



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

Africa Center for Strategic Studies Inaugurates Regional Office in Addis Ababa

October 26, 2006 marked the establishment of the first regional office of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) in the African continent. The Department of Defense's Washington-based regional center inaugurated its office on the U.S. Embassy compound in Addis Ababa, in the presence of H.E. President Girma Wolde Giorgis of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE), H.E. Ato Kassahun Dendir, State Minister of Defense, FDRE, Mr. Patrick Mazimhaka, Deputy Chairperson, Commission of the African Union (AU), the Honorable Vicki Huddleston, Chargé d'Affaires of the



President Girma Wolde-Giorgis, along with General W. Carlton Fulford Jr. of ACSS, and U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Ambassador Vicki J. Huddleston, cut the ribbon at the launch of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. They were joined by The Hon. Patrick Mazimhaka, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union (far left); Dr. Samuel Assefa, Ethiopia's Ambassador to the United States (to the left of Amb. Huddleston); Mr. Michael Phelan, legislative aide to U.S. Senator Richard Lugar; and Rear Admiral Richard W. Hunt, Commander of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

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Bush's Greetings on Eid al-Fitr

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

October 23, 2006

I send greetings to Muslims in the United States and around the world celebrating Eid al-Fitr.

Islam is a great faith that has transcended racial



President George W. Bush

and ethnic divisions and brought hope and comfort to many people.

Throughout Ramadan, Muslims have fasted to focus their minds on faith and to direct their hearts to charity. Eid al-Fitr marks the completion of this holy month with the Festival of Breaking the

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Rice Calls Sudan's Planned Expulsion of U.N. Envoy "Unfortunate"

By Stephen Kaufman
Washington File White House Correspondent

Washington -- Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Sudan's planned expulsion of U.N. envoy Jan Pronk is "unfortunate in the extreme," and said she planned to discuss the issue with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan October 23.

In remarks to reporters in Washington, Rice said, "The situation in Darfur has been deteriorating and the international community needs very much to be able to act there."

According to press reports, the Sudanese government told Secretary-General Annan October 22 that it considers Pronk's mission in the country "terminated," and has given him three days to leave the country.

"We think that it's important that the U.N. has continued high-level access in Sudan," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said, adding that the expulsion order, "if carried out, would be very, very unfortunate."

Rice planned to telephone Annan to discuss this issue, as well as how to get the Sudanese government to comply with the Security Council's decision to authorize a U.N. peacekeeping force to address the humanitarian situation, McCormack said. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=October&x=20061020151433ajesrom0.7019922>).

gust&x=20060831155129atiayd uj0.6694605).

"It is a just terrible situation right now, where you have loss of innocent life. And there are areas where [nongovernmental organizations], where -- international organizations just can't get to. So there are people that are at risk in those areas," McCormack said.



Jan Pronk
U.N. envoy

He said Rice also had discussed the situation in Sudan with Chinese officials during her recent trip to Asia. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=October&x=20061020151433ajesrom0.7019922>).

"The sense we get is that the Chinese ... understand the importance of getting an international force in there. And I think that they do have some influence with this regime," he said, adding that other

states, including Sudan's Arab neighbors, also can engage the Sudanese government in an effort to "explain to them clearly what the intent of this international force is and ... address some of their concerns."

President Bush's envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, recently returned from the region and was expected to brief Rice October 23 or October 24, McCormack said.

A senior State Department official said the United States wants to see a change in the behavior of the Sudanese government. However, despite Sudan's continued opposition to allowing a U.N. peacekeeping force to replace the African Union force in Sudan, the official said, "I

don't know who you're going to find around the world to shoot their way into Sudan."

The official said all countries and groups who have influence with Sudan should "apply it and apply it in a vigorous way," as well as answer Sudan's questions regarding the mission of the U.N. force.

"They have raised questions about whether or not this U.N. force would be charged with tracking down members of the Sudanese

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United States Provides More Emergency Food for Sudan

By Charles W. Corey
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced that it has provided \$91 million in emergency food aid to support World Food Programme (WFP) operations in Sudan and eastern Chad since October 1, the start of fiscal year 2007, and is WFP's largest food donor.

The donation for Sudan, according to an October 17 USAID press release, came in response to appeals by the WFP, which supplies food aid for as many as 3 million people in the Darfur region and 220,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad who rely on WFP for their basic food needs.

Of the total \$91 million contribution, \$76 million will be used to assist people in Darfur and the rest of Sudan and \$15 million will be used to assist Sudanese refugees and affected communities in eastern Chad. The contribution will provide 93,510 metric tons of cereal and noncereal commodities to the conflict-affected region.

In fiscal year 2006, USAID provided 475,910 metric tons of food valued at \$458 million to WFP and International Committee of the Red Cross operations in Sudan and eastern Chad.

The United States provided half of WFP's 2006 worldwide appeal and two-thirds of all contributions received by WFP worldwide.

WFP has reported that insecurity in Darfur prevented it from distribut-

ing food to nearly a quarter million people in September, but that number is down from the 355,000 to whom it could not deliver aid in August. WFP is likely to face new funding shortfalls as early as January 2007, the USAID press release warns.

"The international community must collectively share the burden of assisting Darfur's most vulnerable. New donations are critically needed," explained Michael E.



Sudanese workers bag green split peas provided by USAID for the conflict-affected people of Darfur. (USAID photo)

Hess, assistant administrator of USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance.

Sudan is USAID's largest program in sub-Saharan Africa, totaling \$855 million in fiscal year 2005. The complex program provides extensive humanitarian aid to vulnerable people in southern and eastern Sudan and Darfur, as well as extensive reconstruction assis-

tance in the South, Abyei, Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan.

PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS IN DARFUR

In a speech at the opening of the 61st U.N. General Assembly, President Bush named Andrew Natsios, former administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), as a presidential special envoy to lead U.S. efforts to bring peace to Darfur.

Addressing his remarks directly to the people of the region, Bush said, "You have suffered unspeakable violence, and my nation has called these atrocities what they are -- genocide."

