



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

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## Barack Obama Wins Historic Election Victory

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington — On November 4, Americans elected Illinois Senator Barack Obama the 44th president of the United States.

Addressing supporters in Chicago November 4, the president-elect said, "To all those who have wondered if America's beacon still burns as bright, tonight we've proved once more that the true strength of our nation comes not from the might of our arms or the scale of our wealth, but from the enduring power of our ideals: democracy, liberty, opportunity and unyielding hope."



President-elect Barack Obama

Obama said that through their votes, Americans sent a message "that we have never been just a

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Ambassador Donald Yamamoto's Remarks on U.S. Presidential Elections

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
November 5, 2008

Today's election is a historic moment. It is an American story, but it is not a uniquely American dream. It is a dream born out of the human spirit and shared by every per-

son in every part of the world. This election reaffirmed a dream defined by our Constitution and the vision of the founding fathers, and tempered through years of struggle.

Our new President is not only a President of the

United States but also a son of Africa, and so this is truly an African dream as well.

In his speech, Senator McCain -- an American hero, an American of great honor and grace --

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## Barack Obama Wins Historic Election . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

collection of individuals or a collection of red states and blue states. We are and always will be the United States of America.”

“A new dawn of American leadership is at hand,” he said. “To those who would tear the world down,

Obama will become the first African-American president of the United States and also the first person of color to govern a country with a white majority.

The Illinois senator carried all the states won by Democrat John Kerry in 2004, as well as Ohio, Iowa, Florida, New Mexico, Colorado, Ne-

He said the United States is now “a world away from the cruel and prideful bigotry of that time,” and “there is no better evidence of this” than Obama’s election. He also pledged to support the incoming president and urged his supporters to offer their “good will and earnest effort to find ways to come together.”



*Senator Barack Obama with his wife, Michelle, and Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr. with his wife, Jill, in Chicago on Tuesday night. / Damon Winter/*

we will defeat you. To those who seek peace and security, we support you.”

As of early November 5, Obama had won at least 26 states and the District of Columbia with a total of 338 electoral votes, putting him well above the 270 needed to clinch the presidency. Results still were being reported from some states in the early hours of the day after Election Day.

vada and Virginia — states previously carried by Republican George Bush.

In his concession speech from Phoenix, Senator John McCain said he had telephoned President-elect Obama to offer his congratulations. He recognized the significance of Obama’s victory for African Americans and the “special pride that must be theirs tonight” following a long history of slavery, segregation and discrimination.

Obama’s victory came after a long and difficult Democratic Party primary battle with New York Senator Hillary Clinton, followed by an intense general election campaign again McCain.

The 2008 U.S. presidential election was historic in a number of ways. After the field of Democratic Party candidates narrowed in early 2008, it was clear that voters would be choosing between the first female

presidential nominee and the first African-American nominee.

On the Republican side, McCain’s choice of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin as a running mate marked only the second time a women has been on the ticket of a major political party.

### **OBAMA CLAIMS VICTORY**

Early November 5, Obama and his

*(Continued on page 4)*

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## Statement by President Bush on the Presidential Election

Rose Garden

10:20 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Last night, I had a warm conversation with President-elect Barack Obama. I congratulated him and Senator Biden on their impressive victory. I told the President-elect he can count on complete cooperation from my administration as he makes the transition to the White House.

I also spoke to Senator John McCain. I congratulated him on a determined campaign that he and Governor Palin ran. The American people will always be grateful for the lifetime of service John McCain has devoted to this nation. And I know he'll continue to make tremendous contributions to our country.

No matter how they cast their ballots, all Americans can be proud of the history that was made yesterday. Across the country, citizens voted in large numbers. They showed a watching world the vitality of America's democracy, and the strides we have made toward a more perfect union. They chose a President whose journey represents a triumph of the American story -- a testament to hard work, optimism, and faith in the enduring promise of our nation.

Many of our citizens thought they would never live to see that day. This moment is especially up-



*President George W. Bush delivers a statement on the 2008 president election from the Rose Garden Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008, at the White House.*

lifting for a generation of Americans who witnessed the struggle for civil rights with their own eyes -- and four decades later see dream fulfilled.

A long campaign has now ended, and we move forward as one nation. We're embarking on a period of change in Washington, yet there are some things that will not change. The United States government will stay vigilant in meeting its most important responsibility -- protecting the American people. And the world can be certain this commitment will remain steadfast under our next Commander-in-Chief.

There's important work to do in the months ahead, and I will continue to conduct the people's business as long as this office remains in my trust. During this time of transition, I will keep the President-elect fully informed on important decisions. And when the time comes on January the 20th, Laura and I will return home to Texas with treasured memories of our time here -- and with profound gratitude for the honor of serving this amazing country.

It will be a stirring sight to watch President Obama, his wife, Michelle, and their beautiful girls step through the doors of the White House. I know millions of Americans will be overcome with pride at this inspiring moment that so many have

awaited so long. I know Senator Obama's beloved mother and grandparents would have been thrilled to watch the child they raised ascend the steps of the Capitol -- and take his oath to uphold the Constitution of the greatest nation on the face of the earth.

Last night I extended an invitation to the President-elect and Mrs. Obama to come to the White House. And Laura and I are looking forward to welcoming them as soon as possible.

Thank you very much. ♦

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## Ambassador Donald Yamamoto Remarks at U.S. Presidential . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

called on all people to support President-elect Obama. And as you heard President-elect Obama say, today there are no Republicans or Democrats, no red or blue, only the United States of America. There must be no division anywhere in the world based on ethnic differences or religious intolerance or even division based on color. All people must be judged by the content of their character.

Today is a great day, and now the hard work begins. We must all join together to create a new tomorrow and a brighter future for our children and for all future generations.

Thank you very much for sharing in this great historic moment. ♦



*Ambassador Yamamoto makes remarks at the U.S. Presidential Election breakfast at the Sheraton Hotel in Addis Ababa.*

## Barack Obama Wins Historic Election . . .

*(Continued from page 2)*

running mate, Delaware Senator Joe Biden, addressed cheering supporters in Chicago, and pledged to be the president of all Americans, regardless of whether they had given him support or not. Hundreds of thousands of people, some of whom arrived the day before, celebrated in Chicago's Grant Park.

Obama's rally was especially poignant given that 40 years ago the park was the site of the violent demonstrations aimed at the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

That violence illustrated the rift within the party between younger liberal activists and older conservative stalwarts.

It was also in 1968 that Democratic presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy predicted an African-American could become president in 2008.

"Things are moving so fast in race relations a Negro could be president in 40 years. There is no question about it. In the next 40 years, a Negro can achieve the same position that my brother has ... preju-

dice exists and probably will continue to ... but we have tried to make progress and we are making progress. We are not going to accept the status quo," Kennedy said May 27, 1968, approximately one week before he was assassinated.

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

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## World Celebrates Barack Obama's Historic Win

By Michelle Austein  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — In homes and on streets across the United States, Americans celebrated the election of the first African-American president as a significant moment in U.S. history.

Democrat Barack Obama, the son of a white woman from Kansas and a black man from Kenya, had won the presidency with 349 Electoral College votes (as of noon November 5). Although some ballots remain to be counted, at least 63 million Americans voted for the Illinois senator.

"A new dawn of American leadership is at hand," Obama said in his acceptance speech. (See "Barack Obama Wins Historic Election Victory" (<http://www.america.gov/st/elections08-english/2008/November/20081105004357esnamfuak06412165.html?CP.rss=true> ).")

Although Obama's victory speech was given at midnight EST, many Americans stayed up late to watch him speak. As his speech concluded, neighborhoods across the country filled with people celebrating the historic occasion.

In the nation's capital, hundreds of college students gathered at George Washington University's student center to watch results on television. As television networks called the election for Obama, cheers broke out and students hugged each other. A few blocks away, thousands converged outside the White House, waving flags and singing patriotic songs.



*US citizens, resident in Kisumu, Western Kenya, Wednesday Nov. 5, 2008, celebrate along with local residents the victory of president-elect Barack Obama, in the American presidential election. Barack Obama's Kenyan relatives and Africans across the continent celebrated his victory Wednesday, staying up all night or waking before dawn to cheer in America's first black president.  
(AP Photo/Riccardo Gangale)*

In Obama's hometown of Chicago, more than 125,000 filled the city's Grant Park to watch the president-elect speak. Television cameras captured images of prominent African-American leaders in tears as they commemorated the occasion.

In Atlanta, hundreds gathered outside Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, the church where civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. preached. "This is something that my father would be proud of America for," King's daughter Bernice King said in Atlanta.

