



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

U.S. Embassy Hosts "Landmarks in American History and Politics" Seminar



(Left) Acting DCM Kevin Sullivan delivering his keynote address at the seminar; (Right) partial view of participants

U.S. Embassy Hosts "Landmarks in American History and Politics" Seminar

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) -- The U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, under the auspices of the Public Affairs Section,

hosted a five-day seminar on American Studies titled "Landmarks in American History and Politics" July 10-14, 2006. The seminar, organized in collaboration with St. Mary's University College, brought together 50 high

school teachers from ten regions in Ethiopia, including the Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa Administrations.

In his keynote address at the opening of the seminar, the Acting

(Continued on page 7)

Bush Names U.S. Representative to African Union

Washington -- The White House announced July 11 that President Bush plans to nominate Cindy Courville to be the U.S. representative to the African Union, with the rank of ambassador.

Currently Courville serves as the special assistant to the president and as sen-

ior director for African Affairs at the National Security Council (NSC). She formerly served as the director of African Affairs at the NSC.

In addition, Bush intends to nominate Philip Goldberg, the current chief of mission in Kosovo, as the next ambassador to Bo-

livia. The Boston University graduate previously served as deputy chief of mission in Santiago, Chile, and served as acting deputy assistant secretary for legislative affairs at the Department of State.

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE

African issues

Muslim Woman in Ethiopia Tells Friends About HIV/AIDS Prevention (P 2)

Horn of Africa Expert Sees U.S. Policy on Track in Somalia (P 3)

No Place for Extremism in Somalia Dialogue, U.S. Official Says (P 4)

Renewed U.S.-Libyan Relations Benefit Students (P 5)

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

U.S. Expects Iran's Response to Nuclear Offer Before G8 Summit (P 6)

Rice Offers Condolences on London Transit Bombings Anniversary (P 7)

Bush Says Multilateral Approach Best for Dealing with North Korea (P 8)

Geneva Conventions Will Apply to Detainees, U.S. Official Says (P 9)

No U.S. Soldier Immune from Prosecution for Criminal Acts (P 10)

American NEWS

Shuttle Astronauts Complete Successful Seven-Hour Spacewalk (P 11)

Bush Praises Basic Pilot Program for Foreign Workers (P 12)

International NEWS

Bush Looks to G8 Summit To Address Complex Problems (P 13)

Report Outlines U.S. Support for Cuba's Struggle for Democracy (P 14)

U.S. Says Turkey Can Be Cultural Example, Energy Hub in Europe (P 15)

Heightened Carbon Emissions Could Disrupt Marine Ecosystems (P 16)

arts & culture

Hollywood Festival Showcases Works of U.A.E. Film Students (P 17)

New Orleans Bands Bring Sounds of "Big Easy" to Festival (P 19)

Muslim Woman in Ethiopia Tells Friends About HIV/AIDS

Hindi Ahmed is a 16-year-old Muslim girl living in rural Ethiopia with her family. She is the ninth of 10 children.

In addition to household and farming chores, Hindi also is doing something that is helping to save the lives of people in her village, by teaching others about HIV/AIDS, its prevention and family planning. "I want to be a role model to my people and my friends," she says.

Hindi advises her friends to be abstinent and to postpone marriage until they have completed their education. "I teach them through poetry, which appeals to young people," she explains. Hindi's determination has helped her stay in school, where she has now completed the seventh grade. She is determined to complete her education before getting married.

The United States supports Hindi's work and that of approximately 12,000 other trained "peer educators" in Ethiopia who are delivering responsible decision-making messages to a targeted 750,000 high- and medium-risk youth in urban and rural areas. Trained religious leaders, parents and other community members also are learning about with.

Preventing Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV programs began in Ethiopia in 2003 with U.S. assistance currently covering 14 hospitals and 13 health centers around the country in partnership with Ethiopia's health ministry. Support also is going to community and faith-based organizations to help them provide "abstinence and faithfulness" messages, giving particular attention to reducing the stigma of having HIV and increasing the participation of husbands.

Over the five-year life of the prevention program in Ethiopia, U.S. funds also will support a new national blood safety plan administered through regional and hospital-based blood banks and the training health care workers in injection safety.

Ethiopia is one of 15 focus countries of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which collectively represents approximately 50 percent of HIV infections worldwide. Under the plan, Ethiopia received more than \$48 million in 2004 and more than \$83.7 million 2005 for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care. Approximately \$123 million is expected to be spent fighting HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia in 2006 under the plan.

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

Bush Names U.S. Representative . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Newly sworn-in Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson will be nominated by the president to concurrently serve as the U.S. governor of the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the African Development Fund, the Asian Development Fund and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

President Bush also plans to promote John Rood, the NSC's current senior director for counterproliferation strategy as assistant secretary of state for international security and nonproliferation. Rood also is serving as a special assistant to the president and previously was deputy assistant secretary for forces policy at the Department of Defense, as well as director of proliferation strategy, counterproliferation and homeland defense at the NSC.

The nominations will be submitted to the U.S. Senate for approval.

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

Horn of Africa Expert Sees U.S. Policy on Track in Somalia

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Former U.S. ambassador to Ethiopia and State Department coordinator for Somalia David Shinn says the United States' policy of working with international and regional partners to bring peace to Somalia is the right way to proceed.

Shinn, an adjunct professor at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee looking into U.S. policy toward Somalia, a nation beset by instability for the past 15 years, at a July 11 public hearing.

"A unilateral U.S. policy in Somalia is almost guaranteed to fail or achieve little. The only long-term strategy that has any hope for success must be coordinated carefully with key countries in the region, European allies, the African Union, Intergovernmental Authority for Development, United Nations, and the Arab League," the Horn of Africa expert told lawmakers.

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer told the same Senate hearing, "President Bush and Secretary [Condoleezza] Rice have made it a priority to confront the ongoing turmoil in Somalia with a multilateral coordinated strategy."

One result, she said, was the recent establishment of the International Somalia Contact Group comprising the United States, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, African Union, United Nations, European Union and Arab League.

Shinn called formation of the Somalia Contact Group "a good first step" in reconciling the various fractious political movements in Somalia.

Frazer told the Senate panel a group consensus has formed to view the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFI) as "the legitimate governing body in Somalia." She added, "We will work to strengthen its capacity and continue to urge dialogue" between the TFI and Court of Islamic Council (CIC). The CIC was formerly known as the Islamic Courts Union (ICU).

She said the United States views as "positive" the TFI/CIC meeting in Khartoum, Sudan, June 22 that resulted in a seven-point agreement recognizing "the legality of the Transitional Federal Institutions as the governing institutions of Somalia and the reality of the Islamic courts" and looked forward to their next meeting in Khartoum on July 15. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=June&x=200606291752091EJrehsiF0.8761103>)).

Militias backed by the Islamist-based movement CIC recently defeated warlords that had dominated Somalia's former capital of Mogadishu. On the question of the CIC's radicalism, Shinn told the lawmakers, "as sections of Somalia, especially greater Mogadishu, have become increasingly subject to the influence of extremist elements, the prospect increases for linkages to terrorism."

"This does not mean, however, that Somalia is likely to become a major al-Qaida base or that it is

headed towards a Taliban form of government," Shinn said. "The vast majority of Somalis follow a moderate form of Islam and they are highly suspicious of foreign influence."

"Although there are some worrying developments coming from some of the Islamic courts, the situation is much too fluid to jump to conclusions," the former diplomat added.

