



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

Bush Says High-Level Detainees Will Face Fair Military Trial

By Stephen Kaufman
Washington File White House Correspondent

Washington -- President Bush announced that he is sending draft legislation to the U.S. Congress that specifically would authorize U.S. military commissions to try captured terrorist suspects and would clarify the rules governing how U.S. interrogators may question detainees to gather intelligence against terrorist organizations and prevent potential terrorist activities.

that the CIA has been holding and interrogating



President George W. Bush receives a standing ovation in the East Room of the White House Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2006, during his remarks on the global war on terror. White House photo by Eric Draper

Speaking at the White House September 6, Bush also acknowledged

suspected terrorists, including members of al-Qaida. He said the re-

transferred to the Department of Defense's deten-

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African Countries Emerge as Regulation Reformers, Report Says

By Elizabeth Kelleher
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Africa is the site of intense reforms to business regulations, according to an annual World Bank report ranking business climates in 175 countries.

In the previous two years' rankings, the region lagged behind all others in the pace of reforming unwieldy regulations. Yet the bank's Doing Business 2007 report released September 5 says Africa now ranks third among regions, be-

hind only Eastern Europe-Central Asia and the wealthy Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries.

Two-thirds of African countries made at least one important regulatory

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United States Urges Sudan To Accept New U.N. Peacekeepers

By Judy Aita
Washington File United Nations
Correspondent

United Nations -- The United States has called on Sudan to accept the newly passed Security Council resolution that authorizes the United Nations to take over peacekeeping operations in Darfur.

The Security Council adopted a resolution August 31 asking the U.N. secretary-general to arrange for the rapid deployment of more than 20,000 military and civilian personnel and 16 police units of the U.N. Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). The vote was 12-0 with China, Russia and Qatar abstaining.

The resolution, co-sponsored by the United States and the United Kingdom, "invites the consent" of the government in Khartoum. It also provides support for the African Union-led forces (AMIS) now in the country, including air, ground and engineering assets.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton said it is imperative for the council to move immediately to implement the resolution fully "to stop the tragic events unfolding in Darfur. Every day we delay only adds to the suffering of the Sudanese people and extends the genocide."

Calling on Sudan to cooperate with the United Nations, Bolton pointed out that the resolution "invites the government of Sudan to consent to deployment, though nothing in this language requires their consent. We expect their full and unconditional cooperation and support with the new U.N. peacekeeping force.

"Failure on the government of Sudan's part to do so will significantly undermine the Darfur Peace Agreement and prolong the humanitarian crisis in Darfur," he said.

The ambassador said what is needed from Sudan's government is "acquiescence."

"Silence gives consent," he told journalists after the meeting. "If there isn't any obstructionism, then the U.N. operation could proceed. We're not looking for billboards on the highway into Khartoum welcoming the U.N."

Following passage of the resolution, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer and Kristen

Silverberg, the assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, spoke to reporters at the State Department in Washington.

Frazer, who had just returned from Sudan where she met with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, called the resolution's passage "the key step to ultimately ending the crisis in Darfur." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenlish&y=2006&m=August&x=20060829180542esna mfuaok0.5550348>).)

The United States, she reiterated, continues to support strengthening the African Union force in Darfur

and making the African Union force the core of a U.N. mission in Darfur.

Silverberg added: "We're very pleased by the step the council took today in passing this resolution. We think it lays the groundwork for an effective multilateral intervention in Sudan to help bring an end to the violence."



Ambassador John Bolton addresses reporters questions at the U.N. Thursday, August 31, 2006. (© AP Images)

With that, she said, "we'll now begin the hard work of working with DPKO [the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations] and with all of our U.N. partners to begin to build this force of up to 17,000 military personnel, and up to 3,000 civilian police, with a substantial African element at the core of the mission."

Significant logistical work already has taken place at the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations, she said, and with the passage of the resolution, "we can begin finalizing those details and begin deployment as soon as possible."

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tion facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where they will await trial by U.S. military commissions.

Among those being transferred for trial are suspected terrorists Khalid Sheik Mohammed, believed to be the third-highest al-Qaida leader before his 2003 capture in Pakistan; Ramzi Binalshibh, an alleged would-be September 11, 2001, hijacker; and Abu Zubaydah, who allegedly served as a link between al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and many cells in his organization.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD ENSURE FAIR TRIAL, PRESIDENT SAYS

Working with members of Congress, Bush said he was putting forward legislation to ensure the military commissions "are established in a way that protects our national security and ensures a full and fair trial for those accused."

The trials could begin as soon as Congress authorizes the commissions, the president said, adding that the United States also will seek to prosecute those accused of the terrorist attacks upon the USS Cole and another detainee believed to be involved in the bombings of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=Agust&x=20060810165731xenotlaw0.5210688>).)

"With these prosecutions, we will send a clear message to those who kill Americans: No matter

how long it takes, we will find you and we will bring you to justice," Bush said.

He said the International Committee of the Red Cross will be notified and given the opportunity to meet with the 14 men. "Those charged with crimes will be given access to attorneys who will help them prepare their defense, and they will be presumed innocent," Bush said.

The president also said the Defense Department is releasing a new field manual September 6 that defines the treatment and interrogation procedures for detainees. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=September&x=20060906161407ma duobbA0.5917627>).

Repeating his desire to close the detention facility at Guantanamo eventually, Bush said he is continuing to urge countries around the world to take back those citizens being held at Guantanamo who will not be prosecuted by U.S. military commissions. "America has no interest in being the world's jailer," he said

But, he added, many countries either have refused to take their nationals back or have not provided "adequate assurances" that the individuals will not be mistreated and will not return to participate in future terrorist activities.

Of the thousands of individuals captured worldwide in the War on Terror, only about 770 have been sent to Guantanamo; of those, about 455 remain in U.S. custody,

Bush said. "They are provided the same quality of medical care as the American service members who guard them. The International Committee of the Red Cross has the opportunity to meet privately with all who are held there," the president added.

CIA INTERROGATION PROGRAM HAS BEEN "VITAL TOOL"

The president said the transfer of the 14 individuals to Guantanamo means that "there are now no terrorists in the CIA program." But, he said, as more high-ranking suspected terrorists are captured, the program will be "crucial" to obtaining information that could save lives.

Bush defended the program, saying captured terrorists "have unique knowledge" about how their networks operate, where operatives are deployed, and about plots that are under way.

"This is intelligence that cannot be found any other place, and our security depends on getting this kind of information," he said. "To win the war on terror, we must be able to detain, question, and when appropriate, prosecute terrorists captured here in America and on the battlefields around the world."

Thanks to the information gained by the program, "everything from initial leads to photo identifications, to precise locations of where terrorists were hiding," the president said potential mass murderers were taken into custody "before they were able to kill," and authorities gained a greater under-

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Democracy "Pays," Says American Organizer of Mali Conference

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Democracy is not only the best political and social system devised to date, but it also has economic dividends that developing nations, particularly in Africa, can use for the betterment of their citizens, says Bob LaGamma, a former diplomat who is now director of the Council for a Community of Democracies (CCD).

LaGamma, who in 1997 retired from the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) -- now a part of the State Department -- spoke to the Washington File by phone August 28 about the democracy conference his nongovernmental organization (NGO) is helping to organize in Bamako, Mali, September 3-6.

Leaders of civil society from around Africa will hold a series of meetings, he said, aimed at "strengthening their advocacy networks and developing strategies for advancing political and economic freedom on the continent."

