



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

Farewell Speech by Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal

At the end of the month, Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal will complete her tour in Ethiopia. On Tuesday, August 23, Ambassador Brazeal spoke to a gathering at the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce; in her remarks, she considers her experience in the country and expresses her hopes for the future.



Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal delivering her speech

Following is the text of her speech

Good afternoon. It is a great pleasure to be here once again as a guest of the Ethiopian Chamber of

Commerce, and I want to thank Ato Andualem and all the members of the Chamber who have been

such gracious hosts and enthusiastic program partners during my time in Ethiopia.

This is my final speech in Ethiopia, as I have come to the end of my three-year tour.

In thinking about what to say today, my heart and mind said, "Go back to your roots growing up in Atlanta, Georgia." As a diplomat and ultimately as an Ambassador, I have frequently reflected on my childhood days and how valuable they were

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Ethiopia Joins International Science-Education Group

GLOBE Spans the World to Improve Students' Futures

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – A new agreement between the United States and Ethiopia will lay the foundation for a range of programs in support of science education in the country. On Wednesday, August 24, Ethiopia became the

110th country worldwide to participate in the Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program. has joined an international primary and secondary school-based education and science program. GLOBE (Global Learning and Observation to Bene-

fit the Environment) provides primary- and secondary-school students an opportunity to learn by participating in interactive science activities, for example by studying the atmosphere, water, and soil, taking scientifically valid measurements

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in such fields as atmosphere, hydrology, soils, and land cover/phenology reporting their data through the Internet, and collaborating with a community of scientists and other GLOBE students around the world. Teachers participating in GLOBE can benefit from training at professional development workshops, a comprehensive Teachers Guide and supplemental materials posted on the GLOBE Web site, and as well as receive ongoing support from GLOBE staff and scientists.

U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia Aurelia E. Brazeal and Ethiopia's Vice Minister of Education Ato Dereje Terefe signed the bilateral GLOBE agreement at 2 p.m. at the Institute for Curriculum Development and Research. Ambassador

Brazeal signed the agreement on behalf of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which administers GLOBE (and which is perhaps best known



Ato Dereje Terefe, Vice Minister of Education, and U.S. Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal at the signing

as the U.S. agency in charge of the space program). The Regional Environment Office for East Africa, based at the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, initiated the discussions that led to the launching of GLOBE in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is the 110th country to become a member of GLOBE. Ethiopian schools taking part in the program will join more than 1516,000 schools with over 2630,000 GLOBE teachers worldwide participating in GLOBE. GLOBE is a cooperative effort of schools and scientists managed by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) in partnership with Colorado State University and supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), NASA, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the U.S. Department of State.

For more information on GLOBE visit the Web site < www.globe.gov > . For more information on GLOBE visit the program's website at www.globe.gov. ♦

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to me. At home I received knowledge about and an appreciation for African-American culture, which has been a bedrock of inspiration, motivation, and strength as my work unfolded. Then, as now, I particularly liked what was called, when I was a child, Negro Spirituals. One song in particular, "Done Made My Vow" by African-American composer Adolphus Hailstork, is particularly meaningful. Learning about this song from my cousin Brazeal Dennard – himself, I am proud to say, a distinguished

conductor and composer – I was drawn to the text and to the emotional content of the music.

My cousin told me how our parents' generation relied on the lesson in this spiritual and many others to get them through difficult times. However hard times were, their total and complete message to us as we grew up was that we must persevere to achieve our goals in life, no matter how difficult it seemed. In my life experiences I have drawn upon the spiritual and emotional ties to my cul-

ture as an African American. I am still guided by the inspiration of my formative years in the home, church, school, and the community at large, and I am still drawn to the text of "Done Made My Vow:"

"Done made my vow to the Lord;
I will go, I shall go to see what the end will be.
My name is toil, my mother strength,
my future achievement, my goal is pride."

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I am also a child of the 1960s and of what we in the U.S. call the “Baby Boomer” generation, that groundswell of children born in the optimistic wake of World War II. One thing we brought the world is a passionate belief in the power of positive change. Those of you here today, and even your children, are members of generations that will surpass the baby boomers both in size and in contribution; you have the chance to bring tremendous changes to your country and to the world.

You not only will have to decide whether to be a force for positive changes, but also what those changes will be. You have the history of Ethiopia behind you, together with your parents’ hopes and the accomplishments of generations past. As Ethiopian men and Ethiopian women, you have the responsibility – and the privilege – to go see what the end will be.

In thinking about what that end will be, let me focus on women for a moment. In most countries of the world in which I have been, women are major agents of societal change. Why? Because women think beyond self, beyond the individual. A woman thinks of her children, the next generation, and of family and is willing to make changes that promise to benefit the group. She is inclusive, working to spread the benefits of change broadly, with an awareness that even if she herself does not benefit, the larger body will. Because she is usually not in a privileged position in her own society, she does not narrowly think to hoard privilege just for herself.