Shinn said the CIC's structure is highly decentralized. "Some of the courts are led by extremists, others by moderates. They all agree on their goal to create an Islamic state. It is not clear, however, that they have the same vision for that state."

Perhaps most important, he said, is that the courts have developed so far largely on a clan and sub-clan basis. "Their power resides in the Hawiye clan, one of Somalia's five major clans. Their support among the Hawiye seems to be broad, but not especially deep. At least one Hawiye warlord in Mogadishu continues to hold out against the court militias. It remains to be seen if their authority will extend significantly to other clans."

Shinn said in the final analysis "clan loyalty will probably prevail over a particular brand of Islamic theology. There could well be a significant push back by Hawiye leaders against the extremist theological views" of some of the CIC leaders.

With no central government and no U.S. ambassador accredited to the country the question of a

(Continued on page 12)

No Place for Extremism in Somalia Dialogue, U.S. Official Says

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. government's will oppose extremism aimed at further destabilizing Somalia as it supports dialogue between the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) and Transitional Federal Institutions (TFI) in that Horn of Africa nation, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer told a Senate panel July 11.

Somalia has been without an effective central government for 15 years and has been ruled instead by clan warlords who carved out parts of the former capital of Mogadishu while exploiting other parts of the country.

Frazer told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee looking into U.S. policy toward the Horn nation that the U.S. government was working "in coordination with our international partners and Somali leaders ... to restore peace and stability in the country by strengthening the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFI), assisting the Somali people [with food aid] and preventing Somalia from remaining a haven for terrorism."

The U.S. government and newly-formed International Somalia Contact Group, as well as the United Nations, African Union and Arab League, are encouraging dialogue among all the parties in the Horn of African nation, including the ICU and TFI, she said.

Frazer added, "We speak with one voice; I believe except Eritrea" that "an extremist, jihadist takeover of the government in Somalia" is unacceptable.

The ICU, which bases much of its ideology on Islam, came to power recently when it pushed clan warlords out of Mogadishu. However, the organization is reputed to have al Qaida connections, which has concerned Congress and the Bush administration.

The TFI was established earlier in neighboring Kenya by Somali clan representatives meeting on neutral ground, but has failed to gain major support in the country and remains isolated in the provincial capital of Baidoa.

Frazer, who traveled to the Horn region recently, said, "What they [the Somali people] say to us is that extremists don't have a place in Somalia. It's counter to the [Somali] culture. It's counter to even the expression and practice of Islam. So, we have taken that into consideration in developing our strategy."

Asked about the composition of the ICU, Frazer said, "Certainly the ICU is a heterogeneous group." It was supported by many people, including small businessmen in Somalia because it established "some law and order in basically a failed state."

The ICU also consists of "individuals who have more of a political, even jihadist orientation ... but not necessarily of a violent nature," she told the Senate panel.

For example, "there is concern about the imposition of extremist Sharia [traditional Islamic law] in which you can't watch the World Cup" football championship on TV "or other such things," Frazer told lawmakers.

The goal of U.S. policy, she said, was to encourage "moderate" elements within the ICU to take "a positive disposition to work with the TFI."

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance Michael Hess also briefed the Senate panel on American assistance to Somalia.

He said USAID's Famine Early Warning System (FEWS) had been tracking weather patterns in the nation and that three years of consistent drought had placed up to 2.1 million people at risk of starvation.

In the past six months, USAID devoted \$90 million for assistance to Somalia. Of that amount about \$80 million went to purchase 121,000 metric tons of food, which was delivered to Somalia through Kenya, he told lawmakers. To ensure further food security, he said, "We need to get 120 metric tons of food a month into Somalia."

In addition to food aid, Hess said USAID spent about \$10 million on educational programs and "conflict mitigation," which focused on the patterns of extremist behavior. The educational programs were done mainly through radio broadcasts, he explained.

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

Renewed U.S.-Libyan Relations Benefit Students

By Cecilia Martin
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- When Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice released a statement May 15 saying, "The United States is restoring full diplomatic relations with Libya," the gateway for Libyan students to attend U.S. universities was reopened for the first time in more than 20 years.

For Yousif Sherif, a research associate in biochemistry and molecular biology at Oklahoma State University (OSU) in Stillwater, Oklahoma, the announcement was especially welcome.

Originally from Libya, Sherif was one of nearly 100 Libyan students who studied at OSU in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He witnessed the number of Libyan students studying in the United States dwindle from thousands to nearly none as strained U.S.-Libya relations led to the establishment of broad sanctions.

Now, two decades later, Sherif once again is welcoming Libyan students to the United States and OSU. He has played a key role in bringing seven Libyan students to the United States for the upcoming academic year and continues traveling to Libya to recruit more.

MAKING CONTACT

"How it started was a few years back I was with the Libyan ambassador to the United Nations and I said, 'Why don't you send [students] to us in Oklahoma?' and he said, 'Fine. You do your work. I'll send them to you,'" Sherif told the Washington File. "What he meant by 'doing my work' was for

us to lobby for relations to improve between Libya and the U.S. So we started working on that,"

Earl Mitchell, interim head of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at OSU explained, "We started the Libyan connection when sanctions were still on." Although it was uncertain when the sanctions would end, Mitchell remained optimistic. "We didn't know how long it would be, but we knew it would happen," he said.

The United States eased some of the sanctions on Libya in April 2004. Shortly thereafter, Sherif and Mitchell took a delegation to Libya where Mitchell said they "spent four days visiting the universities, and all the top people in the government, talking about education and educational training for Libyan students."

"As we traveled throughout Tripoli, we kept meeting people who ... were so welcoming to see us there, and it was a very good feeling because we met some people who got their degrees in the U.S.," said Mitchell.

However, "nothing transpired until the Libyan government got rid of weapons of mass destruction and ... Condoleezza Rice announced Libya would be removed from the list of state sponsors of terrorism and there would be complete relations between the two countries," said Sherif. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2006/May/15-629075.html>)).

"OSU has a long history with Libya," explained Nani Pybus, senior coordinator of international programs in the Office of International

Education and Outreach at OSU. "The lifting of the embargoes was crucial in enabling old ties to be renewed, formally and officially."

FULFILLING NEEDS, DEVELOPING CAPACITIES

When some students expressed interest in medical studies, Sherif contacted the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center to arrange for students to apply to their health sciences program.

"For the most part these [students] are the equivalent of medical doctors back home in Libya who now want more technical expertise in the pharmaceutical sciences, cell biology, physiology, and programs like these," said James Wiche, vice provost for academic affairs at the University of Oklahoma.

"The impact is to try to ... train a core of young people who will go back into Libya ... people who will then assume key roles in the government and other aspects of the country," he said. The hope is that the knowledge and expertise students bring back to Libya will allow them to have a positive impact on public health practice and policy.

The relationship between Oklahoma and Libya is not intended to be short-term, either. "We certainly feel comfortable having them come here, and to do this for a long-term commitment," he said. "It is a way for Oklahoma and our nation to have a long-range, long-term impact on scholars who feel that the U.S. is a good place and can have more friendly relationships."

(Continued on page 18)

U.S. Expects Iran's Response to Nuclear Offer Before G8 Summit

By Stephen Kaufman
Washington File White House Correspondent

Washington -- The Bush administration says it expects to receive an answer from Iran to the offer from France, Germany and the United Kingdom concerning its nuclear activities before leaders from the Group of Eight (G8) meet in St. Petersburg, Russia, July 15-17.