The Council for a Community of Democracies, LaGamma explained, is part of a movement that was launched in Warsaw, Poland, in 2000 by government officials from more than 100 democracies. Its goal, he said, is "to promote, foster and consolidate democracy around the world and increase cooperation among democratic nations using partnerships between governments and civil society."

"We've gotten funding for the Bamako meeting through the National Endowment for Democracy [NED]," the NGO director said, as

well as "valuable support from U.S. officials like Under Secretary of State for [Democracy and] Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky."

LaGamma, who last served as the public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, believes "there's a growing consensus now in Africa that democracy pays. It is a model that is important because it works to improve both political as well as economic conditions, and Africans know this.

"And there are now concrete rewards for being democratic," he said.

The Bush administration's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), for example, "has been attuned to the needs of countries that have good governance and transparent economies, and made grants accordingly," LaGamma pointed out.

Development "compacts," or agreements, worth more than \$2 billion have been signed with a number of developing nations, including four in Africa: Benin, Cape Verde, Ghana and Madagascar. All have made strides toward political and economic reforms aimed at creating an investor-friendly environment, prime criteria for the development program.

The most recent compact with Ghana, worth \$547 million, was signed at a ceremony at the State Department August 6. Ghanaian President John Kufuor and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice both attended. Rice, who is also chair of MCC's board of direc-

tors, said, "MCC rewards those countries that have demonstrated their commitment to ruling justly, advancing economic freedom and investing in their people." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenlish&y=2006&m=August&x=20060801164139xenotlaw0.2603418&chanlid=washfile>)).

"Obviously, democracy pays in these places," LaGamma said. "The international donor community in general is increasingly looking at good governance as a major criterion for aid giving. Democracy has become a kind of standard. And those countries who are not democracies but pretend to be are ultimately cheating themselves and their people."

With that in mind, LaGamma said a central theme of the Bamako conference will be the connection between "democracy, development and poverty."

A panel headed by Paul Graham, director of South Africa's leading democracy NGO, IDASA (The Institute for Democracy in South Africa), and Oumar Makalou, a former Malian senior official of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), will explore the subject.

Central to that discussion will be the constraints placed on NGOs in Africa by governments like that in Zimbabwe, which has passed restrictive legislation "banning links between NGOs and outside organizations," LaGamma said.

He added that other topics to be

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standing of al-Qaida's structure, financing, communications and logistics.

The program is "invaluable" to the United States and its allies and is "one of the most vital tools" in the war against terror, Bush said.

The president also said he has asked the U.S. Congress to pass legislation to clarify the rules for U.S. personnel involved in the War on Terror by listing "specific recognizable offenses that would be considered crimes under the War Crimes Act" and clarify that those following those rules and standards "are fulfilling America's obligations under Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions," that prohibits treatment deemed "outrageous upon personal dignity and humiliating and degrading".

In addition, Bush said he had asked Congress to clarify that captured terrorists will not be able to use the Geneva Conventions "as a basis to sue our personnel ... in U.S. courts."

He repeated that the United States does not torture. "It's against our

laws, and it's against our values. I have not authorized it, and I will not authorize it," he said.

Part of the U.S. Supreme Court's June 29 decision in the case brought by suspected terrorist and Guantanamo detainee Salim Ahmed Hamdan determined that Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions applies to the U.S. war with the al-Qaida organization.

However, Bush said, "The problem is that these and other provisions of Common Article 3 are vague and undefined, and each could be interpreted in different ways by American or foreign judges," he said, and could result in U.S. military and intelligence personnel facing prosecution under the U.S. War Crimes Act "simply for doing their jobs in a thorough and professional way."

SENIOR OFFICIALS EXPLAIN TIMING OF PRESIDENT'S DECISION

Prior to the president's remarks, senior administration officials speaking on background said it always has been the Bush administration's intention to bring the suspected terrorists to justice.

The officials said the administration had been waiting for the Supreme Court to rule in the Hamdan case on whether trials by military commissions were "an appropriate venue" in which to do so.

The Supreme Court ruling confirmed that military commissions are appropriate, but determined the commissions needed additional congressional authorization, the officials said. Since the ruling, the administration discussed the issue with members of Congress, and now both the executive and legislative branches can respond to the Supreme Court's ruling, the officials said.

"There is an urgency to move forward to bring people to justice. There is an urgency to clarify the legal standards, post Hamdan decisions that apply to the detention and interrogation and questioning of detainees," the officials 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>)

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explored at the meeting in Mali will include strengthening the rule of law, press freedom, the role of political parties, improving electoral standards and free enterprise and democracy.

Participants at the Mali conference also will hear from Istvan Gyarmati, director of the International Centre for Democratic Transition in Budapest, Hungary, who will discuss how his center assists democracies in transition.

(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 Missile Defense Test Boosts Confidence of Developers

Washington -- A successful missile defense test intercept over the Pacific Ocean September 1 increases "confidence in the approach to developing an initial missile defense capability" against a long-range missile, according to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

The U.S. military test launched an interceptor from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and intercepted a target missile sent aloft from Kodiak, Alaska. The test had been delayed one day due to fog.

While pronouncing the September 1 test a success, Rumsfeld said in a written statement that the test program is far from complete. "Tests will continue, some of which will be successful and some will not," he said.

The defense secretary said the ground-based midcourse interceptor test was challenging and that additional tests will be even more so. The next test will be scheduled in December and program officials are hoping to add countermeasures, or decoys, to the scenario to add to the test's complexity.

The last test was a huge step forward in the planned development of a missile defense system for the United States, its allies and U.S. military forces deployed worldwide, according to Lieutenant General Henry "Trey" Obering. Obering, director of the Missile De-

fense Agency, told reporters at the Pentagon shortly after the test concluded that it was conducted against "a very threat-representative target." He said MDA employees and contractors

since 2001, Obering said. "We did intercept the re-entry vehicle," he said, "and we did use the operational radar data to provide the initial track for that intercept."

He said the success of the test gives him confidence that the United States would have a good chance of shooting down incoming ballistic missile from a country like North Korea.

"If we had to use the system in an operational mode [today], it would be very capable," Obering added.

The transcript (<http://www.defenselink.mil/Transcripts/Transcript.aspx?TranscriptID=3710>) of the briefing is available on the Defense Department's Web site.

For more information on U.S. missile defense, see Arms Control and Non-Proliferation (http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/arms_control.html).

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A Ground-based Interceptor breaks cloud cover, shortly after launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, September 1, 2006. The U.S. military shot down a target ballistic missile over the Pacific on Friday in what it hailed as a wide-ranging test of its emerging anti-missile shield.

Photo Reuters

cheered when they learned the test results.

This was the 21st successful intercept using hit-to-kill technology

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reform to spur economic growth, according to the report.

Tanzania, which introduced electronic-data interchange and risk-based inspections at customs, reduced the time it takes to clear imports by nearly two weeks. Cote d'Ivoire reduced the time it takes to transfer property to 32 days from more than a year. Burkina Faso cut the number of procedures for starting a business by one-third. Madagascar reduced the minimum capital for start-ups from 10 million francs to 2 million francs.

"I don't fully understand it," said Simeon Djankov, the report's main author, referring to advances made by those and other African countries. But he attributed the phenomenon, at least in part, to a push by major donors in the United States and United Kingdom to get African countries to create jobs and generate economic growth on their own.