Because she is inclusive, she works with other like-minded persons, leveraging the impact of change. If she is an African or an African-American woman, she also brings awareness of the history of black people in the world and supports the impulse of generosity. When she does reach the position of rulemaker, she listens with an ear to avoid the arrogance of power, having been on the receiving end of arrogance. She values her uniqueness, relishes her role, and is the welcoming face to others seeking the same enlightenment.

As the first American woman Ambassador to Ethiopia, I applaud Ethiopian women and the progress they have made in very difficult societal circumstances and their enduring efforts to go see what the end will be.

What else marks the presence of agents of positive change? These women — and men — understand the great challenge of the 21st Century — or of any century for that matter: how to get those in power to share power with those who have none. In Ethiopia, I believe a clear consensus exists on the need for political pluralism and multipartyism and on the need for economic liberalization and removal of restrictive government controls in order to promote economic growth. I also believe that most Ethiopians believe in the rights protected by your Constitution. I also believe most Ethiopians want balanced access to the media. I also believe that most Ethiopians realize that a democratic form of government, with its respect for the civil rights of the individual, creates the most favorable conditions for assuring that

their hard earned gains will be honored in the future.

Let me tell you what ordinary Ethiopians tell me. They tell me that as parents, they do not want their children to live through the violence and upheavals that they experienced. They tell me politicians should respect one another, talk civilly to one another, and focus on issues important to the people, not focus on tearing each other down. They tell me Ethiopian society historically has not valued compromise and accommodation but yet they yearn for these traits for their children and for their country’s leaders. They tell me they want the political parties to accept election results, join Parliament, and work from within the system. They value their democratic institutions and the constitution, and they want political parties to do the same. They want peace. They want wise leaders.

Let me tell a short story to illustrate. The version I read – in a speech by Nobel Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner Toni Morrison, a famous African American writer – was of an old, blind, but wise woman, who, given her wisdom, was held in awe by her community. Even so, there were those who derided her and sought to exploit her blindness and to make fun of her. Three young people visited her one day to ask a question. One of them says: “Old woman, I hold in my hand a bird. Tell me if it is living or dead.” The old woman waits a long time before speaking but finally says, “ I do not know whether the bird you are holding is dead or alive, but what I do know is that it is in your hands. It is in your hands.”

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Her answer could mean: if it is dead, you either found it that way, or you killed it. If it is alive, you can still kill it. Whether it is to stay alive is your decision. Whatever the case, it is your responsibility. As I depart Ethiopia, I give you my trust with the bird because it is still alive, the bird of democracy. I can say look, how lovely is this thing you have done — together. I hope all political parties will take their seats in Parliament and participate in government under the Constitutional framework. Then we can all go see what the end will be.

Toni Morrison also has spoken about what she calls “the future of time.” She used this phrase to express her concern that people have become too mired in the past – too focused on what has been – and too little interested in the future. Looking forward, for example, is there a consciousness of a year 3000, a year 4000 that hovers in or near our consciousness? The past is getting longer, and the future is seen by many to be withered and without promise. Morrison calls on us to discard that which holds us back and to harvest the best of our past – “emancipation, generosity, acute political awareness and a sense of shared and mutually responsible society” – and use it to build a better future.

Now, some sections of the media say the future is already a catastrophe. Why is this? In Ethiopia, I believe there are a couple of factors. One is what I would call “Identity politics” and the other, especially at this moment, is what I think of as “Internet politics”.

Identity politics is when, as was the case in last year’s elections in the U.S., a voter is too often urged to choose a candidate or party based upon their identification with a narrow issue or group, rather than on higher principles of national good. In the Ethiopian context, Internet politics is when a loud and vitriolic minority of voices, many of whom have not been in this country for years or even decades and have far less at stake than Ethiopians at home, urge those actually living here to act on the basis of old-think ethnic identification or frozen and aged images of how Ethiopia used to be.

The future, then, if we let it, may well be shoved to the periphery of social debate by those who would deify the past. There are Ethiopians fixated on the political conditions that existed in 1974, or 1991, or even 2000. There are those who want to say there has been no positive changes since then, or even no positive change, period. There are those who want to bury the undeniable positive central features of Ethiopia’s present and deny the country’s promising future.

These central features are: a multiparty system here to stay; a legal constitution and institutions to frame debates, even about how to change both; economic reforms to come – and I personally urge faster reforms – as Ethiopia races to join the global economy; a vigorous press and a social climate that increasingly promotes free expression – another area in which I hope there are great strides in the near future; and a development agenda that promises grassroots

results. These are features that, if carried through forcefully and positively, prefigure a redemptive future and national renewal.