National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley said the offer by the three countries, collectively known as the EU-3, allows Iran "broad political, economic and technological benefits in return for practical guarantees that Iran's nuclear program will be solely for peaceful purposes," and that Iran is expected to respond "[b]y the time the leaders meet later this week in Russia."

Hadley, speaking to reporters at the White House July 10, said the United States hopes Iran will accept the EU-3 offer, which also has the backing of China and Russia. He said it would "ensure, among other things, that Iran has access to peaceful civilian nuclear power."

The foreign ministers of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council are scheduled to meet in Paris July 13 to evaluate Iran's response in order to ascertain "whether it is enough to move towards negotiations or whether we need to reopen a process at the Security Council," he said.

"[W]e are in the position, through that meeting, for the foreign ministers to ... make an initial determination," and then the G8 heads of

state "will be in a position to look at the issues later in the week," he said.

Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and Russia make up the G8.

Hadley also said Russia and the United States have agreed to initiate negotiations for an agreement to have "substantial civil nuclear energy cooperation," known as a Section 123 agreement. It would be similar to agreements the United States currently has with countries such as China, Japan, European Union, South Africa and South Korea, he said.

"The agreement would facilitate Russian participation in things like the Global Nuclear Energy Project and the so-called Gen IV initiative to develop the next generation of civil nuclear power reactors," Hadley said, and the negotiations are expected to "take months to do," before being ratified by both countries' legislatures. He said the agreement could include cooperation in facilitating the storage of spent nuclear fuel in Russia. "It's something that we'll have to talk about, because in order to do that, there would have to be all kinds of technical details and safeguards worked out, and we have not made a decision to do that."

He said the Bush administration was withdrawing its previous reservations over civilian nuclear cooperation because Russia has adopted "a number of very good proliferation safeguards," in its building of an Iranian nuclear facility at Bushehr, "including that fuel supplied to the reactor would have to be taken back to Russia."

Russia's offer to allow Iran to enrich uranium at a facility in Russia, and other positions were "were helpful and constructive suggestions that put Russia pretty much on the same page with us on Iran and eliminated a major barrier to being able to start these negotiations," he said.

He said the successful conclusion of the negotiations with Russia "will have to continue to be knit up on Iran," because "it's such an important issue."

Hadley said President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin plan to hold discussions in St. Petersburg July 15, in which they will discuss areas of cooperation, as well as differences, including U.S. concerns over "recent trends that raise questions about Russia's commitment to democratic freedoms and institutions."

He said the United States wants to see "a greater effort by Russians" to build democratic institutions such as a "free and independent judiciary, an independent legislature, modern, democratic, political parties, a free press, [and] a vibrant civil society." He said those institutions "provide checks and balances on the center, both at the federal level, between the federal and the local level, and between government and the private sector."

He said President Bush is meeting with Russian civil society leaders in St. Petersburg July 14 to show support for Russian democracy.

"These leaders work every day to promote freedom, democracy and human rights and to improve

(Continued on page 9)

Rice Offers Condolences on London Transit Bombings Anniversary

Washington -- Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice offered condolences to the British people on the first anniversary of the terrorist bombings of the London transit system, saying the United States and the United Kingdom will honor the memory of those who lost their lives "by continuing to work together to defeat terrorism."

The suicide bombing of three subway trains and a bus in London on July 7, 2005, left 52 people dead and over 700 injured.

"While they left their homes like any other day on July 7, they did not return," Rice said in a statement issued July 8. "Fifty-two families suddenly lost a wife, a husband, a parent, a child. On the anniversary of their death we again mourn their loss and extend our condolences to their families."

Rice added that "the United States shares with the people of the United Kingdom a deep bond of friendship that has stood the test

of time. Their loss is our loss, their struggles are our struggles."

"While we mourn those who were killed last July 7, we will honor their memory by continuing to work together to defeat terrorism and ensure that all those who would do harm to the innocent are brought to justice," she said.

The bombings occurred while the summit of the Group of Eight (G8) industrialized countries was taking place in Gleneagles, Scotland. The leaders at the summit issued a joint statement read by British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The statement said they "condemn utterly these barbaric attacks" and that they were "united in our resolve to confront and defeat this terrorism."

The London suicide bombers subsequently were identified as four Muslim extremists who had grown up in England.

Coinciding with the anniversary, two U.S. organizations convened the "Muslim Leaders of Tomorrow" forum in Copenhagen, Denmark, July 7-9 for young Muslim leaders from 14 nations. The forum organizers said they hope to build a constructive movement of young Muslims to reject and marginalize extremism and foster positive Muslim identities in the West.

The organizers were the American Society for Muslim Advancement and the Cordoba Initiative, which are dedicated to bridging the divide between Muslims and the West.

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

U.S. Embassy Hosts "Landmarks in American History . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, Mr. Kevin Sullivan, said the seminar would strengthen knowledge of the United States among a critical group of educators. The participants were welcomed by Ato Wondwossen Tamirat, President of St. Mary's College.

The seminar was conducted by Professor Charles Hubbard, Senior Fulbright Scholar and Professor of History and American Foreign Policy and Director of the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum in

Harrogate, Tennessee, USA. Professor Hubbard, who has taught various American History courses at undergraduate and graduate level for the past twelve years, gave lectures on such topics as American Geography and Demography, Colonial America and the Declaration of Independence, History of African-Americans Slavery and American Civil War, Constitutional Issues and Political Implication of the American Civil War, U.S. Democracy, and the Cold War.

The purpose of the seminar was to acquaint Ethiopian high school teachers with U.S. history and

culture that has been missing in Ethiopia for over three decades. It provided an opportunity for the participants to engage in the study and discussion of important topics in American history and politics, and gain experience in the interpretation of significant historical facts. By providing participants with exposure to U.S. history and politics, the seminar attempted to help them examine some of the challenges to democratic governance and development, and increase mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries. ♦

Bush Says Multilateral Approach Best for Dealing with North Korea

By Jane Morse
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Despite North Korea's recent missile tests, the United States will not conduct bilateral talks with the Pyongyang regime, says President Bush.

"[O]ne thing I'm not going to let us do is get caught in the trap of sitting at the table alone with the North Koreans," Bush told reporters during a press conference in Chicago July 7.

Part of the United States' strategy in dealing with North Korea, the president said, has been "to have others at the table" in an effort to convince North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Il, to give up his nuclear programs and stop testing missiles.

"[T]here's a choice for him to make," Bush said. "I believe it's best to make that choice clear to him with more than one voice."

Asked if he had ruled out a possible military response to North Korea's July 4 tests of several short-to medium-range missiles and a Taepo-dong 2 long-range missile, Bush said, "[W]e want to solve all problems diplomatically. That's our first choice."

But the president was adamant that a multilateral diplomatic solution should be found.

Bush said his concern about handling the issue bilaterally was that "you run out of options very quickly."

It might be easier, he said, for the leadership of a nontransparent society such as North Korea "to turn the tables and make a country like

the United States the problem as opposed to themselves."

In the days since Pyongyang's missile tests, the president said he has been speaking to Chinese President Hu Jintao, Russian President Vladimir Putin, South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

"[I]f you want to solve a problem diplomatically, you need partners to do so," Bush said.

In the case of North Korea, one good partner is China, he said. "They're in the neighborhood. They've got some influence in that neighborhood," he said. "Another good partner to have at the table is South Korea. They've got a lot at stake of what happens in North Korea, and so it's important to have them at the table as well."

