



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## INSIDE

## AMBASSADORS DONOR GROUP AND EU STATEMENT

The Ambassadors Donor Group and the EU would like to express their grave concern about the events that occurred in educational institutions in Addis Ababa on Monday June 6 and on Tuesday, June 7 and the arrest of many students and other civilians.

The Ambassadors Donor Group and the EU expect the government and its security forces to show utmost restraint in han-

dling peaceful demonstrations by civil society and to uphold international principles of human rights.

Without prejudice to their rights under the law, the Ambassadors Donor Group and the EU urge all parties to avoid confrontation and to resolve their differences peacefully within the framework of Ethiopia's constitution, democratic institutions and laws and to await

the outcome of the elections. The Ambassadors Donor Group and the EU cannot condone violence nor incitement to violence nor incitement to racial hatred, nor condone any party which resorts to violent or illegal or non-constitutional actions.

The Ambassadors Donor Group and the EU remain committed to continue to play their role in support-

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## PRESIDENT BUSH ANNOUNCES \$674 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL AID FOR AFRICA

***U.S. President, British PM ask world community to increase humanitarian aid***

On June 7, 2005, President Bush announced that the United States will provide approximately \$674 million in additional resources to respond to humanitarian emergencies in Africa and, along with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, he called on the international community to increase its funding for humanitarian emergencies in Africa.

Of the funds, US\$150 million will be provided



**President Bush**

immediately to address humanitarian conditions in Ethiopia.

Bush and Blair "are taking decisive action now" so that assistance can be delivered to those in need, according to the White House. "Other interventions," it added, "are needed in a timely, complementary manner elsewhere in Africa."

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## AMBASSADORS DONOR GROUP AND EU . . .

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ing the transparency and credibility of the democratic process in Ethiopia in the final stages of the election and call on all parties to play a responsible and constructive role in ensuring the election process is completed peacefully.

**This statement is endorsed by:**

Austria  
Belgium  
Canada  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
EU Delegation  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Holy See  
IMF

Ireland  
Italy  
Japan  
Netherlands  
Portugal  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
United Kingdom  
United States♦

## PRESIDENT BUSH ANNOUNCES \$674 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL AID . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

In addition to this new contribution announced in Washington on June 7, the U.S. Government through the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in calendar year 2005 has provided more than US\$132 million (2,396,050,000 birr) in humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia. This includes a total of 255,499 MT of emergency food aid valued at US\$120 million (1,038,000,000 birr) and US\$12 million (103,800,000 birr) of emergency relief supplies and support for health, nutrition, agriculture and livestock, water and sanitation, and rapid response interventions.

With the British Government, the United States is also continuing its strong support for the Government of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program. This critical and innovative program addresses the needs of Ethiopia's chronically food inse-

cure and strives to end food aid dependency. Since October 2004, USAID has provided 254,031 MT of food aid, valued at over US \$127 million (1,098,550,000 birr) for the implementation of the Productive Safety Net Program. In addition, USAID has provided a total of US\$18 million (155,700,000 birr) in grants to support the Productive Safety Net Program. This funding has enabled capacity development in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Food Security Coordination Bureau for program start-up; funded partnerships between NGOs and program implementers at the regional, woreda, and community levels to build capacity and put in place livelihood and income diversification activities; and provided innovative alternative-technology programs to support on- and off-farm income generation.♦

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## CLOSING STATEMENT OF ETHIOPIA VISIT BY CONGRESSMAN MIKE HONDA (CA-15) CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL ETHIOPIA CAUCUS

*Addis Ababa, June 7, 2005 (As prepared)*

I will be forever changed by my visit to the beautiful country of Ethiopia.

The people I have met here are committed, generous, talented, and wise in spirit. The country is beautiful and diverse.

The primary purpose of my trip was to travel with ENAHPA, the Ethiopian North American Health Professionals Association to learn of their humanitarian mission here. The work of Dr. Ingida Asfaw, his wife Elizabeth, their family, and the many health professionals who came to give to Ethiopia is inspiring.

I am also here because of CLEA, the Citizens' League of Ethiopia Americans, many of whom reside in my district in California. They are a talented force of the Diaspora, committed to see the best for Ethiopia.

I have also had the opportunity to meet with government and opposition leaders, health professionals, NGO's, members of your business community, and members of the Diaspora and their children, many of whom are returning home to Ethiopia.

Through my travels, I have had the opportunity to have a glimpse into several layers of the 'onion' that the Prime Minister affectionately described as Ethiopia, but I know that there is even so much more of Ethiopia to learn.

I return to the United States Congress a changed person.

I am committed to use whatever influence I have in the United States Congress to share what I know of the beauty, determination, intelligence, generosity, and needs of the Ethiopian People.



**Congressman Mike Honda**

Through ENAHPA, I was able to visit the Fistula Clinic, an ALERT Hospital for HIV/AIDS, and Sister Tebebe's HAPSCO community and orphans' home care program in Addis, and a Maternal Child Health Center in Awassa.

I was truly moved by the determination of these caregivers, and will never forget the faces I saw, and the struggles they are mounting. I was particularly affected by the community's response and the way that members are caring for each other, even in the most difficult of all circumstances.

I was briefed on the food insecurity and hunger issues facing Ethiopia, and will return to the U.S. as a

re-energized advocate to fight to get Ethiopia the resources it needs as it devises its own solutions for its future.

Coincidentally, I came to Ethiopia at a watershed time for its democracy. I have had the opportunity to meet with both Government and Opposition leaders alike, at the federal and regional levels.

For the first time in Ethiopia's history, the majority of Ethiopian voters were presented with choices at the polls.

I congratulate Ethiopians on an outstanding turnout of 90 plus percent voter participation. This demonstrates to the world your hopes and commitment to democracy.

I urge the leadership of both the Government and Opposition parties to lead your followers on the path of peace. Together you can restore calm and confidence by moving your democracy forward, also thereby demonstrating democratic leadership to all of Africa. Your dialogue needs to be robust now, and post-election.

I urge the parties to accept a peaceful settlement, based on the laws of your democratic institutions. As a Democrat from the U.S. who participated in the 2000 elections, I know that democracy is not a perfect process, with overnight miracles. Our democratic institutions provide us with that structure as we move on the path for the strongest possible democratic governance.

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## CLOSING STATEMENT OF ETHIOPIA VISIT BY CONGRESSMAN MIKE . . .

*(Continued from page 3)*

On June 6, students at Addis Ababa University (AAU) staged a demonstration to protest last month's national election. According to press reports, demonstrations also occurred at some other educational institutions in Addis Ababa. There were reports that the police fired warning shots in the air in some areas of the city. Ethiopian and international media reported that more than 500 students were arrested and tragically one high school student was killed.