How will this be accomplished? By reinvigorating the age-old concepts of shared values and coalition building, values that have demonstrated their effectiveness in settings throughout history and around the world. By being inclusive. By rejecting the destructive potential of bigotry and prejudice, those kinds of hatreds based on ethnic differences.

In Ethiopia, a nation made up of over 80 ethnic groups, it is not surprising that some degree of ethnic rivalry should exist. But, as our knowledge of the world all too clearly demonstrates, when rivalry turns to hatred, all too suddenly, ethnic tension can erupt into more dangerous forms. So this afternoon, I want to make a plea for tolerance – the only antidote there is to ethnic intolerance.

There are too many groups and people in Ethiopia – just, I hasten to add, as there are in the United States and other parts of the world - going their separate ways, excluding others they see as different from themselves. Our young people must be reminded that we may not have to love each other, but we do have to respect each other, cooperate with each other, and live together in peace and harmony. That means we must practice tolerance. The vision then is not really a multicultural *society* – in America, in Ethiopia, or anywhere; rather, the vision is to bring into being a multicultural *individual*, one who values all the heritage his or her nation offers.

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African Growth and Opportunity Act Helps Women in Business Succeed

Ambassador Brazeal Hails Ethiopian Business, Entrepreneurship

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – On Friday, August 19, U.S. Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal, along with Ethiopian government, business, and women’s advocacy leaders, visited the showroom and workshop of Addis Ababa’s Sara Garment Designers and Manufacturers. Sara Garment is one of several Ethiopian businesses that have taken advantage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to expand its business to the U.S market.

Speaking during the visit, the Ambassador noted the importance of businesswomen to the American economy – 9.1 million women-owned businesses in the United States employ 27.5 million people and contribute \$3.6 trillion to the economy. Speaking of how women have the potential for impact in the African context as well, she said, “Women-owned companies such as Sara Garment Designers and Manufacturers create the employment opportunities and transfer of skills that are so essential to lift women out of poverty.”

U.S. support has benefited Sara Garments, as well as its founder, Sara Abera, in a variety of ways. Sara herself partici-

pated in the International Visitors program, a highly competitive Department of

State exchange program that takes promising young professionals from a wide range of fields for intensive, short-term study tours;

Sara’s program looked at how entrepreneurship works in the U.S.



Ambassador Brazeal (Center) viewing display at the showroom with State Minister Tadesse Haile (right) and Sara Abera

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) was signed into law on May 18, 2000 as Title 1 of The Trade and Development Act of 2000. The Act offers tangible incentives for African countries to continue their efforts to open their economies and build free markets.

In July of 2005, Ethiopia was approved for “Category 9” provisions of the AGOA. Under Category 9, all hand-



Ambassador Brazeal (Center) with Sara Abera (right) view the work of one of Sara Garment's talented crafts women

loomed fabrics, hand-loomed articles, handmade articles made from hand-loomed fabrics, and certain folklore articles from Ethiopia will be allowed preferential treatment. Category 9 promotes the unique traditions that exist in Africa. Companies such as Sara Garment have shown that Ethiopian companies can succeed in the U.S. marketplace; the Category 9 provisions of AGOA offer yet another mechanism for Ethiopia to realize the economic potential of its numerous skilled weavers and strong artisanal traditions. ♦

Trade Offices Show U.S. Commitment to Boosting African Economies

By Charles W. Corey
Washington File Staff Writer

Dakar, Senegal -- The four trade development offices operated by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Nairobi,



Lloyd Pierson

Kenya; Gaborone, Botswana; Accra, Ghana; and Dakar are a prime example of the Bush administration's commitment to expanding trade and economic development across Africa, says Lloyd O. Pierson, USAID's assistant administrator for Africa.

Pierson made that point while briefing reporters on the importance of the USAID trade hubs at the recent African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum in Dakar. It was at that venue that

the fourth hub -- located in Dakar -- was announced.

"We are not talking just exports to the United States," Pierson told reporters while speaking of the trade hubs, "although that is important. We are also talking about what we can do to do a better job of economic development within the continent -- on a country basis, on a regional basis, and on a continent-wide basis.

"What we will see as a result of all these activities," he said, "will be jobs, jobs, and jobs," along with the social responsibility and community activity that responsible businesses "bring with them when they get involved."

Pierson said that through the hubs, USAID is greatly increasing its number of public-private partnerships -- which now stands at 105 in Africa. "To show the ag-

gressiveness" of this program, he said he had signed seven new public-private partnerships in the preceding three weeks.

As part of these arrangements, he explained, private-sector organizations enter into agreements with USAID to participate in a broad array of health, education, and development programs that promote social responsibility and help the community.