Ambassador Christopher Hill, the top U.S. negotiator for the Six-Party Talks on North Korea's nuclear programs, is currently in Asia to discuss the situation with leaders in China, South Korea, Japan and Russia, the other parties to the talks.

Bush said those talks offered Kim Jong Il a way forward that would allow him to help his people. Instead, he said, the North Korean leader chose to defy his negotiating partners.

"Now that he made that defiance," the president said, "it's best for all of us to go to the U.N. Security Council and say loud and clear, here are some red lines. And that's what we're in the process of doing."

Bush said the purpose of a U.N. Security Council resolution con-

demning Pyongyang's missile tests is "to send a clear message" that the world condemns North Korea's provocative actions.

A transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/07/20060707-1.html>) of Bush's press conference can be found at the White House Web site.

U.N. RESOLUTION MOVES FORWARD

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton, speaking to reporters in New York July 7, said the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Japan met for consultations July 6 and July 7 on a draft resolution responding to North Korea's missile tests.

The draft, prepared by Japan and co-sponsored by three of the permanent members -- the United States, France and the United Kingdom -- was introduced at a midday meeting July 7.

The resolution condemns the July 4 missile tests as a threat to international peace and security under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, and would impose sanctions on North Korea.

In addition to the three permanent council members, all 10 temporary members have backed the resolution. However, Russia and China, the council's other two permanent members, have expressed objections to the imposition of sanctions.

Bolton said the United States is pleased with the draft, which, he said, "provides for very strong

(Continued on page 21)

Geneva Conventions Will Apply to Detainees, U.S. Official Says

By Michelle Austein
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England has ordered Defense Department personnel to treat detainees from the War on Terror in accordance with guidelines established by Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions.

In a Pentagon memo issued July 7, England requested that staff "promptly review all relevant directives, regulations, policies, practices and procedures under your purview to ensure that they comply with the standards of Common Article 3."

Common Article 3 states that detainees must be treated humanely and be afforded the same judicial guarantees "which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples."

On June 29, the U.S. Supreme Court said military commissions to try Guantanamo detainees were unconstitutional because they violated this article of the Geneva Conventions. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=June&x=20060630121139hmnietua0.1040918>)).

The Senate Judiciary Committee July 11 held the first of what likely will be many congressional hearings about how to develop a constitutional process for trying detainees in light of the court's decision.

The Supreme Court ruling "gives Congress and the administration a

clear opportunity to work together to address the matters raised by the case, including the appropriate procedures governing military commissions," Steven Bradbury, acting assistant attorney general for the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel told the lawmakers. These procedures include determining how to use hearsay evidence and classified information at a trial, Bradbury said.

Trying al-Qaida members by the same procedures used by courts-martial is not required by the Constitution and would risk revealing sensitive intelligence sources and methods, Bradbury said.

Principal Deputy Counsel for the Defense Department Daniel Dell'Orto, also testifying before the committee, said military commissions, rather than courts-martial, are the preferred way to try detainees. "Full application of court-martial rules would force the government either to drop prosecutions or to disclose intelligence information to our enemies in such a way as to compromise ongoing or future military operations," Dell'Orto said, adding that "military necessity demands a better way."

The use of U.S. military tribunals dates back to the days of George Washington, Dell'Orto said.

Aside from military commission procedures, existing Department of Defense orders, policies and directives already comply with Common Article 3 standards, England said in his memo

The testimonies of Bradbury (http://judiciary.senate.gov/testimony.cfm?id=1986&wit_id=5505) and

Dell'Orto (http://judiciary.senate.gov/testimony.cfm?id=1986&wit_id=5506) are available on the Senate Judiciary Committee Web site.

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

U.S. Expects Iran's . . .

(Continued from page 6)

health by combating infectious disease in Russia," he said.

In his briefing, Hadley also outlined the president's schedule in Russia for the G8 Summit, as well as his trip to northeastern Germany to meet with Chancellor Angela Merkel on July 12-13.

The transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/07/20060710-13.html>) of Hadley'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>)

No U.S. Soldier Immune from Prosecution for Criminal Acts

By Jacquelyn S. Porth
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Any member of the U.S. armed forces serving in Iraq “is subject to prosecution” if suspected of a criminal act or unethical behavior, says Army Major General William Caldwell.

“There is nobody who is immune from law,” he told Arab journalists in Baghdad, Iraq, July 6, “Everybody is subject to prosecution under our Uniform Code of Military Justice.”

U.S. military service personnel are subject to this code wherever they are located in the world,” the spokesman said. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=July&x=20060705152521idybeeekcm0.7862055>).)

Thousands of U.S. soldiers have come to Iraq since 2003 “to help the Iraqi people,” Caldwell said, and misconduct even by four soldiers “is too many.” The Army Criminal Investigation Command currently is looking into allegations that several soldiers killed four members of an Iraqi family in Mahmoudiyah in March and that one of the 15-year-old victims was assaulted sexually.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Peter Pace said July 4 that the accusation surfaced as the result of a mental counseling session for U.S. soldiers. He told the NBC Today show that the alleged behavior is unacceptable for any soldier.

U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad and Multinational Force Commander General George Casey

issued a statement July 6 offering their condolences to the family of those killed in Mahmoudiyah and calling the alleged crime inexcusable.

“Coalition Forces came to Iraq to protect the rights and freedoms of the Iraqi people, to defend democratic values, and to uphold human dignity,” they said. “As such, we will face every situation honestly and openly, and we will leave no stone unturned in pursuit of the facts. We will hold our service members accountable if they are found guilty of misconduct in a court of law.”

While expressing the U.S. military’s deepest sympathy during his news briefing in Iraq, Caldwell described the alleged incident as a terrible and tragic event. He also acknowledged how painful, disturbing and confusing the American investigation process and the judicial proceedings might appear to Iraqi onlookers.

Khalilzad and Casey said the United States and the multinational force would work closely with the Iraqi government to ensure transparency in the investigation and legal process.

When asked by journalists why it took four months publicly to acknowledge the investigation, Caldwell said that soldiers initially reported that insurgents killed the Iraqi civilians. In a routine round of counseling for soldiers following the abduction and murder of two U.S. soldiers in mid-June, Caldwell said that a soldier stepped forward to say the report concerning the Mahmoudiyah incident was false, that U.S. soldiers were responsible and had concealed their criminal involvement.

Asked about a reported recent expression of displeasure by Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki about the incident, Caldwell said the U.S. military is equally displeased with the alleged performance of a small group of its soldiers.

“And we also, just as much as the prime minister, want to see justice done in this case. And we’re committed to being as transparent ... as we possibly can as we pursue and continue to investigate all aspects of this case,” Caldwell said.

He also said the U.S. military is willing to engage in a dialogue with the Iraqi prime minister about how it has handled the criminal proceedings in this high-profile case as well as several others.

Caldwell said any solid evidence that suggests misconduct or criminal activity, in this or any other case, “will be immediately dealt with and thoroughly investigated ... because we will not tolerate that kind of behavior.”

The U.S. military is in Iraq as a guest, he said, “and just like a guest at your home, you could ask [us] to leave whenever you want.” Caldwell continued by saying as a guest of the Iraqi government, “we are here to protect and safeguard the rights of each and every Iraqi citizen.”

The Iraqi people and the world at large should know that “we’re going to hold ourselves accountable for the actions of each and every service member in this country,” Caldwell said.