All parties should recommit themselves to resolve differences peacefully according to the processes within Ethiopia's constitution and laws, and to accept the final election outcome decisions made by the National Electoral Board. Investigation into election complaints will take place over the next month, with international observers participating. I urge all parties to cooperate with that process. The international community cannot condone violence nor incitement to violence, and I urge the security forces to show restraint and commitment to the universal principles of human rights as they maintain law and order. I urge the Government of Ethiopia to respect the human rights of those arrested on June 6 and June 7, and observe judicial due process as provided by Ethiopian law.

While the final results will not be known until July 8, I think all will agree that the opposition has made substantial gains since the last

election. This is a good thing. A robust democracy best exists with political competition, where a battle of ideas over the best public policy to benefit a country, can exist. Your democratic institutions can only be strengthened by a continuing dialogue, debate in your government.

As part of my travels, I was able to visit Zalambessa on the border of Eritrea, and to meet with UN-MEE officials. My hope is for peace, and I applaud Prime Minister Zenawi for stepping forward with a peace proposal aimed at bringing a lasting dialogue to seek peace between these great countries.

This active leadership is what is necessary to achieve peace.

The promise of Ethiopia is great, but the challenges now are great also. I live with many from the Diaspora who are interested in coming back to Ethiopia to help the country and to succeed in business. Government institutions that provide confidence and transparency can help to attract this increased private investment into your country, investment that can provide jobs and income. One such example comes directly from my District in California. Ola's Coffee is a private company that has been doing business in my California district for 10 years. They are a minority owned business, certified in fair trade, and they purchase and sell only African Coffee. They are planning to open up a roasting and processing plant here in Ethiopia which will create

500 jobs. They have pledged to give back 5 % of their gross profits to Ethiopia for HIV/AIDS treatment. This is an example of the type of corporate responsibility that can yield results for Ethiopia. I will never forget what I have learned, and will work as the Chairman of the Ethiopia American Caucus in Congress to share the beauty, potential and richness that is Ethiopia.

I also look forward to the opening of the office of the African Union in Washington this fall, and will support their efforts in whatever way possible.

Today, President Bush is meeting with Prime Minister Blair. It is my fervent hope that President Bush will do the right thing and agree to double aid to Africa. I will be an advocate on this and many other issues affecting Ethiopia. I also hope that the World Bank which has many great programs in Ethiopia will look at debt relief for impoverished countries around the world.

I won't take your time now to thank all the people I need to thank, but I do want to give my appreciation to my Ambassador to Ethiopia, Aurelia Brazeal and her staff, the USAID staff, for their work in this country, and most importantly I'd like to thank the people of Ethiopia for their warmth, generosity and for teaching me much about humanity. ♦

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## AID TO AFRICA ON G8 AGENDA, BUSH ASSURES SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT

**By Steve Kaufman**  
*Washington File White House Correspondent*

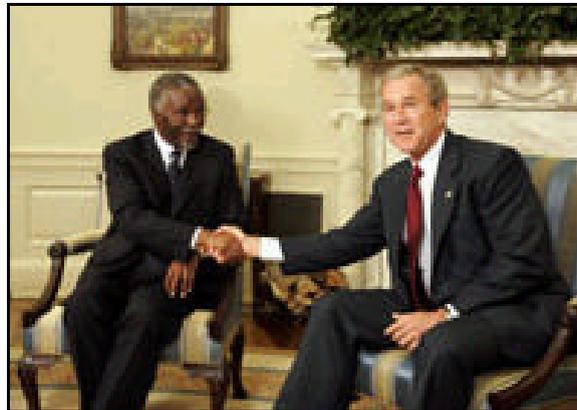
**Washington** -- President Bush says he intends to advance what he described as "the compassion agenda" to provide economic and humanitarian assistance to African nations in need when he attends the upcoming Group of Eight (G8) summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, July 6-8.

Speaking to reporters at the White House June 1 following a meeting with South African President Thabo Mbeki, Bush said positive steps have been taken, thanks to previous G8 discussions that have fostered a "commitment to trade, as well as humanitarian help."

However, he added, it is important for African nations to understand that aid has become "a two-way street .... Countries such as ours are not going to want to give aid to countries that are corrupt, or don't hold true to democratic principles, such as rule of law and transparency and human rights and human decency."

President Mbeki, Bush said, has played a vital role in reforms in South Africa, which has become a stalwart when it comes to democratic institutions. Bush also praised Mbeki for using his office to "not only better the lives of his own people but to work to bring stability and peace to the region and to the continent."

In response, Mbeki said, "We believe very strongly ... that the forthcoming G8 summit in Camp Gleneagles in Scotland has the possibility to communicate a very strong, positive message about movement on the African continent away from poverty and underdevelopment and its conflicts," and he added that Bush's "contribution to the practical outcomes" of the meeting "is critically important."



**President Bush meets with South African President Thabo Mbeki in the White House Oval Office, June 1 (©AP/WWP, Charles Dharapak)**

The G8 comprises Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and Russia.

The South African president also expressed his appreciation for President Bush's commitment to help South Africa meet its domestic challenges and for U.S. assistance to the rest of the African continent. The U.S. contribution to helping Africa solve peace and security issues has been vital, he

said, as has its contribution to African economic recovery and development, particularly through the New Partnership for Africa's Development, commonly known as NEPAD.

The two leaders also discussed the situation in the Darfur region of Sudan, which Bush characterized in the words of former Secretary of State Colin Powell as "genocide." The current travel of Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick, he said, underscores America's deep interest in resolving the situation, and he cited the United States' large donation of humanitarian aid "to help deal with the human suffering there."

President Mbeki acknowledged the African commitment to resolving the crisis. No troops from the United States or elsewhere outside Africa have been asked to assist, he said.

"It's an African responsibility and we can do it. From the African perspective, we wouldn't say we want deployment of U.S. troops in Darfur. What we've asked for is the necessary logistical and other support to be able to ensure that we can shoulder our responsibilities," Mbeki said.

Bush said NATO has agreed to help the African Union position its peacekeeping troops both to improve the distribution of humanitarian aid and to bring "stability

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## AFRICANS CALLED "HEROES" IN U.S. ANTI-TRAFFICKING REPORT

**By Susan Ellis**  
**Washington File Staff Writer**

**Washington** -- Several individuals in African nations qualify as "Heroes Acting to End Modern-Day Slavery" and several African governments are following "best practices" in implementing anti-trafficking measures, according to the State Department's 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP), announced by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice June 3.

Speaking at the State Department's news briefing for reporters, Rice said, "This congressionally mandated report represents the United States' deep commitment to stop the brutal crime of human trafficking." Trafficking in human beings -- whether as child prostitutes or as abused foreign workers -- "is nothing less than a modern form of

slavery," Rice said, adding that the United States "has a particular duty to fight this scourge because trafficking in persons is an affront to the principles of human dignity and liberty upon which this nation was founded."