"We want the economic development. We want the jobs. But we also want the social responsibility of what a business or corporation can bring to the community," Pierson told the reporters. A key part of that, he said, is being a good corporate citizen.

Pierson reminded his audience that in many African countries the unemployment rate is

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Ethiopia must now take the opportunity to examine itself, to strengthen its democratic foundations, and to make the participation of citizens in governance a meaningful and consequential experience. As Dr. Johnetta Cole, former President of my Alma Mater, Spelman College, said, "We are for difference, for allowing difference, for learning to understand difference, and for respecting difference until difference doesn't make any more difference." I think Ethiopia can reach this state, with your help.

I opened with a song, so let me close my remarks with the third verse of another African-American song, one that very much represents my hopes for Ethiopia and its people, moving forward. For me, this verse is like a prayer:

"God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever on the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the

places, our God, where we met thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land."

I shall go, I will go, to see what the end will be. I hope you will go too. Above all, I know that I shall cherish the memory of my time in Ethiopia and with the peoples of Ethiopia for the rest of my life.

Thank you.

Trade Offices Show U.S. Commitment . . .

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"staggering," both in rural and urban areas, and so the need for economic development is urgent. "The more we can do to spur economic development -- income, jobs, community activities -- ... then the better that community is going to be," he said. "The best way to help the poor is to make them not poor -- so that is part of the approach that we are doing" through the trade hubs.

Pierson said the public-private agreements run the gamut, including an agreement with the Nike Foundation in Ethiopia, a cashew agreement in Mozambique, and an agreement with a diamond merchant in Angola.

Pierson was joined by representatives from three of the USAID trade hub offices and by USAID's AGOA adviser.

IMPROVING TRANSPORTATION

Lisa M. Yarmoshuk, who represented the southern Africa trade hub in Gaborone, said that besides doing what Pierson described, her trade hub staff, like those of her colleagues, is concentrating on improving and streamlining transportation and customs issues across its region.

"As we have heard, getting product to market, getting inputs for product development -- there are a lot of inefficiencies" that add needless time and costs to trade. She said her staff, along with the other hubs, is concentrating on opening "transportation corridors" to make the flow of products more efficient within and across borders.

Additionally, she said, the trade

hubs also work in a multipronged approach to help eliminate customs and trade barriers on key trade routes -- whether they are inside or outside their region.

PROMOTING COMPETITIVENESS

Scott Allen, USAID's hub manager and regional trade adviser in Nairobi, said all of the hubs are working to "find the nexus" between key issues like trade policy, capacity building, trade facilitation, and customs issues.

"As we promote competitiveness, not just trade ... we also try to mainstream key issues with regard to gender, HIV/AIDS, environmental issues," Allen said. The East African hub, he added, also focuses on public relations and information dissemination.

Pointing to the inefficiencies cited earlier by Yarmoshuk, he said it takes 60 days to ship a large container from Kenya's port of Mombasa to the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

"For those of you familiar with the United States, think of a container on a truck moving from Seattle [in the state of Washington on the West Coast] to Des Moines [in the state of Iowa in the Midwest]. If that took 60 days, there would be a revolution" in the United States, he said. That distance is customarily covered in the United States in two days.

EXPANDING TRADE

Touching on West Africa, Andy Cook, the director of the USAID trade hub in Accra, said his staff is focusing on expanding trade in five commodities: industrially manufac-

ured apparel; handicrafts, with an emphasis on home décor; fish and seafood; shea [a fat used in food, soap and candles]; and cashews.

"In these areas," he said, "we work directly with African entrepreneurs and companies, and in most of these areas we find that facilitating them to attend trade shows in the United States is a very good way to bring them to the attention of U.S. buyers."

Additionally, he said the hub is also working with regional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to help smooth trade across the region and unify sanitary and phytosanitary standards so that goods can be exported to the United States.

Amanda Hilligas, USAID's African Growth and Opportunity Act adviser, told reporters that while AGOA has been a big success across Africa, future efforts must concentrate on achieving diversity in U.S.-Africa trade.

As part of that effort, she said, "we are launching national strategies in Swaziland, Botswana, Lesotho, and Namibia" to help those countries diversify their exports away from a heavy concentration on apparel.

For more information, see U.S. Aid to Africa (http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid_to_africa.html)

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

Congressman Completes Visit to Ethiopia, Travels to Sudan

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- U.S. House of Representatives Africa Subcommittee Chairman Chris Smith (Republican of New Jersey) wrapped up a four-day official visit to Ethiopia August 17, urging Prime Minister Meles Zenawi to launch an investigation as soon as possible into post-electoral violence, and later visiting a clinic dedicated to women's health.

