for 15 African countries. (The leaders, Rwanda and Mozambique, grew 8 percent and 10 percent, respectively.)

A new attitude at the World Bank and other organizations aiding African countries expects business-friendly reforms in exchange for grants, Wolfowitz said, quoting British Prime Minister Tony Blair's quip that he expects "a deal for a deal."

Wolfowitz said African leaders need to improve the convenience and cost of starting a business. Wolfowitz said it typically takes 64 days to launch a company in Africa and only 2 days in Australia. He said it costs twice as much to pay for a business license in most African countries as it costs in Australia.

If business innovation is prohibitively costly, people tend to work outside of a country's formal economy, which makes it hard for them to export goods or for their governments to gain tax revenue, Wolfowitz said.

The World Bank publishes Doing Business reports on 155 economies, including 37 from Africa, in which rankings are given to countries for their business-friendly laws. Wolfowitz said much can be accomplished just by putting the facts in front of government lead-

ers and bureaucrats. For instance, he said that, since Burkina Faso's president read the Doing Business chapter on his country, he has made it easier to register a business there. Wolfowitz met a Burkina entrepreneur who started a cell phone company that signed a million customers in less than five years.

In Rwanda, where conflict resulted in nearly a million people slaughtered in 1994, Wolfowitz said, there is now a government investing in its people and changing rules to encourage start-up businesses. He met a U.S. businesswoman there who started a flower farm that exports to Europe. She told him she grows "beautiful flowers on the ashes of genocide," Wolfowitz said.

Wolfowitz also pointed to the election in Liberia of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a woman running on a platform to end corruption. "Monrovia [Liberia's capital] last week got water and electricity for the first time in 15 years," Wolfowitz said.

When a country improves the quality of its governance, Wolfowitz said, the per capita income of the people triples over time. "Africans are taking politics seriously," he said.

The World Bank's Doing Business (<http://www.doingbusiness.org/>) reports are available on its 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>)

State Department Commends "Historic" Congolese Elections

By Stephen Kaufman
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The Bush administration commended the Congolese people for the conduct of the country's July 30 presidential and parliamentary elections, saying the vote is "a testament to the will of the Congolese people to develop their democratic institutions."

In a statement released July 31, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack described the elec-

tions in the Democratic Republic of Congo as "historic," being the "first open national elections held since 1960" when the country's former dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko, came to power.

"Despite enormous logistical challenges and threats of intimidation in parts of the country, initial reports were that the voting process was peaceful with few reported problems," he said, adding that voter turnout was even higher than for the December 18, 2005, referendum in which the country approved a new constitution.

"The United States congratulates the Democratic Republic of Congo on this important step towards building a prosperous and peaceful democracy," McCormack said.

A team of U.S. officials led by Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer participated as observers in an election that included 33 presidential candidates and 9,000 parliamentary candidates, and represented more than 200 registered political parties. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/archives/display.html?p=washfile>

enlish&y=2006&m=July&x=200607251645241EJrehsiF9.812564e-02.)

Despite some reports of isolated violence, European Union election observers said July 31 that the elections were proceeding in a free and democratic manner. The United Nations reported that 80 percent of the country's 25 million registered voters participated.

Final results to declare the country's next president and the 500-member parliament are not expected for weeks, according to press reports.

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ment of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>◆



A Congolese election official writes the election results on a blackboard as ballot counting continues through the night at College Alfajire polling station in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo's Bukavu town July 30, 2006. Reuters]

U.S. Delegation Tracks Democratic Process in Seychelles Election

By Tanya Salseth Feau
Washington File Special Correspondent

Victoria, Seychelles -- A top U.S. Embassy official is leading a delegation of five representatives of the United States to observe the 2006 Seychelles presidential election on July 28 – 30.

The American observers have been in the Indian Ocean nation since July 20 to meet with electoral officials and representatives from the three political parties on the ballot, as well as observe political rallies and the overall electoral environment.

"We are pleased to see the Republic of Seychelles conducting another presidential election as scheduled. The United States is interested in supporting democracy, and the upcoming election is an example of how the democratic process can work," said interim U.S. Chargé d'Affaires for Seychelles Charles Twining, who is heading the American delegation.

"By observing the election," Twining said, "we and others expect to be able to appreciate the degree to which Seychelles has perfected the election process to ensure free and fair elections for all their people."

During the three days of voting, American observers are visiting polling stations to observe all aspects of the voting process, including the counting of ballots and the official announcement of the final polling results, which is ex-

pected several hours after the polls close on July 30.

The current contest for the Seychelles presidency is between the incumbent, President James Michel of the Seychelles' People's Progressive Front (SPPF), and opposition leader Wavel Ramkalawan of the Seychelles National Party (SNP). Independent candidate Philippe Boulé, who earned less than 1



Presidential election posters from Seychelles' two major political parties. (U.S. Embassy Port Louis) photo - Tanya Salseth-Feau

percent of the vote in the 2001 presidential election, is also on the ballot.

As there is currently no clear favorite between the two main presidential candidates, there has been some talk of a possible second round or a contested result. In that case, said Twining, "we will make the best judgment possible as to how we saw the election and expect the Seychelles government to follow its normal processes in adjudicating any problems, as any democracy would do."

"Our two countries are friends," he added, "we know we can count

upon the Seychelles to carry out the election in a free and transparent manner, and that the results will be respected by all sides, whether as a winner or loser."

The American team is one of four international observer teams currently in the country to monitor the election. Representatives from the Commonwealth of Nations, la Francophonie (an international organization of French-speaking countries and governments), and the South African Development Community (SADC) also have been invited to observe, ensuring that nearly all of the country's 25 polling stations will have an international observer present on Election Day.

The United States has enjoyed friendly relations with the Seychelles since 1963, when the U.S. Air Force Tracking Station was built and put into operation on the island of Mahé. U.S. Peace Corps volunteers served in Seychelles between 1974 and 1995, and a U.S. Consulate was opened in May 1976, shortly before the country received its independence. Although the Air Force Tracking Station officially closed in September 1996, the U.S. Consulate continues to provide services to residents of the island nation.

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

International Charities Attract Donations Through Internet

By Elizabeth Kelleher
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Overseas giving by Americans is on the rise, charities say, as people focus on the plights of victims of military conflicts and natural disasters in other countries and as fund-raisers use the power of the Internet.

While less than 1 percent of Americans donate money internationally, said Heather Simpson, an executive director of the Atlanta-based humanitarian organization CARE USA, there has been "an awakening of the U.S. population to global issues and what they can do to make a difference."

According to the Hudson Institute, a Washington policy research entity, U.S. charities gave \$5.7 billion in overseas aid in 2004, the latest year for which data are available. Volunteer time devoted to overseas projects added another \$4 billion, and overseas giving by religious organizations, \$4.5 billion.

These aid dollars come from individuals and foundations donating to organizations like CARE, which after World War II began to send food to Europe and now works in 70 countries to boost small businesses, help AIDS/HIV patients, solve water issues and improve education.

Simpson pointed to education as a major recipient of Americans' growing generosity. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, she said, people began to understand what life was like for an Afghan woman: Donors wanted to help girls go to school. CARE, having educated girls secretly in Afghanistan during Taliban rule, was in a position to attract their

donations. "Over the last five years, we have seen a steady increase in supporters," Simpson said.

Save the Children, a Connecticut-based international relief and development organization, raised \$100 million after the December 2004 South Asian tsunami. "We are raising more money from the private side [as opposed to government grants] than in the past," said Michael Kiernan, the charity's spokesman. Two recent gifts, together, equal the annual revenue of the organization six years ago, he said.

Save the Children uses the money to feed malnourished children; it distributes a conveniently packaged nutritional product, called "Plumpy 'Nut," to mothers in Africa, helping them revive starving children without having to take the children to hard-to-reach treatment centers.