The report names as a hero Ugandan Angelina Atyam, who co-founded the Concerned Parents' Association (CPA) in 1996 after the terrorist insurgent organization Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) abducted her 14-year-old daughter. Since then, Atyam has worked tirelessly to provide support and assistance to child vic-

tims and their families who have suffered from LRA atrocities, including rape, mutilation, forced labor and forced soldiering.

The CPA serves as a support network for more than 2,000 parents of abducted children and operates a reception center where former LRA captives are provided medical support. In 2004, Atyam was reunited with her daughter, Char-



**Angelina Atyam**

lotte, and two grandchildren who risked their lives to escape from the LRA.

Another hero, Aida Mbodj, family minister in Senegal, has publicly taken a strong stand against exploitative child begging in her country. She has received death threats for her controversial position. As a leading government official and the wife of a well-respected religious figure, Minister Mbodj has worked to eliminate the abusive use of children to generate income for some religious scholars -- a practice that qualifies as child trafficking and is inconsis-

tent, she says, with Islam's teachings. The family minister now provides subsidies to Quranic schools that do not exploit their students.

Minister Mbodj also laid the groundwork for and signed a 2004 bilateral anti-trafficking agreement between Senegal and Mali.

The TIP report gave special recognition to Mali, Senegal, and Burkina Faso for "best practices" in implementing bilateral anti-trafficking accords. In 2004, the government of Mali signed bilateral accords with the governments of Senegal and Burkina Faso to fight child trafficking. As a result, Senegal repatriated 54 Malian children and Mali repatriated 20 children to Burkina Faso.

Malawi has been singled out in the report for "creatively combating the prostitution of children." A local Malawian nongovernmental organization, People Serving Girls at Risk (PSGR), takes an innovative approach to helping girls leave prostitution through social reintegration and building support networks.

The report says that male and female staff members working as "peer educators" go undercover where girls solicit customers and pretend to be prostitutes or clients to establish relationships of trust. The girls in prostitution are offered social and medical services and legal advice. PSGR helps form "watchdog groups" that are vigilant against girls joining or being

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## ZOELLICK CALLS FOR MORE AFRICAN UNION POLICE IN DARFUR

**Washington** -- More African Union police should be deployed in refugee camps in Darfur to help stop attacks against civilians across the region, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick stressed June 3.

According to Reuters press pool reports from Sudan, Zoellick arrived in the capital of North Darfur state, El Fasher, with little official fanfare. He went straight to the African Union (AU) headquarters for a briefing on the security situation by the chief of the mission, who is in charge of 2,300 troops and hundreds of civilian police.

"This visit is ... to assess the humanitarian and security situation [and] to show support for the African Union mission," Zoellick said.

Speaking to reporters after the briefing, Zoellick said the reports show that where AU forces are deployed, conflict has been stopped. "That's one reason why a key element of the strategy is to expand the AU force presence," he said.

He also urged the Sudanese government to rein in and disarm the Arab militias that have been accused of raping, burning and killing in the remote western region that has been the site of bloodshed since early 2003.

"We are certainly sending a very strong message to the government of Sudan that we want them to stop the militias. They have a responsibility ... and we also want them to move to disarm the militias," he said.

Zoellick visited Sudan earlier in April, when he met with senior government officials and traveled to Darfur and the South, where a peace deal signed in January is being implemented. During that visit, he stressed the importance of the North-South peace accord in helping to find a lasting solution to the Darfur rebellion.

"If you have progress on one and not the other it brings it down, so you have to have progress on both," he said.

On the current visit, Zoellick said that deploying AU police within the camps that house about 2 million displaced persons would be key to reducing attacks and returning security to Darfur, where tens of thousands of people have been killed in mostly non-Arab villages by Arab militias known locally as Jingaweit.

"The key is to get the police forces operating within the camps. That is being expanded. And we talked about 30 additional posts in the camps," he said after talks with AU Peace and Security Commissioner Said Djinnit.

The AU has a total contingent of about 3,000 troops and police on the ground and hopes to expand that to 7,000 by the end of September.

South African police commissioner Annan Pillay, who is in charge of the almost 500 police, said AU police patrols had already reduced the numbers of reported rapes and attacks on camp residents.

At present, he said, the AU police only have a permanent presence in the Kalma camp in South Darfur, which houses 110,000 displaced persons and has seen some of the worst clashes. Another 30 police posts are expected to be set up in priority camps by the end of June, he said.

Zoellick and Djinnit agreed that a political solution to the conflict needs to be found through talks, which are slated to restart June 10 in the Nigerian capital, Abuja.

"It's not enough to provide humanitarian support and food and security here -- we need to press forward the peaceful reconciliation process," Zoellick said.

Djinnit also said the AU was hoping for significant progress at the Darfur peace talks by July 9, when a new North-South coalition government will be formed in Khartoum.

"Our target is that by July 9 we will be able to make some significant progress on the political ground while matters are moving on the ground to make the security situation better," he said.

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

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## AGOA FORUM TO TACKLE ACCESS TO CREDIT, LAND TITLING FOR WOMEN

**By Charles W. Corey**  
**Washington File Staff Writer**

**Washington** – The upcoming 2005 U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, to be held July 18-20 in Dakar, Senegal, will offer useful training sessions and discussions of best practices to show how civil society groups can help broaden and deepen the positive impact the historic African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is having on 37 AGOA-eligible nations.

Vernice I. Guthrie-Sullivan, vice chair of the AGOA Civil Society Network, said the forum will not be just another routine conference. She made that point June 3 at the Foreign Press Center in Washington as she briefed reporters on the upcoming Dakar forum. Guthrie-Sullivan was joined by Fred Oladeinde, coordinator of the AGOA Civil Society Network, and Oumar Barou Makalou, chairman of the AGOA Civil Society Network.

Guthrie-Sullivan identified access to credit and difficulties in securing adequate land titling, especially for women, as challenges facing people who want to take advantage of AGOA. Additionally, she said, those people face the challenge of finding a reliable means of processing goods in and out of countries.

“When one thinks about the purpose and coming together of civil

society organizations in support of the implementation and furthering of AGOA,” Guthrie-Sullivan told reporters, “one need only to reflect ... on the challenges in addressing the issues of poverty, HIV/AIDS, the inclusion of youth and women and ensuring that business development and development of all types in fact reaches the very people in the communities and countries that AGOA is intended to serve.”

Guthrie-Sullivan said the AGOA Civil Society Network represents a number of organizations, all seek-



ing to maximize the positive impact of AGOA in a variety of different ways. The ultimate goal, she said, is to ensure that the masses of Africans living in the 37 AGOA-eligible countries benefit from the business development and investment generated by the act. “It is our goal to ensure that civil society continues to play its appropriate role in the implementation of AGOA,” she said.