Celebrations were not limited to the United States. Across the world, people gathered at restaurants and other places with televisions to watch the results.

In the small fishing town of Obama, Japan, a town that has celebrated sharing a name with the famous American, more than 30,000 joined in election-related festivities. Many chanted a phrase commonly used by Obama's supporters in the United States: "Yes we can!"

But perhaps no country was as excited for Obama's victory as Kenya. The home country of Obama's father has followed the Illinois senator's campaign closely, viewing him as one of their own. Cheers erupted throughout Nairobi at 7 a.m. local time when Obama's win was announced.

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki declared November 6 a national holiday. "Because of his roots here in Kenya, as a country, we are full of pride for his success. I therefore wish to announce that tomorrow ... be observed as a public holiday to enable all Kenyans to celebrate this historic achievement for President-elect Obama," Kibaki said.

### WORLD LEADERS CONGRATULATE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Across the world, words of support from leaders and average people alike poured in for Obama.

Just minutes after Obama secured the presidency, President Bush called the Illinois senator to congratulate him. "I told the president-elect he can count on complete cooperation from my administration as

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## World Celebrates Barack Obama's Historic . . .

(Continued from page 5)

he makes the transition to the White House," he said at the White House November 5.

"No matter how they cast their ballots, all Americans can be proud of the history that was made yesterday," Bush said. "They showed a watching world the vitality of America's democracy and the strides we have made toward a more perfect union."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also congratulated Obama, and said the State Department is ready to assist with the transition as well.

On a more personal note, Rice said, "as an African American, I am especially proud be-

cause this is a country that's been through a long journey in terms of overcoming wounds and making race not the factor in our lives. That work is not done, but yesterday was obviously an extraordinary step forward."

Leaders from all regions of the world sent congratulatory messages to Obama.

"By choosing you, the American people have chosen change, openness and optimism," French President Nicolas Sarkozy said.

"In a new historical era, I look forward to ... taking our bilateral rela-

tionship of constructive cooperation to a new level," China's leader, Hu Jintao, said.

"The election of Senator Barack Obama to the presidency of the United States has taken the American people and the rest of the



*World leaders hailed Barack Obama's triumph Wednesday in the US presidential election as the dawn of a new era and called for the global superpower to change the way it does business. (AFP/Toru Yamanaka)*

world with them into a new era — an era where race, color and ethnicity, I hope, will also disappear," said Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

Ordinary citizens from around the world also have congratulated the president-elect, leaving comments for Obama on America.gov's elections blog.

"Congratulations to American people showing to the world being part of the historic moment of the greatest people in history who created democracy! What a nation!" wrote one reader. "The world have hope now, God bless America and all the best to Obama!"

"Mr. Obama is an inspiring man to many people outside the U.S., and we are envious of the smart, courageous, compassionate and wordly leader that the U.S. people have chosen," wrote another reader. "We are confident that under his leadership, the U.S. can again be a revered and loved people of the world."

Post your comments to president-elect Obama by visiting America.gov's blog, Campaign Trail Talk ( <http://blogs.america.gov/campaign/2008/11/04/president-elect-barack-obama/> ).

The texts of President Bush's statement ( <http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2008/November/20081105104853eaifas0.9219782.html> ) and the statement by Secretary Rice ( <http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2008/November/20081105133652eaifas0.7808649.html> ) are available on America.gov.

ber/20081105104853eaifas0.9219782.html ) and the statement by Secretary Rice ( <http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2008/November/20081105133652eaifas0.7808649.html> ) are available on America.gov.

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## Work Begins Immediately for Next U.S. President and His Team

By Michelle Austein  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — Barack Obama will not take the oath of office until January 20, 2009, but work to address the many challenges that await him in the presidency begins immediately.

As campaign staffs across the country clean out their offices, a transition team begins its work to ensure the Obama administration is ready to handle the major foreign policy and economic challenges facing the United States.

The transition team, which will include experts on every major policy issue, will begin preparing policy recommendations for the president-elect and help him select Cabinet members. These Cabinet appointments are subject to confirmation by the new Congress after Obama is sworn in.

The transition team will receive help from the White House. The peaceful transfer of power from one presidential administration to the next is a hallmark of American democracy, and the Bush administration is committed to assisting with that transfer. (See "Ensuring A Smooth and Effective Presidential Transition" (<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2008/October/20081028144002eaifas0.0438959.html&distid=ucs> ).")

Transition planning began months ago. Federal agencies and White

House offices have prepared briefings on significant pending policy issues for the president-elect's transition team.

Both presidential candidates were briefed regularly on national security issues, and Obama will be kept continuously informed as he prepares



*Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in October 2008. Tackling the financial crisis will be among the next president's top concerns. (AFP/File/Don Emmert)*

to take office.

### FOREIGN POLICY CHALLENGES

When Obama becomes president on January 20, 2009, he will become commander in chief of U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The wars were a major topic on the campaign trail, and both candidates supported increasing troop levels in Afghanistan. They differed on Iraq.

Obama has criticized the Iraq war since its beginning and has pledged to begin withdrawing troops as soon as he is inaugurated, with a goal of having most troops out of the country within 16 months.

Along with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Obama administration will have to address Iran's drive for nuclear capabilities, Steven Cook, senior fellow at the Council of Foreign Relations, told journalists at the State Department's Foreign Press Center October 29.

The new administration also must decide "whether or not it is worth the president's time and effort to engage diplomatically on the Arab-Israeli front, given all the other issues that are confronting the president," he said.

"The Middle East has been a central focus of the Bush administration's foreign policy and it's likely to be a central focus for the next administration," Cook said.

Throughout his campaign, Obama called for a multilateral approach to foreign policy in which the United States would engage more deeply and more frequently with its allies. American University professor Allan Lichtman told journalists at the State Department's Foreign Press Center November 3 that he expects the Obama administration will follow through on that pledge.

One potential area for increased cooperation is climate change. "I would expect Barack Obama to re-open negotiations with the [European Union] and other nations, including Russia and China, on the

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## Transcript: Barack Obama's Victory Speech

On November 4, Americans elected Illinois Senator Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States. At the end of a very long Election Day, he addressed supporters at a park in Chicago. (See "Barack Obama Wins Historic Election Victory ( <http://www.america.gov/st/elections08-english/2008/November/20081105004357esnamfuak0.6412165.html?CP.rss=true> ).")

Following is the transcript of that speech:

(begin transcript)

President-elect Barack Obama  
Chicago, Illinois  
November 4, 2008

Hello, Chicago.

If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer.

It's the answer told by lines that stretched around schools and churches in numbers this nation has never seen, by people who waited three hours and four hours, many for the first time in their lives, because they believed that this time must be different, that their voices could be that difference.

It's the answer spoken by young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, gay, straight, disabled and not disabled. Americans who sent a message to the world that we have never been



*President-elect Barack Obama waves to his supporters after delivering his victory speech at his election night party at Grant Park in Chicago, Tuesday night, Nov. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)*

just a collection of individuals or a collection of red states and blue states.

We are, and always will be, the United States of America.

It's the answer that led those who've been told for so long by so many to be cynical and fearful and doubtful about what we can achieve to put their hands on the arc of history and bend it once more toward the hope of a better day.

It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this date, in this election, at this defining moment, change has come

to America.

A little bit earlier this evening, I received an extraordinarily gracious call from Sen. McCain.

Sen. McCain fought long and hard in this campaign. And he's fought even longer and harder for the country that he loves. He has endured sacrifices for America that most of us cannot begin to imagine. We are better off for the service rendered by this brave and selfless leader.

I congratulate him; I congratulate Gov. Palin for all that they've achieved. And I look forward to

*(Continued on page 9)*

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## Transcript: Barack Obama's Victory Speech

*(Continued from page 8)*

working with them to renew this nation's promise in the months ahead.

I want to thank my partner in this journey, a man who campaigned from his heart, and spoke for the men and women he grew up with on the streets of Scranton and rode with on the train home to Delaware, the vice president-elect of the United States, Joe Biden.

And I would not be standing here tonight without the unyielding support of my best friend for the last 16 years, the rock of our family, the love of my life, the nation's next first lady, Michelle Obama.

Sasha and Malia, I love you both more than you can imagine. And you have earned the new puppy that's coming with us to the new White House.

And while she's no longer with us, I know my grandmother's watching, along with the family that made me who I am. I miss them tonight. I know that my debt to them is beyond measure.

To my sister Maya, my sister Alma, all my other brothers and sisters, thank you so much for all the support that you've given me. I am grateful to them.

And to my campaign manager, David Plouffe, the unsung hero of this campaign, who built the best — the best political campaign, I think, in the history of the United States of America.