Recent donations to the organization also will help newborns. (Two million infants die each year during the first 24-hours of life.) To combat hypothermia, a dangerous drop in body temperature that can put infants at risk of death, the charity donates knit caps to the babies and teaches mothers to carry newborns skin-to-skin.

It also teaches midwives to use sterile instruments. In rural areas of Bolivia, Kiernan said, a piece of pottery is broken when a baby is born and used to cut the umbilical cord; "We convinced them to boil [the broken pottery] first."

WORLD WIDE (DONATION) WEB
During the immediate aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami, a Web site called Network for Good received 1,300 donations per hour.

The Chronicle of Philanthropy reports online giving is on a steep climb. Electronic gifts reached \$908 million in 2005 for 162 charities it surveys, a 150 percent increase from the year before. The publication says "staggering sums of money" were donated to aid tsunami survivors alone.

"It's impulse giving," said Katya Andresen of Network for Good, an Internet site that features thousands of charities and was started by high-tech executives who believe it should be as easy to give online as it is to shop.

During the immediate aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami, Network for Good received 1,300 donations per hour.

When potential donors see heart-wrenching footage of a disaster on television, they have a strong, but fleeting, desire to act that Internet-based charities, which can receive donations almost instantly, are well suited to tap.

Kiernan said Save the Children has seen an "enormous" increase in online donations recently. He said some are from traditional donors switching methods of giving, but many are from new, younger donors, bringing new money to overseas causes.

The Internet also allows charities to help smaller charitable causes. Former World Bank employees started GlobalGiving, an online marketplace of small-scale, global projects, after studying popular social Internet sites that profile people, like Myspace and Facebook. They then created profiles of projects by geography, theme or sponsor. Mari Kuraishi, GlobalGiving's presi-

(Continued on page 7)

International Charities Attract Donations . . .

(Continued from page 6)

dent, said she and her co-founder know the massive World Bank budget goes a long way toward eradicating poverty, but they wanted to espouse smaller, but legitimate, solutions. The site once featured a man – with no organizational affiliation – who wanted to raise money to distribute blankets in Sri Lanka after the tsunami.

A software developer, after visiting his wife in Uganda, decided the Internet could help struggling

Uganda entrepreneurs. He sought to help by arranging an easy, online way for his own friends to make the Ugandan businesspeople \$100 interest-free loans for one year. His Web site, Kiva, whose non-profit status is pending approval, was launched in October of 2005 and, thus far, is run by an unpaid staff living on savings.

"Thank God, for the blogosphere," said Kiva President Premal Shah, referring to the fact that Daily Kos, a popular Web log on current events, featured Kiva,

bringing it scores of donors. That flurry filled all the loan needs listed on the site. So now Kiva has formed partnerships with charities around the world to help it find some more struggling entrepreneurs.

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Africa Center for Strategic Studies Opens . . .

(Continued from page 1)

to enhance the Africa Center's ability to conduct major programs throughout continent while reducing the need to use personnel from the United States, according to an August 1 Africa Center press release. Annex staff also will be responsible for coordinating programs with U.S. Embassies as well as hosting government officials and vendors.

"The Addis Ababa annex will ... serve to demonstrate our purpose and give Africans a sense of ownership of who we are and what we do," said General (retired) Carlton W. Fulford, the Africa Center's director.

Addis Ababa, also the host city of the African Union (AU) headquarters, was chosen in large part for its close proximity to the headquarters of other east African regional and subregional organizations.

"The partnership multiplying power of this initiative is tremendous -- not only will it bring the Africa Center closer to Africans from different spheres, but also to U.S. missions in the region," Fulford said. "This expanded circle of influence will increase U.S. awareness of African priorities and concerns as well as provide a better understanding of U.S. policy to Africans."

Some of the annex's core functions will be strengthening relations with key leaders on the continent and enabling the Africa Center to advance its policy objectives as well as support African governments and subregional organizations in developing capacity.

Presence in Addis Ababa will also keep the Africa Center better informed of developing African security issues in order to ensure that its programs effectively address both U.S. and African concerns, the center's press release said.

"Having a permanent presence on the continent will facilitate our access to key actors in the security arena. It will be an effective way to engage in continuous dialogue and exchanges with African leaders toward the resolution of security challenges," Fulford noted.

The initiative is being coordinated by the U.S. Department of Defense along with the Combatant Commands and the U.S. Department of State. The projected annual budget for the annex is \$700,000.

The Africa Center for Strategic Studies plans future annexes in West Africa, Southern Africa and North Africa.

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Congress Moves To Change Foreign Investment Review Process

By Elizabeth Kelleher
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Separate bills that passed the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate July 26 aim to change the review process of foreign investments in the United States.

In a show of bipartisan support, the House approved the National Security Foreign Investment Reform and Strengthened Transparency Act of 2006 (H.R. 5337) by a vote of 424-0. The Senate passed the Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2006 (S. 3549) by unanimous consent.

Differences between the two bills need to be reconciled and a compromise measure passed by both chambers before the president can sign it into law or veto it.

If signed into law, the bills would change the composition and procedures of an interagency panel called the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). The panel, which consists of representatives from 12 government agencies and is chaired by the Treasury Department, scrutinizes foreign purchases of U.S. businesses for potential national security threats. It has 30 days to approve a deal, block it or launch an additional 45-day investigation.

The House bill would enforce compliance rules in any situation when CFIUS negotiates with a foreign company to take particular action. It also would require CFIUS to regularly report all its activities to Congress. It adds two vice-chairs from the departments of Homeland Security and Commerce.

The Senate version would allow CFIUS to double the current 30-day, initial review after which the committee makes its decision. It also would require even more extensive reporting to Congress and to state governors, and make the Department of Defense the vice-chair of CFIUS.

CFIUS came under intense congressional criticism earlier in 2006, after the approval of the purchase of a London-based company by the United Arab Emirates-owned Dubai Ports World (DP World). The transaction would have placed the operation of six U.S. ports in the hands of DP World.

After a strong, bipartisan reaction in Congress against the deal, which many lawmakers considered a national security concern, DP World divested its American operations.

In the House debate on reforming CFIUS, Representative Barney Frank, the ranking Democrat on the Financial Services Committee, said that “cooler heads on both sides prevailed” and that the House bill “does not jeopardize foreign direct investment.”

The House bill would require deals that involve a company owned by a foreign government to undergo automatically a 45-day investigation even if the panel does not voice any initial concerns. In the DP World case, the 45-day investigation was not done.

Business groups -- including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Business Roundtable, Financial Services Forum and Organization for International Investment -- have supported the House bill, arguing it brings transparency to the review

of deals without stifling “job-creating foreign investment.”

They have criticized the Senate version. Bruce Josten, vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said the Senate bill would require “constant reporting” and force CFIUS to “take its eyes off of true national security threats.” He said the Senate’s reporting requirements could allow “over-politicization” of the process and the potential for 60-day, rather than 30-day, reviews, would create an “uneven playing field” for foreign investors.

Although the Senate bill passed unanimously, senators still can make changes to it during the House-Senate negotiations in a conference session, which likely will take place after the August congressional recess.

Nancy McLernon, senior vice president of the Organization for International Investment, said, “We know a number of senators have concerns about the current Senate version, and a number of House members have concerns [about the Senate bill].”

Representative Joseph Crowley, a House Democrat from New York, said the Senate bill does not provide for national and economic security. He said he hopes for a “constructive conference” with the Senate. But, he said, the House wants “a good bill, or we will take no bill at all.”

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

United States Lauds U.N. Action on Iran's Nuclear Programs

By Judy Aita
Washington File United Nations
Correspondent

United Nations -- U.S. Ambassador John Bolton says "the ball is now clearly in Iran's court" following the U.N. Security Council's July 31 demand that Iran suspend all uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities by the end of August or face diplomatic and economic sanctions.