Oladeinde, coordinator of the AGOA Civil Society Network, told reporters that the network was established at an AGOA forum in Mauritius to ensure that through civil society organizations in Africa and the United States people are empowered and that AGOA continues to address poverty and pro-

mote good governance, transparency and the elimination of corruption.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act was signed into law on May 18, 2000, as Title I 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.

Since AGOA’s enactment, Oladeinde said, there has been “tremendous economic improvement” in AGOA-eligible countries. In 2004, he told reporters, U.S.-Africa trade totaled \$44.4 billion – an increase of 37 percent over the previous year.

Despite such progress, however, AGOA is facing challenges, he cautioned, particularly in the area of textiles and apparel, and that is why the Dakar forum is important.

Besides focusing on textiles and apparel, Oladeinde expressed hope that the Dakar forum will explore ways that African countries can diversify their economies – to help reduce poverty and in-country migration from rural to urban areas. “AGOA has a role to play” in that, he said.

The AGOA Civil Action Network hopes to empower civil society so that it can build economic prosperity, further expand good governance and human rights, remove impediments to trade and ensure the right climate to promote investment and eliminate unemployment – particularly among the youth. That, he said, will be an

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## RICE CONDEMNS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AS MODERN SLAVERY

Trafficking in human beings is nothing less than a modern form of slavery, said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as she unveiled the State Department's fifth annual Trafficking In Persons Report June 3.

"We estimate that up to 800,00 people are trafficked across international borders every year," Rice said, adding that "millions more are trafficked internally."

The Secretary noted that in 2004 the United States provided more than \$98 million in foreign aid to help other



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice introduces the 2005 Trafficking in Persons report, June 3, 2005. (State Dept. photo - Janine Sides)

countries strengthen their anti-trafficking efforts. Those efforts included helping to develop anti-trafficking legislation, training special law enforcement units to investigate trafficking cases, building emergency shelters, and developing long-term rehabilitation and vocational training centers.

"We trust that this year's report will raise international awareness of the crime of trafficking and spur governments across the globe to take determined actions against it," Rice said.

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## AGOA FORUM TO TACKLE ACCESS TO CREDIT, LAND . . .

*(Continued from page 8)*

overriding theme of the upcoming Dakar forum. "AGOA has a direct correlation in trying to address all of these issues," he told reporters.

The Dakar forum will review AGOA from three levels, he said: government to government at the ministerial level; a second focus on private sector investment and business; and a third level focusing on civil society.

The motives of civil society groups, he acknowledged, are somewhat different from those of the private sector and the ministerial levels, but all three groups, he said, have common goals on which they can work together.

"The forum is an important meeting point. We hope that we can use the forum this year to provide training and to discuss possible technical assistance. Beyond the forum," he said, "the AGOA Civil Society Network is looking at ongoing training opportunities in Africa ... where we can go on the ground and use the power of American civil society to work with African civil society in a way that government and the private sector cannot. We have seen that in the presence of democratization and human rights issues our civil society became and still is the platform that has been able to assist us in achieving all of what we have seen today.

"Ten or 15 years ago," he recalled, "we could count the number of de-

mocracies in Africa on our fingers. Today we do know that there are different levels of democratization in Africa. We are seeing a significant increase not only in terms of leadership accepting democratic principles but also building institutions and working very, very adamantly to ensure that they can assume their rightful position within the international community."

More information is available on AGOA (<http://www.agoa.gov/>) at the Department of Commerce Web site.

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

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## RICE CONDEMNS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AS MODERN SLAVERY

*(Continued from page 9)*

Following is the transcript of Rice's remarks:

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman  
June 3, 2005**

Remarks

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

On the Release of the Fifth Annual Department of State "Trafficking in Persons Report"

June 3, 2005  
Washington, D.C.

(12:00 p.m. EDT)

SECRETARY RICE: Good afternoon. I'm pleased to join Under Secretary for Global Affairs, Paula Dobriansky, and the Director of the Office for Monitoring and Combating Trafficking in Persons, Ambassador John Miller, for the release today of the Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report. This Congressionally mandated report represents the United States' deep commitment to stop the brutal crime of human trafficking.

Trafficking in human beings is nothing less than a modern form of slavery. And President Bush has called upon all countries to confront this evil. As the President has said, "human life is the gift of our Creator and it should never be for sale." The United States has a particular duty to fight this scourge because trafficking in persons is an affront to the principles of human dignity and liberty, upon which this nation was founded.

We estimate that up to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year. And millions more are trafficked internally. Victims of trafficking, most of them women and children, are forced, defrauded or coerced into inhumane conditions. They are made to toil on farms and in work camps, in brothels and in sweatshops. Children are even forced to become soldiers. Whatever cruel form of servitude they may take, trafficking victims live in fear and misery. And wherever the trafficking trade flourishes, the rule of law erodes, corruption thrives, public health suffers and organized crime threatens the security of entire communities.

To confront the abomination of human trafficking, a modern day abolitionist movement has emerged. Concerned citizens, students, faith-based organizations, feminists and other nongovernmental groups are doing courageous and compassionate work to end this trade in human degradation.

The United States Government is proud to stand with them at the forefront of this international anti-trafficking campaign. We provided more than \$96 million in foreign aid last year to help other countries strengthen their anti-trafficking efforts. We are helping them develop legislation to combat abuse, create special law enforcement units to investigate trafficking cases and rescue victims, build emergency shelters and develop long-term rehabilitation and vocational training programs. We trust that this year's report will raise international awareness of the crime

of trafficking and spur governments across the globe to take determined actions against it. All states must work together to close down trafficking routes, prosecute and convict traffickers, and protect and reintegrate victims into society. The responsibility does not rest only with developing countries, whose citizens are vulnerable to trafficking because of poverty or corruption or lack of education. Destination or demand countries, like the United States and other prosperous nations, whose citizens create the marketplace for trafficking, also bear a heavy responsibility. As President Bush has said, "nearly two centuries after the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade and more than a century after slavery was officially ended in its last strongholds, the trade in human beings for any purpose must not be allowed to thrive in our times. We must all work to end this terrible tragedy."

Now, my senior advisor on trafficking in persons, Ambassador John Miller, will give a brief presentation on the report and he will answer your questions.

John.

QUESTION: May we ask you a question, Madame Secretary?

SECRETARY RICE: Ambassador Miller is going to do the report and he'll answer your questions.

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

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## STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL OUTLINES U.S.-EU AGENDA

The focus of U.S. foreign policy during President Bush's second term will be promoting democracy, and the United States is looking to Europe to join in a great common project to preserve peace, security and democracy around the world, according to a senior U.S. State Department official.

Under Secretary for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns outlined the new U.S.-European agenda May 26 in Brussels, Belgium, at a conference sponsored by Freedom House, the German Marshall Fund of the United States and the National Endowment for Democracy.