After his meeting with Meles, Smith also spoke to leaders of the political opposition, urging them to avoid boycotting Parliament as a protest of Meles' delayed investigation of the June violence that followed national elections.

Election results were not announced until the week of August 8, when the National Election Board of Ethiopia said that Meles' Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) had won 318 seats in the 547-member Parliament.

"Each side has the ability to move forward in the wake of the election, and they must do so for the sake of the Ethiopian people," Smith said. "Opposition parties can play a very positive and effective role by actively participating in debates and other concerns of the

country peacefully in Parliament. That is one major benefit of a two-party system."

According to his Washington staff, Smith also visited the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital while in Ethiopia. The center performs simple surgeries to repair fistulas in women -- a painful condition, often caused by giving birth, that afflicts



US Congressman Chris Smith speaks during an exclusive interview with the Associated Press in Addis Ababa Ethiopia, on Wednesday, August 17, 2005.

approximately 2 million women a year, predominantly in Africa. The condition causes nearly 8 percent of maternal deaths each year. Smith recently authored legislation that would provide \$12.5 million to fund centers that treat thousands of women suffering from fistulas in Africa.

"Centers like the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital will provide treatment and surgery that will allow

hundreds of thousands of women to be physically cured and emotionally healed from this devastating condition, allowing them to return to normal life," Smith said.

From Ethiopia, Smith and House Africa Subcommittee staff member Gregg Simpkins traveled to Sudan. They plan to meet with Sudanese government leaders and

the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to discuss continuity following the death of Vice President John Garang. They also will discuss prospects for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that created the national unity government.

In addition, the two will visit the troubled Darfur region and meet with Christian and Muslim religious leaders to encourage continuation of the peace process and a focus on overcoming the racial

and ethnic divisions that caused the civil war, according to Smith's staff.

(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. Military Helps Africans Prepare for Natural Disasters

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- A tsunami like the one that devastated South Asia in December 2004, killing more than 140,000 people, might never hit East Africa, but if it does, 11 African nations will be ready with a coordinated emergency response, worked out in a partnership with the U.S. military, called Operation Golden Spear.

Since July 2000, top-ranking military and civilian representatives from Africa and America have met annually to discuss cooperative measures to battle disasters like floods, drought and famine through the Golden Spear project. The 11 participating African nations are Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tanzania and Uganda.

A Golden Spear meeting is taking place August 14-18, in Nairobi, Kenya.

The multilateral effort is funded and coordinated through the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), responsible for military partnerships with Horn of Africa nations, and the U.S. European Command (EUCOM), responsible for sub-Saharan Africa. The Department of State and the Washington-based African Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) also participate in the operation.

Retired Marine General Karl Fulford, who now directs ACSS, joined other top military and civilian officials at the Golden Spear symposium in Nairobi to discuss a

range of mutually important issues, such as disaster-response procedures, port-security operations and training opportunities.

Top military officers from CENTCOM and EUCOM and African defense ministers were also briefed on the results of a medical surveillance seminar held at the confer-



William Bellamy
U.S. Ambassador to Kenya

ence and later participated in a table-top exercise acting out a crisis scenario, sponsored by CENTCOM.

A highlight of the weeklong gathering was the opening of a crisis management center in Nairobi, built with the help of the U.S. government and outfitted with more than \$400,000 worth of state-of-the-art communications gear.

U.S. Ambassador to Kenya William Bellamy helped open the Nairobi center, saying the Golden Spear partnership was meant "to better integrate African nations to deal with disaster management, whether those disasters are natural or man-made."

Bellamy touched on a new phase of the partnership, which emphasizes cooperation on counterterrorism, noting: "Africa has had more than its share of disasters. Sometimes they are unpredictable, sometimes they are preventable. Whether they are of the natural kind, like the tsunami ... or of the man-made kind ... [like] the 1998 bombings of the American embassies here in Nairobi and in Dar es Salaam, they cost lives and disrupt our economies."

He added that "while a great deal of hard work has already taken place to get us to this point, the real work begins today as Golden Spear member nations take the lead in manning this center and make it into a vital hub for regional preparation. Armed with better knowledge and advanced preparation, we can mitigate the effects of future disasters and thus be better able to respond to them when they do strike."

Bellamy assured his audience, "The United States government, through its military, has laid the foundation for Golden Spear and we will continue to be a dependable and strong partner, as our African partners work with each other to become better integrated in their disaster preparedness."

(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.-Funded Water Study in Kenya Will Benefit Environment

Washington -- Defining an appropriate water supply and wastewater management system for the Lake Victoria South region of Kenya is the goal of a U.S. grant awarded August 18 to Kenya's Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

The \$358,145 feasibility study grant from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) was conferred in a signing ceremony at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi. U.S. Ambassador to Kenya William Bellamy and Joseph Kinyua, permanent secretary of the Kenyan Ministry of Finance, signed an agreement on behalf of their governments.