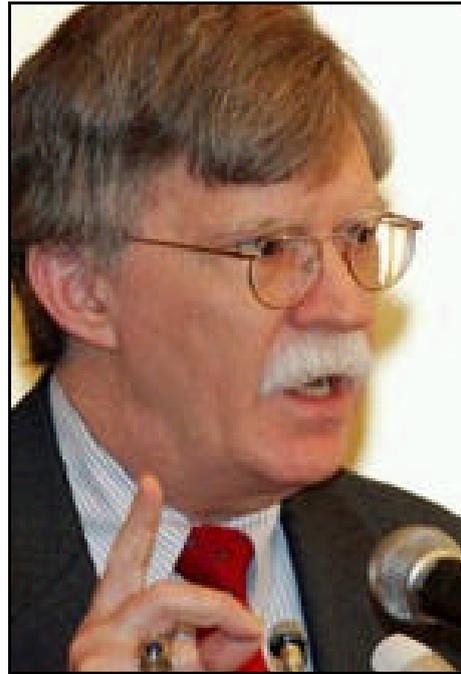
Adopting a mandatory resolution, the council also endorsed the proposal for a long-term solution presented to Iran in June by China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States that would guarantee Tehran's nuclear program is for exclusively peaceful purposes. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=June&x=20060619144933esnamfuak0.2655451&t=xarchives/xarchitem.html>).)

"The choice is up to them and the clock has begun to tick," Bolton said of Iranian government officials.

President Bush, in Miami, described the resolution as "strong" and thanked U.S. partners who had helped win its approval. "It goes to show that when America takes the lead and works with our friends we are able to accomplish diplomatic objectives."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, en route to the U.S. from the Middle East, also commended the resolution. It makes suspension of uranium enrichment programs mandatory, not voluntary, she

said, "so we will now see whether the Iranians decide to defy the Security Council or to take the alternative path that's been allowed for them." Referring to the incentives



U.S. Ambassador John Bolton

proposed in exchange for Iran's cooperation she said, "They're still within their rights to have a civil nuclear program that does not have as a part of it activities that they can use to cover a nuclear program."

Speaking at the United Nations after the vote, Bolton said, "We hope that Iran makes the strategic decision that the pursuit of WMD [weapons of mass destruction] programs make it less and not more secure."

Iran has not cooperated with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for three years, Bolton said. Four months have passed since the council called on

Iran to suspend its nuclear programs and almost two months have gone by since the five permanent members of the Security Council -- China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States -- and Germany (often referred to as the EU3-plus-three) offered a package of energy, commercial and technological incentives in exchange for suspending uranium enrichment.

The July 31 resolution was adopted by a vote of 14 to 1 with Qatar voting "no." Qatar Ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Nasser said, "We do not agree with the resolution at a time when our region is in flames."

The resolution, the first concerning Iran's nuclear program, demands that Iran "suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, to be verified by the IAEA."

Adopted under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, the resolution is binding on all member states. It calls on all states "to exercise vigilance and prevent the transfer of any items, materials, goods, and technology that could contribute to Iran's enrichment-related and reprocessing activities and ballistic missile programs."

The council stressed that the IAEA must continue its work in Iran to clarify all outstanding issues regarding Iran's nuclear program, emphasizing "its determination to reinforce the authority of the IAEA process." It strongly supported the agency's board of governors.

If the IAEA reports that Iran has

(Continued on page 26)

Comprehensive Strategy Required To Thwart Nuclear Terrorism

Washington -- There is no single solution to the problem of keeping nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists, an Energy Department official says.

A successful strategy to this threat includes a wide range of initiatives and capabilities, supported by research and development, according to Steven Aoki. The deputy under secretary of energy for counter terrorism, Aoki testified July 27 before the Senate Judiciary's Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security.

Detection of plutonium and highly enriched uranium -- essential components of nuclear weapons -- by associated radioactivity is not a universal solution, Aoki said. It is, instead, he said, just one tool in a broad array of activities, capabilities, and systems needed for a national strategy to combat nuclear terrorism. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2006&m=July&x=20060718173746idybeekcm6.928653e-02>).)

Aoki said the threat could come in one of three ways:

Terrorists could acquire radioactive material and construct dispersal devices colloquially called "dirty bombs," which have relatively low explosive power but could disperse highly radioactive material across a section of a city.

Terrorists could acquire plutonium or highly enriched uranium (HEU) and use it to build an improvised nuclear device of a few kilotons of nuclear explosive power.

And finally, terrorists could acquire a very small nuclear weapon from a nuclear-armed state.

COUNTERMEASURES

Given these possibilities, Aoki said, U.S. policy is focused on preventing the acquisition of nuclear weapons and special nuclear materials and deterrence of potential threats. The policy also includes identifying and tracing the source of nuclear devices and preparing a response to a possible radioactive attack.

"We continue to believe that keeping nuclear materials out of the hands of terrorists and, where possible, eliminating potentially vulnerable weapons-usable materials is the most effective means of prevention," Aoki said.

To that end, Aoki said the United States aims to strengthen the physical security of U.S. nuclear weapons and weapons-usable materials; help Russia to strengthen the protection, control, and accounting of its plutonium and HEU; work with friends and allies to secure plutonium and HEU; and to strengthen security at civil nuclear facilities worldwide. The United States also is taking more aggressive steps to interdict commerce in plutonium and HEU and nuclear technologies.

As for deterrence, Aoki said that if terrorists realize it will be very risky, or impossible, to acquire nuclear weapons or materials, they might seek other, less devastating, avenues of attack." Also, he said, a state sponsor of terrorism seeking to execute a covert nuclear attack or provide a nuclear weapon to a terrorist group might be deterred if it believes the United States possesses a reliable capability to trace such devices to their source and the will to retaliate against both the state sponsor and the terrorists.

See also the transcript (http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Products/texttrans/other_texttrans.html) of Aoki's statement.

For further information about U.S. policy, see Response to Terrorism (http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/terrorism.html) and Arms Control and Non-Proliferation (http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/arms_control.html).

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

Leadership Exchange Program for Iraqi Students Announced

By Cecilia Martin
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington –Two hundred Iraqi youth will come to the United States in summer 2007 as part of the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program, a newly announced program sponsored by the Department of State. President Bush announced the program at a joint press conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki at the White

to be the largest program of its kind, and it will help build the next generation of leaders for a free and democratic Iraq.”

The 200 male and female students will come from all over Iraq, representing all sectors of society. One hundred of them will participate in a high school program for students between 15-18 years old. Their four-week visits will include two weeks with an American family,

six-week summer program. Students between the ages of 18 and 20 will live on five university campuses. In addition to leadership and conflict resolution skills development, the undergraduates will focus on the democratic process and its institutions, and study subjects including science, math, media, entrepreneurship and public policy. The undergraduate students will be matched with American student peers to engage the Iraqi students in culturally enriching activities throughout their visit.



President Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister al-Maliki shake hands after announcing a leadership exchange program for Iraqi students at a joint press conference at the White House, July 24. (White House - Kimberlee Hewitt)

House July 24. The program is designed to promote mutual understanding, leadership, educational transformation and democracy among the next generation of Iraqi leaders.

President Bush described the program as one of “several new initiatives we’re undertaking to create opportunity for the Iraqi people,” adding that the program, “is going

one week in Washington for a civic education workshop, and one week at a camp. Events and activities are designed to develop leadership and conflict resolution skills, and give the Iraqi students a chance to interact with American youth.

The exchange initiative also will bring 100 undergraduate university students to the United States for a

National Security Advisor Stephen J. Hadley, at his July 24 briefing, said Bush and al-Maliki talked about the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program as a tool to “help train the next generation of Iraqi leadership through a fairly important exchange program with Iraqi youth.”

U.S. Department of State exchange programs are administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, whose mission includes empowering the future generation of leaders and establishing long-lasting ties between the people of the United States and the people around the world.