"The world must step forward to provide additional humanitarian aid, and we must strengthen the African Union [AU] force that has done good work but is not strong enough to protect you," he added. In particular, Bush asked NATO to strengthen the AU force (AMIS) while it remains in Darfur.

The peacekeeping mission in Darfur currently is led by the AU, which has stated it is unable to continue the effort in its present configuration. In August, the Security Council authorized the expansion of the U.N. Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) -- which supports the implementation of Sudan's Peace Agreement of 2005 -- by 20,000 troops and police to take over peacekeeping duties in Darfur from the AU for an additional six months, until April 30, 2007. But Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir

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Africa Center for Strategic Studies Inaugurates Regional Office . . .

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United States Embassy in Ethiopia, General Carlton W. Fulford Jr. (ret.), former Director of ACSS, Ambassador (ret.) Peter R. Chaveas, Acting Director, ACSS, and Major General Robertus C.M. Remkes, Director, Strategy, Policy and Assessments, of the U.S. European Command. This regional office will allow the Africa Center to operate more effectively and support U.S. security interests in the region by strengthening relationships with governments, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society, NGOs, U.S. missions in the sub-region, leading academic institutions, and Africa Center community (alumni) chapters.

The Africa Center for Strategic Studies supports U.S. policy by bringing civilian and military leaders together for informed debate

on current security challenges facing Africa and the international community.

According to General Carlton W. Fulford, former ACSS Director, "This permanent presence will also serve to demonstrate our purpose and give Africans a sense of ownership of who we are and what we do. 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. 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."

As the home of the African Union (AU) headquarters, Addis Ababa is an ideal location for the ACSS first regional office. Its proximity to other East African regional and

sub-regional organizations and accessibility to main regional destinations were other important considerations for selecting Addis Ababa. Initially staffed by four people, including two U.S. and two locally hired employees, the regional office will support U.S. goals and objectives relating to the AU and other regional organizations. In the near future, the Africa Center plans to open regional offices in West Africa, Southern Africa, and North Africa.

For more information about the Africa Center, visit www.africacenter.org.

Africa Center for Strategic Studies
Regional Center
c/o US Embassy, Addis Ababa,
P.O. Box 1014
Tel: 251 11 517 4204 and 251 11 517 4203



Standing at attention during the U.S. National Anthem



Partial view of guests who attended at the inaugural ceremony

Communities Take Initiative To Rebuild Road in Congo

The road connecting the towns of Kindu and Kalima in the Democratic Republic of the Congo used to be one of the best roads in Maniema Province. Today, in the wake of devastating regional conflict, the road is covered in vegetation. Trips between the two important cities are extremely difficult, with motorcycle and bicycle accidents occurring frequently.

Communities on and adjacent to this road watched it decay while blaming the local government. Then, with training sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) on "democracy and governance," these communities understood their responsibility to fix dilapidated public infrastructure and they rallied residents to rehabilitate the road.

The communities took this motto: "If the government comes to rehabilitate this road it will find us working hard. If it doesn't, we will continue without stopping; we are

changing with the SE*CA [Synergie d'Education Communautaire et d'Appui] program."

People in the communities labored day after day, trimming vegetation and using logs to repair bridges that only few had dared to cross. They understood that maintenance of the road is imperative for their communities' economic revitalization and to increase market opportunities for their farm produce and palm oil. Opening the road also provided access to water access points and health facilities.

Four other communities in the Kindu area cleared more sections of the road after being trained by USAID.

This spontaneous initiative is an example of how USAID encourages community reintegration and participation.

SE*CA is implemented by USAID through its partner, the Chemonics company. The SE*CA program

promotes improved stability in war-affected areas by facilitating the reintegration of war-affected youths into their communities and increasing local, regional and national understanding of issues that are key to the country's political transition.

To support these objectives, SE*CA uses three tools: a youth education program to train war-affected youths in agriculture, civic education, health, conflict management and reconciliation, personal values, numeracy and literacy; a media program that supports access to information concerning issues key to the transition; and an in-kind small-grants program that supports information dissemination projects and community-identified activities that are a priority for the economic, political and/or social revitalization of the community.

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

Bush's Greetings on Eid al-Fitr

(Continued from page 1)

Fast. During this joyous celebration, Muslims thank God for his guidance and blessings by gathering with family and friends, sharing traditional foods, and showing compassion to those in need.

America is strengthened by the countless contributions of our Muslim citizens, and we value our ties with Muslim nations through-

out the world. For people of all faiths, Eid al-Fitr is an opportunity to reflect on the values we share and the friendships that bind all who trace their faith back to God's call to Abraham.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a joyous Eid and for health, happiness, and prosperity in the year ahead. Eid Mubarak.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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

State Department Iftar Honors Women Throughout Muslim History

*By David Shelby
Washington File Staff Writer*

Washington – U.S. Under Secretary of State Karen Hughes honored the contributions of women to Islamic history during the State Department's annual iftar October 18. The event corresponded with Lailat-ul-Qadr, the holiest night of Ramadan, marking the first revelation of the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad.

"Tonight we remember and honor the many women throughout Islamic history who have led by example," Hughes told the guests, who included Muslim women from academia, government and civil society. "As so many of you know, Islam granted legal status and protections to women long before many other cultures did. Women including Khadija, the Prophet Muhammad's wife, a successful businesswoman herself, and her daughter Fatima are examples of the rich heritage of leadership by Muslim women."

Hughes also recalled a story about Amara bin Al-Rahman, a woman jurist from the time of Muhammad. "She was described as a boundless ocean of knowledge and she shared her knowledge with a number of famous men," the under secretary said.

Hughes spoke about the United States' multiconfessional tradi-

tions, saying: "The foundation of this nation, of our country, is built on respect for one another, from a belief in the dignity and the value of every single person. We believe all people, those of every faith, boys and girls, are equal and equally valuable. And it will take all of us to build communities in a world that is safer, respectful, and just and peaceful."



Under Secretary Hughes honors the contributions of women at an iftar dinner at the State Department October 18.