To my chief strategist David Axelrod who's been a partner with me every step of the way.

To the best campaign team ever assembled in the history of politics. You made this happen, and I am forever grateful for what you've sacrificed to get it done.

But above all, I will never forget who this victory truly belongs to. It belongs to you. It belongs to you.

I was never the likeliest candidate for this office. We didn't start with much money or many endorsements. Our campaign was not hatched in the halls of Washington. It began in the backyards of Des Moines and the living rooms of Concord and the front porches of Charleston. It was built by working men and women who dug into what little savings they had to give \$5 and \$10 and \$20 to the cause.

It grew strength from the young people who rejected the myth of their generation's apathy, who left their homes and their families for jobs that offered little pay and less sleep.

It drew strength from the not-so-young people who braved the bitter cold and scorching heat to knock on doors of perfect strangers, and from the millions of Americans who volunteered and organized and proved that more than two centuries later a government of the people, by the people, and for the people has not perished from the Earth.

This is your victory.

And I know you didn't do this just to win an election. And I know you didn't do it for me.

You did it because you understand the enormity of the task that lies ahead. For even as we celebrate tonight, we know the challenges

that tomorrow will bring are the greatest of our lifetime — two wars, a planet in peril, the worst financial crisis in a century.

Even as we stand here tonight, we know there are brave Americans waking up in the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan to risk their lives for us.

There are mothers and fathers who will lie awake after the children fall asleep and wonder how they'll make the mortgage or pay their doctors' bills or save enough for their child's college education.

There's new energy to harness, new jobs to be created, new schools to build, and threats to meet, alliances to repair.

The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even in one term. But, America, I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there.

I promise you, we as a people will get there.

There will be setbacks and false starts. There are many who won't agree with every decision or policy I make as president. And we know the government can't solve every problem.

But I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face. I will listen to you, especially when we disagree. And, above all, I will ask you to join in the work of re-making this nation, the only way it's been done in America for 221 years — block by block, brick by brick, calloused hand by calloused hand.

*(Continued on page 10)*

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## Transcript: Barack Obama's Victory Speech

*(Continued from page 9)*

What began 21 months ago in the depths of winter cannot end on this autumn night.

This victory alone is not the change we seek. It is only the chance for us to make that change. And that cannot happen if we go back to the way things were.

It can't happen without you, without a new spirit of service, a new spirit of sacrifice.

So let us summon a new spirit of patriotism, of responsibility, where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves but each other.

Let us remember that, if this financial crisis taught us anything, it's that we cannot have a thriving Wall Street while Main Street suffers.

In this country, we rise or fall as one nation, as one people. Let's resist the temptation to fall back on the same partisanship and pettiness and immaturity that has poisoned our politics for so long.

Let's remember that it was a man from this state who first carried the banner of the Republican Party to the White House, a party founded on the values of self-reliance and individual liberty and national unity.

Those are values that we all share. And while the Democratic Party has won a great victory tonight, we do so with a measure of humility and determination to heal the divides that have held back our progress.

As Lincoln said to a nation far more divided than ours, we are not enemies but friends. Though passion

may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.

And to those Americans whose support I have yet to earn, I may not have won your vote tonight, but I hear your voices. I need your help. And I will be your president, too.

And to all those watching tonight from beyond our shores, from parliaments and palaces, to those who are huddled around radios in the forgotten corners of the world: Our stories are singular, but our destiny is shared, and a new dawn of American leadership is at hand.

To those — to those who would tear the world down: We will defeat you. To those who seek peace and security: We support you. And to all those who have wondered if America's beacon still burns as bright: Tonight we proved once more that the true strength of our nation comes not from the might of our arms or the scale of our wealth, but from the enduring power of our ideals: democracy, liberty, opportunity and unyielding hope.

That's the true genius of America: that America can change. Our union can be perfected. What we've already achieved gives us hope for what we can and must achieve tomorrow.

This election had many firsts and many stories that will be told for generations. But one that's on my mind tonight's about a woman who cast her ballot in Atlanta. She's a lot like the millions of others who stood in line to make their voice heard in this election except for one thing: Ann Nixon Cooper is 106 years old.

She was born just a generation past slavery; a time when there were no cars on the road or planes in the sky; when someone like her couldn't vote for two reasons — because she was a woman and because of the color of her skin.

And tonight, I think about all that she's seen throughout her century in America — the heartache and the hope; the struggle and the progress; the times we were told that we can't, and the people who pressed on with that American creed: Yes we can.

At a time when women's voices were silenced and their hopes dismissed, she lived to see them stand up and speak out and reach for the ballot. Yes we can.

When there was despair in the dust bowl and depression across the land, she saw a nation conquer fear itself with a New Deal, new jobs, a new sense of common purpose. Yes we can.

When the bombs fell on our harbor and tyranny threatened the world, she was there to witness a generation rise to greatness and a democracy was saved. Yes we can.

She was there for the buses in Montgomery, the hoses in Birmingham, a bridge in Selma, and a preacher from Atlanta who told a people that "We Shall Overcome." Yes we can.

A man touched down on the moon, a wall came down in Berlin, a world was connected by our own science and imagination.

And this year, in this election, she touched her finger to a screen, and

*(Continued on page 16)*

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## Transcript: John McCain's Concession Speech

On November 4, Americans elected Illinois Senator Barack Obama the 44th president of the United States. (See "Barack Obama Wins Historic Election Victory ( <http://www.america.gov/st/elections08-english/2008/November/20081105004357esnamfuak0.6412165.html?CP.rss=true> ).")

In a concession speech that underscored the importance of the U.S. democratic process and the personal dignity and integrity of Senator John McCain, the defeated Republican nominee called on Americans to unite behind an Obama presidency in an address to supporters in Phoenix.

A transcript of that speech follows, with interruptions by crowd shown in parentheses:

(begin transcript)

John McCain  
Phoenix, Arizona  
November 4, 2008

Thank you. Thank you, my friends. Thank you for coming here on this beautiful Arizona evening.

My friends, we have we have come to the end of a long journey. The American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly.

A little while ago, I had the honor of calling Senator Barack Obama to congratulate him [BOOING] – please – to congratulate him on being elected the next president of the country that we both love.



*Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., left, delivers remarks during an election night rally in Phoenix Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008. Joining him on stage are from right, wife Cindy McCain, Gov. Sarah Palin, R-Alaska, and her husband Todd. (AP Photo/Stephan Savoia)*

In a contest as long and difficult as this campaign has been, his success alone commands my respect for his ability and perseverance. But that he managed to do so by inspiring the hopes of so many millions of Americans who had once wrongly believed that they had little at stake or little influence in the election of an American president is something I deeply admire and commend him for achieving.

This is an historic election, and I recognize the special significance it has for African-Americans and for the special pride that must be theirs tonight. I've always believed that America offers opportunities to all who have the industry and will to seize it. Senator Obama believes that, too. But we both recognize

that, though we have come a long way from the old injustices that once stained our nation's reputation and denied some Americans the full blessings of American citizenship, the memory of them still had the power to wound.

A century ago, President Theodore Roosevelt's invitation of Booker T. Washington to dine at the White House was taken as an outrage in many quarters.

America today is a world away from the cruel and frightful bigotry of that time. There is no better evidence of this than the election of an African-American to the presidency of the United States.

*(Continued on page 12)*

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## Transcript: John McCain's Concession Speech

*(Continued from page 11)*

Let there be no reason now ... let there be no reason now for any American to fail to cherish their citizenship in this, the greatest nation on Earth.

Senator Obama has achieved a great thing for himself and for his country. I applaud him for it, and offer him my sincere sympathy that his beloved grandmother did not live to see this day. Though our faith assures us she is at rest in the presence of her creator and so very proud of the good man she helped raise.

Senator Obama and I have had and argued our differences, and he has prevailed. No doubt many of those differences remain. These are difficult times for our country. And I pledge to him tonight to do all in my power to help him lead us through the many challenges we face.

I urge all Americans ... I urge all Americans who supported me to join me in not just congratulating him, but offering our next president our good will and earnest effort to find ways to come together to find the necessary compromises to bridge our differences and help restore our prosperity, defend our security in a dangerous world, and leave our children and grandchildren a stronger, better country than we inherited.

Whatever our differences, we are fellow Americans. And please believe me when I say no association

has ever meant more to me than that.

It is natural. It's natural, tonight, to feel some disappointment. But tomorrow, we must move beyond it and work together to get our country moving again.

We fought we fought as hard as we could. And though we feel short, the failure is mine, not yours.