For example, the U.S. Millennium Challenge Account requires recipients to meet certain standards, including engagement of the private sector in projects, to qualify for this category of foreign aid. The U.S. Agency for International Development increasingly works with aid recipients on improving business climate.

There was little change among those countries that had the highest rankings in Doing Business 2006. The top three positions in terms of the ease of doing business continued to be held by Sin-

gapore, New Zealand and the United States.

There was much more movement in the lower tiers of the list. Within a year, Georgia climbed from the 112th to the 37th position. Mexico jumped from the 62nd to the 43rd and is credited with one of the boldest reforms -- increasing investor protections in its new securities law.

China, Number 93 a year ago, moved up 15 places. Like Georgia, Mexico, Tanzania and Ghana, China is among the World Bank's "top 10 reformers." Its government has sped up the business-starting process, increased investor protections, reduced red tape in trade, and established a credit-information registry for consumer loans that provides credit histories of 340 million citizens, according to the report.

A separate report on foreign direct investment, released by Columbia University and The Economist publishing group, predicts that until 2010 China will be the top emerging market for business investment inflows, but Africa will not receive much investment any time soon.

Karl Sauvart, director of the Columbia Program on International Investment, which released the investment report, said China will attract \$87 billion from U.S. businesses alone in 2006, while sub-Saharan Africa, with 10 percent of the world's population, gets less than 1 percent of total foreign direct investment flows.

According to Sauvart, to achieve economic growth a country must

do more than reform business regulations. It also must compete to attract investment and provide quality infrastructure and a skilled work force, he said.

The World Bank's Djankov said the Doing Business 2007 report focuses only on what governments can do in a few years at a cost of millions of dollars, not hundreds of millions. The most popular reform this year has been easing regulations on starting a business -- something accomplished by 43 countries. "Any government can do this, and any government can do it now," Djankov said.

Doing Business 2007 (<http://www.doingbusiness.org/>) is available on the World Bank Web site. World Investment Prospects (<http://www.cpii.columbia.edu/pubs/index.php>) is available on the Columbia University 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>)

Army Has Destroyed Half of All Chemical Weapons in U.S. Stockpile

Washington -- Fifty percent of the total munitions in the United States' declared chemical weapons stockpile has been destroyed, the U.S. Army announced August 30.

The 50 percent figure represents more than 1.7 million munitions of the total stockpile originally estimated, according to the Army's Chemical Materials Agency. That includes bombs, rockets, mortars, projectiles, land mines and spray tanks filled with nerve agents (including sarin and VX), plus blister agents (including mustard gas). The total destroyed to date represents 39 percent of the U.S. stockpile by weight.

The Army says the 50 percent milestone "demonstrates the United States' commitment to its international obligations as a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)."

The Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into force April 29, 1997, bans the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention and direct or indirect transfer of chemical weapons. It also prohibits the use or preparation for use of chemical weapons and the assistance, encouragement or inducement of anyone else to engage in activities prohibited by the convention. The United States ratified the convention in 1997.

The U.S. Chemical Materials Agency has been disposing of chemical weapons since 1990. In that year, it began to dispose of

munitions at a destruction facility on Johnston Atoll, which is more than 1,290 kilometers southwest of Honolulu. Complete destruction of that stockpile was achieved in 2000, and the Army says the site "remains a wildlife refuge."

After Johnston Atoll, disposal efforts were initiated in Utah (1996), Alabama (2003), Oregon (2004), and Indiana and Arkansas (2005). The first site within the United States to destroy its stockpile completely was Aberdeen, Maryland (2006).



U.S. Chemical Weapons. Destruction of the u.s. stockpile is being conducted by the U.S. Army's Chemical Material agency based at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. Photo U.S. Army

To accomplish the destruction of half of the national stockpile, the Chemical Materials Agency had to overcome permitting delays and facility work stoppages, it said. In particular, the agency stated, "delays resulted from the challenges associated with obtaining, modifying and/or closing environmental permits." There were also unexpected facility work stoppages to evaluate and correct problems, CMA said. In July, the United States submit-

ted a draft request to the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons that would extend the deadline for the destruction of the entire U.S. chemical weapons stockpile from April 2007 to April 2012.

Ambassador Eric Javits, head of the U.S. delegation to the council, has stated that it took the United States "longer than anticipated to build facilities and to obtain the necessary permits and consent to begin destruction of chemical weapons, and we have found that, once operating, our facilities have not destroyed weapons as rapidly as we initially projected."

The full text (<http://www.cma.army.mil/docviewerframe.aspx?docid=003675943>) of the Army's announcement is available on the Chemical Materials Agency Web site (<http://www.cma.army.mil/>).

For more information on U.S. arms control policy, see Arms Control and Non-Proliferation (http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/arms_control.html).

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U.S. Must Reform Farm Policy, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Says

By Andrzej Zwaniecki
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States needs to reform its farm policy even if currently suspended global trade negotiations fail to produce an agreement in the near future, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns says.

Johanns said that if a global trade accord eventually is concluded, it likely would require the United States to reduce substantially agricultural subsidies and other farm supports.

He spoke August 31 at a panel discussion at the Cato Institute, a policy research group based in Washington.

The global trade talks, formally called the Doha Development Agenda and held under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO), were suspended indefinitely on July 24 after negotiators from member countries failed to bridge major differences, particularly in the area of agriculture. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=July&x=20060724145101ebysesdo3.396243e-02>).)

In October 2005, U.S. negotiators offered, in exchange for cuts in agricultural tariffs, a reduction in overall U.S. trade-distorting support to agriculture by 53 percent and a cap on less-trade-distorting subsidies.

Since the negotiations were launched in 2001, the Bush administration has pressed for much more foreign market access for U.S. farm exports in exchange for

reducing domestic supports and eliminating export subsidies.

But even if a WTO agreement that included such changes is not reached in the near future the United States must reform its farm policy because global and U.S. economic conditions have changed since the farm bill that set this policy was enacted in 2002.

That law is scheduled to expire in 2007 and both the Congress and administration have held hearings around the country to help them craft new legislation.

Johanns said the administration may submit its own farm bill proposal but not before January 2007. He said that reform is necessary because current farm supports distribute much money to relatively few large producers and for selected crops that produce relatively little revenue, thereby unintentionally raising the prices of land and capital, and discouraging young people from entering agriculture.

He added that some U.S. farm support programs such as those concerning rice and maize, as well as countercyclical and marketing payments, are vulnerable to legal challenges at the WTO. The organization already has ruled against U.S. cotton subsidies.

Any challenges in the WTO to these programs would be defended aggressively by the administration, Johanns said.

But U.S. farm policies should not be driven by the WTO litigation that may "dismantle farm programs piece by piece," he said.

Instead, Johanns said, the administration and legislators must take the initiative and deal with relevant issues "in such a way that it leads us to the future with vision and foresight."

He said a true safety net for farmers is more than subsidies and comprises tax and includes energy and trade policies, as well as investment in export markets, which provide the greatest opportunities for U.S. farmers.

"A good farm policy needs to be equitable, predictable and unchallenged," he said. "It should be done in a way that is pro-trade, pro-growth and fiscally responsible."

Also speaking at the same forum, Robert Thompson of the University of Illinois said the lobby that supported large subsidies in the 2002 farm bill has fragmented and international pressure against subsidies has intensified since, providing an opportunity for reform.

For more information on U.S. policies, see WTO Agriculture (http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/WTO/agriculture.html) and USA and the WTO (http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/WTO.html).