Under Secretary of State R. Nicholas Burns spoke of the value of interfaith dialogue as a means of achieving greater understanding and social harmony.

"[S]ome of the most powerful thinkers in the past century: Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., the Agha Khan, the Dalai

Lama, very different people but they shared one critical trait in common. Their actions were strongly rooted in their own religious beliefs, but they learned and grew from the teachings of other religions and may it be so in our own country," Burns said.

"It's learning about each other and standing up for each other, by being voices of tolerance and understanding, it's then that we'll overcome the challenges of extremism and of those who seek to distort and exploit religion, any religion, for their own particular design," he added.

A transcript (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/74762.htm>) of remarks by Hughes and Burns 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>)

U.S. Muslims a Bridge Between Islam and the West

By Lauren Monsen
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Muslim culture and Western society are mutually enriching, despite the talk of a so-called "clash of civilizations" between Islam and the West, says Mohamad Bashar Arafat, a Syrian-born U.S. citizen who is president of the Islamic Affairs Council of Maryland.

Arafat, an imam by training, took part in a State Department webchat October 20, fielding questions about Islam and interfaith dialogue. "In this age of globalization, which changed everything in the past 20 years, we are supposed to know one another [better] so that we can prevent" any such clash, he said.

"To me, there are so many things in the Western culture that go side-by-side with Islam, and I have no problem adapting" to new customs that do not contradict Islamic precepts, he said.

For example, the Western traditions of customer service, transparent business transactions, democracy, freedom of religion and respect for diversity are compatible with the principles of Islam, Arafat said. While some Westerners have been openly skeptical of Islam's capacity to tolerate dissenting

views, Arafat stressed that the Quran welcomes free inquiry and encourages the debate between faith and reason.

An interfaith dialogue about religious tolerance and Islamic law can enhance cross-cultural understanding and promote the social integration of Muslim immigrants within their adopted Western



Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat

homelands, Arafat said. Cultural clashes often can be avoided if immigrants make an effort to appreciate and absorb the most attractive features of their new environment, according to Arafat.

Western philosophers acknowledge the impact of Islamic civilization on the European Renaissance, Arafat observed. He added that Muslims

should acknowledge that they also benefit from Western society's technology and advancements.

Asked about U.S. misconceptions about Islam, Arafat said that American television and film could do a better job of challenging the notion that Islam promotes violence and terrorism. American Muslims have an obligation to educate others about the true nature of Islam, he said, not only to dispel ignorance among non-Muslims, but also to prevent radicalized Muslims from distorting the faith. Muslims in the United States "need to start focusing" on creating television programs and movies that promote truer images of Islam, he argued. In this way, he said, American Muslims can be a bridge between the United States and the rest of the world.

Since 2005, Arafat has been conducting inter-religious programs through the U.S. State Department's International Speakers Program.

(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. Foreign Assistance Reaches Record Level

By Jon Schaffer
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Total U.S. financial flows to the developing world -- official development assistance, private capital flows and private grants -- reached a record-breaking \$104.4 billion in calendar year 2005, according to new figures released by the government.

The latest figures, issued in mid-October after a six-month review, also show that official development assistance (ODA) from the U.S. government -- nonmilitary grants and loans -- attained a record \$27.6 billion, an increase of \$7.9 billion over 2004.

The largest recipients of U.S. aid were Iraq (\$10.8 billion), Afghanistan (\$1.3 billion), Sudan (\$771 million), Ethiopia (\$625 million), Egypt (\$397 million), Pakistan (\$362 million), Jordan (\$354 million), Colombia (\$334 million), Uganda (\$242 million) and Serbia-Montenegro (\$181 million).

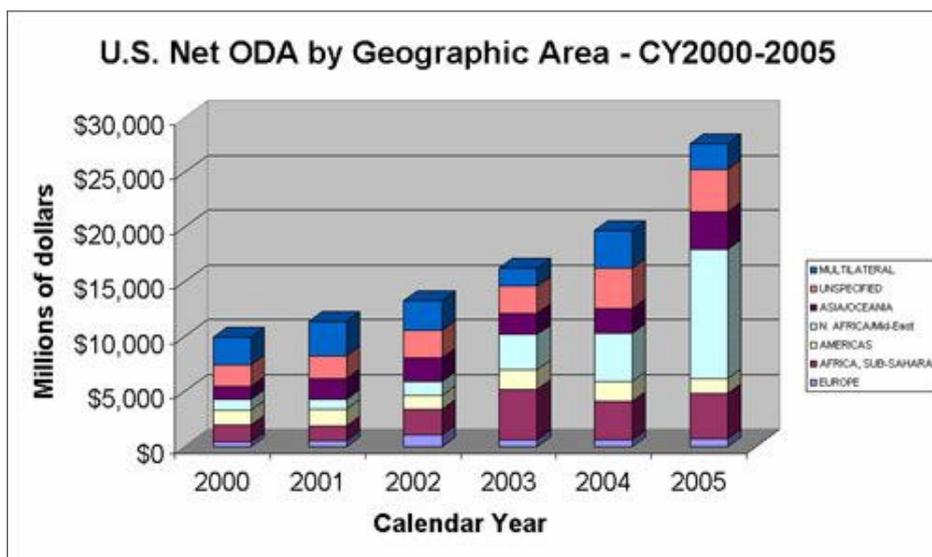
U.S. money accounted for more than 25 percent of all government aid provided by the 30 members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the industrialized-country group that provides the bulk of foreign assistance worldwide.

Some development experts have been critical that U.S. official assistance, measured as a percentage of gross national income (GNI), is small compared with that of many other OECD countries. The ODA-GNI ratio for the United States rose from 0.17 percent in 1997 to 0.22 percent in 2005, the highest level in 20 years. Other

experts argue that ODA is not the most significant indicator of foreign assistance. If U.S. direct investments, aid from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), private charitable donations and remittances of immigrants living in the United States to their home countries are added to ODA, total U.S. assistance dwarfs amounts

a \$1.8 billion increase over 2004. This was the 10th straight annual increase in overseas private giving by U.S. entities.