(NO!)

I am so...

(CHANTING)

I am so deeply grateful to all of you for the great honor of your support and for all you have done for me. I wish the outcome had been different, my friends.

The road was a difficult one from the outset, but your support and friendship never wavered. I cannot adequately express how deeply indebted I am to you.

I'm especially grateful to my wife, Cindy, my children, my dear mother ... my dear mother and all my family, and to the many old and dear friends who have stood by my side through the many ups and downs of this long campaign.

I have always been a fortunate man, and never more so for the love and encouragement you have given me.

You know, campaigns are often harder on a candidate's family than

on the candidate, and that's been true in this campaign.

All I can offer in compensation is my love and gratitude and the promise of more peaceful years ahead.

I am also I am also, of course, very thankful to Governor Sarah Palin, one of the best campaigners I've ever seen and an impressive new voice in our party for reform and the principles that have always been our greatest strength ... her husband Todd and their five beautiful children ... for their tireless dedication to our cause, and the courage and grace they showed in the rough and tumble of a presidential campaign.

We can all look forward with great interest to her future service to Alaska, the Republican Party and our country. To all my campaign comrades, from Rick Davis and Steve Schmidt and Mark Salter, to every last volunteer who fought so hard and valiantly, month after month, in what at times seemed to be the most challenged campaign in modern times, thank you so much. A lost election will never mean more to me than the privilege of your faith and friendship.

I don't know I don't know what more we could have done to try to win this election. I'll leave that to others to determine. Every candidate makes mistakes, and I'm sure I made my share of them. But I won't spend a moment of the future regretting what might have

*(Continued on page 16)*

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## Africans Share Impressions of the U.S. Presidential Race

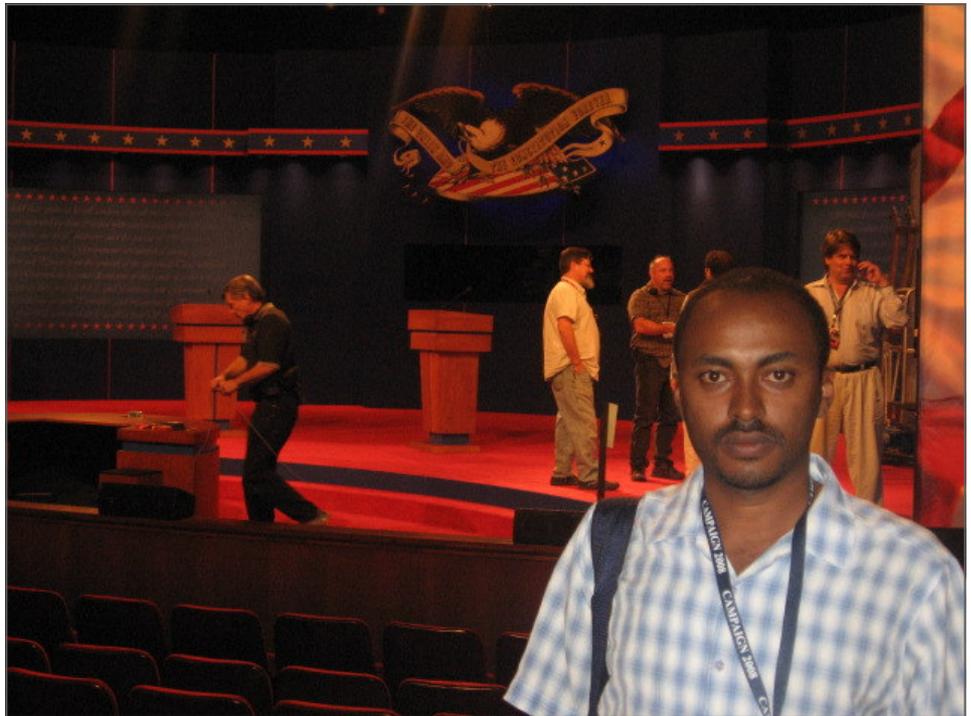
By Caitlin Bergin  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — When the presidential candidates debated September 26 in Mississippi, journalists from Ethiopia, Mali and Senegal were among hundreds of reporters in attendance. The African journalists came to Mississippi on a U.S.-sponsored exchange program to enable reporters from other nations to observe the U.S. election process firsthand.

Now back at work in their home countries, three of the participants talked to America.gov about their experience, and their impressions of the debate.

In terms of key observations, all cited the emergence of the U.S. economy as the pivotal campaign issue, the significance of young Americans' engagement in the elections, the underlying issue of race and the effect of debates on the political process. But each encountered some surprises on the campaign trail.

Abiye Tekelemariam, editor and radio presenter for Addis Neger, published as a newspaper and a broadcast over radio, told America.gov, "The U.S. is in a major economic crisis ... and the way [this] changed the campaign issues and narratives so quickly was amazing. The first debate was supposed to be about foreign policy ... [but] half of the debate was spent on tax policy, health care, financial regulations and other issues relating to the eco-



*Abiye Tekelemariam, Editor-in-Chief of Addis Neger, a private Amharic paper, poses for photo at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi prior to the first presidential debate.*

nomics crisis."

The journalists suggested that the emphasis on economic issues, combined with a more politically active student population, might distinguish the 2008 campaign from other recent presidential campaigns.

Mamadou Thior, chief editor of Radio Television Senegal, told America.gov that the venue for the first debate at a university was important because it engaged students in the political process, potentially leading to "a tremendous turnout among young voters for the November 4 elections."

Alassane Soulemaye, deputy editor in chief of Radio Television Mali, was struck by the high level of interest among young people and students in the campaigns and the elections.

All three journalists commented on how the first presidential debate of 2008 took place in a state that was on the front lines of the U.S. civil rights movement of the 1960s. For Thior, "seeing ... an African-American candidate ... debating with a white opponent for the presidency" of the United States at a

*(Continued on page 14)*

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## Africans Share Impressions of the U.S. Presidential . . .

*(Continued from page 13)*

university in the Deep South was deeply moving.

While covering the debates at the University of Mississippi, Thior also met and interviewed John Meredith, son of civil rights activist James Meredith, who was the first black student to enroll at the school in the 1960s. The elder Meredith braved fierce opposition, including death threats, to get a college degree. "I went around talking to people who witnessed that era," said Thior, "and I noticed that a racial divide is still there, even if relations between blacks and whites improved over the last decades."

Tekelemariam said that even though "there is a caricature of the Deep South as uncivilized, intolerant and illiberal," he encountered a different reality. "The people I met were invariably, and in some ways incredibly, decent and tolerant."

Despite the United States' challenges and problems, Soulemaye said, he saw America at a turning point, and observed that having an African-American candidate is "a very original case."

### THE ROLE OF THE NEWS MEDIA

All three journalists agreed the press plays an important role in shaping the presidential race. Tekelemariam said he found the campaigns and the candidates worried more about tailored messages and "sound bites" than real dis-

course, and that big corporate media news outlets were not always fair. Thior also said he saw a lack of objectivity on the part of some major media outlets.

The African observers saw citizen journalism as a significant new development for the 2008 campaign. Thior said that citizen journalism is shaping news patterns by letting "ordinary folks have their say about issues [by] becoming reporters. Local channels and newspapers focus on local issues, which is really interesting."

Tekelemariam added that new media also are quickly becoming an alternative to the traditional news sources. "I was ... astounded with the breadth and quality of discussion in some of the blogs, and how they are becoming genuine instruments of a democratic political process."

The easy availability of multiple news sources caught the journalists' attention. Thior noticed that "more and more newspapers are for free and are very simple to read" in the United States and that American newspapers are funded by advertising revenue, and not by the government.

Thior wondered whether voters in Africa would welcome U.S.-style debates. He eventually concluded they would, saying, "Debating is very important between politicians [who] ... always promise paradise to voters if they vote for them."

In reality, however, he said, "both candidates can differ on the same issue and contradict themselves" and that is why debates are important.

Both Thior and Tekelemariam said they think the 2008 election reinforces the image of the United States as a role model for diversity and democracy.

"The profile of the candidates in this election is a testament to the fact that there is no country in the world like America," Tekelemariam added.

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

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## How the Media “Call” the U.S. Presidential Election

**By Stephen Kaufman**  
**Staff Writer**

**Washington** — With exit polling data and vote projection analyses in hand, the news media once again will be putting their professional credibility on the line during the evening and early morning hours of November 4 and November 5 by declaring victors in U.S. states well before most of the votes have been counted.