In addition to defining an appropriate water supply and wastewater management system for the region, the study will also begin the process of

establishing related businesses to ensure the project's sustainability.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Bellamy noted the importance of the project, highlighting its positive impact on the environment, its supply of fresh water for domestic and industrial consumption, and its use as a model for managing other rural water projects throughout Kenya.

The Ministry of Finance has selected the Massachusetts-based firm Coler & Colantonio to carry

out the study, which, according to a USTDA press release, will focus on six communities in the region: Kericho, Kisii, Migori, Homa Bay, Bomet and Keroka.

After an initial screening process, three representative communities will be selected for in-depth analysis. The study will define the infrastructure needs of the selected



Homa Bay, one of the beneficiary village in Kenya

communities; plan and develop an appropriate operations and maintenance program; evaluate and provide recommendations for management arrangements for the facilities; recommend financing structure arrangements for the projects' implementation; and make recommendations on proceeding with a full environmental impact assessment.

USTDA advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries.

The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, feasibility studies, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment.

USTDA strategically uses foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries, creating an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA concentrates on economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.

For additional information on U.S. efforts to assist the continent, see U.S. Aid to Africa (http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid_to_africa.html).

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

Cheney Says Human Cost of Terrorism Is Staggering

By Merle D. Kellerhals, Jr.
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Across the globe, the cost in human lives and suffering at the hands of terrorists since September 11, 2001, has been staggering, says Vice President Cheney.

"Since 9/11, terrorists have continued to wage deadly attacks -- never as a conventional military force, but as a hidden element determined to slip in unnoticed, to shed innocent blood, and to shake the will of the civilized world," Cheney said August 18 in an address to the 73rd annual convention of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in Springfield, Missouri.

"The enemy that appeared on 9/11 is wounded, off-balance, and on the run, yet still very active, still seeking recruits, still trying to hit us."

Terrorists striking the United States on September 11, 2001, killed approximately 3,000 people in New York City, at the Pentagon in Washington and in a quiet field in southern Pennsylvania, he said. But national boundaries have proven no barrier or protection from terrorism, he said, citing these recent incidents:

In Bali, bombs in a commercial district killed more than 200.

In Riyadh, simultaneous suicide car bombings of civilian targets left 34 dead and many injured.

Since the mid-1990s in Jerusalem and in other cities in Israel,

multiple suicide bombings have killed and maimed hundreds.

In Casablanca, five separate attacks took the lives of over 40 civilians and injured more than 100.

In Jakarta, a blast in front of a hotel killed 13 and injured at least 150.



Vice President Cheney speaks to the attendees at the 73rd National Convention of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in Springfield, Missouri, 08/18/05.

In Istanbul, terrorists set off four trucks filled with explosives, killing approximately 60 people and injuring some 700 more.

In Madrid, 10 bombs on commuter trains killed nearly 200 and injured more than 1,800.

In England in July, terrorists set off four explosions at rush hour, all of them targeted at commuters taking the train or the bus. The number killed in central London was 56, including the four bombers, together with another 700 in-

jured.

Shortly later in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, suicide bombers in a commercial district killed as many as 90 people, and injured more than 100 others.

In Iraq, terrorists have killed innocent people in marketplaces, in restaurants, in private homes, at police recruiting stations, in a hospital, and outside a mosque.

The vice president noted that terrorists in Iraq "have beheaded bound men in front of cameras, and killed U.N. employees and international aid workers."

A suicide bomber killed 18 Iraqi children as American soldiers were giving them candy, he said.

"That's the nature of the enemy we face in the war on terror, and will face for the duration of this struggle. Killers who target innocent, unsuspecting men, women, and children on a peaceful street, or set off explosions during a morning rush hour, or fly passenger jets into buildings are not the kind of people you can bring to the bargaining table and sit down for a reasonable exchange of ideas," Cheney said.

"This is not a war we can win strictly on the defensive. Our only option against these enemies is to find them, to fight them, and to destroy them."

According to the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center, there were 3,192 terrorist attacks in 2004 with 28,433 people killed,

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U.S. Gives Additional \$26.1 Million to U.N. Refugee Program

The U.S. Department of State has contributed another \$26.1 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for its 2005 Annual Programs to help address the needs of more than 19 million refugees and other persons of concern.

The contribution brings the United States' contribution to UNHCR in fiscal year 2005 to more than \$308 million.