According to a study by the Hudson Institute, a private research organization, by including \$47 billion in remittances in the total of U.S. assistance, ODA represented



Recent official development assistance figures

provided by other countries, they say.

Net U.S. direct investments in developing countries reached \$69.2 billion in 2005, as purchases of foreign stocks and bonds exceeded sales by \$39.8 billion and new long-term bank lending exceeded principal payments on existing bank debt by \$22.8 billion. Many of the private capital flows were directed to developing countries in the Americas and Asia.

The most recently released U.S. government figures also show that private grants from U.S.-based NGOs, foundations, faith-based organizations, institutions of higher education and other groups totaled \$8.6 billion in calendar year 2005,

only about 20 percent of total U.S. financial flows to the developing world in 2004.

Excluding remittances, in 2005 total U.S. ODA, private capital flows, and private grants, as a percentage of gross national income, was 0.84 percent -- the highest level since 1997.

(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 Provides More Emergency Food . . .

(Continued from page 3)

had been refusing to accept the transition.

Facing strong objections by the United States and other nations, however, Sudan withdrew its warning to countries potentially supplying troops to a U.N. peace-keeping force in Darfur that those troops would be considered a hostile threat, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton announced October 6.

Bolton credited the "strong position" taken by members of the Security Council against "the atmosphere of intimidation," but added that there is still a need to "dispel" that atmosphere.

DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

On October 13, President Bush signed into law the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006 (DPAA) and issued an executive order "blocking property of and prohibiting transactions with the government of Sudan."

The DPAA imposes sanctions against "persons responsible for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity; supports measures for the protection of civilians and humanitarian operations; and supports peace efforts in the Darfur region of Sudan," a White House statement says.

The president's executive order, which takes effect upon the enactment of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, specifically forbids transactions relating to Sudan's petroleum and petrochemical industries, sectors in which the president noted that "the government of Sudan has a pervasive role" that poses a "threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States."

The DPAA and the executive order do not limit or restrict humanitarian aid to Darfur. The United States has provided more than \$1 billion in humanitarian assistance to the people of Sudan, including \$400 million during the past 12 months, for emergency food aid to the region.

The United Nations estimates that more than 200,000 people have died in Darfur since 2003. Close to 2 million others were displaced into refugee camps in the region and in eastern Chad.

The full text (<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2006/pr061017.html>) of the press release and more information (http://www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/sudan/index.html) about USAID programs in Sudan are available be found on the agency's 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>)♦

Rice Calls Sudan's Planned Expulsion of U.N. Envoy . . .

(Continued from page 2)

regime a la [Serbian leaders Radovan] Karadic and [Ratko] Mladic," as with international forces in the former Yugoslavia.

"That is not in the mandate of this regime. So if there are questions in their mind about those things, we have tried to explain what this

is, what it isn't and we encourage others to do so as well," the official said.

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

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International In-

formation Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

President Bush's United Nations Day Proclamation

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
October 20, 2006

UNITED NATIONS DAY, 2006

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A PROCLAMATION

On October 24, 1945, the United Nations was formed to promote peace and international security, further economic and social development, protect fundamental human dignity, and recognize the equal rights of men and women. On United Nations Day, we recognize the establishment of this important organization and underscore our commitment to making the world free and secure.

The United Nations was built on the idea that nations can act together to resolve conflict, and in the more than six decades since it was formed, the United Nations

has addressed significant international challenges. With 192 member countries, the United Nations works to promote freedom, expand opportunity, and reach out to those in need.

Today, as we work to combat extremism and terror with justice and dignity, the efforts of the United Nations are as vital as ever. The world needs the members of the United Nations to stand together to help the organization live up to its founding ideals, fulfill its mission, and spread hope and liberty to people around the globe. Together, we can combat terrorism, help empower the voices of moderation, fight disease, and work for a world where all people are free to determine their own destinies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United

States, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2006, as United Nations Day.

I urge the Governors of the 50 States, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the officials of other areas under the flag of the United States to observe United Nations Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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

U.S. Official Explains New Military Commission Law

By Vince Crawley
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- War on Terror detainees now in U.S. custody will receive "full and fair trials," a senior State Department legal adviser says, adding that the CIA will not resume any programs of secret detention without approval from Congress.

John Bellinger, legal adviser to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, says it is "clearly an uphill battle" trying to explain U.S. detention policies to foreign audiences. Bellinger briefed reporters

at the Foreign Press Center in Washington October 19, two days after President Bush signed the new Military Commissions Act of 2006 into law. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=October&x=20061017163242MVyelwarC0.8755457>).

Military commissions for suspected terrorists will "provide full and fair trials that are very much similar to all of the protections that we have both in our federal criminal trials and in our [military] courts-martial," Bellinger said.

However, he said, the United States has "not done a very good job" discussing its detention policies and trial process with non-U.S. audiences. "As a result, a lot of inaccurate perceptions have grown up."

For the past 10 months, Bellinger has been meeting with overseas audiences to discuss detention issues. The new law, he said, "fully addresses all of the concerns that the U.S. government and the State Department have heard over the years with respect to the military commissions."

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U.S. Official Explains New Military Commission . . .

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These concerns include:

Military trials instead of civilian trials. "Around the world, there is a general ... concern about trying people in military commissions at all," Bellinger said. "In many parts of the world, particularly in Europe, there just simply is not a military justice system. The United States has had a very long and honorable and robust system of military justice that's parallel to our domestic criminal justice system." U.S. military personnel worldwide are subject to a body of law known as the Uniform Code of Military Justice, signed into law by President Truman in 1950. For more than half a century, military cases have been reviewed by civilian judges and can be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Right of the accused to be present in the courtroom. Under the new Military Commission Act, those accused of crimes have "the right to be present at all times during the trial," Bellinger said. The accused may not be excluded from hearing any of the evidence against him. In addition, the U.S. government is required to show the accused any evidence that would show that the accused might be innocent of a crime. However, the U.S. government is not required to turn over all of its files on an individual if information contained in those files is not part of the trial, he said.