A state’s election results are not official until all votes are counted and the outcome certified by a state official, usually the day after the election. However, American news organizations invest substantial resources to “call” states as soon as possible after the polls close. In doing so, they straddle a very fine line between the endless competition to be the first to report the news, and the desire to avoid errors and retractions.

No U.S. election highlighted the pitfalls more effectively than the 2000 presidential contest between George W. Bush and Al Gore. In that race, where the outcome in Florida’s voting became the deciding factor, television viewers saw the state called for Gore shortly after the polls closed in the evening of November 7, then that was reversed and it was awarded to Bush a few hours later, and then finally the race was determined to be “too close to call” in the early morning hours of November 8.

The general public was not the only group suffering from electoral whiplash. Social scientist Joseph Uscinski, now with the University of Miami, wrote in 2007 that once the news media predicted Bush had

won Florida, and therefore the presidency, that information “prompted” a telephoned concession call from Gore to Bush. The subsequent announcement that the outcome could not yet be determined led to Gore’s placing a second call to Bush to retract his concession. The winner ultimately was decided 35 days later by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

In 2004, a chastened and more cautious group of journalists waited for a victory or concession declaration from Bush or challenger John Kerry before declaring a national winner, according to Uscinski.

### NATIONAL ELECTION POOL PROVIDES COMMON DATA SOURCE

In 2003, ABC News, the Associated Press (AP), CBS News, CNN, Fox News and NBC News created the National Election Pool (NEP), which is the primary source of data behind media predictions on election night.

The organization relies on analysts from Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International to conduct and analyze exit polls and make projections. It also uses AP’s tabulation of voter returns from around the country. The data cover not only the presidential vote, but also Senate and House races and important state ballot initiatives. Any news outlet can sign up to get the information, but access comes with a \$26,000 price tag.

Exit polling consists of interviews conducted nationwide by 6,000 pollsters on a sample population of voters, asking how they voted and collecting information such as gender, age, race and other issues re-

lated to the voter’s choice in different contests, according to Edison’s Web site. Sample election precincts are chosen based on factors such as previous voting characteristics, partisan demographics and the total number of voters.

With many Americans choosing to vote early, Edison and Mitofsky also have been collecting data before November 4 through phone calls, particularly targeting states with larger proportions of early voters.

### THE NETWORKS MAKE THE FINAL DECISION

The Edison and Mitofsky analysts, under the supervision of NEP member representatives, assess the exit poll data, make predictions and provide all of their results to the subscribing networks, starting at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, after being sequestered for most of the day to prevent any premature release of information.

Contacting several networks to find out how and when a news network decides to call a race, America.gov discovered much of the internal mechanism for network decision-making is a closely held secret because of the fierce competition among networks. The process appears to be an exercise in probability and projection based on a mixture of the sample exit polls, incoming precinct and county reports, statistics and an analysis of the demographics and issues influencing the local voting population.

Vaughn Ververs at CBS wrote in 2006 that network analysts also look for signs that would indicate errors in the NEP data. “For exam-

*(Continued on page 27)*

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## Transcript: Barack Obama's Victory Speech

*(Continued from page 10)*

cast her vote, because after 106 years in America, through the best of times and the darkest of hours, she knows how America can change.

Yes we can.

America, we have come so far. We have seen so much. But there is so much more to do. So tonight, let us ask ourselves — if our children should live to see the next century; if my daughters should be so lucky

to live as long as Ann Nixon Cooper, what change will they see? What progress will we have made?

This is our chance to answer that call. This is our moment.

This is our time, to put our people back to work and open doors of opportunity for our kids; to restore prosperity and promote the cause of peace; to reclaim the American dream and reaffirm that fundamental truth, that, out of many, we are one; that while we breathe, we hope. And where we are met with

cynicism and doubts and those who tell us that we can't, we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the spirit of a people: Yes, we can.

Thank you. God bless you. And may God bless the United States of America.

(end transcript)

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

## Transcript: John McCain's Concession Speech

*(Continued from page 12)*

been.

This campaign was and will remain the great honor of my life, and my heart is filled with nothing but gratitude for the experience and to the American people for giving me a fair hearing before deciding that Senator Obama and my old friend Senator Joe Biden should have the honor of leading us for the next four years.

(BOOING)

Please, please

I would not I would not be an American worthy of the name should I regret a fate that has allowed me the extraordinary privi-

lege of serving this country for a half a century. Today, I was a candidate for the highest office in the country I love so much. And tonight, I remain her servant.

That is blessing enough for anyone, and I thank the people of Arizona for it.

(USA USA USA USA)

Tonight – tonight more than any night, I hold in my heart nothing but love for this country and for all its citizens, whether they supported me or Senator Obama whether they supported me or Senator Obama. I wish Godspeed to the man who was my former opponent and will be my president. And I call on all Americans, as I have often in this campaign, to not despair of our pre-

sent difficulties, but to believe, always, in the promise and greatness of America, because nothing is inevitable here.

Americans never quit. We never surrender. We never hide from history. We make history.

Thank you, and God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you all very much.

(end transcript)

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

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## International Leaders Monitor U.S. Presidential Election

**By Michelle Austein**  
**Staff Writer**

**Washington** — The world is paying close attention to the U.S. election, and, with the help of the State Department, some international leaders will watch Election Day unfold in the United States.

As part of the State Department's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), 44 female political leaders from the Middle East and North Africa have been in the United States since October 14 learning firsthand how presidential politics work. The women — some of whom have experience running campaigns in their own countries — attended workshops and political seminars in Washington before heading to various states to watch local campaign events.

At an October 22 reception in Washington, many of the women told [America.gov](http://www.america.gov) they were excited to watch the presidential race unfold but also were eager to gain useful tips that could help them run political operations in their countries.

"American elections have an important impact for all the world, especially for other political figures," said Fatiha Saddas, a political leader from Morocco. "There is a difference between observing the elections in person and watching it on TV."

Sumar Sleem, a lawyer from Lebanon, said she hoped she would learn some campaign skills she could use if she decides to run for office in her home country. Sleem was most interested in learning how to plan a campaign, how to engage

with the news media and how to raise funds. "The concept of fundraising doesn't exist [in Lebanon]," she said.

Sleem said she learned that in the United States, a candidate with a good message and good advisers can "start from nothing. It's a lot easier than starting a campaign in Lebanon."

While in Washington the women had the opportunity to meet with U.S. officials — including President Bush, who held a 45-minute meeting with them at the White House October 23. The group discussed the challenges facing the Middle East and the importance of supporting democracy and reform throughout the region.

Another 100 visitors from across the globe also will get a close view of the political action. As participants in the International Visitors Observe the Elections (I-Vote) program sponsored by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, visitors will observe political activities in some of the country's most competitive states, including Missouri, Colorado and Ohio.

"As our country prepares to elect the 44th president of the United States, members of Congress and thousands of officials in state and local contests, you will witness history in the making," Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs James Glassman told the participants October 27. "You will have the opportunity to observe democracy in action as Americans exercise their rights." (See "U.S. Democracy Has 'Come a Long Way,'" State's Glass-

man Says ( <http://www.america.gov/st/democracy-english/2008/October/20081027175155hmnietsua0.5602838.html?CP.rss=true> ).")

### EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION TO MONITOR U.S. ELECTION

Some international leaders will be observing the election in an official monitoring role. In accordance with its commitments as a member of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United States has invited the organization's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to monitor the election.

The observers look to ensure the United States is meeting its commitments and international standards for democratic elections. Monitors — some of whom began their work months ago — will examine implementation of federal legislation, the election campaign and the news media, electronic voters, voter registration, voter identification and voting rights.

The OSCE team began preparing for its mission in August by meeting with political experts, researching key issues and monitoring news coverage. Many officials are already in the United States, visiting battleground states to see how state officials are preparing for potentially record-breaking turnouts on Election Day.

About 100 members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will observe Election Day proceedings across the country. The OSCE plans to release a public report on its findings.

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## Ethiopia Launches Commodity Exchange to Develop Agriculture

By Phillip Kurata  
Staff Writer

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia** — Ethiopia, a country of chronic food shortages and malnutrition, has launched an agriculture commodity exchange in a daring experiment to raise food production by creating a safe, transparent agriculture market.

The idea to create a commodity exchange was hatched by a former senior economist at the World Bank, Eleni Gabre-Madhin, who was born in Ethiopia and educated in the United States. Gabre-Madhin did her doctoral research on the role of markets in developing countries and refined her ideas while at the International Food Policy Research Institute. She now is the chief executive of the exchange.

Gabre-Madhin said the Ethiopian government began to consider a commodity exchange after the food crisis in 2002-2003; a bumper crop and price collapse in 2002 were followed by drought that threatened 14 million people with starvation the next year.