More information (<http://exchanges.state.gov/>) about Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs programs is available on the State Department 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>)♦

One Laptop per Child Association Aims To Revolutionize Education

By Elisa Walton
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington --The key to improving education lies in distributing a \$100 laptop to children around the world, says Nicholas Negroponte, founder and chairman of the non-profit association One Laptop per Child.

Negroponte, who spoke at the Organization of American States (OAS) July 25, is the professor at

The One Laptop per Child effort parallels some programs of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other U.S. government agencies. The USAID Digital Freedom Initiative, for example, is a public-private partnership that helps fund Internet connectivity for entrepreneurs and small businesses in the developing world.

The U.S. mission to the OAS helps fund the Educational Portal of the Americas, which promotes "distance learning," aiming for greater equality of education for those who otherwise might not have access to it, particularly in rural areas.

"This project is about learning, not about laptops," said Negroponte. The issue of education is fundamental for development, peace and other important goals. "No matter which global problem

you are addressing ... the solution always includes education," he said. But it is through using technology -- both as a tool of learning and as a window on the world -- that he believes children will learn the most.

As an example, he cited children who learn to create a computer program to draw a circle. Because their efforts rarely work on the first try, they learn how to recreate and debug their own programs. These children then begin to focus on their mistakes in other fields of learning as well, and automatically

work on improving instead of being satisfied with a lower level of performance.

As a result, the children gain a deeper understanding of what their work means. Children need to create, not just be told what to learn, he emphasized. He called this approach "learning learning."

The \$100 price for the laptops is achieved by operating with no profit, cutting all unnecessary frills -- including marketing campaigns -- and assembling large quantities of computers. Negroponte estimated the program will launch with a distribution of at least 5 million computers, and said he hopes to increase that number to 100 million by the second year. He predicted that as the laptop design improves, the per-unit price will go down.

But low cost does not mean low quality, Negroponte emphasized. "You might find [this computer] in the Museum of Modern Art," he said.

The latest model is bright orange, with "rabbit ears" sticking up from either side to allow Internet connectivity. A hand crank on an AC power adapter provides the power because many of the users will not have access to electricity. It even has a special feature not found in commercial laptops -- to reflect sunlight for better use outside -- as well as a camera and an excellent sound system.

Internet access will be achieved with a "mesh network." With this network, the central Internet server, located at the community school, could be extended by let-

(Continued on page 13)



Nicholas Negroponte
Founder and chairman of the nonprofit association
One Laptop per Child.

the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) who founded the computer-distribution program in order to address the shortage of computer access in poor and rural areas of the world.

The high price of laptops and the limited ability of users to share them creates that shortage, he determined. With the \$100 laptop -- financed by a host of U.S. companies and purchased at cost by participating governments -- his organization aims to address this lack.

One Laptop per Child Association Aims To . . .

(Continued from page 12)

ting users connect to the closest computer linked to the server, up to a distance of 600 meters. A child who lives too far from other computers could attach a device to boost the signal.

An early test of the ideas behind the One Laptop per Child initiative came in 2002 with the Maine Learning Technology Initiative. The U.S. state of Maine, working in partnership with Apple Computers, equipped all of their seventh- and eighth-grade students and teachers with wireless notebook computers. The program is still considered the largest of its kind in the world.

Outside the United States, Costa Rica is the "poster child" of computer use in education, Negro Ponte said. A program of the Omar Dengo Foundation began there in 1987 with some support from the

MIT Media Lab and quickly achieved substantial sustained success. According to the foundation's Web site, the project introduces computer technology and innovative learning into the country's public schools, with an emphasis on teacher training. This program has reached approximately 1.5 million students and teachers in an attempt to improve rural learning and close the gap between urban and rural students. Negro Ponte would like to use this as a model for other programs in the area.

Most countries have expressed some level of interest in the program. For now, the program will focus on larger countries for its launch, scheduled for 2007. In Latin America, Argentina and Brazil will host the pilot programs. In Africa, Nigeria and Egypt will be first nations to participate; in Asia, participants will be China, India and Thailand.

The spread across three continents is intentional, said Negro Ponte. He wants children from many different countries and backgrounds to have the chance to communicate using their laptops, so that they will understand their similarities with other children around the world before they have the chance to learn prejudices.

Children might gain "a whole different status because of this," added Negro Ponte. They will be able to teach their parents and teachers how to use the new technology and help them gain faster access to information such as crop prices.

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USAID Helping To Expand Ethiopia's Agricultural . . .

(Continued from page 2)

producers is a major aim of the agricultural cooperatives program and the horticulture market linkages program, both of which emphasize linking farmers to markets. Through the agricultural cooperatives effort, USAID partner ACDI/VOCA, a U.S.-based nongovernmental organization, has helped hundreds of cooperatives, providing technical assistance so members can understand and meet quality export standards, operate on sound business principles and learn to be market driven. The value of food grains, coffee and sugarcane sold through coop-

eratives has increased twentyfold. One component of the program involves working with coffee growers. The cooperatives operate as private associations, providing services to their members. One coffee cooperative, for instance, helps its members access pulp removal and other specialized machines that help create a better-quality coffee bean. The cooperatives also help farmers tap into international markets, where coffee fetches a higher price.

For Bekele Mantala, a member of the Wottona Bultuma Cooperative, the additional income has brought

several changes. Bekele, the father of two young children, now leases additional land on which he grows coffee and maize. With his profits he bought land, built a new house - leaving the old one to his three younger brothers -- and opened a small shop where he sells coffee and maize.

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

Bush Outlines Effort To Resolve Middle East Crisis

Washington -- President Bush says urgent efforts to resolve the crisis in the Middle East are continuing, both through Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's weekend return trip to the region and an impending United Nations Security Council meeting that could authorize a multinational peacekeeping force.

In his weekly radio address July 29, the president stressed once again that an end to the current violence in Israel and Lebanon must be achieved through "a sustainable cease-fire," and be pursued in the broader context of achieving democratic change and lasting peace in the region.

Bush once again placed the blame for the current crisis squarely on Hizballah and its "unprovoked terrorist attacks on Israel." He also stressed the role of Iran and Syria and renewed demands that those two nations stop enabling the group's terrorist acts.

"Iran must end its financial support and supply of weapons to terrorist groups such as Hizballah -- and Syria must end its support for terrorism and respect Lebanon's sovereignty," Bush declared.

Citing his White House meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair the previous day, Bush said the two had agreed that "Lebanon's democratic government must be empowered to exercise full authority over its territory" and that "militias in Lebanon must be disarmed, the flow of illegal arms must be halted, and the Lebanese security services should deploy throughout the country."

"We also agreed that a robust multinational force must be dispatched

to Lebanon quickly," the president said. That would help speed delivery of humanitarian relief to the Lebanese people and facilitate the return of displaced persons to their homes, he added.

Bush stressed his view that the fighting in Lebanon is just the latest manifestation of a broader struggle between freedom and terror throughout the Middle East -- one that he said past American policy has failed to address successfully.

"For decades, American policy sought to achieve peace in the Middle East by promoting stability in the Middle East, yet these policies gave us neither," he said.

While describing the current conflict as "painful and tragic," the president said that, if dealt with effectively, it also represents "a moment of opportunity for broader change in the region."

He pledged continued U.S. efforts to help Iraqi leaders establish democracy, and to work toward achieving the vision of "two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security."

"When the Middle East grows in liberty and democracy, it will also grow in peace, and that will make America and all free nations more secure," Bush said.

Following is the White House transcript of the president's talk:

**THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
Saturday, July 29, 2006.**

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This week the international community continued to build a political and security framework to confront the crisis in the Middle East, a crisis that began with Hezbollah's unprovoked terrorist attacks on Israel. Secretary of State Rice traveled to Lebanon, Israel, and Europe, and met with key leaders to discuss a way forward. In Rome, she met with representatives of more than a dozen nations and international organizations. Our governments agreed to provide relief to the people of Lebanon, using corridors for humanitarian aid that Israel is opening. We pledged to support Lebanon's revival and reconstruction. And we agreed to continue to work for a sustainable cease-fire that will stop the current violence, end the suffering of people in Lebanon and Israel, and move us toward a lasting peace.