Right to counsel. Those accused of crimes will be assigned a military defense counsel and would have the right also to engage a civilian lawyer. Bellinger said military defense lawyers already have

demonstrated "zealous advocacy" on behalf of their assigned clients. The case of Hamdan v. Rumsfeld was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court by military defense lawyers representing Salim Ahmed Hamdan. As a result, the Supreme Court in June found that President Bush's proposed military commissions were unconstitutional. The Military Commissions Act of 2006 was developed by Congress to address concerns raised in the Supreme Court decision.

Right to appeal. Under President Bush's original military commissions proposal of 2002, someone convicted by a military court could appeal only to a special military court, Bellinger said. Under the new law, the accused has a right to appeal to a special Military Commission Review Panel, then to a federal civilian circuit court in the District of Columbia, then to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Coerced evidence. "Let me be clear about this," Bellinger said. "Evidence that is derived from torture may not be admitted. No evidence derived from torture may be introduced against the accused. There's a treaty obligation under the Convention Against Torture that we may not do that, and we won't do it. And it's in the military commission statute." In addition, if the accused alleges that a statement was derived from coercion, then it cannot be admitted into the trial unless the judge determines that "it would be in the interest of justice and fairness to introduce that information," Bellinger said. For any statement taken after the passage of the December 2005 Detainee Treatment Act, the judge also would have to determine that the taking of the statement "did

not violate the prohibition on cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment," Bellinger said. Bellinger added that U.S. criminal law "has no flat prohibition" on coercion. Instead, "if a defendant raises a concern about his treatment, the judge will listen to what happened and make a determination as to whether the coercion that allegedly occurred would be contrary to our Constitution."

Geneva Common Article 3. The U.S. Supreme Court has determined that non-U.S. terrorist suspects held in U.S. custody fall under Common Article 3 of the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions, which govern the treatment of prisoners of war and civilians during military conflict. Article 3 of the Conventions guarantees a minimum set of rights for all individuals taken into custody, even if they are deemed to be prisoners of war or protected civilians. This minimal guarantee includes the "prohibition of outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment." Bellinger said the wording of the treaty language is "vague," and the Military Commissions Act of 2006 specifies nine criminal acts which, if committed by Americans, would be a violation of Common Article 3. Prohibited acts include: torture; cruel or inhuman treatment (to include mental or physical abuse); performing biological experiments; murder; mutilation or maiming; intentionally causing serious bodily injury; rape; sexual assault or abuse; and taking hostages.

Habeas Corpus. The U.S. Constitution protects individuals against wrongful detention, requiring the government either to charge some-

(Continued on page 20)

Focused Efforts Can End World Hunger, U.S. Official Says

By Kathryn McConnell
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Chronic world hunger can be ended in this generation, a top State Department official says.

Josette Sheeran, the under secretary of state for economic, business and agricultural affairs, said the effort would need the participation of aid donors, policymakers, scientists, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector.

Already, public philanthropy is fighting to end hunger "at an unprecedented level," she said at the annual World Food Prize Symposium October 19 in Iowa.

In Africa, where more than one third of the world's undernourished people live, a new joint initiative of the Gates and Rockefeller foundations will funnel \$150 million over five years to fund agricultural development.

The funds will be used to develop varieties of seeds resistant to disease and drought, enhance food distribution networks and fund university-level training for African crop scientists, she said.

Besides encouraging private funding, this "Alliance for a Green Revolution" will bring "new levels of expertise [and] results-based management" to the fight against hunger in Africa, Sheeran said.

With "dedicated people, scientific breakthroughs, new-found resources, political resolve and moral indignation ... we can make major advances in relatively short periods of time," Sheeran said.

She said achieving "measurable" global development goals starts

with country leaders offering strategic plans to meet those goals and adopting policies of good governance and investing in people, for example, providing education for women.

Good policies that support new technologies -- including cell phones and computers, which can help "even the poorest farmer" access up-to-date agricultural knowledge -- can lead to increased production and help Africa become "a dynamic agricultural exporter, she said.

Sheeran praised Mali, Ghana and Mozambique for dedicating larger proportions of their budgets to agricultural development.

Removing trade barriers and better integration of regional development policies also promise to end hunger and increase economic growth in Africa, Sheeran said.

Mike Johanns, the U.S. secretary of agriculture, also emphasized the importance of trade in fighting hunger. "Economic growth spurred by trade liberalization has tremendous potential -- far more than voluntary aid donations alone," Johanns said at the meeting.

According to the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), removing trade barriers would increase agricultural exports from Africa by 19 percent and increase trade within Africa by 50 percent, she said. Sheeran also said it is important for policymakers and aid donors to respect the "inherent wisdom" of local people and their ability to describe what they need to move "from poverty to self-reliance."

Sheeran cited an example of such wisdom, which she encountered

while visiting a midwife who survived the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. The woman, living in tents donated by the United Nations, explained to Sheeran that what her village needed most to recover from the disaster that killed the village's livestock was a buffalo.

With a buffalo "a village can meet the nutritional needs of pregnant women and children with its milk alone. We can have warm clothes from the wool," the woman said.

Empowering women through education also can be a "powerful development tool," Sheeran said. She cited a World Bank finding that if women received the same amount of education as men, global food production would increase by as much as 22 percent.

Women already produce more than half of the food grown worldwide and 80 percent of that grown in Africa, she said.

Providing poor people with access to small loans also could be a boost to African food production, Sheeran said.

A similar "green revolution" saved millions in South Asia from starvation in the 1960s.

Sheeran's prepared remarks (<http://www.state.gov/e/rls/rm/2006/74821.htm>) are available on the State Department Web site.

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United States Pressing for U.N. Action on Iran

By Judy Aita
Washington File Staff Writer

New York -- Because Iran has refused a package of incentives from European governments and the United States in exchange for suspending its nuclear enrichment program, the United States is pushing for U.N. action, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton says.

In a televised interview on Fox News October 24, Bolton said the Iranians' actions clearly demonstrate that "they are not going to give up uranium enrichment; they're not going to give up the pursuit of nuclear weapons, despite a lot of potential incentives that the Europeans have offered."