Burns portrayed the trans-Atlantic relationship as at a "pivotal point." Even though the trillion dollar/euro trade relationship, NATO and political alliance are extremely important, he said, the glue that really holds the trans-Atlantic relationship together and makes the United States and Europe natural allies is the shared belief in democracy.

"A lot of us feel that we're now at a transition point where the great common project that unites Europe and America is no longer Germany, it's no longer the East-West divide, it's no longer what we can do to preserve democracy and security here in Europe. The great common project has to be what can we do outside of the trans-Atlantic relationship to preserve peace and security and democracy around the world," he said.

Burns proceeded to enumerate and comment upon the major items on the new U.S.-European agenda, ranging from finishing the job of

the democratization of the Balkans to helping ease the crises in Darfur and the Congo.

People around the world deserve democracy and liberty, Burns said, adding, "That's what we believe as Americans. That will be the core of American foreign policy.



**R. Nicholas Burns**  
**U.S. Under Secretary for Political Affairs**

And I think the central connecting point in our relations with Europe for many years to come."

Among Burns' comments on particular countries on the U.S.-European agenda:

-- The United States has announced a renewed "diplomatic offensive" to do three things in 2005 in the Balkans: promote final unity in Bosnia-Herzegovina, advance the process to determine Kosovo's final status and push Serbia Montenegro to cooperate fully with the war crimes tribunal in The Hague. "Those three is-

sues -- Bosnia, Kosovo, Serbia -- are at the heart of completing the democratization project in Europe and we can't overlook that and we can't forget it," said Burns.

-- Concerning Russia, he said, both American and European leaders will continue to speak out "on behalf of democracy in a way that we have not before, because it is under challenge in Russia. But we will seek a continued strategic engagement with Russia at the same time."

-- "We hope that Europe will join the United States in speaking out very clearly about the need to support the opposition in Belarus and to try to create the conditions as best we can to help the Belarusians create the conditions for change in that country," Burns said.

-- "NATO's door has to be open to Ukraine and to Georgia," he said. Those countries will have to meet the requirements for membership, but "they have a right to apply."

Burns added, "We're going to try to have a good, strategic relationship with Russia, but we're not going to, in turn, deny the aspirations of those people who want to join the great trans-Atlantic institutions."

Looking outside Europe, Burns said India "is the rising power in the East. India is the world's largest

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## STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL OUTLINES U.S.-EU AGENDA

(Continued from page 11)

democracy. India has so much in common with the United States and with Europe in what it wants to achieve in the world and what kind of world it wants to see. I think you'll see this as a major focus of our president and our secretary of state, and it will be the area of greatest dynamic positive change in American foreign policy."

Regarding the arms ban on China imposed after the massacres at Tiananmen Square in 1989, Burns said the United States understood the motivations of the European Union when it announced it was

going to lift the ban, "but we cannot accept that Europe would move forward when we are alliance partners and we have such profound security interests in East Asia itself." The United States would like to see "a more outward-looking European Union that would work with us in democracy promotion in Asia, but also in trying to ensure stability in Asia," he said.

On the Darfur region of Sudan, he said, "this can be a great European-American project, where there's a place for the European Union and a place for NATO to help the African Union -- not to put European and American foot sol-

diers in Africa, which the Africans do not wish to see, but to give the kind of framework, logistical military support to help a new institution, the African Union, succeed in Africa's worst human rights crisis in Darfur."

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

## U.S. CONTINUES STRONG SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION EXCHANGE

**By Anthony Kujawa**  
**Washington File Staff Writer**

**Seattle** -- The United States has an "enduring commitment" to support international educational exchange and is working to encourage a resurgence of international students and to dispel perceptions that it does not welcome foreign students, officials say.

In a June 2 interview with the Washington File, Janice Jacobs, the State Department's deputy assistant secretary for visa services, outlined the message she brings to the international higher-education community at the 57th annual conference of NAFSA: Association of International Educators (formerly the

National Association for Foreign Student Affairs).



**Janice Jacobs**  
**U.S. State Department's deputy assistant secretary for visa services**

Jacobs said there continue to be "misperceptions" in many parts of the world about U.S. visa policies and procedures, a lingering impression that the United States is somehow "less welcoming" of foreign students than it was before September 11, 2001.

Jacobs elaborated on this point in a June 2 conference presentation titled "Welcoming International Students to Community Colleges in the U.S. -- The Role of the State Department." She said: "One thing we desperately hope to do is dispel any misperceptions that might linger abroad about the United States not welcoming foreign students. It is simply not

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## U.S. CONTINUES STRONG SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL . . .

*(Continued from page 12)*

true. Students from Muscat to Mumbai need to know that if they want to study in the United States, our door is open." "We are still open for business. We really value and welcome international students and international exchange," she told the Washington File, adding that in 2004 the United States approved student visas at a higher rate than before September 11, 2001.

### **U.S. COMMITTED TO TIMELY, EFFICIENT VISA PROCESS**

Officials say new U.S. visa procedures following the September 11 terrorist attacks resulted in some delays for certain applicants when originally implemented, but they say the United States has since improved its ability to efficiently process visa applications.

Jacobs listed a number of steps the State Department has taken which have enhanced its ability to efficiently process student visa applications, including:

Adding more than 350 new consular positions since September 2001; and

Beginning in 2003, directing its embassies and consulates to put student and exchange visitors at the head of the queue when scheduling visa interviews.

Jacobs added that almost all visa applications -- some 97 percent -- are processed within two days, and that the screening process for the 2.5 percent of visa applicants

subject to special screening requirements for security reasons has been streamlined.

U.S. higher-education officials have said that processing times for what are called Visas Mantis reviews -- interagency reviews required for individuals with backgrounds in certain scientific and technical fields -- have discouraged some students from applying to U.S. schools and influenced some students' decisions to pursue education opportunities in other countries.

But Jacobs said the average processing time for Visas Mantis cases has plunged from an average of 75 days in October 2003 to fewer than 14 days now.

"The important thing is that 97 percent of applicants who come in for a visa, whether it is in China or anywhere else in the world, once they have had their interview and been approved they get their visa that same day or within 48 hours after the interview," Jacobs said.

According to a consular official, all student applicants must show a visa officer that they have credible means of paying for their education and that their long-term intention is to return to their home country after the completion of their studies.

"I am sure that when people [visa applicants] can articulate what it is they are coming [to the United States] for and there is no question about their intent, that it is easy for the embassy or consulate to issue visas," Jacobs said.

The criteria to qualify for a student visa have not changed since September 11, 2001, the deputy assistant secretary said. "Every case is decided on its individual merit."

### **DIALOGUE CONTINUES WITH TWO-YEAR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

In her June 2 conference presentation, Jacobs recounted for her audience recent statements by U.S. officials on the importance of international education and exchange to the United States, noting that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told a Senate committee in January, "Our interaction with the rest of the world must be a conversation, not a monologue, and America must remain open to visitors and workers and students from around the world."