"In the bumper harvest, prices fell so low that farmers could not repay their loans, despite abundant production. The next year, not enough food was produced to feed the population. This led the government to think about the market: 'Why don't people store grain from year to year? Why can't the market deliver in bad times and save in good times?'" she said. Although Ethiopia is the biggest grain producer in Africa, its tradi-

tional markets are small because of narrow networks of trust among buyers and sellers. "Most farmers trade within 12 kilometers of their farms and only with people they know," Gabre-Madhin said. She said more than two-thirds of farmers have faced contract defaults, and only 4 percent have received legal enforcement of contracts.



*Eleni Gabre-Madhin  
CEO, Commodity Exchange Board of Ethiopia*

In the traditional trading system, grain changes hands four to five times between producer and consumer. With each change, the grain is put into new sacks. This system enables buyers to know what they are getting in terms of quality and quantity, as the contents are inspected and weighed, but it is vulnerable to price shocks.

The Ethiopia Commodity Exchange began operating in April, creating transparency and predictability in the national market and connecting Ethiopian commodities to international markets.

The U.S. Agency for International Development provided \$1 million to launch the exchange.

The exchange provides warehousing, a reliable payment system, real-time market information, and quality control. Producers sell directly to the exchange, which assures payment within 24 hours.

"In the past, truck drivers took payment in envelopes filled with cash. It was never certain if or how much of the money would make it back into the hands of the seller," Gabre-Madhin said. Buyers in the traditional system do not know the quality of what they get unless they open up the sacks and inspect the contents. The exchange has assumed the grading task and guarantees the quality, so a distant buyer can be confident of what he is purchasing.

The Ethiopian exchange is linked to commodity markets around the world, making it possible for a trader in India, for instance, to buy futures of the prized Ethiopian lentils.

As for Ethiopia's major export, coffee, 461 coffee suppliers have obtained one-year memberships on the new commodity exchange.

"We're going to disseminate New York prices on our trading floor, and we'll feed our prices to the New York market. That means if you are looking at Ethiopian, Colombian or

*(Continued on page 19)*

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## Ethiopia Launches Commodity Exchange to Develop . . .

*(Continued from page 18)*

Rwandan coffee, you will have a basis for comparison," Gabre-Madhin said.

Agricultural traders have deluged the exchange with applications for membership, which, in Gabre-Madhin's view, is a sign that market confidence is building. "Worries about getting paid and getting the expected quality are being eliminated," she said.

Gabre-Madhin said she expects the exchange will create incentives for farmers to bring more of their produce to market. In the traditional trading system, about one-fourth of

Ethiopia's grain is brought to market. She said the goal of the exchange is to handle 50 percent of Ethiopia's grain production in five years.

She said that nearly half of Ethiopia's rural households are net buyers of food. "Poor people buy food as well as sell food, which means that markets matter a lot, even at this low level of income," she said.

The exchange is not without its critics. Some say it will not work as a market institution because government officials occupy six of the 11 seats of the board. Gabre-Madhin believes that the government's involvement with the exchange will

help it learn quickly how markets function.

Another concern has been that the exchange will further increase food prices, which have doubled in the past year. If Ethiopia's food-deficient neighbors can buy Ethiopia's commodities, then there will be less food for the country's already malnourished people, critics say.

Gabre-Madhin counters that the exchange is not the panacea for all of Ethiopia's food problems, but it is an important element for a functioning agriculture-based economy.

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



*Limmu Kossa Coffee Plantation (Jimma Zone)*



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## United States Condemns Renewed Conflict in Congo

By David McKeeby  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — As thousands flee a new outbreak of violence in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United States urges government and opposition forces to stand down and underlines America's support for



*A man carrying his son and a few possessions is among thousands fleeing renewed conflict in eastern Congo.*

United Nations peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts.

"The violence that has driven tens of thousands of civilians from their homes and placed their lives at risk is deplorable," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said in an October 28 statement.

Forces loyal to former Congolese General Laurent Nkunda have made gains against government forces in Kibumba and appear to be preparing an assault on the city of Goma, where 22 rebel groups, including Nkunda's, signed a January 2008 agreement to bring peace to the war-ravaged region.

McCormack urged Nkunda to return his forces to their pre-August 28 positions, rescind his party's call for open revolt and resume talks with the democratically elected and internationally recognized DRC government.

A 17,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force drawn from 18 nations, including Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Uruguay, has deployed attack helicopters in an attempt to stall the offensive. The United States is a leading supporter of the peacekeeping mission — the U.N.'s largest — contributing \$200 million to the effort annually.

"The U.S. reaffirms its support for the United Nations Mission in the Congo, which has played a vital role in protecting civilian populations and ending violence," McCormack said.

As many as 45,000 refugees have poured into a U.N. refugee camp outside Goma, where the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF and the World Food Programme are expediting deliveries of food aid and humanitarian supplies to meet emergency needs.

The United States is the world's leading provider of emergency food aid and a long-standing supporter of U.N. humanitarian efforts, including \$123 million in contributions to U.N. and nongovernmental relief agencies operating in Congo during 2008.

One of Africa's largest countries, resource-rich Congo suffered nearly a decade of back-to-back wars and continuing instability that has claimed more than 5 million lives from fighting, disease and malnutrition. The United States has been an active supporter of diplomatic efforts to help Congo regain stability and consolidate democracy through its facilitation of the Tripartite Plus Joint Commission. The commission includes Congo, Burundi and Rwanda, nations that McCormack said could play a role in

enhancing stability. The United States and the European Union played a role in the November 2007 Nairobi Communiqué, a U.N.-brokered agreement between Congo and Rwanda to address militant violence in the eastern Congo border region.

Through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States has delivered more than \$220 million in emergency aid since 1998, along with medical services for 10,000 survivors of the Congo conflict, help for ex-combatants returning to civilian life and programs to help Congo's peo-



*U.N. peacekeepers from Uruguay prepare to deploy into eastern Congo's combat zone.*

ple build democracy and improve health care, education and agriculture.

"The U.S. calls on all parties to the Goma Agreements and the Nairobi Communiqué to respect their commitments and renounce the use of arms," McCormack said. "We call on the countries of the Great Lakes region to work together to enhance stability and respect each other's sovereignty."

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

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## Piracy Off the Horn of Africa Threatens Relief Efforts, Trade

By Jacquelyn S. Porth  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — The waters off the coast of Somalia have become increasingly dangerous as pirates hijack commercial ships packed with food, weapons and ammunition. More than 60 ships have been attacked in 2008, and ransom money paid to the pirates over time has grown to more than \$100 million.

While piracy has plagued the Somali region for a decade, London-based policy analysis organization Chatham House says the problem has worsened. A new report, *Piracy in Somalia: Threatening Global Trade, Feeding Local Wars*, points to Somalia as the perfect breeding ground for pirates.

Author Roger Middleton wrote: "With little functioning government, long, isolated sandy beaches and a population that is both desperate and used to war, Somalia is a perfect environment for piracy to thrive."

Somalia, a country whose trade and relief route is targeted by the pirates, does not have a maritime force to deal with the problem. Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi highlighted the problem when he met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at the United Nations in September. Unchecked piracy, he said, could destabilize the region. "We very much hope the international community will respond," Zenawi said.

The problem has attracted the attention of the U.S. Navy, the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The chairman

of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Navy Admiral Michael Mullen, has flagged piracy as "a global problem because of its deepening ties to international criminal networks and the disruption of vital commerce."

NATO quickly put together a Standing Naval Maritime Group responding to what NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer described as "lawlessness on the high

Greek, German, Turkish, American and British ships are authorized to use force to ensure safe passage for humanitarian relief supplies. The commander of U.S. and European forces, U.S. Army General John Craddock, said NATO's action indicates the alliance's willingness to step up to "the persistent threat of piracy."

The European Union reportedly will take over the mission from NATO



*Dozens of ships, mainly merchant vessels, have been seized off the Horn of Africa country by heavily armed pirates using high-powered speedboats. The ships are sometimes held for weeks until ransoms are paid by governments or owners. (Photo from Getty Images)*

seas." Three NATO ships — with more en route — deployed in response to an urgent appeal from the United Nations World Food Programme to protect shipments of aid to Somalia.

The first NATO escort occurred at the end of October, successfully ensuring the delivery of supplies to African Union peacekeepers in conflict-ridden Somalia. The Italian,

when up to a half dozen ships sail into the area in December. Navies of nine European nations have pledged support. In addition, Russia has offered a frigate for patrols.