Yesterday, I met with Prime Minister Tony Blair to discuss our strategy to achieve these shared goals. We agreed that Lebanon's democratic government must be empowered to exercise full authority over its territory. Militias in Lebanon must be disarmed, the flow of illegal arms must be halted, and the Lebanese security services should deploy throughout the country. We also agreed that a robust multinational force must be dispatched to Lebanon quickly. An effective multinational force will help speed delivery of humanitarian relief, facilitate the return of displaced persons, and support the Lebanese government as it asserts full sovereignty over its territory and guards its borders. In addition, Iran must end its financial support and supply of weapons to terrorist groups such as Hezbollah -- and Syria

(Continued on page 15)

Bush Outlines Effort To Resolve Middle . . .

(Continued from page 14)

must end its support for terrorism and respect Lebanon's sovereignty.

Secretary Rice will return to the region this weekend, and she will work with the leaders of Israel and Lebanon to seize this opportunity to achieve lasting peace and stability for both countries. Next week, the United Nations Security Council will also meet. We will work with our allies to adopt a resolution that establishes a framework to end the violence quickly, and mandates the multinational force. This approach will demonstrate the international community's determination to support the government of Lebanon, and defeat the threat from Hezbollah and its foreign sponsors. And this approach will make possible what so many around the world want to see: the end of Hezbollah's attacks on Israel, the return of Israeli soldiers taken hostage by terrorists, the suspension of Israel's operations in Lebanon, and the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

As we work to resolve this current crisis, we must recognize that Lebanon is the latest flashpoint in a broader struggle between freedom and terror that is unfolding across the region. For decades, American policy sought to achieve peace in the Middle East by promoting stability in the Middle East, yet these policies gave us neither. The lack of freedom in that region created conditions where anger and resentment grew, radicalism thrived, and terrorists found willing recruits. We saw the consequences on September the 11th, 2001, when terrorists brought death and destruction to our coun-

try, killing nearly 3,000 innocent Americans.

The experience of September the 11th made it clear that we could no longer tolerate the status quo in the Middle East. We saw that when an entire region simmers in violence, that violence will eventually reach our shores and spread across the entire world. The only way to secure our Nation is to change the course of the Middle East -- by fighting the ideology of terror and spreading the hope of freedom.

So we have launched a forward strategy for freedom in the broader Middle East, and that strategy has set in motion a transformation that is changing millions of lives for the better. From Kabul to Baghdad, to Beirut, and beyond, we've seen the birth of democratic governments that are striving to serve their people, reject terror, and work for peace. We're also seeing those who oppose democracy fighting its progress with all the destructive power they can muster. We see this in Hezbollah's attacks on Israel, in the suicide bombings that kill innocent Iraqis, and in al Qaeda's campaign of terror across the world.

The enemies of freedom have shown their ability to set back our efforts with deadly attacks, but ultimately they will fail. They will fail because courageous leaders in the region have stepped forward to defend freedom and set the Middle East on a better course. And they will fail because millions of people who have suffered decades of oppression and violence will choose to live in peace with their neighbors.

In Iraq, we will help Prime Minister Maliki's unity government defeat the terrorists, insurgents, and illegal militias and establish a democracy in the heart of the Middle East. In Lebanon, we will stand with the democratic government in its efforts to rid the country of terrorists and foreign influence and bring about a better life for the Lebanese people. In the Palestinian Territories, we will work with President Abbas to support the forces of moderation, and achieve our shared vision of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security.

This moment of conflict in the Middle East is painful and tragic. Yet it is also a moment of opportunity for broader change in the region. Transforming countries that have suffered decades of tyranny and violence is difficult, and it will take time to achieve. But the consequences will be profound -- for our country and the world. When the Middle East grows in liberty and democracy, it will also grow in peace, and that will make America and all free nations more secure.

Thank you for listening.

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

Rice Says Settlement of Israel-Hizballah Conflict Taking Form

By David Shelby
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – (July 31)- Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says there is a growing consensus on a possible settlement to the conflict between Israel and Hizballah and expects to see the U.N. Security Council act on a proposal within the week.

“Based on what we have accomplished, and the urgency of the situation, we will call for United Nations Security Council action this week on a comprehensive settlement that includes three parts: a cease fire, the political principles that provide for a long-term settlement, and the authorization of an international force to support the Lebanese army in keeping the peace,” she told reporters prior to leaving Jerusalem July 31.

Speaking to an audience in Miami, Florida, July 31, President Bush said the necessary conditions for a sustainable long-term settlement include the extension of Lebanese government sovereignty over its entire territory, the introduction of an international stabilization force and an end to Iranian and Syrian support for Hizballah.

“This approach will make ... possible what so many around the world want to see: the end of Hezbollah's attacks on Israel, the return of the Israeli soldiers taken hostage by the terrorists, the suspension of Israel's operations in Lebanon, and the eventual withdrawal of Israeli forces,” he said.

Rice said the mission of the international force would be to assist the Lebanese armed forces in deploying up to the Blue Line along the Lebanese-Israeli border, help police the Lebanese-Syrian border, support humanitarian efforts and the return of displaced persons, and create an environment in which the provisions of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559 and the Taif Accords can be implemented.



Secretary Rice delivers her statement to reporters in Jerusalem, Israel, July 31.
(©AP/WWP)

Both the 1989 Taif Accords, which brought an end to Lebanon's 15-year civil war, and Resolution 1559, call for the disbanding of all militias in Lebanon and the extension of Lebanese government control over the entire territory of Lebanon.

Rice said that “armed groups must be prohibited in the areas where

the international force is deployed” and that “an international embargo must be enforced against the delivery of weapons to anyone other than the government of Lebanon or the stabilization force.”

She said Lebanon should disarm armed groups with the assistance of the international community.

The secretary's statements came one day after an Israeli air strike in Qana, Lebanon, killed dozens of civilians, including many children. Rice said she was deeply saddened by such losses, particularly the death of children on both sides of the conflict. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=July&x=20060730135827emohkcabhplar0.6972925>).)

“Too many families have been displaced. Too many people urgently need medical care, or are living in shelters,” she said.

Speaking to reporters on the flight back to Washington, Rice said it is difficult for her to see the conditions Lebanon finds itself in after the hopeful moments of the March 2005 Cedar Revolution and the success of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559 in forcing Syria to withdraw its forces from Lebanon.

“But,” she added, “I know what caused this. And I know that there are underlying circumstances having to do with the need to

(Continued on page 17)

Rice Says Settlement of Israel-Hizballah . . .

(Continued from page 16)

really make this a strong and democratic government that can really extend its authority, that can rebuild its army, that can shield itself from harmful influences, that cannot ... have its territory be used in the way that Hizballah, without its knowledge,

community must be prepared to support and sustain it -- and I call on my international partners to do so this week in New York," she said.

Bush laid the responsibility for the three-week old conflict on Hizballah, whose July 12 rocket attacks on northern Israel and kidnapping

A transcript (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/69726.htm>) of Rice's remarks in Jerusalem and a transcript (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/69732.htm>) of her remarks en route to the United States can be found at the State Department Web site.



A general view of devastated Qana, 31 July 2006. (Maanimages/Raoul Kramer)

used its territory, really sinking then the whole area into the kind of crisis that we've got."

The secretary called on the international community to lend its support to the emerging settlement as it works its way through the U.N. Security Council.

"To make a cease-fire more than words alone, the international

of two Israeli soldiers triggered the Israeli assault.

"The current crisis is part of a larger struggle between the forces of freedom and the forces of terror in the Middle East," he said.

He said that with the spread of democracy in the Middle East, "the people of that troubled region will have a better future."

A transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/07/20060731-1.html>) of Bush's remarks can be found at the White House 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>)

Security Council Deplores Lebanese Deaths

By Judy Aita
Washington File United Nations
Correspondent

United Nations -- (July 30)-The Security Council expressed "extreme shock and distress" over the killing of dozens of civilians in Qana, Lebanon, July 30 and called for an end to the violence in the region.

The council said it "strongly deplores this loss of innocent lives and the killing of civilians in the present conflict," in a presidential statement adopted at an emergency meeting. It also pledged to begin work "without any further delay to adopt a resolution" that will lead to a "lasting settlement of the crisis" drawing upon current diplomatic efforts.

The presidential statement reflects the unanimous agreement of all 15 council members.

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said that it was important for the council "to address the loss of civilian lives, which is tragic."

The statement also "helps provide a good platform for the conclusion" of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's trip to the region, he said. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2006&m=July&x=20060730135827emohkcabhplar0.6972925>).)

The United States objected to the council's call for a truce as requested by Secretary-General Kofi Annan earlier in the day because, Bolton said, "we don't think that simply returning to business as

usual is a way to bring about a lasting solution."

"This is a very delicate matter that requires careful deliberation," the ambassador said. "Rather than jump to conclusions about a cease-fire, we felt it was important to let that play out and to do what was important today, which was address the tragic loss of civilian life."

The council's statement talks about a sustained and lasting cease-fire, which is language from the declaration issued in Rome earlier in the week, Bolton pointed out. That, he said, is "an important marker" for the Security Council's continuing efforts.

The United States objected to language in the initial draft of the statement that drew conclusions about the incident and seemed to preempt the political solution that Rice is pursuing, Bolton said.

"The question of whether it was an accident is obviously something that will be investigated. That's what the government of Israel concludes, and, I think, in that case it's a tragic consequence of an unavoidable accident of war," the ambassador said.

The statement, which was read by Council President Jean-Marc de La

Sabliere of France said, "The Security Council expresses its concern at the threat of escalation of violence with further grave consequences for the humanitarian situation, calls for an end to violence, and underscores the urgency of securing a lasting, permanent, and sustainable cease-fire."



On Sunday, local people and rescue workers pulled out bodies from the rubble. Mechanical diggers probed gingerly, in case survivors lay trapped. (Photo BBC)

The council also asked the secretary-general to investigate the circumstances of the incident and report back in one week.

For further information, see Middle East and North Africa (<http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/index.html>).

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

Rice Sees Lebanese Statement a Positive Step

By Jaroslaw Anders
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington- U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says the Lebanese cease-fire plan announced on the evening of July 28 after a six-hour meeting of the Lebanese cabinet is "most certainly a positive step." Speaking with journalists en route to Jerusalem, Rice said she has not seen the full statement, but from press reports "it looks like there are some very good elements."

The Lebanese plan calls for immediate cease-fire and an exchange of prisoners. According to reports, Hizballah, which is a member of the Lebanese governing coalition, did not specifically agree to disarm and objects to the presence of "a robust force" of international peacekeepers, but the proposal calls for the implementation of the Taif accords, which ended the Lebanese civil war in 1990 and include disarming of all militias.

Speaking about her second trip to the Middle East since the outbreak of the recent hostilities, Rice said she expects "fairly intense" negotiations with the Israelis and the Lebanese, and that a settlement would involve "a fair amount of give and take" on both sides. But she praised Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora for taking initiative.

"It is for, I think, Prime Minister Siniora quite an achievement to have gotten his cabinet of ministers to essentially endorse his Rome speech, which, if you remember, both talked about [Security Council Resolution] 1559 and Taif, which includes the disarmament of militias, and an ac-

knowledgement that an international force will need to be a part of the solution," Rice said.

She said the Lebanese statement "shows a Lebanese government that's functioning as a Lebanese government. That is, in and of itself, extremely important. This has not been easy for Prime Minister Siniora. Everybody knows it's a very complicated coalition, but that he is able to go back and bring his government together around a way forward is very encouraging."

Rice said she has reasons to believe that "the leadership on both sides of this crisis would like it to end," and may want to look for a solution that "puts Lebanon, the Lebanese government in full control of its territory with the Lebanese army able to deploy south, with the south stable, with an international force that can help that to take place." She also reiterated the U.S. position that "there cannot be a return to the status quo ante" in southern Lebanon and called for the return of Israeli soldiers captured by Hizballah.

The United States, with British support, seeks a Security Council resolution that would create a framework for the deployment of a multinational force in southern Lebanon. President Bush said during a joint press opportunity with British Prime Minister Tony Blair: "Prime Minister Blair and I agree that this approach gives the best hope to end the violence and create lasting peace and stability in Lebanon. This approach will demonstrate the international community's determination to support the government of Lebanon, and defeat the threat from Hizballah and

its foreign sponsors." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=July&x=20060728151647esnamfuak0.7708399>).)

In his Saturday radio address the President said that "An effective multinational force will help speed delivery of humanitarian relief, facilitate the return of displaced persons, and support the Lebanese government as it asserts full sovereignty over its territory and guards its borders." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=July&x=20060729114946emohkcabhplar0.5075189>).)

Rice said she is not setting any deadline for the U.N. action, but "since we want an early end to the violence, it's increasingly important that we get agreement on the elements."

On Monday, July 31, the U.N. Security Council will discuss possible troop contribution to the force. The secretary mentioned that some forces could be deployed quite quickly, while "for a full scale, blue-helmeted force, it takes some time."

Rice returns to the Middle East after a visit to East Asia. For the full transcript (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/69709.htm>) of Secretary Rice's briefing, visit the State Department 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>)♦

U.S., U.K. Leaders Say Peacekeeper Needed in Lebanon "Quickly"

Washington -- President Bush said an effective multinational force needs to be dispatched quickly to southern Lebanon in order to help Lebanese government forces establish control there, as well as to help speed the distribution of humanitarian aid and facilitate the return of displaced persons.

Speaking with British Prime Minister Tony Blair at the White House July 28, Bush also said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is returning to the region July 29 for discussions with Lebanese and Israeli officials "to seize this opportunity to achieve lasting peace and stability for both of their countries."

The president said the top priorities of the United States and United Kingdom are to provide immediate humanitarian relief, end the violence, ensure the return of displaced people and assist with reconstruction efforts. "We recognize that many Lebanese people have lost their homes, so we'll help rebuild the civilian infrastructure that will allow them to return home safely," he said.

In the coming week, both countries are seeking a U.N. Security Council resolution that sets "a clear framework" for the cessation of hostilities and mandates the multinational force, Bush said.

"Prime Minister Blair and I agree that this approach gives the best hope to end the violence and create lasting peace and stability in Lebanon. This approach will demonstrate the international community's determination to support the government of Lebanon, and de-

feat the threat from Hizballah and its foreign sponsors," he said, referring to Iran and Syria.

It also would provide for the end of Hizballah's attacks on Israel, the return of kidnapped Israeli soldiers, the suspension of Israel's operations in Lebanon and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from that country, he said.

"Our goal is to achieve a lasting peace, which requires that a free, democratic and independent Leba-

"a moment of opportunity and a chance for a broader change in the region," including renewed efforts to revive peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians aimed at creating a democratic Palestinian state.

Prime Minister Blair said the current situation has been "a complete tragedy for Lebanon, for Israel and for the wider region" and was provoked by Hizballah's military buildup and activities.



President George W. Bush is joined by Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom as he answers a reporter's question during a joint press availability Friday, July 28, 2006, in the East Room of the White House.

White House photo by Paul Morse

nese government be empowered to exercise full authority over its territory. We want a Lebanon free of militias and foreign interference, and a Lebanon that governs its own destiny, as is called for by U.N. Security Council Resolutions 1559 and 1680," he said.

The president added that the current conflict could be turned into

"[N]othing will work unless, as well as an end to the immediate crisis, we put in place the measures necessary to prevent it occurring again," he said, including the full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559 that ensures southern Lebanon is "not used as a base for armed militia."