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Library of America Preserves, Spreads American Literature

By Michael Jay Friedman
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Among the less probable publishing events of 2006 was the release of two volumes of American political oratory, one of movie criticism and three collecting the 1901-1902 novels of Henry James, the 1926-1929 novels of William Faulkner and the 1973-1977 novels of Philip Roth.

These compilations join more than 170 others in The Library of America, an ongoing series that preserves the best and most significant writing of the United States for the education and enjoyment of future generations.

A SERIES FOR THE 'ORDINARY READER'

In 1962, the renowned literary critic Edmund Wilson proposed to his friend, publisher Jason Epstein, the need for "a complete and compact form of the principal American classics." "It is absurd that our most read and studied writers should not be available in their entirety in any convenient form," Wilson wrote.

Many doubted the market for reprints of American classics. Only in 1979 did the nonprofit Literary Classics of the United States Inc. attract two large grants --from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Ford Foundation - - that enabled it in 1982 to launch the Library of America (LOA) series.

From the outset, LOA sought to present durable, handsome and easily read books in the style of the French Pléiade series. Wilson always had criticized volumes that encumbered the text with footnotes and other scholarly apparatus to gratify "the very small group of monomaniac bibliographers." The LOA focused instead on "authoritative, accurate and unencumbered" reproductions, accompanied only by a chronology of the author's life and work, a few limited notes and one brief interpretive essay.

The books themselves were designed to appeal to the casual reader. Wilson had criticized tomes "too large and heavy to hold and ... set with too wide a page for the eye to travel from one line to the next without effort." LOA thus sized its books at a compact 12.2 centimeters by 19.9 centimeters. It used thin "Bible" paper, very light but of exceptional quality, and guaranteed to last 500 years. Each page was sewn (rather than glued -- a cheaper method) into an imported, semi-flexible, unfinished rayon binding. Thus, while LOA volumes could reach 1300-1500 pages, each was light and easy to carry, and could lie open on a table even if opened near its beginning or end.

A DIVERSE LITERATURE FOR A DIVERSE PEOPLE

LOA's first four efforts spanned the 19th century, offering works by Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Harriet Beecher Stowe

and Walt Whitman. At a New York City reading introducing the series, Eudora Welty (featured in two LOA volumes) was among the luminaries who read from the first volumes.

Today, LOA offers something for every taste. Many volumes collect the works of individual writers, from the founding fathers (Franklin, Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson and Madison, among others) to 19th century masters like Mark Twain, Henry David Thoreau and Edgar Allan Poe and 20th century craftsmen, including James Baldwin, F. Scott Fitzgerald and John Steinbeck. Authors typically are not included in the LOA during their lifetimes, although exceptions have been made for Eudora Welty, Saul Bellow and Phillip Roth.

The library encompasses plays and screenplays, novels and poetry, speeches and journalism. Some volumes arrange thematically the works of different authors. There is, for instance, a volume of American sermons, along with two collections of crime novels in the noir style and two volumes of reportage about the civil rights movement.

Together the LOA volumes display America's diversity. While individuals create literature, each artist is shaped by the sum of his or her experiences. LOA encompasses African-American literature from slave narratives to the essays of intellectuals like Frederick Doug-

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United States Committed to Diplomacy in Iran Nuclear Dispute

By Lea Terhune
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack predicts intensive diplomacy over the coming weeks as Iran's position on uranium enrichment is addressed.

"We are committed to diplomacy ourselves, but we're not going to negotiate ... about negotiations," he said. He said the conditions set in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1696 are very clear. The July 31 resolution asked Iran to suspend all enrichment-related activities in its nuclear program, including research and development, and to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear facilities. "If the regime in Tehran meets those conditions, which are quite clear, straightforward, then there can be negotiations," McCormack told journalists September 5.

The five permanent members of the Security Council -- China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States -- plus Germany offered a package of incentives to Iran if it accepted the conditions, and threatened economic sanctions if it did not. Iran declined to agree by the August 31 deadline. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=August&x=20060830114955btruevecer0.6479914>).

McCormack said he expected "tough, intensive diplomacy" in the coming weeks over the con-

tents of a sanctions resolution. U.S. Under Secretary for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns begins consultations September 6 to discuss these measures with U.S. counterparts.



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

"There's been a fundamental breakdown in trust between Iran and the international community with respect to the Iranian nuclear program," McCormack said.

He expressed concern that Iran would become more isolated by refusing to engage with the international community along the lines set out by the U.N. Security Council, "which is something we do not desire."

"It's a great culture, it's a great people, and it would be a shame to

see this regime further isolate the Iranian people from the rest of the world."

Regarding former Iranian President Khatami's private visit to the United States, McCormack said that although Khatami was not here at the invitation of the United States government, he hopes that Khatami will carry back the message to Iran that "the American people don't wish to be isolated from the Iranian people."

McCormack said the United States has a number of programs "to try to encourage information flow to the Iranian people," noting that it is difficult for the Iranian people to get a complete view of world events and opinion. The U.S. is working on educational exchange programs, and he added, "We're trying to do a better job in terms of understanding what is going on inside Iran."

(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 Kuwaiti Reforms as "Notable Example" for Middle East

By Steve Kaufman

Washington File White House Correspondent

Washington -- President Bush welcomed the amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, to the White House and congratulated the amir for the "steady reforms" he has been undertaking in his country that "have served as a notable example for others in the region."

Speaking after their meeting at the White House September 5, Bush said he had engaged in an "important strategic dialogue" with the amir on how to promote peace and stability in the Middle East and expressed his appreciation for the Kuwaiti leader's advice on a variety of issues.

"His Highness has got a clear vision about how we can work together, strategically as well as commercially," Bush said.

Amir Sabah said his talks with the president had been "fruitful" and covered several bilateral and economic issues "related to strengthening the bilateral relationship," as well as Middle Eastern issues reflecting their joint aim "of achieving stability in the region."

Prior to the amir's arrival in Washington, the United States and Kuwait signed an Open Skies agreement on August 30 that eliminates barriers to air travel between the two countries.

Once the agreement is implemented, U.S. and Kuwaiti airline companies will be able to set flight schedules and price tickets according to market demand, rather than under regulations set by either government.

A transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/09/20060905-3.html>) of the remarks by Bush and the amir is available on the White House Web site.

For more information on U.S. policy, see Middle East and North Africa (<http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/>) and Trade and Economics (<http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/>).

The full text (<http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot8906.htm>) of a Department of Transportation press release on the U.S.-Kuwait Open Skies agreement and more information (http://ostpxweb.dot.gov/aviation/X-40_Role_Files/bilatagreement.htm) on such agreements in general are available on the 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>)



President George W. Bush and His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah of Kuwait meet with the press in the Oval Office Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2006.

White House photo by Eric Draper

U.S. Foreign Assistance Director Outlines Aid to Lebanon

By David Shelby
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance Randall Tobias elaborated August 31 on the U.S. commitment of \$230 million in emergency reconstruction assistance to Lebanon. He identified six specific areas on which the United States initially would focus its resources in support of the Lebanese government's recovery plan.

"Today, we reiterate the United States' commitment to reinforcing democracy by supporting the Lebanese government's efforts to meet the needs of its people through early recovery and reconstruction," Tobias told delegates at a donors' conference on relief for Lebanon held in Stockholm, Sweden.