In the same vein, Jacobs said her deputy, Tony Edson, managing director of visa services, told the Education Committee of the House of Representatives in March that the United States has "particular regard for international students, recognizing that the U.S. is pre-eminent in the field of higher education worldwide, and gained that standing with the contributions of students and academics from all over the world."

These statements exemplify the "fundamental commitment" of the Department of State to maintaining the openness of the United States, Jacobs told the educators.

"Although security must always be our first priority, we work every

*(Continued on page 14)*

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## U.S. CONTINUES STRONG SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL . . .

*(Continued from page 13)*

day to see that access to our country is not impeded for those whose presence we encourage and value," Jacobs said.

The deputy assistant secretary said that over the last year the State Department has aggressively addressed student-visa issues and that both outreach efforts and instructions to consular officers around the world stress the same theme -- "the diversity of excellent education opportunities available in the United States."

In response to concerns expressed by officials from two-year higher education institutions about a perception that visas are frequently denied to students seeking admissions to two-year colleges, Jacobs said the State Department has reminded consular officers that different institutions meet the needs of different students. She said consular officers have been told to review every single case on its own merits, keeping the broad array of U.S. educational opportunities in mind.

### CONSULAR AFFAIRS ENGAGED IN EXTENSIVE OUTREACH

Jacobs said the State Department is reaching out to both the U.S. higher education community and EducationUSA advising and information centers in other countries to more effectively promote the United States as a study-abroad destination.

During her interview with the Washington File, Jacobs said that consular officers maintain close relationships with State Department-affiliated EducationUSA centers, with many posts increasingly conducting regular outreach programs. The global network of more than 450 EducationUSA centers provides information on higher education opportunities in the United States.

(See related article: <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2005&m=June&x=20050601155309EAifaSO.6981928&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>.)

In a separate June 2 interview, Lina El-Labban, an educational adviser at the American Center in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, also attending the NAFSA conference, commented on this enhanced consular outreach toward prospective foreign students. El-Labban explained that junior foreign service officers serving in consular positions in U.A.E., are now required to participate in at least one outreach activity on visa policies and procedures during their tour.

Jacobs also encouraged prospective students to visit the State Department's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs Education USA Web site:

<http://www.educationusa.state.gov/centers.htm>), which provides useful information on U.S. higher-education opportunities, and the

State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs Web site:

<http://www.travel.state.gov/>), which includes information on the visa application process and information on wait times for visa appointments at consular posts.

"Outdated public perceptions regarding changes to visa processing couldn't be more different from the reality," Jacobs said in her address to the two-year institution educators.

"The Department of State is working hard to support what we hope will be a resurgence of international students, exchange visitors, scientists and business people by making sure that they are informed of the facts and, importantly, that they receive visas in a timely and efficient manner. Our welcome mat is out and we look forward to the opportunity to demonstrate it to more and more foreign students."

The full text:

[http://travel.state.gov/law/legal/testimony/testimony\\_2534.html](http://travel.state.gov/law/legal/testimony/testimony_2534.html)) of Jacobs' welcoming remarks is available on the State Department'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>)*

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## GLOBAL NETWORK PROVIDING RESOURCES ON STUDY IN UNITED STATES

**By Tony Kujawa**  
**Washington File Staff Writer**

**Seattle** -- Eighty U.S. Department of State-affiliated advisers, part of a global network of more than 450 EducationUSA information centers, are among the more than 6,600 educators, administrators and government officials from 95 countries gathered for a May 31-June 3 conference on international education.

The theme of the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs (NAFSA) 2005 conference, "Opening Minds to the Global Community," also goes to the heart of these advisers' work -- to engage prospective students in 170 countries and provide them with information on opportunities for higher education in the United States.

Speaking at the conference's opening session May 31, NAFSA Executive Director Marlene Johnson said those working to ensure study-abroad opportunities are "at the forefront of public diplomacy ensuring the world's capacity to wage peace because our future leaders have studied and lived outside the comfort of their own culture."

At the conference, the advisers not only are developing contacts with higher education admissions officials to promote more effectively the United States as a study-abroad destination, but also are sharing their expertise by leading conference sessions on topics ranging from credential evaluations

in the Middle East-North Africa region to addressing how to turn the "brain drain" phenomenon to one of capacity building for developing countries in Africa.

In an interview with the Washington File in Washington the week before the conference, State Department Bureau of Education and



**Marlene Johnson**  
**NAFSA Executive Director**

Cultural Affairs (ECA), Education Information and Resources Branch Chief Phillip Ives said, "We want to reach out to help students in other countries understand that the United States is a very welcoming nation and that the welcome mat is out."

Navigating the diverse array of U.S. higher education opportunities for prospective students overseas can be a "daunting task," Ives

said. But he added that EducationUSA advisers are prepared to assist prospective students in making the "right choice."

Ives cited obtaining a visa, the costs of higher education, the extensive application process, and perceptions that the United States no longer is welcoming students from other countries as factors sometimes viewed as "barriers or obstacles" for prospective applicants to U.S. colleges and universities.

In a separate interview in Seattle, Kristen Cammarata, a Morocco-based regional education advising coordinator with the State Department, said that those factors can be "daunting" but prospective students can find support and information at EducationUSA advising centers.

Advisers provide guidance on how students can put together a "complete application" that maximizes chances for admission, Cammarata said, and also assist students in overcome "cultural differences."

A prospective student considering study in the United States, Cammarata said, should visit an EducationUSA.

### ADVISING CENTERS

The educational advising and information centers, which represent all accredited U.S. higher education institutions, offer information sessions on how to select a college,

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## GLOBAL NETWORK PROVIDING RESOURCES ON STUDY . . .

(Continued from page 15)

how to prepare for standardized tests, how to write application essays, and what to expect on U.S. campuses. The centers are located in U.S. Embassies, Fulbright Commissions, nonprofit organizations, libraries and universities.

"Quality [of education] is the biggest attraction" U.S. institutes of higher learning hold for prospective students from the Czech Republic, Jakub Tesar, educational adviser at the Fulbright Commission in Prague, Czech Republic, told the Washington File in Seattle. He added that research opportunities, especially at the graduate level, as well as the global, multicultural skills that can be acquired, are "selling points" for studying in the United States.

Tesar said his office provides guidance on selecting schools and information on the application process.

"There is an ocean of information [on studying in the United States] and one can easily get lost in the sea," he said. Tesar urged those interested in studying in the United States to visit a State Department-affiliated advising center.

Tesar added that his office also conducts numerous public outreach activities, including one-hour interactive seminars on study opportunities in the United States and how the higher-education ap-

plication process there differs from that in the Czech Republic.

Maria Paniakova, a program and student adviser at the Fulbright Commission in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, said the commission's advising centers provide accurate, comprehensive, current and unbiased information.