(Continued on page 21)

Shuttle Astronauts Complete Successful Seven-Hour Spacewalk

By Howard Cincotta
Washington File Special Correspondent

Washington -- Astronauts aboard the space shuttle Discovery, which docked with the International Space Station (ISS) July 6, conducted a successful spacewalk of more than seven hours on July 8 to fix a transporter unit aboard the space station, and conduct extensive tests of a new boom extension that can make repairs to the shuttle itself if necessary, according to NASA.

Once outside the shuttle, mission specialists Piers Sellers and Mike Fossum quickly installed a device on the ISS that will prevent a blade from cutting a power and data cable that links the mobile rail transporter to the space station. The transporter travels along the ISS's truss structure and is used for construction and repair of the space station.

During the longest portion of the spacewalk, Sellers and Fossum rode out to the end of a 15-meter boom extension that is attached to the space shuttle's robotic arm, also 15 meters in length. They conducted a variety of tests and simulations to evaluate how the boom extension would function during an actual repair of the space shuttle's heat shield.

The failure of heat shielding led to the destruction of the shuttle Columbia and the loss of its crew in 2003, grounding the entire space shuttle program for two years.

The testing often required the two astronauts to undertake different tasks and even "bounce" on the boom extension to determine its

rigidity and relative oscillation. At Mission Control in Houston, Texas, according to an Associated Press report, spacewalk officer Tomas Gonzalez-Torres described their work as similar to painting a house on top of a rickety ladder.

Despite the intricacy and careful choreography of their work, the two spacewalkers often sounded as casual as two men repairing a roof. They also found moments to comment on the spectacle of space and the Earth, turning 352 kilometers below them.

At one point, Fossum told Sellers to look for the "moonrise over the port wing" of the shuttle. When Mission Control told British-born Sellers that Britain was in view, he comments, "Oh, my goodness. It's a beautiful day in Ireland."

While the spacewalk was underway, other members of the space shuttle crew transferred supplies and equipment to the space station.

(See related article (<https://cms.usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=July&x=20060706135030cmre trop0.5845453>).)

One of Discovery's seven crew members, European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Reiter of Germany, will become the third member of the space station crew. Reiter, a veteran of the Russian Mir space station, joins the current ISS team of Russian Commander Pavel Vinogradov and NASA Flight Engineer and Science Officer Jeffrey Williams.

Space shuttle Discovery will remain at the space station until July

14, with two more spacewalks scheduled.

Additional information on the flight (http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/main/index.html) of space shuttle Discovery and the current crew of the International Space Station (http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html) is available on the NASA 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>)

Bush Praises Basic Pilot Program for Foreign Workers

By Anita Wadhvani
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington --Two Iranian-American brothers welcomed President Bush to their Dunkin' Donuts franchise in Alexandria, Virginia, July 5, where the president said the Basic Pilot Program, which allows employers to check the eligibility of foreign workers, is working.

"Part of a comprehensive immigration plan is to give employers the tools necessary to determine whether or not the workers they're looking for are here legally in America," Bush told reporters, adding he had visited the franchise and met with the owners, the district manager and the store manager, all of whom are legal immigrants, to get their views on the Basic Pilot Program.

Basic Pilot is "a way of accessing Social Security and other informa-

tion to make sure that people are in fact American citizens" according to White House press secretary Tony Snow, speaking to reporters July 5. "Now there are increasingly effective ways to determine whether people here are here legally and therefore increasingly effective ways to go after employers who break the law."

The president said one of the owners told him the program "makes it easier for us to verify whether the documents a person gets are true."

Bush said that although the program is now being used only on a volunteer basis in much of the United States, he would like to expand it to become mandatory.

"We need to make sure we help people assimilate," said the president. "Here are four folks that are living the American Dream, and I think it helps renew our soul and

our spirit to help people assimilate," he said.

Bush also repeated his call for comprehensive immigration reform, including a guest-worker program.

The transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/07/20060705.html>) of the president's remarks is available on the White House Web site, as is a fact sheet (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/07/20060705-6.html>) on the Basic Pilot Program.

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

Horn of Africa Expert Sees U.S. Policy . . .

(Continued from page 3)

special U.S. envoy to Somalia arose at the hearing. Shinn told the panel, "I am normally not enthusiastic about the naming of special envoys to deal with country-specific crises."

However, "Somalia is an exception," he said. "A special envoy for Somali, supported by a small staff, would for the first time since

1994 permit U.S. policy towards Somalia to rise to the level required for adequate interagency coordination in Washington and the field."

Frazer, while not specifically opposing an envoy or "senior-level person," told the panel, "Our foreign policy system [in Africa] works well with the officials that are in place now. More importantly, on the ground, we need to look at how we carry out the op-

erations" for Somalia. Now, "they are carried out by our embassy in Nairobi and they are doing a great job."

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

Bush Looks to G8 Summit To Address Complex Problems

By Carolee Walker
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington - From energy security to the possibility of pandemic flu, to potential threats from Iran and North Korea, it is best to work with friends and allies to solve world problems, President Bush told a panel of foreign journalists July 10 in Washington.

"These are issues which we will solve, and we're more likely to solve them more quickly when we work together," Bush said during a roundtable interview in advance of the Group of Eight (G8) summit, set for July 15-17 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

He also said he would be sending a message at the summit that liberty is universal, and he will call on U.S. allies and established democracies to help young democracies grow.

Among the new democracies that need assistance are Iraq and Afghanistan, the president said. Asked about the possibility that the new Italian government might withdraw from Afghanistan, Bush said "every country gets to make its own mind what to do, but I would hope that those who are weighing whether or not it makes sense to stay or go look at the consequences of failure and realize the great benefits of liberty for the people of Afghanistan."

He cited other topics that would be discussed at the G8 summit, including the Doha round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, and "common values" such as "transparency, anti-corruption, free markets -- values that tend to

bind us and that can unite us in common purpose."

"The world is complex. I've always felt like it's best to work with friends and allies to solve the problems," Bush said.

He also mentioned that he and Mrs. Bush are looking forward to having dinner with Russian President Vladimir Putin and his wife, Ludmila, "which is a good chance to continue our friendship."

"I've spoken to Vladimir Putin frequently over the last couple of weeks on a variety of subjects," Bush said.

He said it is in the United States' interest for Russia to join the WTO. "It's been a difficult negotiation," Bush said, adding that "hopefully we can get it done. I'm optimistic about it."

The president said he is comfortable working with new Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, even though he may disagree with them on some issues. Prodi has said he will pull all remaining Italian troops out of Iraq by the end of the year, and Merkel has been critical of the detainee center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Bush thanked Italy for its contributions in Iraq and said he hoped the Italian government would continue reconstruction aid and the training of Iraqi troops under NATO auspices.

He also said he was looking forward to visiting Merkel in Germany "on her home turf" prior to the G8 meeting.

"I work hard to make sure that I've got good personal relationships with these leaders so we can solve problems," Bush said.

"Our objective with our European friends is to have a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace and is in close concert with the United States," he said.

Bush also cited his friendship with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who visited the president in Washington recently. The two also toured Graceland, Elvis Presley's mansion in Memphis, Tennessee.

"It's in American interests that we work closely with Japan," the president said. "It's also in our interests that Japan have better relations with China and South Korea."

"I, of course, have said that to Prime Minister Koizumi," Bush added. "It's in our nation's interest that our friends have good relations with other friends and acquaintances."

This is important because China has developed a relationship with North Korea that might help bring that country to the negotiating table over North Korea's nuclear weapons, Bush said.