Text of the State Department media note follows:

(begin text)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
August 17, 2005

Media Note

U.S. Contributes \$26.1 Million to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees

The United States is pleased to announce an additional contribution to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of \$26.1 million for its 2005 Annual Programs. This contribution will help UNHCR address the needs of more than 19 million

refugees and other persons of concern. This contribution brings the United States' contribution to UNHCR in fiscal year 2005 to over \$308 million. The contribution will provide assistance in the following



Sudanese refugee family in tent at Farachana Camp, eastern Chad, February 2004

ghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Chad, Liberia, Colombia, and throughout the world. U.S. support helps ensure refugees' lives and rights are adequately protected; their basic food, shelter, health, and education

needs are met; and that they are able to return home once it is safe, or otherwise find a permanent solution to their plight.

The United States believes that the protection and care of refugees and the pursuit of permanent solutions for refugee crises are shared international responsibilities. The United States calls on other donors to strengthen their efforts in support of the programs of the U.N. High Commissioner for

regions:

Africa	\$11.6 million
East Asia	\$ 1.1 million
Global Operations/ Headquarters	\$13.4 million

UNHCR is a key partner of the United States Government in critical humanitarian endeavors in Af-

Refugees.

(end text)

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

Achievement of Global Health Goals Set in 2000 Not in Sight

The majority of developing nations are not on track to fulfill Millennium Development Goals in health, according to a report issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) August 22.

The report, *Health and the Millennium Development Goals*, tracks the progress made toward achieving these goals, which were set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000.

Reducing by two-thirds the mortality rate of children under age 5 was one key goal, but the study found that none of the poorest regions of the developing world are on track to meet the target, and 11 million children under age 5 continue to die avoidable deaths each year.

Weak and inequitable health systems are one cause of the lack of progress, the report finds. Such systems will only improve with

identification of the financing to sustain adequate systems able to deliver medical personnel, medicines, vaccines and information to people who need them.

Financing a basic health package can cost a nation a minimum of



\$30 to \$40 per capita each year, but poor countries invest only about \$10 per person per year on average, the report finds.

The full report (http://www.who.int/mdg/publications/mdg_report/en/index.html) is available on the

WHO Web site in both English and French.

Information (<http://www.globalhealth.gov/>) about U.S. contributions to support improvements in health care in the developing world is available on Department of Health and Human Services' global health Web site.

Heads of state gather in New York next month for a summit to review the progress made toward the 2000 goals. Additional information (<http://www.undp.org/mdg/abcs.html>) on the Millennium Development Goals is available on the United Nations Development Programme Web page.

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

U.S. Reaching Out to More of the World Through Internet Chats

Interactive webchats are quickly becoming an important way for the United States to reach out and discuss significant issues with people around the world, a State Department official told participants during an August 18 Internet chat.

"Our introduction of IIPChat is a direct result of our desire to interact more with our audiences," said Alexander Feldman, coordinator for International Information Programs (IIP).

Since June, IIP has held several interactive Internet chats on such diverse topics as Uzbekistan (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2005/Jun/08-501312.html>), environmental protection (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2005/Jun/29-22766.html>), human rights (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2005/Jul/21-564409.html>), U.S. foreign aid (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2005/Jul/27-997226.html>), and the U.S. Supreme Court (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2005/Aug/10-607307.html>).

One great benefit of webchat technology, according to Feldman, is that it allows people to participate from anywhere in the world.

This flexibility was evident during Feldman's dialogue, when a large majority of the online audience was from Central Asia.

A participant from Turkmenistan asked about the future of the Internet Access and Training Program (IATP), which provides free Internet access, training, and assistance in Web site development for thousands of people in Central Asia, the Caucasus and Western

Eurasia. Additional information (<http://www.irex.org/programs/iatp/index.asp>) about IATP is available on the International Research and Exchanges Board Web site.

Feldman said IATP has been very successful. He said there is enough funding to continue the program for 18 more months, "and more money is being sought through the Freedom Support Act [Public Law 102-511, October 24, 1992] to keep it going."

Feldman noted that some U.S. embassies have hosted webchats that are targeted to local audiences and are very focused for local interests. IIP-Chats, in contrast, "tend to have broader interest and be aimed at larger audiences across many countries."

There have been "anywhere from 25-50 live participants; and upwards of 300 have viewed the chats on-demand after they are finished," he said. These are promoted through emails and telephone calls, as well as notices on IIP's Web site, usinfo.state.gov (<http://www.usinfo.state.gov/>).