(Continued on page 22)

U.S. Assistance Reaches South Lebanon

By Jacquelyn S. Porth
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Marine Corps Brigadier General Carl Jensen says the U.S. military in the Middle East is ready to deliver humanitarian assistance to Lebanon.

Speaking from Cyprus on July 26 by videoconference to reporters at the Pentagon, Jensen said the first basic medical supplies, in the form of health kits, were provided to Lebanon July 25.

The U.S. military is on the leading edge of the delivery operation, but the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is running the overall mission, he said.

In Washington, USAID Assistant Administrator for Asia and the Near East James Kunder said humanitarian aid now is reaching displaced people in Lebanon. "Initial American medical supplies have been sent to the south and are being distributed there," he told journalists at a July 27 briefing.

With Cyprus as a regional staging ground, Kunder said, the ships, planes and helicopters used to evacuate American citizens in the past week were loaded with relief supplies for return trips to Lebanon. The shipments then were placed in the hands of relief organizations for delivery to people in need.

A USAID disaster assistance response team currently is analyzing the scope of the humanitarian emergency to determine what is needed to alleviate suffering in Lebanon.

Currently, Kunder said, the greatest need is for health and shelter supplies. Blankets and plastic sheeting has been sent. "Fuel is critical," he said, and is being sent to keep generators going and provide a means to purify drinking water.

"After the humanitarian phase of the operation, there will be a large



Brigadier General Carl Jensen
Marine Corps

reconstruction effort in Lebanon," he said. "The U.S. government will be looking at reconstruction needs in Lebanon as well as humanitarian needs."

This follows a series of meetings Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice held in Lebanon and Israel July 24 and July 25, in which she sought to establish access corridors "to get humanitarian assistance to the Lebanese people." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile->

[english&y=2006&m=July&x=20060724125825ndyblehs0.6758692](http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=July&x=20060724125825ndyblehs0.6758692)).

The United States already has pledged \$30 million in immediate humanitarian assistance for Lebanon. The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration also is giving \$3.4 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross in response to its emergency appeal for Lebanon and another \$1 million to the International Organization for Migration.

Of the funds pledged, \$11 million already has been sent, Kunder said.

To meet the most urgent needs in Lebanon quickly, the United States has shipped supplies directly from U.S. government stockpiles close to the region. Aid also is being funneled through U.N. agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, and other organizations working with local organizations to distribute supplies wherever they are needed.

Jensen, who commands the U.S. military's Task Force 59, had been coordinating the efforts of 5,000 U.S. military personnel to facilitate the departure of approximately 14,000 American citizens from Lebanon after fighting broke out between Hizballah and Israel July 12. He said most of the Americans wishing to leave have done so and the number now arriving at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, has diminished from thousands daily to hundreds.

(Continued on page 22)

U.S. Assistance Reaches South . . .

(Continued from page 21)

CYPRUS, TURKISH GOVERNMENTS AIDED DEPARTURE EFFORT

Jensen said the governments of Cyprus and Turkey also helped Americans depart Lebanon, a mission that involved the U.S. European, Central, Pacific, Atlantic and Transportation Commands. Both governments "really helped out when we needed them to," he said.

Although that aspect of the military operation has wound down, Jensen said, the number of U.S.

Navy ships in the vicinity remains the same. This includes the amphibious transport, USS Nashville, the guided missile destroyers USS Gonzalez and USS Barry, and four other naval vessels.

"We will be here as long as the ambassador [Jeffrey Feltman] needs us to do the job that we've been assigned," he said. Feltman declared a humanitarian emergency in Lebanon on July 25, clearing the way for the delivery of U.S. humanitarian assistance.

Additional information (http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia_near_east/middle_east/)

about U.S. relief efforts for Lebanon is available on the USAID Web site.

For more information about U.S. policy, see International Security (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/>).

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U.S., U.K. Leaders Say Peacekeeper Needed . . .

(Continued from page 20)

He welcomed Secretary Rice's return to the region and the joint U.S. and British support for the multinational force and a U.N. resolution to allow the end of hostilities, saying it is a "viable plan" to stop the violence.

"The purpose of what we are doing, therefore, is to bring about, yes, the cessation of hostilities, which we want to see as quickly and as urgently as possible, but also to put in place a framework that allows us to stabilize the situation for the medium and longer term," Blair said, and to "take this opportunity to set out

and achieve a different strategic direction for the whole of that region."

Both leaders also called on Iran and Syria to end their support for Hizballah and terrorism and to help to end the violence.

Blair said the two countries must make a choice to "either come in and participate as proper and responsible members of the international community, or . . . face the risk of increasing confrontation."

President Bush said during their talks, he and Blair also discussed the situations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Darfur. They also urged Iran

to accept the international offer concerning its nuclear program, adding that the Iranian regime "will not be allowed to develop or acquire nuclear weapons."

The transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/07/20060728-1.html>) of the remarks by President Bush and Prime Minister Blair is available on the White House Web site.

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Malaria Costly for Businesses in sub-Saharan Africa

Washington – Malaria is costing business in sub-Saharan Africa 0.6 percent of gross domestic product, with 39 percent of firms reporting a serious impact on their activities, according to a new study.

The Global Health Initiative (GHI) of the World Economic Forum (WEF) surveyed more than 8,000 business leaders in 100 countries on the cost of malaria to their activities, according to a July 27 press release. The GHI calls the study the largest most comprehensive ever conducted on the effect of malaria on business.

WEF is a Geneva-based nonprofit international organization.

The survey also found that 72 percent of the participating African businesses reported that their firms were affected in some way by the mosquito borne disease at the time of the survey. The report emphasizes the effect of malaria on societies as a whole with a focus on the resulting effect on business and economic activity.

“For some firms, involvement in malaria control is likely to be in their best interest. Poor health can affect businesses directly, through its impact on workers, customers and corporate reputation,” according to *Business and Malaria: A Neglected Threat*. “Although the academic literature is thin, there is some empirical evidence that malaria has directly impeded business activities, and several large corporations have engaged in malaria control in order to limit its impacts on them.”

Malaria causes almost 1 million deaths worldwide per year, according to estimates, with the vast number of those deaths occurring among young children in Africa. The incidence of malaria worldwide is about 300 million clinical cases each year with about 90 percent of those cases occurring in countries of tropical Africa.

With the report, GHI issued a set of guidelines to encourage and assist businesses in Africa in taking up a more active role in the fight against malaria by setting up workplace-based disease control activities.

“Businesses have very strong competencies in areas that are crucial for effective malaria control,” said Awa Mari Coll-Seck, executive secretary of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership. “These guidelines are an excellent tool to help translate those competencies into positive results – both for fighting malaria, as well as for improving the business environment in Africa.”

Malaria control and prevention largely have been government functions in the past, but some sub-Saharan African governments lack adequate resources to manage the job efficiently or thoroughly. The guidelines suggest that businesses step into the gap, suggesting workplace policies on malaria control that extend into communities where the workers live.

“Implementing employer-based malaria control programmes in collaboration with other local partners is a crucial contribution that the

private sector can make and one that has tangible benefits to businesses themselves,” writes professor Eytayo Lambo, Nigerian minister of health, and chairman of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, in an introduction to the guidelines. Roll Back Malaria Partnership is one of the key international initiatives launched in recent years to scale up anti-malaria efforts in the developing world.

The United States is a supporter of the partnership in concert with the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), a \$1.2 billion, five-year collaboration of several government agencies, attempting to take a comprehensive approach to preventing and treating malaria. The program currently targets seven high-risk African nations, with a goal to reduce malaria in Africa by 50 percent by 2010. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Jun/09-960720.html>).)

Additional information (<http://www.rollbackmalaria.org/>) is available on the Roll Back Malaria Partnership Web site.