"Diplomacy takes awhile," Bush said. What the world is watching now is diplomacy in action, he said.

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

Report Outlines U.S. Support for Cuba's Struggle for Democracy

By Scott Miller
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States stands in solidarity with the Cuban people in their struggle for freedom and is expanding its support for Cuba's opposition leaders as well as preparing to work with a transition government that would move Cuba away from dictatorship, according to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

On July 10, Rice and Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez announced the release of second report to the president by the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba (CAFC) at a press briefing in Washington. The report, Rice said, reflects the United States' resolve to support the Cuban people.

"Under President Bush's leadership, the United States is keeping our promise to marshal our resources and our expertise, and to encourage all nations to join with us in supporting the right of all Cubans to define a future of freedom and democracy for themselves and for their country," she explained.

As part of this effort, the United States is providing concrete support for democratic change in Cuba, including a new, two-year, \$80 million program that endeavors to break the Cuban regime's information brigade. The initiative also reinforces efforts to prepare for future free and fair elections.

"We are laying the groundwork to offer specific, substantial assistance for a democratic transition in Cuba, including humanitarian aid," Rice said.

In addition to the release of the second report of the CAFC, Rice and Gutierrez also issued a Compact with the People of Cuba in which the United States pledges to help the Cuban people and a new transition government in Cuba.

"The Compact is a message of hope and reassurance to Cubans that they can count on our concrete aid in areas like humanitarian needs, economic recovery and free and fair elections," Gutierrez said.

He explained that as part of the compact, the United States pledges to provide emergency food, water, fuel and medical equipment. The United States also pledges to help rebuild Cuba's shattered economy, enhance personal security and to encourage assistance from other countries, associations and private companies. As part of the compact, the United States will discourage third parties from intervening to obstruct the will of the Cuban people, according to Gutierrez.

The United States will do this and more, the commerce secretary said, provided that it is asked to do so by a Cuban transition government that is committed to dismantling all instruments of state repression and implementing internationally respected rights and freedoms. According to the compact, these freedoms should include the rights of free speech, freedom of the press and freedom of worship; the legalization of all peaceful political activity; the release of all political prisoners; the establishment of an independent judiciary; the allowance of independent unions and associations; and the right to private property. Cuba's transition government also

should commit itself to the organization of free and fair elections of a democratically elected Cuban government within a period of no more than 18 months, the compact said.

Caleb McCarry, Cuba transition coordinator at the State Department, said that the compact and the expanded U.S. support for Cuba's opposition look to build on the momentum for democratic change the opposition movement is already creating in Cuba.

"As a community of free nations, now is the time to intensify our efforts to stand with the Cuban people as they work to secure liberty, prosperity and reconciliation when Cuba becomes free," he said.

McCarry said that it is important to note that the U.S. offer of assistance is that -- an offer, and it will ultimately be up to Cubans to define their democratic future. As the compact states:

"The people of Cuba have a choice: economic and political freedom and opportunity --or more political repression and economic suffering under the current regime."

For additional information on U.S. policy, see Cuba (<http://usinfo.state.gov/wh/americas/cuba.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>)◆

U.S. Says Turkey Can Be Cultural Example, Energy Hub in Europe

By Vince Crawley
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- A senior U.S. diplomat says it would be "bigotry" to claim Muslim nations are incapable of democracy and added that Turkey joining the European Union (EU) would prove that Osama bin Laden is not a Muslim leader but "simply a fascist fanatic."

Daniel Fried, assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs, also said the United States welcomes Turkey's goal of becoming a major East-West energy hub, bringing oil and natural gas into Europe from the Caspian Sea and Russia.

Fried was interviewed by Turkish journalists July 3 in advance of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's July 5 meeting in Washington with Turkey's foreign minister, Abdullah Gul. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=July&x=20060705165611MVyelwarC0.2212183>).)

In October 2005, Turkey and the European Union formally began negotiations for Turkey's possible entry into the EU if it meets democratic and economic conditions. The United State supports Turkey's EU candidacy provided the Turkish government successfully meets membership criteria.

Turkey's EU membership would demonstrate "the fallacy of the so-called war of civilizations," Fried said. "It would show that [terrorist leader Osama] bin Laden is not a Muslim leader, he is simply a fascist fanatic, like other fascist fanatics."

President Bush often says he believes all peoples are capable of democratic self-government, Fried said.

"And it would be bigotry – those aren't his words, those are mine – to claim that democracy is simply the province of northwest European Protestant civilizations and their heirs," Fried said. "One of the things that Turkey can bring to the 21st century is a demonstration that, in fact, modernity, democracy, economic progress can be built on a mostly Muslim foundation just as easily as anyplace else." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2006/Jan/24-500110.html>).)

Turkey is a predominantly Muslim country with a strong tradition of secular government. Fried said it would be "ridiculous and very foolish" to think the United States is encouraging anti-democratic efforts to unseat the Justice and Development Party (AK). The conservative party was elected to office in 2002 by voters who wanted government leaders to have a closer connection to their Islamic faith. The modern Turkish state was founded on the principle of strongly enforced secularism, to the point that even devoutly religious girls and young women are banned from wearing Muslim headscarves in public schools.

The fact that secularism and Islam are being debated strongly in Turkey is a sign of a healthy democracy, Fried said. He said that in France – a well-established European democracy – a similar debate is taking place on its headscarf ban for schoolchildren.

"This is a debate democratic societies go through," Fried said.

"I should say that from an American perspective we are more tolerant of overt religious displays than many European countries," Fried added. The United States is "a very religious country" that also has a deep tradition of the separation of church and state, he said.

"Ironically ... the fact that the state is very secular ... has led to a strengthening of religion in the United States because it's seen as independent of the state," Fried added.

"In the United States, Muslim schoolgirls wear headscarves all the time and nobody pays any attention," he added. "Jewish kids can wear yarmulkes or not wear yarmulkes; Christian kids wear crosses or not wear crosses. And it is totally in the realm of personal freedom. ... In the United States, we would never consider a headscarf ban for Muslim women. It would not occur to us."

He acknowledged that "Americans have to be very modest in offering solutions because we have had our own history of learning to define America as more than just a country of white Protestants." The U.S. civil rights movement "was very bloody" and "very painful," Fried said. "We emerged as a country much more comfortable with a multiethnic, multireligious identity."

ENERGY CONSIDERATIONS

Fried also spoke favorably of Turkey's ambitions to become a major energy hub, connecting Europe to the petroleum and gas reserves of the Caspian region, Central Asia and parts of Russia. The United

(Continued on page 20)

Heightened Carbon Emissions Could Disrupt Marine Ecosystems

Washington – Elevated levels of carbon dioxide emissions are affecting not only the atmosphere, but also oceans and sea life, according to a study issued July 5 by the National Center on Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

The report concludes that emissions from burning fossil fuels are altering ocean chemistry to the degree that coral reefs will have a diminished capacity to grow. Coral reefs function as the breeding ground for important species at the bottom of the food chain, so their depletion could have serious affects on many forms of ocean life, according to *Impacts of Ocean Acidification Coral Reefs and Other Marine Calcifiers*.

The oceans absorbed approximately 118 billion metric tons of carbon since the early 1800s and the beginning of the Industrial Age. This interaction with carbon dioxide is making the naturally alkaline ocean waters more acidic. The higher levels of acidity lower the concentration of carbonate ion, a building block of calcium carbonate, which many marine organisms use to grow their skeletons and create coral reef structures.