Another international force comprised of U.S., British, French, Canadian, German and Pakistani ships has been patrolling the Gulf of Aden since May and reportedly has

*(Continued on page 22)*

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## Piracy Off the Horn of Africa Threatens Relief Efforts, . . .

(Continued from page 21)

stopped a dozen pirate attacks there. The French reported capturing nine pirates recently.

By the end of 2008, close to two dozen international naval ships will be conducting anti-piracy missions. The Arab League is considering forming a force to stand up to the pirates — some of whom are equipped with shoulder-launched missiles and rocket-propelled grenades.

### PIRATES NEED TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE

The U.N. International Maritime Organization has been clamoring for greater international involvement since the summer of 2008.

The U.S. Central Command created the Maritime Security Patrol Area in the Gulf of Aden in August. A coalition force of ships and aircraft are patrolling for pirates and terrorists.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 1838, passed in October, calls on interested nations to use their assets to counter piracy along Somalia's long coastline.

NATO statistics indicate that 10 commercial ships and several hundred crew members are currently being held by pirates, some of whom have told the Associated Press they will not be deterred from stealing the lucrative bounty aboard 20,000 vessels passing through the region each year.

The Navy's new Cooperative Strategy for the 21st Century calls for

mitigating actions against sea-borne threats including piracy. The U.S. Navy has joined coalition forces to deter pirates and give the shipping industry time "to implement self-protection measures, and the international community [time] to establish a legal framework to hold pirates accountable for their actions," according to Vice Admiral William Gortney.

But Gortney told Reuters that coalition maritime forces do not have sufficient resources to offer around-the-clock protection from pirates. He urged merchant ships to conduct evasive maneuvers and to hire security teams as means to bring down their insurance premiums.

Such security teams might have helped the crew of the Ukrainian vessel *Faina*, which was hijacked September 25 by some 60 pirates made up of former fisherman, militiamen and high-tech gurus who are operating satellite telephones and Global Positioning System equipment. The U.S. 5th Fleet has been monitoring the situation via ships in visual contact with the hijacked vessel loaded with tanks and other military equipment.

The private security firm Blackwater Worldwide has rented a ship and equipped it with helicopters and armed personnel for anti-piracy missions.

Hollowpoint Protective Services Chief Executive John Harris told the Associated Press his firm is ready to conduct negotiations with pirates to secure the release of hijacked ships and hostages, or to conduct

an armed intervention should negotiations fail.

The British security firm Eos has taken a nonlethal approach favoring laser, microwave and acoustical devices. Some vessels have successfully thwarted pirates by hosing them with water as they sought to board with flimsy ladders or grappling hooks. Meanwhile, warning shots fired from the USNS *John Lenthall* in October were enough to scare off two small skiffs favored by pirates.

International maritime officials advocate pre-emptive action. Somali officials have given international naval forces *carte blanche* to act, but international laws make guilt difficult to determine unless the pirates are caught in a raid.

For information about U.S. policy, see "Humanitarian Aid Key Component of U.S. Navy's New Maritime Strategy ( <http://www.america.gov/st/peacesec-english/2008/February/20080214110541sjhtrop0.588772.html> )." Information about recent pirate attacks is available through the International Maritime Bureau's live piracy map ( <http://www.icc-ccs.org/extra/display.php?yr=2008> ).

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

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## Scientists Developing Cancer-Fighting Purple Tomatoes

By Daniel Gorelick  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — One red tomato plant plus two genes from a snapdragon flower equals a purple tomato that might offer protection against a broad range of human diseases.

Researchers at the John Innes Centre in the United Kingdom added the snapdragon genes to produce a genetically modified tomato that contains high levels of anthocyanins, chemicals that might protect against certain cancers and cardiovascular disease, according to an October 26 report in the journal *Nature Biotechnology*.

The study showed that cancer-prone mice lived longer when fed diets supplemented with purple tomato powder, which appears to be nontoxic.

Anthocyanins are present at high levels in berries such as blackberries and cranberries. Scientists are investigating ways to increase the levels of health-promoting compounds in commonly eaten fruits and vegetables.

"This is one of the first examples of metabolic engineering that offers the potential to promote health through diet by reducing the impact of chronic disease," said Professor Cathie

Martin, lead author of the study. She added that tomatoes are an important food crop around the world.

Researchers long have thought that anti-oxidants promote health and discourage disease. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of

Health and Human Services, and the National Cancer Institute recommend that people eat at least five portions of fruits and vegetables per day. However, only 23 percent of the U.S. population follows these recommendations, according to the CDC.

### THE SCIENCE BEHIND PURPLE TOMATOES

Anthocyanins are small, water-soluble pigments that color plants red, blue or purple depending on their acid content — blueberries, purple eggplants and blood oranges derive their characteristic colors, in part, from these chemicals. Anthocyanins also act as anti-oxidants, meaning that they slow or prevent oxidation reactions from occurring.

In a metabolic paradox, oxygen is required for life but also can damage cells by engaging in oxidation reactions that produce highly reactive free radicals, molecules that are often toxic.

Foods rich in water- and fat-soluble anti-oxidants are thought to be the best protection against disease. Tomatoes are high in lycopene, a fat-soluble anti-oxidant, but contain small amounts of water-soluble anti-oxidants, most of which are concentrated in

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*A purple tomato in an undated image released by the John Innes Center in Britain. A purple tomato genetically engineered to contain nutrients more commonly seen in dark berries helped prevent cancer in mice, British researchers said on Sunday.*

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## Scientists Developing Cancer-Fighting Purple . . .

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the tomato peel.

Martin and colleagues boosted water-soluble anti-oxidant levels by adding two genes from the snapdragon *Antirrhinum majus* to the MicroTom tomato variety.

Cells produce anthocyanins through a multistep process in which a chemical, the amino acid phenylalanine, is successively modified — much the same way that a quilt is assembled by connecting and modifying individual panels.

Each step of the modification is activated by certain genes; more than a dozen regulate the entire pathway. Normally these genes are not on in tomatoes, so few anthocyanins are produced. The two snapdragon genes researchers added, however, are master regulators of anthocyanin production: they turn on the genes, normally off in tomatoes, necessary to produce anthocyanins.

The purple color is proof that the genetic modification worked. Researchers confirmed this by measuring levels of anthocyanins in both the peel and the flesh. Purple tomatoes averaged 2.83 milligrams of anthocyanin per gram of fruit. In unmodified tomatoes, anthocyanins were “virtually undetectable,” according to the report.

**COULD PURPLE TOMATOES PREVENT CANCER?**

In the laboratory, anti-oxidants display health-promoting effects, but scientists have yet to demonstrate concrete benefits in human studies.

Martin and colleagues asked whether their purple tomatoes actually could help prevent a chronic disease. In a pilot study, researchers took an established strain of cancer-prone mice, genetically engineered to rapidly develop spontaneous tumors, and fed them diets supplemented with tomato powder.

Cancer-prone mice on a standard diet or one containing 10 percent red tomato powder had an average life span between 142 and 146 days. On diets supplemented with purple tomato powder, mice lived about 30 percent longer, 182 days on average.

Researchers are now testing whether purified anthocyanins produce a similar effect.

The anthocyanin-rich purple tomato is the first example of a genetically modified plant with a trait that “really offers a potential benefit for all consumers,” Martin said. The next step will be to perform studies with humans “to see if we can promote health through dietary preventive medicine strategies.”

The United States supports advances in food technology, such as genetically modified crops, to boost food production, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said.

According to Dan Price, deputy national security advisor for international economic affairs, genetically modified crops lead to higher yields, and discouraging their use in developing nations deprives those nations of higher yields domestically and for export markets. (See “Long-term Approach to Food Aid Problems Necessary, Rice Says ( <http://www.america.gov/st/foraid-english/2008/April/20080429145712AKlllennoCcmO.1241114.html> )” and Background Briefing on Bush’s Announcement on Global Food Aid ( <http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2008/May/20080502115313xjsnommisO.2467157.html> ).)

For more information on the health benefits of fruits and vegetables, see the CDC’s Fruits & Veggies — More Matters ( <http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov/> ) Web site.

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

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## Team Fights Waterborne Diseases in Developing Countries

By Nancy L. Pontius  
Special Correspondent

**Littleton, Colorado** — An expert team from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) traveled to the small West African country of Guinea-Bissau in September to help control an outbreak of cholera, which so far has killed 200 and sickened 12,000.

The team is part of a larger CDC program that works in developing countries to control and prevent waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid fever and dysentery, which often are spread in contaminated drinking water.