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HIV Can Hide in Tissue, Eluding Treatment, Research Finds

Washington – Scientists are finding that the HIV virus is able to hide deep inside human tissues, and elude the drugs that are attempting to restore the immune system.

University of California Davis (UC Davis) researchers conducted the study with support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The findings are reported in the August edition of the *Journal of Virology*.

In a three year study of patients living with HIV/AIDS, the researchers found that the virus is able to survive efforts to destroy it by hiding in the mucous tissues that line the intestine, continuing to suppress the patient's immune system, even while a regimen of drug treatment may be under way.

"The real battle between the virus and exposed individuals is happening in the gut immediately after viral infection," said Satya Dandekar, senior author of the study and the chair of the Department of Medical Microbiology at UC Davis. "We need to be focusing our efforts on improving treatment of gut mucosa [the mucous membrane lining the alimentary canal from mouth to anus] where massive destruction of immune cells is occurring."

Previous research has shown that lymphoid tissue makes a significant contribution to the body's immune response and its capability to combat the HIV virus. Dandekar said these new findings underscore the importance of finding ways to

protect the function of lymphoid tissue.

The findings reported in the *Journal of Virology* showed inflammation in the gut disrupted tissue function, and promoted cell death. The researchers suggest that the prevention of inflammation is one key to preserving the immune response in the gut. Anti-inflammatory drugs may help, the researchers suggest, and could improve the effectiveness of HAART treatment.

Early initiation of highly active anti-retroviral therapy – HAART – was another factor that appeared to prevent inflammation and better enable the gut mucosal immune system to do its job. HIV-positive persons who had begun drug treatment within weeks of their initial exposure to the virus had much better outcomes than those who were known to be infected for more than one year.

"What we continue to see is that restoration of immune function is more likely when treatment is started early," said gastroenterologist Thomas Prindiville, a co-author of the study. "If you are able to restore the gut's immune response, the patient will be more likely to clear the virus."

DISEASE-FIGHTING PROTEINS

A second study released in the new medical literature finds that some of the answers to beating HIV/AIDS may be found in the body's own systems.

Earlier in 2006, researchers at the Indiana University School of Medicine-Northwest identified a protein produced by the body itself that serves as a first line of defense against bacterial infections.

In the July 28 issue of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, Roman Dziarsky and Dipika Gupta, propose that these proteins called PGLYRP – for peptidoglycan recognition proteins – might be used to develop medications that could boost the impaired day-to-day response to bacteria of the HIV-infected person. It is a strategy that could help persons living with HIV/AIDS, the researchers suggest, but also people suffering from other maladies, which cripple the immune system.

Many parts of the body produce these bacteria-fighting proteins, the Indiana University researchers report. In healthy people, these proteins mount a defense and easily prevent bacterial infections. PGLYRP also appear to be the system's "first responders" at the introduction of infection, moving into action before the main immune system responds.

For information on U.S. policy, see HIV/AIDS (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hiv_aids.html).

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Medications for Pediatric AIDS Work Like "Magic," Experts Say

By Jane Morse
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Andre is a slightly plump 9-year-old boy who can eat six pieces of pizza in a single sitting. He is gregarious and active and dreams of someday becoming either a fireman or an airplane pilot.

That he seems like any other normal boy in the fourth grade is what makes him so remarkable: Andre has HIV/AIDS.

Andre is not his real name, because HIV/AIDS victims living in Jamaica, as he and his mother do, fear social stigmatism. But he and his mother, who also is a person living with HIV/AIDS, were courageous enough to come to the United States to participate in a press briefing held July 27 in Washington and to serve as real-life examples of the success of proper medical treatment.

The briefing was sponsored by the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and the Global Health Council, both nongovernmental organizations, and cosponsored by Senator Hillary Clinton (Democrat of New York) and Senator Richard Lugar (Republican of Indiana). It was designed to emphasize the urgent need to expand access to HIV/AIDS medication and general health care for children -- and their mothers -- worldwide.

Dr. Celia Christie-Samuels, professor and chair of pediatrics and director of the Kingston Pediatric and Perinatal HIV/AIDS Program at Jamaica's University of the West Indies, told participants at the

press conference that current medications for pediatric HIV/AIDS "work like magic."

Christie-Samuels, who has worked with HIV/AIDS victims for many years, reported that initially the pediatric clinic at the University Hospital in Jamaica was "always depressing, with sick children always needing hospital admission."

But, thanks to the new medications, treated children "are mostly healthy, running up and down the corridor on clinic days," she said. The children are monitored for their growth, development, immune function and for renewed prescriptions for HIV medicines, Christie-Samuels said.

Although 94 percent of the HIV-diagnosed children in Jamaica are being treated, Christie-Samuels said significant problems remain, such as limited HIV drug formulations designed especially for children and lack of alternative drugs for the currently expensive -- and sometimes unavailable -- medications.

Worldwide, the outlook for the 2.3 million children living with HIV is not bright.

Pamela Barnes, the president and chief executive officer of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, which is considered to be a worldwide leader in the fight against pediatric AIDS, reported that this year alone, 700,000 babies will be born with HIV.

"Without treatment half of these babies will die before they turn 2, and almost all will die before their

fifth birthday," Barnes said.

Although current medications are very effective, Barnes emphasized "pills do not automatically equal treatment for children."

"More often, the greatest barrier to getting HIV-positive children on treatment is the difficulty of finding them in the first place," she said.

ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE AND HIV/AIDS TESTING

Critical to saving more victims is access to routine medical care and testing for HIV, Barnes said.

Dr. Mark Dybul, the acting U.S. global AIDS coordinator, says the first critical step is preventing mother-to-child infections, because 90 percent of children are infected in utero through their mother's bloodstream. He emphasized that all pregnant women should be tested for HIV/AIDS.

Traditional tests for HIV/AIDS do not work on babies until they are about 18 months old, he noted, adding that many die from the disease at a younger age.

In addition to finding effective tests for the very young, new formulations for medical dosing for small children must be established, according to Dybul. Current methods for calculating the doses of HIV/AIDS medications for children are "too complicated," he said.

Dybul said pediatric HIV/AIDS treatment needs to be "mainstreamed" into health care

(Continued on page 26)

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United States Lauds U.N. Action on . . .

(Continued from page 9)

not suspended all enrichment activities by August 31, the council said that it intends "to adopt appropriate measures under Article 41," of the U.N. Charter "to persuade Iran to comply with this resolution and the requirements of the IAEA." Article 41 of the U.N. Charter pertains to sanctions.

Iran's U.N. ambassador, Javad Zarif, rejected the resolution, maintaining that Iran's nuclear program is peaceful.

British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry said the European members of the EU3-plus-three group "want Iran to respond positively to our package but the package is quite clear about what it offers and what it requires of Iran."

"If Iran is prepared to take those steps then we are prepared to move ahead constructively," Jones Parry said.

For additional information, see Arms Control and Non-Proliferation (http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/arms_control.html).

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Medications for Pediatric AIDS Work Like . . .

(Continued from page 25)

systems. HIV-positive children have a broad range of health care needs because they are so susceptible to opportunistic infections that exploit the body's compromised immune system and lead to death, he said.

The most critical need, according to Dybul, is to preserve families and to get family-based treatments to combat HIV/AIDS.

The U.S. government, through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), is working with pharmaceutical companies and multilateral organizations to

speed the work of addressing pediatric HIV/AIDS.

According to a fact sheet released by the State Department in June, the emergency plan has supported prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission for women in more than 4.5 million pregnancies, provided anti-retroviral prophylaxis for women during 342,200 pregnancies and prevented an estimated 65,100 infant HIV infections. More than 13.6 million men, women and children have benefited from counseling and testing services, the State Department said.

PEPFAR currently is providing anti-retroviral treatment for 561,000

men, women and children in 15 of the most afflicted countries. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Jun/05-267957.html>).)

For more information on U.S. policy, see HIV/AIDS (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hiv_aids.html).

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