China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, along with Germany, have offered Iran a package of incentives to abandon its nuclear ambitions. These incentives include assistance in developing a civil nuclear energy capability -- the stated aim of Iran's nuclear program. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?>

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=August&x=20060830114955btruevecer0.6479914>).

Bolton said that Tehran should be "watching very carefully" the international community's response to North Korea's nuclear test, especially the Security Council's imposition of mandatory worldwide sanctions.

International reaction, the ambassador said, "was as strong as I've ever seen, including particularly by China. That enabled us to get a unanimous Security Council resolution imposing very strict sanctions." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?>

[p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=October&x=20061014163309atia](http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=October&x=20061014163309atia)



[yduj0.5138056](http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?yduj0.5138056)).

The Iran sanctions resolution now under discussion would differ from the one on North Korea, Bolton said. But the intention is the same, "to mobilize international support to isolate these regimes economically and politically."

"The sanctions we'll be looking at for Iran are not quite the same because this is a somewhat different situation. But the point to Iran is their continued effort to get nuclear weapons will result in their continuing international isolation," he said.

The sanctions imposed on North Korea were designed "to make sure that North Korea cannot ac-

quire the technology and the materials that it needs to continue its weapons and ballistic missile programs," the ambassador noted. The sanctions being considered against Iran will be similar in that they will be designed to deny the Iranians the ability to continue uranium enrichment on their own.

The United States and the other permanent members of the Security Council -- China, France, Russia and the United Kingdom -- have begun negotiations on the Iran resolution, but have not publicly discussed the details. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?>

usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=October&x=20061007140835atto cnich0.3186304).

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

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Rice Says Independent Journalism Vital to Democracy

By Lea Terhune
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya "stood for what is best in independent journalism, a willingness to try to get to the truth at whatever cost," U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told the son and colleagues of the slain journalist.

"The role of the independent press is extremely important in society, particularly for democratic development," Rice said.



Dr. Condoleezza Rice
U.S. Secretary of State

She said a free press is a primary value in a well-functioning democratic government, adding, "People need information in order to hold their government accountable." An independent press provides this service, she said.

Rice met with the group to express condolences for Politkovskaya's death and answer questions from Novaya Gazeta's editor in chief Dmitriy Muratov in Moscow October 21.

Politkovskaya, one of Novaya Gazeta's most respected writers, was gunned down at her Moscow apartment building October 7 in what is believed to be a contract killing. She frequently wrote stories critical of the Kremlin, particularly on its policy in Chechnya, where she documented torture, killings and other human rights abuses. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=October&x=20061008105438attonich0.7407953>).

Novaya Gazeta has been among the Russian national newspapers that have taken a stand critical of the government. Rice said it "represents a very good independent voice here in Russia."

"Investigative journalists are very often in danger because by their very nature they expose the truth. Very often they run afoul of those who have a lot at stake and a lot to lose if the truth comes out. I recognize that it's a very dangerous profession, but without investigative journalists who are willing to seek the truth, it's very hard for a democracy to function," Rice said.

She said the United States government has asked the Russian government to investigate thoroughly the murders of Politkovskaya and several other journalists. "[P]eople must begin to understand that those who have done this will pay the price," Rice said.

According to the independent Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), more than a dozen journalists reporting on crime, government corruption or human rights

abuses have been assassinated in contract-type killings in the past six years. Among those murdered are Paul Klebnikov, Russian-American editor of Forbes magazine, two successive editors in chief of Tolyattinskoye Obozreniye, Aleksei Sidorov and Valery Ivanov, and independent television journalist Dmitriy Shvets. The CPJ ranks Russia as the third-deadliest place for journalists. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2004&m=July&x=20040714183635xlrennef0.4571192>).

Rice cited the important role played by the American press in the United States. "Our reporters in Iraq are very tough on the U.S. government. It was the American press that exposed the very bad events at Abu Ghraib. That came out first in the American press," she said.

She encouraged the Russian journalists to "keep on working," despite the difficulties, because their work is a vital constituent of a strong democracy. The murders of journalists in Russia have drawn worldwide attention and demands for action against the criminals. "You are not alone in your struggle," she said.

For more information on U.S. policy, see Freedom of the Press (http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/rule_of_law/press_freedom.html).

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Polio Returns to Kenya; Vaccination Campaigns Gear Up

By Charlene Porter
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – A 3-year-old girl living in a refugee camp in Kenya's Garissa district has been stricken with the wild poliovirus, the first case to appear in the East African nation in 22 years.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) reported October 18 that the virus was imported from neighboring Somalia where an outbreak has led to almost 220 cases over the last 15 months.

National and international health officials are taking steps to prevent an outbreak from going any farther.

"We are strengthening surveillance in the whole district and particularly the border points where people are coming in," according to Dr. James Nyikal of Kenya's Ministry of Health as quoted by the Voice of America. "We have been giving all children coming in both measles and polio vaccinations. So, we are continuing this, but we will heighten surveillance."

A vaccination campaign set for November 3 in northeastern Kenya will target 250,000 children to receive the oral poliovirus vaccine. That effort follows a broad regional program encompassing Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia completed in September. GPEI called it the largest synchronized vaccination campaign ever conducted in the Horn of Africa.

The child from Garissa district reportedly was vaccinated in that campaign, but achieving immunization routinely takes three doses of

vaccine. She was paralyzed by polio on September 17.

GPEI reports some difficulty in conducting a vaccination campaign in the Horn of Africa and in estimating its full effectiveness, because a largely nomadic population moves frequently within the area and across the borders of the three nations. That operational environment has been challenged further by droughts, floods and conflict,



A health care worker gives a polio vaccination.
(AP Images)

which have adverse effects on conducting a comprehensive immunization campaign.

GPEI is a partnership joining Rotary International, UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization and other governments and organizations in a concerted effort to eliminate the crippling disease everywhere in the world. Currently, the virus occurs naturally in the environment in only four nations: Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Nigeria.