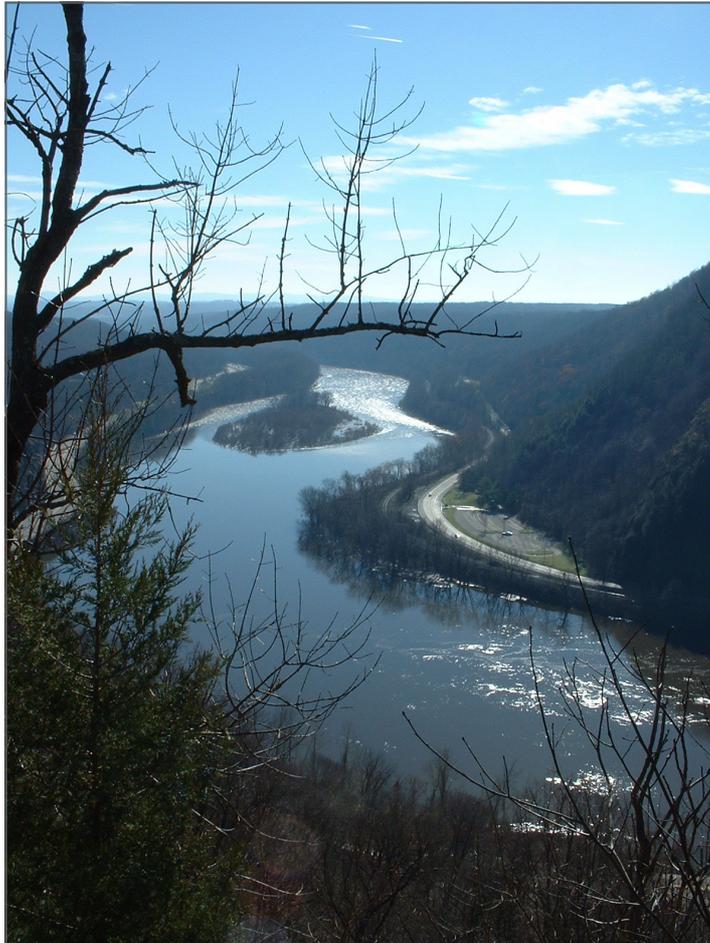
CDC considers requests from any country to provide expert assistance when an outbreak of a disease with international importance occurs.

Prevention of waterborne disease also is addressed through the CDC Safe Water System (SWS) program, a water-quality intervention proven to reduce diarrheal disease by an average of 50 percent.

The SWS uses simple, effective and inexpensive technologies, such as adding a few drops of dilute bleach solution to drinking water stored in safe, covered containers. SWS programs have been implemented in more than 25 countries in Africa and Asia.

Waterborne pathogens often cause diarrheal disease, a serious international problem.

“Too often it is forgotten that 2 million children under age 5 die every year of diarrhea, most of them because of unsafe drinking



*In developing countries four-fifths of all the illnesses are caused by water-borne diseases, with diarrhoea being the leading cause of childhood death.*

water and poor sanitation,” Eric Mintz, leader of the CDC diarrheal diseases epidemiology team, told America.gov.

“A cholera outbreak gets international attention,” Rochelle Rainey, an environmental health technical

adviser with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), told America.gov. “Adults can sometimes die within hours of contracting the disease.” International attention can be lacking for the thousands of children who die every day from diarrhea, even though solutions are available to greatly reduce this tragedy, she said.

“Even nonfatal diarrheal disease is a critical concern, especially for children,” Rainey said. “Diarrhea and poor nutrition have lifelong effects for children, leading directly to decreased physical and cognitive development.”

Providing piped, treated drinking water for all people is a necessary but slow and expensive process, Mintz said. “CDC’s SWS program is a temporary measure to help children and adults survive until the day when they have access to piped, treated drinking water,” he said.

The SWS program and CDC outbreak response teams are funded by numerous U.S. sources, including two government agencies, the CDC and USAID.

Support comes from U.S. businesses and trade groups (such as Procter & Gamble, Arch Chemicals and the Chlorine Chemistry Council), charitable foundations (including the Bill & Melinda Gates

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## Team Fights Waterborne Diseases in Developing . . .

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Foundation), faith-based organizations (such as Gift of Water and the Southern Baptist Convention), and many universities (including Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Emory University).

International partners include governments in project countries, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the Red Cross, CARE and Project Hope.

CDC's SWS program is one component of USAID's strategy to help increase access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation worldwide, Rainey said.

"Safe drinking water is part of the first line of defense to break transmission of diarrheal disease, especially in acute outbreaks such as cholera," she added.

The SWS prevention program focuses on:

Point-of-use treatment of contaminated water using a dilute bleach solution that is locally produced, marketed and purchased.

Safe water storage to prevent re-contamination.

Hygiene-behavior changes, such as appropriate hand washing.

These behavior changes are a critical aspect needed to stop continued illnesses, Mintz said.

### CDC INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Preventing diarrheal disease is difficult and complicated, Rainey said. The SWS program is effective when used correctly, but millions of people do not have access to the program (or other treatment) or do not follow the program correctly.

"Although cholera outbreaks still occur in countries where the SWS is available, we know they can be more quickly contained where household water-treatment products are widely available and where the accompanying behavior-change messages are already familiar to the population," Mintz said.

Guinea-Bissau currently lacks a SWS program, and that country has had seven cholera epidemics in the past 12 years.

"We hope that the 2008 epidemic could be a stimulus to initiate a much-needed SWS program there," Rob Quick, CDC medical epidemiologist, told America.gov.

In 2008, assistance provided by the CDC outbreak response team included recommendations that Guinea-Bissau implement simple household water chlorination, increase laboratory capabilities, improve municipal water disinfection and teach hygiene behaviors, Mintz said. Also, the CDC lab in Atlanta helped with diagnostic testing.

In Afghanistan, SWS program partners are responding to the 2008 cholera epidemic there by sending

SWS water-treatment solution to affected areas, Quick said. Afghanistan authorities say more than 1,000 cases have been reported, including 17 deaths since September. Authorities attribute the outbreak to contaminated water supplies and poor sanitation.

In Kenya, the SWS project began in 2000, with initial results showing that the program reduced risks of diarrheal disease in rural communities by 56 percent. By 2007, CDC-partner Population Services International had sold about 1.2 million bottles of locally produced chlorine solution for household water treatment. But cholera remains a problem, with 12 to 14 small outbreaks so far in 2008, during which a local CDC-sponsored response team provided technical assistance for outbreak control.

More information about the Safe Water System ( <http://www.cdc.gov/safewater/> ) is available at the program's Web site.

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Telling America's story

**How the Media "Call" the U.S. Presidential . . .**

*(Continued from page 15)*

ple, if an exit poll in a precinct which has traditionally favored one party by wide margins suddenly has the other side winning or if the exit polls indicate larger or smaller numbers of women voting than usual, the red flags should be waving," he wrote.

Every network wants to be the first to declare a winner. But as former CBS anchor Dan Rather told his viewers in 2004, "We'd rather be last than be wrong." Networks also are aware that calling states in the East, where polls have closed, while voting is still taking place in Western states could affect voter turnout.

In 2000, after his network rescinded its second erroneous call regarding Florida's results, NBC's Tom Brokaw acknowledged, "Not only do we

have egg on our face, we have the whole omelet." Certainly, the evening and early morning hours of November 4-5 will be a night of high anxiety for teams of media analysts as they struggle between the twin pressures to get it right and remain competitive.

For more information on exit polling and the NEP ( [http://www.exit-poll.net/exit\\_polling.html](http://www.exit-poll.net/exit_polling.html) ), visit the Web site created by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International.

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**Work Begins Immediately for Next U.S. President . . .**

*(Continued from page 7)*

problem of global climate change," Lichtman said.

Political experts caution that external factors often shape a president's foreign policy. "You never know based on a campaign exactly how a president is going to conduct foreign affairs," Lichtman said.

**ECONOMIC CONCERNS**

After a campaign dominated by economic issues, most Americans expect the economy will be Obama's top concern when he takes office.

"The next president of the United States is going to face an enor-

mous fiscal crisis here at home," Lichtman said, adding that the next administration "will be facing deficits of unprecedented proportions."

"The next president is going to have to make some very hard choices on priorities," he said.

Throughout his campaign, Obama pledged to lower taxes for those earning \$250,000 a year or less and to provide new options for affordable health care. But such measures can come into force only if the next Congress passes new legislation.

Because the current economic challenges are global rather than national, addressing them will have a foreign policy dimension.

The next president "is not going to be able to afford" to pay less attention to foreign policy, Cook said, because "we know this financial crisis is not just limited to the United States. This is a global issue and requires a global solution."

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