The six projects the United States will fund include:

- Reconstructing the Fidar Bridge in Jbeil, a key link in Lebanon's coastal highway between Beirut and the northern city of Tripoli;

- Removing debris from the southern road between Marjeyoun and Nabatyeh;

- Procuring materials and hiring local workers to repair damaged homes;

- Cleaning and repairing schools in preparation for the coming school year;

- Providing new nets, hooks and other trade material to fishermen whose equipment was damaged; and

- Supporting local fishermen working to clean up the oil slick that

now pollutes 90 miles of the Lebanese coastline.

In addition, the United States donated 300 metric tons of lentils and 700 metric tons of wheat to the World Food Program to support its efforts to assist some 350,000 people affected by the monthlong war between Israel and Hezbollah. Those donations were

ment his country has achieved since the end of its civil war. The Lebanese government has estimated its initial reconstruction needs at \$540 million, though it says the full cost of the war, including structural and long-term economic damage, is in the billions of dollars.

The government said its initial re-



A Jordanian worker checks a truck loaded with U.S.-donated wheat headed for Lebanon in Amman, Jordan, August 31. (©AP Images)

shipped from stockpiles in Dubai and Jordan August 30 and August 31.

The United States also announced that it would help fund efforts to neutralize and remove unexploded ordnance that remains from the Israeli bombing campaign and the subsequent ground combat.

Some 60 countries and aid agencies have gathered in the Swedish capital to discuss reconstruction assistance for Lebanon. Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora told the delegates that Israel's assault wiped out 15 years of develop-

ment his country has achieved since the end of its civil war. The Lebanese government has estimated its initial reconstruction needs at \$540 million, though it says the full cost of the war, including structural and long-term economic damage, is in the billions of dollars.

recovery priorities are to find housing for displaced families, rebuild the damaged infrastructure, improve social services, clean up the oil spill along the coast and clear unexploded ordnance. Israel launched an assault on Lebanon July 12 in response to the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers by Lebanese Hezbollah militants. Israel targeted Hezbollah strongholds in southern Lebanon, the Bekaa Valley and the southern suburbs of Beirut. Israel also attacked much of Lebanon's civilian infrastructure, including roads, bridges, power

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New Quranic Reference Series Fills Gap in Western Academic Work

By David Shelby
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – With the publication of the fifth and final volume of the Encyclopaedia of the Quran, Georgetown University professor Jane McAuliffe believes she and her editorial contributors have filled an important gap in Western reference material on the text that more than a billion Muslims regard as the word of God.

“There really is no first-rate reference work on the Quran in Western languages,” McAuliffe said during a recent interview with the Washington File. “If you look at a correlative field such as biblical studies ... there are dozens of encyclopedias of the Bible or dictionaries, et cetera, and there was nothing of that genre available for the Quran. It was an obvious and a rather big hole in the field.”

McAuliffe and her editorial assistants collected nearly 1,000 articles from quranic scholars around the world to produce a comprehensive reference work on the concepts, practices, personalities and places associated with the Muslim holy text.

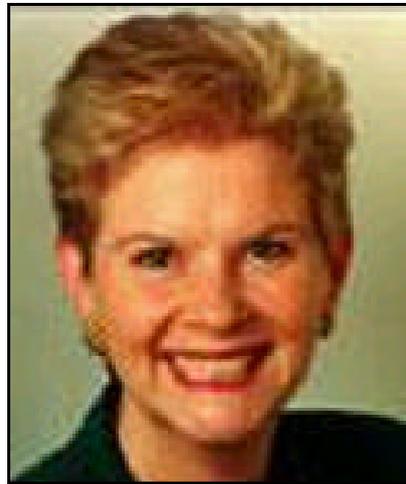
McAuliffe, a quranic scholar who teaches history and Arabic at Georgetown University in Washington, said she has been struck by the rising interest in Islam, not only among American university students, but within the general American public.

“I’m constantly being asked by people, ‘What do you recommend? What could I read? What translation of the Quran should I use? Where do I go from here?’” she

said. “I’d like the Encyclopaedia to be part of where people go on the text.”

She said she and her editors worked very hard to make the work accessible to the widest possible audience.

“I’d like it to have as broad a readership as possible. Certainly I’d like university students, both undergraduate and graduate, to use



Jane McAuliffe
Georgetown University professor

it. But well beyond that, I’d like simply adult readers who find themselves interested in learning something about the Quran to have access to a reference tool that allows them to take the text and then to spend some time learning some of the background to this text,” she said.

In addition to entries explaining the main quranic terms and concepts, the reference work contains numerous essays on topics related to the field of quranic studies, including articles on art, architecture, literature and archeology, as they relate to the Quran. With this,

McAuliffe sought to create “a summation of the field of quranic studies as it stands right now.”

McAuliffe was pleased to find tremendous enthusiasm among the scholars she approached to write the articles. She called on both Muslim and non-Muslim scholars in an effort to ensure the most comprehensive approach to the issues under discussion.

“I think it’s an artificial division to continue to think in terms of Muslim and non-Muslim approaches, and I really wanted to have a more versatile research tool,” she said. “So there are some people who write for the Encyclopaedia from a perspective that is deeply influenced by contemporary critical thought in the West, or in Euro-American universities, and there are others who write from a much more traditional perspective, and that’s fine.

“I think any reader who spends any time with the Encyclopaedia will discover this scholarly plurality,” she said.

McAuliffe says she always has had a strong interest in religion, even before she took up Islamic studies as a graduate student at the University of Toronto, and she is pleased to see a growing global interest in religion.

“Religion continues to matter. It continues to matter in people’s lives. It continues to matter in politics. It continues to matter in international affairs,” she said. She noted that there is a growing number of books about religion crowding the shelves of popular U.

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U.S. Foreign Assistance Director Outlines Aid . . .

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plants, port facilities and Beirut's Rafik Hariri International Airport.

An Israeli attack on a coastal power plant released an estimated 17.4 million liters of fuel oil into the Mediterranean Sea, creating an oil slick along 145 kilometers of the Lebanese coast.

During the conflict, Hezbollah militants fired thousands of relatively inaccurate Katyusha rockets into northern Israel, some of them falling as far south as the Israeli city of Haifa.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701 ended the hostilities August 14. Tensions remain high, however, as Israeli troops continue to

occupy parts of southern Lebanon and as Israel maintains an air and sea blockade on the country.

Israel has said it would withdraw all its forces and lift the blockade when all the terms of Resolution 1701 are met. These terms include deployment of a 15,000-troop international peacekeeping force alongside 15,000 Lebanese troops in Hezbollah's traditional stronghold in the south and the interdiction of arms shipments to Hezbollah. The resolution also emphasizes "the need to address urgently the causes that have given rise to the current crisis, including by the unconditional release of the abducted Israeli soldiers."

Tobias said all humanitarian relief and reconstruction aid must be

aimed at supporting the underlying goals of Resolution 1701: "changing the unstable status quo that precipitated the conflict, strengthening Lebanon's sovereign, democratic government, and ensuring lasting peace and security for the entire region."

"A democratic, secure, and prosperous Lebanon is in the best interest of the entire global community," he said. "Indeed, it is our best defense against the recurrence of instability and war." He urged all the conference participants to work toward this end.

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New Quranic Reference Series Fills Gap in Western . . .

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S. bookstores, and that many of those books are focused on Islam.