In the last several years, 26 nations previously declared polio-free have experienced a reappearance

of the disease, according to GPEI. Most of these cases are attributed to a lapse in vaccination in Nigeria in 2003-2004 that allowed a resurgence of wild virus and its migration to other countries.

Genetic sequencing of the new Kenya case indicates the virus originated in Nigeria, and passed through Somalia before arriving in Garissa.

GPEI reports a total of 1441 polio cases in 2006 as of October 17, about 50 more than the same period in 2005.

U.S. Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky has stated that eradication of polio is "a key foreign policy objective and one of [the Bush administration's] highest international public health priorities." (See related article ([http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?](http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=October&x=20061010153208cmretrop0.5051538)

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=October&x=20061010153208cmretrop0.5051538>).

Additional information on GPEI (<http://www.polioeradication.org/>) and a Kenya profile (<http://www.polioeradication.org/features/countryprofiles/KENO.asp>) are available on the program's 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>)

United States Gives \$10 Million To Develop Global Flu Vaccine

By Cheryl Pellerin
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- With the release of a new World Health Organization (WHO) report on a plan for increasing the supply of vaccines to fight pandemic influenza around the world, the United States has announced a \$10 million contribution to support flu vaccine development and manufacturing in other countries.

The WHO report, *Global Pandemic Influenza Action Plan to Increase Vaccine Supply*, released October 23, identifies a set of activities required for immediate and sustained action and funding if the world is to be prepared for an influenza pandemic.

"In developing this plan through a consensus of the world's experts in influenza, immunization, vaccine research, and manufacturing," Mike Leavitt, U.S. secretary of health and human services, said in an October 23 statement, "the WHO has set the world's sights on the decisive path forward to increase the global capacity to produce pandemic influenza vaccine."

Since 2003, some 256 people have become victims of human avian influenza, and 151 have died. Hundreds of millions of birds have died or been killed to limit the spread of bird flu, a primarily animal disease.

If the virus mutates into a form that is easily spread among people, a global pandemic could result.

REDUCING VACCINE SUPPLY GAPS

According to the WHO report, the major flu vaccine producers oper-

ate and supply almost exclusively in Australia, Europe, North America and some countries in Asia and Latin America.

The global flu vaccine manufacturing capacity is 350 million doses per year in a world of 6.7 billion people, none of whom would have natural immunity to a new, potentially deadly viral mutation.

"Immunization is a critical control strategy for limiting the impact of an influenza pandemic," Dr. David Heymann, acting assistant director-general for communicable diseases at WHO, said in a statement. "Immediate, collaborative action to increase vaccine supply could have a massive payoff."

In May, WHO invited more than 120 experts from national immunization programs, natural regulatory authorities, vaccine manufacturers and the research community to identify and prioritize practical solutions for reducing anticipated vaccine supply gaps.

Participants identified three approaches:

Increase seasonal flu vaccine use protect against seasonal flu and use the increased demand to stimulate industry to produce more.

Increase production capacity by improving vaccine production yields and building new plants.

Invest in research and development to design more potent and effective vaccines that induce protection after one dose or broad spectrum and long-lasting immunity, and produce vaccines more efficiently and quickly.

Because the anticipated flu-vaccine shortage is based on the expectation that each person will need a two-dose course of vaccine, new technologies will play an important role in developing the best possible pandemic influenza vaccine.

The ideal vaccine would be safe and highly protective in all groups (including babies and the elderly) for at least one year with a single dose. It would require a small amount of virus antigen, could be stored without refrigeration and would be produced easily and inexpensively on a large scale.

SEEKING A GLOBAL SOLUTION

Implementing the global action plan will require sustained, joint efforts of affected countries, industry and the global health community, and substantial funding, according to WHO. Capital investment alone for establishing new production facilities is an estimated \$1 per vaccine dose.

"The Global Action Plan sets the course for what needs to be done, starting now, to increase vaccine production capacity and close the gap," said Dr. Marie-Paule Kieny, director of the WHO Initiative for Vaccine Research. "In just three to five years we could begin to see results that could save many lives in case of a pandemic."

Investments made in relation to the action plan will benefit the production and use of vaccines for seasonal flu, which causes 3 million to 5 million cases of severe illness and 250,000 to 500,000 deaths a year worldwide.

Assistance to developing countries

(Continued on page 19)

U.S., European Environmental Policies Focus on Technology

By Martha Paluch
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States and Europe enjoy significant common ground on environmental policies, Jim Connaughton, chief environmental policy adviser to President Bush, said in an online discussion from Frankfurt, Germany, October 23.

"We are working very closely with European policymakers on long-term technology opportunities such as fusion power, the next generation of nuclear power, and zero-emission hydrogen energy systems," Connaughton said. Short-term policy goals include renewable energy systems, renewable fuels, efficiency of buildings and appliances, vehicle fuel efficiency, relief of traffic congestion in cities and promotion of sustainable practices in forestry and agriculture.

Connaughton said specific U.S. policies and business leaders promote advancements in technology to meet mutual environmental goals, including commercializing "cellulosic ethanol," a biofuel that can be made from a variety of crops, grasses and plant waste. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2006&m=October&x=20061013150311lcnirellep0.6137659>) and fact sheet (<http://www.state.gov/e/eb/rls/fs/2006/66871.htm>).

"Business leaders in the United States are strongly committed to taking sensible action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," Connaughton said. "This will occur

through increased investment in the best of today's technologies and new technologies that are more efficient."

The most successful strategies are those that reduce emissions at a substantial profit, according to Connaughton, and companies are saving money by redesigning processes and investing in more efficient technologies.

"In the United States," Connaughton said, "many companies are now profitably capturing methane from coal mines, landfills and large agricultural operations and converting it to clean burning energy, instead of releasing it to the atmosphere." U.S. policies are focused on expanding such opportunities for profitable investment, for example, by removing regulatory barriers and reducing taxes on such investments, he added.