"This is leading to the most dramatic changes in marine chemistry in at least the past 650,000 years," says Richard Feely, one of the authors and an oceanographer at the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Experimental studies have shown that the marine organisms

dependent on calcium carbonate grow more slowly as the oceans become more acidic. Consequently, reef structures will become threatened because corals will be unable to build reefs at a pace to keep ahead of natural forces of erosion.

These threats come as coral reefs are under stress from mass bleaching events brought on by overly warm temperatures, which cause the coral to expel the microscopic algae that provide the coral polyps with food.

The chemical changes will affect many calcifying organisms such as pteropods, a planktonic marine snail, which is an important food source for salmon, mackerel, herring and cod, the report predicts,

"Decreased calcification in marine algae and animals is likely to impact marine food webs and has the potential to substantially alter the biodiversity and productivity of the ocean," says Victoria Fabry of California State University, San Marcos, who is another of the report's authors.

Calcification rates could decrease by 60 percent in this century, the report projects, and suggests a number of different avenues for further research. The report says research must focus on both the potential responses of marine organisms to increased oceanic carbon levels and the potential impact throughout marine ecosystems.

The report was produced as a result of a workshop funded by the National Science Foundation and

NOAA, and hosted by the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Integrated Science Center in St. Petersburg, Florida.

The conclusions of the study are attributed to the authors, not to the National Science Foundation, NOAA or USGS.

The full text (http://www.ucar.edu/communications/Final_acidification.pdf) (PDF, 96 pages) of the report is available on the NCAR Web site.

For additional information on U.S. environmental policies, see Environment (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/environment.html).

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

Hollywood Festival Showcases Works of U.A.E. Film Students

By Chris Thornton
Washington File Special
Correspondent

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates -- A boy kicks a soccer ball across an endless expanse of desert. The ball bounces forward and he sprints after it. He runs and kicks, runs and kicks, chasing the ball through undulating waves of copper-colored dunes. He arrives at a cliff overlooking the sea and is about to kick the ball into the surf below when he hears the voice of his father calling him. He opens his eyes—sitting in a wheelchair—returns to his daydream and kicks the ball into the sea. He then wheels himself back into the family house.

My World, My Pitch, a short film by Taryam and Khalid Subahi, both students at the American University of Sharjah (AUS), was among a select group of Middle Eastern student films featured in "Through a Different Lens," a festival at the University of Southern California's (USC) prestigious School of Cinema.

In all, 15 students from AUS had their films showcased in the October 2005 festival, and five students traveled to Los Angeles to attend the screenings. The festival and trip, part educational venture, part cultural exchange, were the idea of Michelle Nickelson, a Hollywood film executive who has invested considerable time and attention to nurturing a growing film industry in the United Arab Emirates, most notably by establishing Mirage Studios in the newly formed Dubai Studio City.

CULTURAL DIALOGUE, UNDERSTANDING

Cultural dialogue through cinematic expression was a primary aim of the participants. The students said they were pleased that the films that generated the most interest were not those that mimicked the Hollywood style but those that captured something of the character and flavor of the Middle East.

In *Out of Order*, by Saman Hamidi, a young man orchestrates an elevator breakdown in order to arrange a meeting with a young woman because cultural barriers prevent him from approaching her more directly. Saman believes that a unique perspective on age-old themes is what Middle Eastern filmmakers can contribute to the movie industry.

"We experience a lot of Western media in this part of the world," said Saman. "We know what life is like in the U.S., its way of thinking. Student life and male-female relationships are nothing new, but we can use these experiences to show our way of life to others. It doesn't get a lot of exposure in the West."

Students should use the subject matter and means of expression they are most comfortable with and not try to mimic other models, said Susan Smith, a film teacher at AUS.

She says AUS students have a lot of unique material to work with. "There are many complexities to customs like arranged marriage that are often overlooked," she said. "In the Arab world there is a different notion of family relationships and expectations. Here in the Gulf region there is also a different take on Islam, and then there are the issues of rapid ur-

banization, the influx of Westernization, and how people from very different cultures can work together. The theme of Westernization is interesting in itself. People are not accepting everything, but picking and choosing what they think is appropriate for their society."

Cultural differences are a running theme in Smith's own work as a documentary filmmaker. "I start from the point of view that we first need to understand our differences, and then we can get at our similarities," she said.

Smith says, however, that some Middle Eastern students avoid certain culturally relevant topics due to internal censorship. "In Middle Eastern culture, a family's reputation and their standing in society is very important," she said, "and students will often practice self-censorship, not allow themselves to pursue an idea that they are drawn to if it might reflect badly on their family."

POLITICAL CONTROVERSY, SENSITIVE SUBJECTS EXAMINED

The films screened in Los Angeles did not shy away from political controversy, which is almost inescapable in the landscape of today's Middle East. *Mother in Palestine*, written by Haneen Dajani and directed by Neda Ahmed, explores the human cost of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In it, a Palestinian woman receives urgent news from a friend in the market and rushes home, only to find that her house and family have fallen victim to the strife.

(Continued on page 18)

Hollywood Festival Showcases Works of . . .

(Continued from page 17)

"I wanted to show another point of view on the Palestinian conflict," said Haneen, who also played the bereaved mother in her film. "There is another side to the story, and it isn't just about politics. It's also about the history of a region, economics, society, and religion."

Haneen was pleasantly surprised to find that the American viewers were very receptive to her portrayal. "We had the chance to discuss the Palestinian situation with some producers, and they were much more knowledgeable and understanding than I would have thought," she said.

Neda believes that films dealing with sensitive subjects often have more artistic merit than the more commercial fare, and that there is now greater opportunity for films to address politically charged themes. "The appeal of Vendetta

and Munich has shown that audiences are ready to explore issues that would have been difficult just five years ago," she said. "By being rooted in a social or political situation, they already have substance and depth. They are also able to link the audience to what is going on in other parts of the world."

SPECIAL EFFECTS, CRAFTSMANSHIP OF AMERICAN FILMS

No matter how engaging the subject matter might be, it still needs technical expertise to bring it to life, so a tour of Hollywood's technical capabilities was on the students' agenda. They visited the production studios of Digital Domain with Joel Hynek, the visual effects supervisor who created the special effects for *The Matrix* and *The Day After Tomorrow*, an experience that would leave an impression on any aspiring filmmaker.

Neda has long appreciated the craftsmanship of American films. "In the end, it's a matter of how well you present a situation, and I've always been impressed with American films from a directorial perspective, what they look like visually," she said. "We finally had a chance to see what goes on behind the scenes in the film industry, so it became real, not just an imaginary world that exists only on celluloid."

For the students, the stories that they want to present on the screen are also real, drawn from their experience of a culture and a part of the world that they want to share with others, and that is what inspires them. "This is how we can engage an audience," said Haneen. "These are the stories that we give birth to."

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

Renewed U.S.-Libyan Relations . . .

(Continued from page 5)

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE DIPLOMACY

"I want my fellow countrymen to get the best education. It gives me pleasure to do something for these [students]," Sherif told the Stillwater NewsPress. Not only has Sherif been instrumental in attracting Libyan students to study in the United States, but he also is sponsoring all seven while they are here.

"Our best diplomacy is education," said Mitchell, who added that Libyan students are "some of the brightest students we've had."

Currently, all seven students are improving their English language skills at the English Language Institute on the OSU campus. Having already been accepted to academic programs in fields related to business and health sciences, they will begin coursework in late August.