"I think, in terms of Islam, it is the fact that that religious tradition has been so much in the news in recent years, coupled with the fact that there are now so many American and European Muslims. Everybody knows Muslims or works with them or has kids that go to school with them. And there's natural curiosity that grows out of that proximity," she said.

A senior fellow at Georgetown's Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, McAuliffe says that the

growing interest in religion has opened the door to more interfaith dialogue. She notes that much of the interest in Islam is coming from Christian groups that recognize the similarities and differences between the two Abrahamic faiths and want a better understanding of how they are related. In response, she said, Muslim groups are showing "a desire to use the opportunity of interfaith dialogue as a way of helping people learn more about Islam and trying to dislodge some of the vicious misconceptions that circulate."

She said the Encyclopaedia is an example of how people of different faiths can collaborate to raise un-

derstanding about a religion and its foundational text.

The Encyclopaedia of the Quran is published by Holland's Brill Publishing and is available in hard copy, CD-ROM and through online subscription. Currently it is only available in English, but McAuliffe said a group of Middle Eastern and North African scholars has expressed an interest in translating it into Arabic.

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

Reporters Must Be Courageous and Curious, Veteran Journalist Says

By Michelle Austein
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Good journalists should be courageous and curious, reporter Deborah Potter said August 30 during a USINFO online discussion, and should attempt to report freely even when it might seem impossible to do so.

“A journalist must be curious about the world and courageous, with a willingness to look for stories in unfamiliar places,” Potter said. Potter, a veteran journalist and author of the new State Department publication, “Handbook of Independent Journalism,” discussed the role of the media in a free society. Potter is executive director of NewsLab, an online resource center for journalists in Washington, which she founded in 1998.

Journalists ask many questions, Potter said. One of the most important of which is “why.”

“Journalists want to know more than just what happened,” Potter said. “They want to understand why and how things happened so they can explain it to the audience.”

Journalists seek to provide a fair, accurate and independent account of what is happening, Potter said. “Journalism is not a profession that you practice from 9 to 5 and then go home. News happens all the time, and journalists must be willing to go cover it,” she said.

Closed societies make it difficult for journalists to report freely, but that should not deter them from trying, Potter said. “It is more difficult to operate independently when the media is controlled, of course. What journalists can do, however, is to be transparent



Reporter Deborah Potter

about the situation they face. For example, when journalists cover conflicts in some parts of the world, their stories are subject to censorship. They should not refuse to report under these circumstances, but rather they should disclose the circumstances to the audience.”

Journalists should avoid conflicts of interest and should be free to hold the powerful accountable, Potter said. “Independence means

being free of any obligation other than to the public's right to know,” she said.

Potter also discussed the roles schools and other programs play in training journalists, as they provide the skills needed to do their job as well as help journalists develop professional standards needed to practice independent journalism.

The International Center for Journalists (<http://www.icjf.org/>) and News University (<http://www.newsu.org/>) provide resources including lists of training programs and fellowships.

The Handbook of Independent Journalism (<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/journalism/index.htm>) is available on the US-INFO Web site.

More information on NewsLab (<http://www.newslab.org/>) is available on its Web site.

The transcript (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2006/Aug/30-557054.html>) of Potter's webchat is available on Webchat Station.

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

Good News, Bad News Reported on Afghan Drug War

By Lea Terhune
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – A new U.N. report on narcotics trafficking says global opium poppy cultivation fell 22 percent in 2005, but a senior U.S. State Department official warns 2006 could see an increase in poppy cultivation to record levels because insurgency is hindering control and law enforcement in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan is the largest cultivator of the opium poppy, responsible for 89 percent of illicit opium and opium derivatives hitting world markets, according to the 2006 World Drug Report from the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), released September 1. Opiates are the chief problem drug, heroin being the most deadly of those.

Even though poppy cultivation figures are down for 2005, they are expected to skyrocket in 2006. "We do anticipate a very high number, significantly higher than last year," Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) Thomas Schweich told journalists in Washington August 31.

Signs point to a bumper crop ahead. Western anti-narcotics officials in Afghanistan recently predicted opium poppy cultivation could rise as much as 40 percent in 2006 as compared to 2005 levels. An estimated 150,000 hectares of poppy was cultivated this season, up from 104,000 in 2005,

according to Associated Press sources in Afghanistan. The U.N. report concurred: "Early indications are ... that planting of opium poppy increased during 2006, particularly in the southern provinces."

"It's bad news and we need to improve it," Schweich said. The Afghan government's multifaceted anti-narcotics strategy, which is supported by the U.S. and partner countries, takes time to imple-

ment. "It's not a catastrophic failure, but it's no success, either," he said, adding, "What we ask the public and international community to understand is sustained poppy reduction requires perseverance, sticking with the plan, refining the plan and giving it a little bit of time to work."

Eradicating poppy cultivation is a difficult task. The limited capacity of Afghan judicial and law enforcement institutions contributes to slow progress. "A special tribunal in Kabul has national jurisdiction over drug cases that involve a certain minimum threshold of opium," Schweich said. "It's got cases in there and they are prosecuting people." But there are only about 100 cases being prosecuted currently, "We would want to see thousands," Schweich said.

"You can have the best policy in the world, you can identify narcotics traffic, you can take them down, but if they go in one door in the courthouse and out the other one because of corruption, lack of facilities or lack of capacity, it doesn't make any difference. There has to be a credible threat of prosecution," he said.

Eradication and enforcement also are encumbered by insurgency. Prior to its ouster in 2001, the



Poppy field in Afghanistan

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Bush Vows Victory Against Terrorists

Washington – As the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, approaches, a new White House report calls the global war on terrorism “a battle of arms and ideas,” and sets out a strategy to promote freedom and human dignity as alternatives to the terrorists’ vision of oppression and totalitarian rule.

The National Strategy to Combat Terrorism, released September 5, finds that even though international efforts have succeeded in significantly degrading the al-Qaida network, today’s terrorist threat is less centralized – a complex mix of extremist organizations, networks and individuals. Supported in many cases by state and nonstate entities, these groups are united in their continued commitment to destroy innocent lives through both violent attacks and the use of propaganda based on a “violent and intolerant distortion of Islam” to deceive individuals into joining their ranks, the report states.

In remarks at the Military Officers Association of America in Washington September 5, President Bush called attention to the report, and said it has been updated since it was first released in February 2003 to “take into account the changing nature of this enemy.”

Bush’s comments came as part of the second in a series of five scheduled speeches concerning the global war on terrorism. (See related article ([http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-](http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=August&x=20060831130516esnamfuak0.3837702)

[english&y=2006&m=August&x=20060831130516esnamfuak0.3837702](http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=August&x=20060831130516esnamfuak0.3837702)).

“Five years after our nation was attacked, the terrorist danger remains. We’re a nation at war – and America and her allies are fighting this war with relentless determination across the world. Together with our coalition partners, we’ve removed terrorist sanctuaries, disrupted their finances, killed and captured key operatives, broken up terrorist cells in America and other nations, and stopped new attacks before they’re carried out,” Bush said. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=August&x=20060810101148idybekcm0.7115747>).

“We’re on the offense against the terrorists on every battlefield,” he added, “and we’ll accept nothing less than complete victory.”

TERRORISTS DISTORT ISLAM, TARGET MUSLIMS

The president added that much has been learned about terrorist groups like al-Qaida since the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington.

“We’ve learned that they’re cunning and sophisticated. We’ve witnessed their ability to change their methods and their tactics with deadly speed, even as their murderous obsessions remain unchanging. We’ve seen that it’s the terrorists who have declared war

on Muslims, slaughtering huge numbers of innocent Muslim men and women around the world,” he said.