He also said that recent natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005, focused public awareness on the need to build coastal communities that are more resilient to major weather events and to be prepared better for evacuation and response when they occur. Some parts of the U.S. Gulf Coast hit by Hurricane Katrina were more vulnerable to its effects due to historic loss of coastal wetlands, which otherwise provide a natural buffer to storm surges produced by hurricanes, Connaughton said.

Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, is in Europe to attend the United States-European Union High Level Dialogue on Clean Development and Climate in Helsinki, Finland, October 24-25.

The U.S. delegation to the Helsinki meeting is led by Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky.

Connaughton said he hopes the meeting will provide "many opportunities for both sides of the Atlantic to make real progress in tackling the challenge of cleaner development and climate strategies by harnessing the power and resources of strong economic growth."

The transcript (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2006/Oct/23-740033.html>) of Connaughton's discussion and information on upcoming webchats (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/USINFO/Products/Webchats/upcoming.html>) are available on USINFO's Webchat Station.

The press release on the Helsinki meeting (http://useu.usmission.gov/Dossiers/Energy/Oct2006_Energy_Climate_Dialogue.asp) announcing the delegation is available on the Web site of the U.S. Mission to the European Union.

For more information on U.S. policy, see the Web page Environment (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/environment.html) and the electronic journal Protecting the Environment (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0605/ijge/ijge0605.htm>).

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Composer Discusses Music's Debt to Literature

Washington – Mutual influence of music and literature in the art of a Serbian composer are the subject of a forthcoming USINFO webchat. On October 25, at 5 p.m. Central European Time (1500 GMT), join Aleksandar Simic, an accomplished Serbian for a discussion on his unusual career and the correspondence of musical and literary expression.

Aleksandar Simic was born January 22, 1973 in Belgrade, in what was then Yugoslavia. From his earliest days, the place of residence of his family constantly shifted: from Bremen to Singapore, Rome to London, Nicosia to Istanbul... So did his fields of interest -- from art to biology, from literature to physics... In 1994, while completing his third year of study at the Medical Faculty in Belgrade, he took the entrance exams at the Faculty of Music. Though lacking any formal musical training, he placed first among the applicants. Since then, he has established a

reputation as one of the leading classical composers of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

If you would like to participate in this webchat, please sign up on the USINFO Webchat registration page (<http://webchat.state.gov/register/register.cfm>). Please tell us your preferred screen name; use of full names is not required.

If you have participated in one of our previous webchats, use the same user name and password. You may submit questions in advance to usinfowebchat@state.gov (mailto:usinfowebchat@state.gov) or directly during the webchat.

We accept questions and comments in advance of and at any time during the program. You may also e-mail (<mailto:usinfowebchat@state.gov>)



Aleksandar Simic
Serbian composer

questions without registering. The transcript of this webchat will be available on USINFO's Webchat Station (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Products/Webchats.html>), where information about upcoming webchats also is available.

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United States Gives \$10 Million To Develop Global ...

(Continued from page 17)

is critical, according to the report. Such countries will need help to assess the impact of flu on their populations and to develop and implement seasonal flu vaccination programs. This includes the purchase of seasonal flu vaccine, which now costs \$3 to \$7 per dose.

"If a country is to protect its own people, it must work together with

other nations to protect the people of the world," Leavitt said.

"In that spirit," he added, "the United States has provided \$10 million to the WHO to support influenza vaccine development and manufacturing infrastructure by institutions in other countries as they develop sustainable programs for vaccines to prevent avian H5N1 or other novel influenza viruses in humans."

The full text (<http://www.who.int/vaccines-documents/DocsPDF06/863.pdf>) of the report (PDF, 24 pages) is available at the WHO Web site.

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**PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SECTION
AMERICAN EMBASSY**

P.O.Box 1014
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Phone: 251-11-5174007
251-11-5174000
Fax: 251-11-1242454
Email: pasaddis@state.gov



U.S. Officials Outline Goals, Strategy for . . .

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ternational community's support," he said. "Many countries, including those who opposed the initial intervention in Iraq, are participating in the process, which should be completed by the end of the year."

Casey stressed "90 percent of the sectarian violence in Iraq takes place in about a 30-mile [48-kilometer] radius from the center of Baghdad." Iraq, he added, "is not a country that is awash in sectarian violence."

If Iraqi leaders deliver on their commitments, Khalilzad said, within the next 12 months, Iraq should see "a national compact in place ... with a constitutional amendment, with the program for dealing with the militias, with the oil law in place, and the Iraqi security institution will be more capable." If those goals are

achieved, Khalilzad said, "there will be a reduction in the sources of violence ... and an increased Iraqi capability to deal with what remains of that struggle."

For additional information, see Iraq update (http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/middle_east_north_africa/iraq.html).

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U.S. Official Explains New Military Commission . . .

(Continued from page 11)

one in custody with a crime or release him. This right is known by the Latin term habeas corpus. However, Bellinger said that habeas corpus applies to criminal law, not wartime situations. The Geneva Conventions do not address habeas corpus, and international law has recognized the right to hold enemies in detention. "As in any military conflict, there is no right to habeas corpus," Bellinger said. "No individual in any military conflict in American history has ever had the right to habeas corpus." U.S. defense attorneys have filed habeas corpus cases in U.S. courts for many of the people being held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility in Cuba. The new Military Commission Act addresses habeas corpus, meaning that cur-

rent cases will have to be refiled in federal courts. However, he said, "individuals will continue to have the right to bring their cases into our federal courts."

CIA detention program. President Bush, in signing the Military Commissions Act of 2006, said the new law preserves the ability of the CIA to hold and question suspects in overseas facilities. Bellinger stressed that military personnel and CIA personnel both will be held to the same standard of conduct. He also said Congress would have to be notified before any CIA detention programs are resumed. "The act itself does not specifically address the CIA program, which the president said ... would continue as a way to question senior members of al-Qaida who we may detain in the future," Bellinger

said. "What the Military Commissions Act does is: It now makes clear what the legal standard is for the treatment and detention of those individuals. No program will go forward, though, until it has been briefed to our Congress."

For more information, see Detainee Issues (http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human_rights/detainees.html).

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