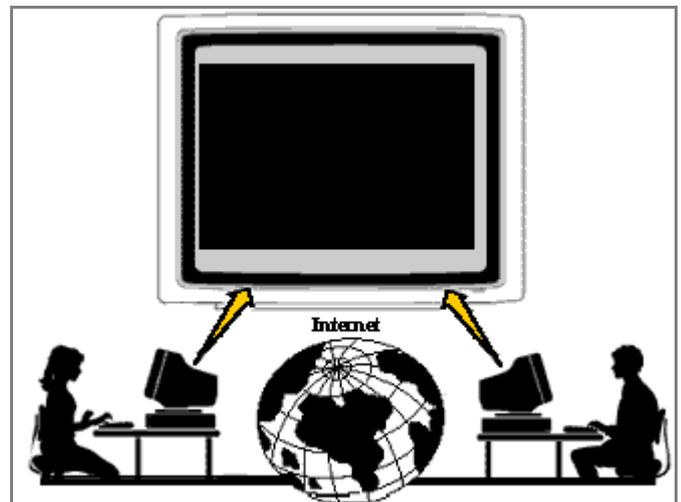
IIP will continue to offer narrowcasts targeted at specific groups as well as broadcast webchats, he said.

"Sometimes the most useful chats might be with a small number of very interested participants. Success can't be measured with num-

bers alone in this case," Feldman noted.

IIP is also beginning to offer webcasting, which has both a video and audio component, he said. One recent success was a webcast with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Korean Internet journalists in Seoul, South Korea, in March.

"Over 150,000 Koreans viewed a webcast with Secretary Rice," Feldman said, adding that the large



audience was due in part to advance marketing by Media Daum, a Korean Internet portal, which partnered with the U.S. Embassy in Seoul to offer the webcast.

Asked about chats in different major world languages, Feldman said IIP is looking at the possibility "based on a number of factors, including the ability of both the moderator and participants to converse in a particular language, the size of the audience and the significance of the subject matter."

He said IIP wants to interact more with audiences and -- as Under

(Continued on page 16)

Internet Chat to Focus on Muslim Integration in U.S., Europe



Ihsan Alkhatib

Ihsan Alkhatib, president of the Detroit, Michigan, chapter of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, will participate in a live Internet chat September 7 at 9:00 a.m. EDT (1300 GMT).

Alkhatib, a lawyer who is deeply involved in civil-rights issues, has written and spoken widely on the subject of Muslim integration in the United States and Europe. He believes that Europe could benefit

from the lessons of the American experience in accepting and integrating Muslim communities into the larger society politically, economically and socially.

If you want to ask a question or make a comment, please register at iipchat@state.gov (mailto:iipchat@state.gov). If you have already participated in one of our discussions, there is no need to register again. Just use the same user name and password. We neither require nor encourage the use of full names. You may identify yourself by the user name of your choice.

As always, WE ACCEPT YOUR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS IN ADVANCE of the program and at any time during it.

We look forward to getting your views and questions.

Upcoming webchats include:

Victor Davis Hanson, senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, on the spread of freedom (September 21);

and

Gary Weaver, American University, on immigrant identity and integration into a multi-cultural society (September 28).

Since June, IIP has held several interactive Internet chats on such diverse topics as Uzbekistan (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2005/Jun/08-501312.html>), environmental protection (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2005/Jun/29-22766.html>), human rights (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2005/Jul/21-564409.html>), U.S. foreign aid (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2005/Jul/27-997226.html>), and the U.S. Supreme Court (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2005/Aug/10-607307.html>).

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U.S. Reaching Out to More of the World Through Internet . . .

(Continued from page 14)

Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen Hughes has said -- "to have conversations rather than monologues."

Once a participant registers for a webchat, he or she does not have to register again, Feldman emphasized. Participants do not have to give their last names.

IIP's upcoming webchats include:

Ishan al-Khatib, president of the Detroit chapter board of the American-Arab Anti-discrimination Committee and a member of the ADC Michigan advisory board, on Muslim integration in the United States and Europe (September 7);

Victor Davis Hanson, senior fellow at Hudson Institute, on the spread of freedom (September 21); and

Gary Weaver, executive director of the International Management Institute at American University, on immigrant identity and integration into a multi-cultural society (September 28).

If you would like to participate in a future chat and have not registered, please send an e-mail to iipchat@state.gov (mailto: iipchat@state.gov). If you have already participated in one of our discussions, there is no need to register again. Just use the same user name and password.

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Cheney Says Human Cost of Terrorism Is Staggering. . .

(Continued from page 11)

wounded or kidnapped.

Cheney said the struggle to reduce the threat from terrorism is a multinational campaign and is making progress across many fronts -- financial, legal, military, and others. In order to defeat terrorists, it is critical that nations deny them sanctuary and support, which the United States has been doing with a global coalition, he said.

The United States has also enforced the doctrine that those governments that support or harbor terrorists are complicit in the murder of the innocent, and equally guilty of terrorist crimes, Cheney said.

A transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/08/20050818-4.html>) of the vice president's remarks is available on the White House Web site.

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



Vice President Cheney shakes the hand of Sgt. Justin Genovese, US Marine Corps, who was wounded in battle in Iraq, August 4, 2004.