"We [EducationUSA advisers] are there to be helpful, and to do what we can to assist each and every student to progress through the various stages that lead to admission at a U.S. college or university," Ives said.

### WEB SITE

The State Department's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs Education USA Web site (<http://www.educationusa.state.gov/centers.htm>) also provides useful information and services for prospective students considering study in the United States, according to ECA's Ives.

The site offers a menu of types of programs (undergraduate, graduate, specialized professional study, opportunities for scholars, short-term study) as well as links to pre-departure information, materials on living in the United States, and tips on choosing an educational institution. The site also includes a link to a find-a-school search engine developed especially for EducationUSA.

EducationUSA also provides information on standardized tests, the visa process, admissions, financial aid and links both to other U.S. government Web sites and external resources. The site also includes links to publications such as the four-part If You Want to Study in the United States series in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

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

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## BUSH PROCLAIMS JUNE 2005 "BLACK MUSIC MONTH"

President Bush paid tribute June 2 to the "rich musical tradition" that African-American musicians, singers and composers have contributed to American and world culture.

Bush issued a proclamation designating June 2005 as "Black Music Month." Recalling the music's origins in work songs and spirituals, the president said, "This powerful, moving and soulful music speaks to every heart," lifting listeners in times of sorrow and helping them celebrate in times of joy.

Following is the text of the proclamation:

**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**Office of the Press Secretary**  
**June 2, 2005**

**BLACK MUSIC MONTH,**  
**2005**

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE**  
**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**A PROCLAMATION**

During Black Music Month, we pay tribute to a rich musical tradition and honor the many contributions African-American musicians, singers, and composers have made to the culture of our Nation and to the world. This powerful, moving, and soulful music speaks to every heart, lifting us in times of sorrow and helping us celebrate in times of joy.

Black music's origins are found in the work songs and spirituals that

bore witness to the cruelty of bondage and the strength of faith. In the strains of those songs, we hear the voice of hope in the face of injustice. From those roots, black music has grown into a diverse collection of



**President George W. Bush**

styles, and it continues to evolve today. Black music captures a part of the American spirit and continues to have a profound impact on our country.

This month is an opportunity to reflect upon the achievements of African-American artists and to look forward to the future. We remember Robert Johnson, Bessie Smith, Louis Armstrong, Nat King Cole, Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and countless others for their love of music and their pioneering and passionate spirit. We celebrate today's musicians who continue to build upon the rich and vital heritage of black music.

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 June 2005 as Black Music Month. I encourage all Americans to learn more about the history of black music and to enjoy the great contributions of African-American musicians.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

**GEORGE W. BUSH**

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

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## MEETING AIMS TO STEP UP ANTI-MALARIAL DRUG PRODUCTION

There is one class of drugs that has the potential to prevent 400 million malaria infections a year and save 1 million lives, but there is not enough of this medicine, health officials say. A meeting under way in Arusha, Tanzania, June 6-8 strives to step up production of artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) and reduce the human toll of malaria.

International health officials, farmers, processors and pharmaceutical companies are all participating in the meeting, according to a June 6 news release from the World Health Organization (WHO).

ACTs are produced from the plant *Artemisia annua*, also known as Chinese wormwood, which is grown primarily in Asia. This drug is effective against strains of malaria that have become resistant to older, cheaper medicines such as chloroquine.

In order to create more doses of the medicine, cultivation of the plant and production of the drug must also be increased. "African farmers and their partners in research and development and industry will play a critical role in ensuring sufficient ACT supply and ultimately contribute to reductions in malaria burden," said Jack Chow, assistant director-general of WHO for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

As more countries have turned to ACTs as the preferred treatment for malaria, demand for the number of doses has increased from 2 million treatments in 2003 to a projected 70 million treatments in 2005, WHO reports. This spike in demand has created shortages, however, and the Arusha meeting

is aimed at increasing production of ACTs in order to prevent future shortages.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is granting funding for African nations to provide the more expensive ACTs. The United States is the single largest contributor to the Global Fund. The United States is also a partner in WHO's Roll Back Malaria campaign.

Further information about malaria is available at on WHO's Roll Back Malaria (<http://www.rbm.who.int/cgi-bin/rbm/rbmportal/custom/rbm/home.do>) **Web site.**

The text of the WHO press release follows:

### **World Health Organization [Rome, Italy]**

World Health Organization drives efforts to boost antimalarial drug supply

6 June 2005 Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania -- A three-day conference aimed at ensuring a reliable supply of artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs), the most effective antimalarial medicines currently available, opens in Arusha today. A dependable supply of ACTs is crucial for preventing hundreds of thousands of deaths each year from falciparum malaria, the deadliest form of the disease. Falciparum malaria causes as many as 400 million infections a year and at least a million deaths, some 80 per cent of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

The meeting, convened by the World Health Organization (WHO), brings together growers of *Artemisia annua*—the plant contain-

ing artemisinin, the raw material needed to manufacture ACTs—with representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, government agencies and companies engaged in making these medicines available to malaria patients and officials from the ministries of health and agriculture of Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda and the ministry of trade of Tanzania.

This is the first time actors involved in every step of the ACT production chain—from seed planting to the processing of artemisinin to manufacturing of finished pharmaceuticals—will meet together.

Since 2001, 51 countries, 34 of them in Africa, have followed WHO's recommendation that they adopt ACTs as the first-line treatment for malaria. Eighteen countries adopted them in 2004 alone. The resulting surge in demand—from 2 million treatment courses in 2003 to 30 million courses in 2004 and a projected 70 million treatment courses for 2005—led to a shortfall of artemisinin and ACTs, which WHO announced in November 2004. Participants at the meeting will seek to develop strategies to avert any future shortage.

One key strategy is stepping up cultivation of *Artemisia annua*; and sights have turned towards East Africa, where it grows well.

"Scaling up production of the plant presents an excellent opportunity for economic development in Africa. We are already seeing the first encouraging results here in Tanzania, which started large-scale

*(Continued on page 19)*

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## AIDS EPIDEMIC OUTPACES RESOURCES, UNITED NATIONS SAYS

**By Judy Aita**  
**Washington File United Nations**  
**Correspondent**

**United Nations** -- The AIDS epidemic continues to outrun international efforts to contain it, top U. N. officials told a high-level meeting of health ministers and other senior HIV/AIDS officials June 2.

"We have not turned back the epidemic," said Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS. "In fact, given the quantum worsening in the epidemic's trajectory in the past years, the gap between need and action remains enormously wide and may even grow."



**Dr. Peter Piot**  
**Executive Director of UNAIDS**

Over the past four years two facts have become evident, Dr. Piot

said. "One is that AIDS is an unprecedented global crisis. The other is that until and unless we control this epidemic it will continue to expand and worsen for decades, killing unbelievably large numbers and wrecking entire societies."

"This epidemic will defeat us unless there is an exceptional response from the world's leaders and publics," he said.