Additional information on studying in the United States is available from an EducationUSA advising center (<http://www.educationusa.state.gov/centers/>) or on the State Department's EducationUSA (<http://www.educationusa.state.gov/index.htm>) 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>)

New Orleans Bands Bring Sounds of "Big Easy" to Festival

By Rachel J. King
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – The U.S. capital was treated to a showcase of New Orleans' musical talent July 7 and July 8 during two evening concerts at the 2006 Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall as part of a special series featuring the sounds of New Orleans.

Along with the concert series, the 10-day festival's featured programs for 2006 focused on the Canadian province Alberta, native basketry from across the United States and "Nuestra Musica," the Latino music community in Chicago.

Co-produced by festival organizers and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the evening concert series, "Been in the Storm So Long," came as part of a tribute to New Orleans culture, featuring African-American blues, jazz and brass bands among others.

In addition to the music, performers provided accounts of their often harrowing experiences in surviving Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Sep/15-214157.html>).)

On July 7, the concert featured "processional traditions." First to perform was Big Chief Monk Boudreaux and the Golden Eagles Mardi Gras Indian Tribe, a colorful ensemble drawing on American Indian and West African motifs. Featuring traditional rock band instruments, such as guitars and a drum set, the band also includes tam-

bourines, cowbells and instruments made from household objects.

Festival presenter Chuck Siler said that the group's style is one "that dealt with art and beauty" in bringing American Indian culture to the rhythm of New Orleans-style music.

Boudreaux, the group's founder and leader, was dressed head to toe in an intricately beaded costume suggestive of an Indian chief's attire, complete with an elaborate feathered headdress.

Many of the band members discussed their experiences with Hurricane Katrina, which struck the Gulf Coast region August 28, 2005, in particular devastating much of southeastern Louisiana and Mississippi. The Category 5 hurricane was one of the costliest and deadliest hurricanes in U.S. history, totaling more than \$75 billion in damages and killing 1,836 people.

(See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Sep/02-225769.html>).)

"New Orleans has always been known for its community-based music and unique sound," said program co-curator John Franklin, of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. "In addition to sharing some fabulous music, this series will examine how Hurricane Katrina has forced these musicians to relocate across the country, and how they are coping and recovering from the devastation."

Boudreaux, who was separated from his family during Hurricane Katrina, said the only item he was



Jazz Performers Big Chief Monk Boudreaux & the Golden Eagles Mardi Gras Indian Tribe (DOS File Photo from AP)

able to protect from rising waters was his chief costume, which he had moved to the highest spot in his house.

Continuing the concert was the Hot 8 Brass Band, an energetic ensemble that has brought New Orleans' jazzy sound and flare to both domestic and international audiences.

Siler discussed the importance and contribution that brass band music has made to the New Orleans sound, calling it a "mixed style that combines uptown and downtown" for a sound that "makes you want to dance."

Trumpet player Alvarez "B.I.G. Al" Huntley described his odyssey while evacuating New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. Huntley said that, at first, he remained at home expecting the floods to recede quickly. He left his home, Huntley said, when the water was "waist-deep." He then walked 12 city

(Continued on page 20)

U.S. Says Turkey Can Be Cultural Example . . .

(Continued from page 15)

States backed the newly completed Baku-Tblisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline that is bringing Caspian oil to Turkey's Mediterranean coast. A parallel gas pipeline is under construction. Turkey and Russia also are developing jointly a Samsun-Ceyhan pipeline that could pump Russian oil from Turkey's Black Sea coast to the growing petroleum terminal around Ceyhan on the Mediterranean.

"Turkey and Russia are neighbors," Fried said. "How could we possibly object to improved relations between Turkey and its Russian neighbor? This is not a zero-sum game where Turkey has to choose between the United States and Russia. That's ridiculous."

The United States believes in multiple pipelines, multiple sources of energy and competition, he said. "What we don't believe in is monopolies."

Fried added that the BTC pipeline "is certainly a great success for Turkish-American cooperation, and

it's opening this month. ... We believe that the Samsun-Ceyhan pipeline, the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline, the trans-Caspian pipelines are all good things if they're commercially based and part of an open, not a closed, but an open and transparent system of moving energy resources from Central Asia and the Caspian to markets in Turkey and Europe."

Russia, Fried said, "is going to be a supplier of oil and gas to Europe. That's a natural thing. All we want is for there not to be a monopoly, but for there to be an open system so that countries like Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, have a choice and so they are part of an open, commercially-based world, not a closed world of energy."

Matthew Bryza, deputy assistant secretary of state, discussed Caspian pipelines and Europe's energy markets in a June 29 USINFO Webchat. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=June&x=20060630173344MVyelwarC0.4769251>).)

Transcripts of Fried's July 3 interviews with Turkish newspaper Zaman (<http://www.state.gov/p/eur/rls/rm/68559.htm>) and NTV (<http://www.state.gov/p/eur/rls/rm/68565.htm>) are available on the State Department Web site.

In conjunction with Minister Gul's visit, the State Department released a U.S.-Turkey U.S.-Turkey Declaration (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/68574.htm>) entitled "Shared Vision and Structured Dialogue to Advance the Turkish-American Strategic Partnership."

For additional information, see Southeast Europe (http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/europe_eurasia/balkans.html) and Caucasus (http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/europe_eurasia/eurasia_caucasus.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>)

New Orleans Bands Bring Sounds . . .

(Continued from page 19)

blocks, where the floodwaters reached as high as his neck, to a safe haven on the second floor of a building, where he remained for six days.

Huntley eventually was rescued by a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter and rushed to the American Red Cross in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and

then Lafayette, Louisiana, to be treated for a leg injury.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture was established by Congress in 2003. When completed, will exhibit collections on African-American art and culture as well as historical topics including slavery and the civil rights movement.

Additional information (<http://nmaahc.si.edu/>) about the museum is available on the Smithsonian Institution'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>)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SECTION
AMERICAN EMBASSY

P.O.Box 1014
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Phone: 251-1-174007
251-1-174000
Fax: 251-1-242454
Email: pasaddis@state.gov



No U.S. Soldier Immune from . . .

(Continued from page 10)

"We are committed to the rule of law. We have faith in the justice system," he added.

The FBI also is involved in this case because one of the individuals who was arrested and charged in the United States June 30 had left Iraq and separated from the Army. He will be tried under the U.S. federal court system.

There is no predisposition to the outcome of his case or the accompanying sentence, Caldwell said, but the maximum penalty with a charge of premeditated murder could be death.

Caldwell was careful in his answers to reporters' questions not to say anything that might taint the rights of the accused or the outcome of the court case. At the same time, he said, additional information about the case would be made available as swiftly as possible.

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

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

Bush Says Multilateral Approach Best . . .

(Continued from page 8)

restraints on the DPRK missile programs, very strong constraints on giving any assistance to their missile or [weapons of mass destruction] programs." DPRK stands for Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea's official name.

Asked if any progress had been made in addressing the concerns of Russia and China, Bolton said, "I think we had a good exchange of views." He said he expected discussions to continue.

The ambassador said he had not given up hope of getting a "strong

and unanimous statement" by the Security Council.

"We think it's important that the response be in the form of a resolution, a binding resolution under Chapter VII because of the nature of the threat to international peace and security that is represented by the North Korean missile launches," he said.

Transcripts (<http://www.usunewyork.usmission.gov/index.htm>) of Bolton's remarks are available can be found on the Web site of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

For additional information on U.S. policy, see The U.S. and the Korean Peninsula (http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/east_asia_pacific/north_korea.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>)