“This enemy movement seeks to create and exploit a division between the Muslim and non-Muslim world and within the Muslim world itself,” the report states. “The terrorists distort the idea of jihad into a call for violence and murder against those they regard as apostates or unbelievers, including all those who disagree with them.” (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/Archive/2006/Apr/25-145272.html>).

Despite the successes of ongoing international coordination in military, intelligence and law enforcement operations aimed at breaking up terror plots, terrorists’ continuing desire to inflict catastrophic damage on the United States and its allies also raises another international security threat – the prospect of terrorists acquiring chemical, biological or nuclear weapons for use in future attacks, according to the report.

The president said his administration has decided to take the threat of terrorism seriously, and “will not rest until this threat to civilization is removed.”

“We know what the terrorists believe, we know what they have done and we know what they intend to do,” Bush said, adding that free nations around the world

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Bush Vows Victory Against Terrorists

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"must summon the will to meet this great challenge."

Bush said terrorist leaders like Osama bin Laden have made their intentions "as clear as [Vladimir] Lenin and [Adolph] Hitler before them," and said, "The question is will we listen? Will we pay attention to what these evil men say?"

ADVANCING DEMOCRACY WILL DEFEAT TERRORISM

The new national strategy builds on the president's National Security Strategy, released earlier in 2006, presenting an approach that combines both short- and long-term counterterrorism strategies.

In the immediate term, the strategy advocates continued focus on four key areas:

Preventing future attacks by neutralizing cell leaders and operatives, freezing the flow of funding and weapons, and targeting terrorists' communications and propaganda efforts;

Denying weapons of mass destruction to rogue states and terrorists' allies that intend to use them;

Denying terrorists the support and sanctuary of rogue regimes; and

Denying terrorists control of any nation that they could use as a base and a launching pad for terror.

Achieving these short-term strategic objectives, the strategy states, will buy the necessary time and space for the international community to focus on the long-term solution for winning the War on Terror: winning the "war of ideas" by advancing effective democracies to address underlying societal conditions that terrorists seek to exploit. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/Archive/2006/Apr/07-305252.html>).)

The new report also states that:

Terrorists exploit political alienation, but democracy gives people an ownership stake in society;

Terrorists exploit grievances, but democracy offers the rule of law, the peaceful resolution of disputes and the habits of advancing interests through compromise;

Terrorists exploit misinformation and conspiracy theories, but democracy offers freedom of speech, independent media and a marketplace of ideas to expose and discredit falsehoods; and

Terrorists exploit an ideology that justifies murder, but democracy offers a respect for human dignity and rejects the targeting of innocents.

"Effective democracies honor and uphold basic human rights, including freedom of religion, conscience, speech, assembly, association, and press. They are the long-term antidote to the ideology of terrorism today," the report states.

"There will continue to be challenges ahead," the report concludes, "but along with our partners, we will attack terrorism and its ideology, and bring hope and freedom to the people of the world. This is how we will win the War on Terror."

A transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/09/20060905-4.html>) of Bush's speech, a fact sheet (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/09/20060905.html>) and the full text (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nsct/2006/>) of the National Strategy to Combat Terrorism are available on the White House Web site.

For more information, see Response to Terrorism (http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/terrorism.html) and International Security (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/>).

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

War on Terror the "Decisive" 21st Century Struggle, Bush Says

Washington -- President Bush says the War on Terror is "the decisive ideological struggle of the 21st century," pitting free nations against those who employ violence to impose a "dark vision of tyranny" across the world.

In the first of a scheduled series of five speeches leading up to the fifth anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks against New York and Washington, the president told an audience in Salt Lake City August 31, "We will not allow the terrorists to dictate the future of this century, so we will defeat them in Iraq."

The United States bears a responsibility to the Iraqi people to help them achieve the freedom they desire, and is working with Iraqi leaders who can count on American partnership so long as they promote freedom and democracy, Bush said.

U.S. forces will not leave Iraq "until victory is achieved," even though the president warned of more difficulties ahead. "This is a pivotal moment for the Middle East. The world is watching, and in Iraq the forces of freedom will prevail," Bush said.

The United States has a "straightforward choice" in its approach to the Middle East, Bush said. The United States can help lead the region toward a more hopeful future, or it can allow the Middle East to follow the course on which it was headed before September 11, 2001, and leave future generations "a region dominated by terrorist states and radical dictators armed with nuclear weapons."

The president said that despite sectarian and geographic differences, the terrorist groups now at work constitute a "worldwide network" of radicals who are using terror to kill or intimidate those who stand in the way of their ideology.

Bush described them as a "self-appointed few" who are trying to impose their views on the world and compared them to totalitarian

However, he said, Iran has responded with "further defiance and delay." The United States will continue to seek a diplomatic solution to the conflict, but Bush added that "there must be consequences" for Iran's behavior.

The transcript of the president's remarks is available on the White House Web site, as is a fact sheet (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/newsreleases/2006/08/20060831>).



President George W. Bush speaks to a crowd of nearly 2000 people during an airport welcome at the Utah Air National Guard in Salt Lake City, Utah, Aug. 30, 2006. White House photo by Eric Draper

groups like the Nazis that the world confronted in the 20th century. Countries that harbor or support terrorists are enemies of the United States, he reiterated. Turning to Iran, which faces an August 31 deadline from the U.N. Security Council to stop its uranium enrichment and reprocessing, Bush said the international community has offered that country a better course for the future if it abandons its quest for nuclear weapons.

html) outlining Bush's strategy for winning the War on Terror.

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

Most al-Qaida Members Are Married, Educated, Expert Says

By Carolee Walker
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Although terrorist training camps and shelters for terrorists' widows have been eliminated in Afghanistan, there has not been a decrease in loyalty to the dream that al-Qaida projects to young people, according to Marc Sageman, a psychiatrist and terrorism expert who participated in a State Department-sponsored webchat August 30.

"These are essentially romantic young people trying to build a better world. They are ready to sacrifice themselves for this dream, for this utopia. The more they see that their fellow Muslims are being shot at and killed, the more they are ready to join this social movement," Sageman said.

To date, all al-Qaida members have been Muslims, according to Sageman; however, the degree of devotion and their knowledge of Islam have varied greatly. "Basically, these are young men in a hurry," he said.

Al-Qaida members are people who use violence to achieve their goals, Sageman said. "This is what separates violent terrorists from people who play by the rules of society and are willing to effect changes within the social rules."

Surprisingly, Sageman said, three-fourths of al-Qaida terrorists are young, married men, and two-thirds of them have children, often several. During the golden age of al-Qaida, from 1996 to 2001, the group took responsibility for the care of the widows and families of its martyrs. It supported them fi-

nancially and provided housing in al-Qaida shelters in Jalalabad and Kandahar in Afghanistan. Today, widows of members who killed themselves during terrorist operations no longer are compensated.

Al-Qaida is an international group now with no formal command and control structure, according to Sageman. Most members of al-Qaida are more educated than their peers, he said, and often members are assimilated fully in communities, although lately they are becoming more distant and anti-social. About 62 percent are college-educated, he said.

"The real problem here is the lack of opportunity for educated people," maintained Sageman. "One of the most effective recipes for terrorism is universal education without any job prospects." He said there is discussion on jihadi forums on the Internet of this new trend encouraging terrorists to withdraw from society.