Dr. Piot said that four "milestones" must be met: AIDS must get the same level of attention and concern as global security; there must be universal access to both HIV prevention and treatment; the funds must work for people on the

*(Continued on page 20)*

## MEETING AIMS TO STEP UP ANTI-MALARIAL DRUG . . .

*(Continued from page 18)*

cultivation of *Artemisia annua* in 2004. "African farmers and their partners in research and development and industry will play a critical role in ensuring sufficient ACT supply and ultimately contribute to reductions in malaria burden," said Dr Jack Chow, WHO Assistant Director-General of WHO for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Participants in the meeting will review the status of ACT supply and anticipated demand in the light of experiences over the past two years; pinpoint technical questions that need to be addressed by research and identify sources of financial, marketing and technical support for the production of *Artemisia annua*, artemisinin and

WHO-approved ACTs. They will also examine strategies to create a sustainable market so as to reduce the price of these vital medicines. ACTs are at least 10 times more costly than chloroquine and other commonly used malaria drugs, which are no longer effective in many regions because the malaria parasite has become resistant to them. Twenty-five African countries have received funding for ACT procurement from the Global Fund to Fight TB, AIDS and Malaria, which makes it economically feasible at present for them to purchase these medicines for use in public health facilities.

"This meeting comes at a crucial moment. So far, just 25 countries worldwide, 12 of them in Africa, have begun procuring these medi-

cines. We want to encourage the others to start placing their orders, and placing them promptly, secure in the knowledge that a sufficient supply will be available," said Dr Fatoumata Nafo-Traoré, Director of the WHO Roll Back Malaria Department.

Countries are expected to place orders for at least 130 million treatment courses of ACTs in 2006. It is anticipated supply will be sufficient to meet that demand. "An important task at the meeting is to plan for 2007 and beyond," Dr. Nafo-Traoré said.

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

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## AIDS EPIDEMIC OUTPACES RESOURCES, UNITED NATIONS SAYS

(Continued from page 19)

ground, especially women; and plans must be long-term.

Dr. Piot and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan spoke to officials from more than 120 countries who were attending a daylong ministerial-level General Assembly meeting on HIV/AIDS to review progress made in reaching the goals set by the 2001 Special Session on AIDS. Those goals include halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015, reducing the level of infection in young people aged 15 to 24 by 2005, and spending \$7 billion to \$10 billion annually in low- and middle-income countries on AIDS programs.

Even though the 2001 Special Session's Declaration of Commitment was "a brave and great leap forward," Piot said, "it is self-evident today that success against this epidemic requires that almost every country execute a far stronger plan ... beyond 2015."

And the right investment in AIDS programs now "could free up scarce resources desperately needed for development much sooner than we think," he said. "Resolve the AIDS crisis and we remove a major hurdle to achieving the Millennium Development Goals."

Annan said the international response to HIV/AIDS has been significant in every key category -- political leadership, funding, intensity and reach of prevention programs, the availability of drug

therapies -- but still insufficient to meet the scale of the epidemic.

Money available reached an all-time high of \$8 billion in 2005, up from \$2 billion in 2001, but the resources are still far short of what is needed to turn back the epidemic, U.N. officials said.

Richard Feachum, executive director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria -- one of the major sources of AIDS funding -- said there is still a big financing gap and the goal is to get "absolutely rock-solid, predictable, and sustained" funding for HIV/AIDS programs.

The Global Fund needs \$2.33 billion in 2005, \$3.5 billion in 2006 and \$3.6 billion in 2007, Feachum said. But pledges for those years fall far short of what is needed.

The United States, which is the largest contributor to the Global Fund and the world's largest donor to AIDS programs, committed \$2.4 billion to HIV/AIDS in fiscal year 2004. More than \$865 million went to support national integrated prevention, treatment, and care programs in 15 countries, with the remaining \$1.54 billion used to support AIDS programs in 96 additional countries, international research, and other HIV/AIDS efforts, including the Global Fund. Other major contributors to the Global Fund include Japan, Italy, Ireland, France, Germany, Greece, the European Commission, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

In his written report to the session, the secretary-general said that the

overall epidemic continues to expand, with much of the world at risk of falling short of the targets set in 2001. In 2004, there were more new infections and deaths -- 4.9 million infections and 3.1 million deaths -- than in previous years. As of December 2004, an estimated 39.4 million people were living with HIV, with women accounting for just under half of that number.

The epidemic continues to affect adolescents and young adults disproportionately, with half of the new infections occurring in that age group, the report said. An estimated 2.3 million children under 15 years old are living with HIV, the vast majority of them infants.

"AIDS unleashes a chain of events that threatens to cause entire societies to unravel. In short, AIDS is an exceptional problem which demands an exceptional response," Annan said.

"While the political commitment to the AIDS response has become significantly stronger since 2001, it remains inadequate in many countries in which the epidemic is emerging as a major problem," the secretary-general said in his report.

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**AID TO AFRICA ON G8 AGENDA, BUSH ASSURES . . .**

*(Continued from page 5)*

and hopefully some breathing room, so there can be a political agreement."

Zimbabwe's political and economic turmoil was also on the presidents' agenda.

"[We're] obviously concerned about a country that was able to feed herself and now has to import food, as an example of the consequence of not adhering to democratic principles," Bush said.

To help the people of Zimbabwe overcome their political problems, President Mbeki called for political arrangements to address the rule of law, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly that would require Zimbabweans to look at their constitution and their legislation.

"And this is a direction in which we're trying to encourage them to move," Mbeki said, "so that they create this political basis where everybody is comfortable that you've got a stable, democratic system in the country, which is critically fundamental to addressing these other major challenges of ensuring the recovery of the economy of Zimbabwe, and really improving the lives of the people. So that's the direction we're taking."

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

**AFRICANS CALLED "HEROES" IN U.S. ANTI-TRAFFICKING . . .**

*(Continued from page 6)*

lured into the commercial sex industry. These groups visit families and offer counseling to vulnerable girls.

To "combat the abomination of human trafficking," Secretary Rice said, "a modern-day abolitionist movement has emerged -- concerned citizens, students, faith-based organizations, feminists, and other nongovernmental groups are doing courageous and compassionate work to end this trade in human degradation. The United States government is proud to stand with them at the forefront of this international anti-trafficking campaign."

The U.S. government provided

more than \$96 million in aid last year to help other countries strengthen their anti-trafficking efforts and is helping them to develop legislation to combat abuse, to create special law enforcement units to investigate trafficking cases and rescue victims, to build emergency shelters, and to develop long-term rehabilitation and vocational training programs, she said.

Rice said she trusts that this year's report will "raise international awareness of the crime of trafficking and spur governments across the globe to take determined actions against it. All states must work together to close down trafficking routes, prosecute and convict traffickers, and protect and reintegrate victims into society."

The full text (<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/>) of the report is available on the State Department's Web site.

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