"This process of radicalization must be better understood," Sageman said.

Sageman suggested that governments urgently use law enforcement to arrest young people who are already terrorists but, more important, to prevent new generations from joining the terrorist social movement.

"This is a more comprehensive task, dealing with policy, communication, engagement of the Muslim community to argue that terrorism is beyond acceptable behavior," Sageman said. "The point is to concentrate on the violence part and try to negate it."

The monitoring of financial transactions and the general monitoring of communication among suspected terrorists, with some exceptions in Pakistan, effectively have cut off potential followers from the surviving leaders of al-Qaida, Sageman said. In general, leaders today do not know the identities of their followers and cannot support them financially even if they wished to do so. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/0904/ijee/ijee0904.htm>).

"If you look at most of the terrorist operations in the past three years," he said, "you realize that they were self-financed."

A discouraging aspect of the global fight against terrorism has been some countries' attempts to justify suppressing or eliminating domestic dissent, Sageman said. "The U.S. government should recognize this for what it is and distance itself from this trend," he said.

Sageman said he believes the U.S. government made the right decision when it called on the Uzbek government, which shares a common interest with the United States in fighting terrorism, to cease its repression of the country's population. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenlish&y=2006&m=August&x=20060811161006MVyelwarC0.9370844>).

Sageman is a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia, and a senior associate at the Center for Strategic and In-

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United Nations Says Action Needed on Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis

Washington – Data analyzed jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that extreme cases of drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) are on the rise, posing a “grave public health threat.”

Representatives of these two organizations will join other specialists at the Expert Consultation on Drug-Resistant TB, hosted by the South African Medical Research Council in Johannesburg, South Africa, September 7-8, to discuss the need for stronger preventative action against this dangerous form of TB, according to a September 5 WHO press release.

Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) describes strains of the bacterial disease that are resistant to at least two of the principal drugs in the pharmaceutical arsenal – isoniazid and rifampicin. The disease, which primarily affects the respiratory system, has developed resistance to the drugs mainly through poor implementation of therapy and incompleteness of the long course of treatment necessary.

Earlier this year, extensive drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) first was described by specialists as a form of the disease that does not respond to three or more TB drugs.

WHO and CDC have conducted a new analysis of disease data from 2000-2004 to find that XDR-TB

has been detected in all regions of the world, and is most prevalent in the countries of the former Soviet Union and Asia. In Latvia, for example, the researchers found that 19 percent of drug-resistant TB cases were the extreme form, compared to a 4 percent rate of XDR-TB in the United States.

A separate study conducted in Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa also revealed alarmingly high mortality rates for XDR-TB. More than 540 patients were studied, and 53 had cases that met the criteria for XDR-TB. Of those, 52 died within 25 days. More than 40 of those patients were co-infected with HIV.

“Given the underlying HIV epidemic,” according to the press release, “drug-resistant TB could have a severe impact on mortality in Africa and requires urgent preventative action.”

Because poor care has given rise to the emergence of MDR-TB in the first place, WHO recommends a strengthening of basic disease care, including:

Prompt diagnosis and treatment to cure existing cases and prevent further transmission.

Increased collaboration between HIV and TB control programs, and

Increased investment in laboratory infrastructures.

The full text (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/notes/2006/np23/en/index.html>) of the WHO press release is available on the organization’s Web site.

For additional information on diseases and international efforts to combat them, see Health (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/health.html).

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Good News, Bad News Reported on Afghan . . .

(Continued from page 17)

Taliban government cracked down on poppy cultivation, which resulted in reduced production for a year or so. Now Western and Afghan sources say the Taliban-led insurgency might be involved in the drug trade. "There is increasing evidence that the insurgency is using narcomoney to fund their activities," said Schweich. That gives anti-drug efforts more urgency, he said.

Central Afghanistan is less problematic than the south. Helmand province, increasingly plagued by insurgency, is expected to produce a record-breaking opium poppy crop. Yet Schweich said that even in Helmand a governor-led eradication program was "quite successful over the past 10 months." He said, "[T]he governor-led eradication got [13,000] or 14,000 hectares, close to 10 percent of the crop, over the past several

months." The operation built the confidence of Afghan forces that conducted it, he said. Not only is the eradication a deterrent, "the government shows it's capable of going into dangerous areas and asserting itself."

The U.N. report says that Afghanistan's neighbors in South and Central Asia are among the countries with the highest drug use: "More than half the world's opiates-abusing population live in Asia and the highest levels of opiates abuse are along the main drug-trafficking routes originating in Afghanistan."

But official corruption, insurgency and a weak government mean one step forward and two steps back. The INL sees containment of the drug trade in Afghanistan as a long-term project requiring sustained effort and assistance from the international community "over many years."

The full text (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/world_drug_report.html) of the World Drug Report 2006 is available on the UNODC Web site. The report is based on 2005 data.

For more information on U.S. policy, see Rebuilding Afghanistan (http://usinfo.state.gov/sa/rebuilding_afghanistan.html).

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Most al-Qaida Members Are Married, Educated, . . .

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International Studies in Washington. He is an independent researcher on terrorism and is the founder and principal of Sageman Consulting LLC in Rockville, Maryland.

For more information on efforts to fight terrorism five years after the September 11 attacks in the United States, see the State Department's eJournal USA, Rebuild-

ing and Resilience: Five Years After 9/11 (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0806/ijpe/ijpe0806.htm>), and Marc Sageman's essay, Common Myths about al-Qaida Terrorism (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0806/ijpe/sageman.htm>).

The transcript (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2006/Aug/30-467496.html>) Sageman's discussion and information on upcoming

webchats are available on Webchat Station.

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H5N1 Flu Does Not Pass Easily to Humans, Study Finds

By Charlene Porter
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Hundreds of Cambodian villagers tended sick birds around their homes, but showed no evidence of infection with the H5N1 virus when tested by an international team of researchers, according to a study published in the October edition of *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, a publication of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“This study provides evidence of the low transmissibility of the H5N1 virus from infected poultry to humans, even in circumstances in which human-poultry interactions are regular and intense,” says the study conducted by researchers at the Institut Pasteur in Cambodia, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, Australia National University, CDC and others.

The H5N1 virus is a highly pathogenic avian influenza strain that has spread to pandemic proportions among Asian birds, with more than 200 million dead. It has been found in domestic and wild birds in more than 50 countries and in regions other than Asia, and has killed more than 140 humans. Because this particular flu strain previously infected humans only rarely, international health officials warn that if H5N1 becomes easily transmissible among humans, an influenza pandemic could sweep the world.

The researchers focused their study on a Cambodian village in Kampot province where a 28-year-old man was infected with the

H5N1 virus in March 2005. Within a week after the man’s death, the researchers conducted surveys of families within a 1 kilometer radius of the patient’s household to determine how widely the illness might have appeared in birds and people in the same area.

The man who succumbed to avian influenza was a farmer who was known to have handled sick birds and eaten poultry that had died of suspected H5N1 illness. The farmer died within a week of his first symptoms, and his infection with the H5N1 virus was confirmed after testing of samples collected during his hospitalization.

In interviews with neighbors after the man’s death, the research team found evidence that “an H5N1 outbreak among numerous chicken flocks in the village” in the weeks before the farmer became ill. The villagers themselves gave blood samples to test for H5N1 antibodies to determine whether they had been exposed to the virus.

“Despite frequent direct contact with poultry suspected of having H5N1 infection, none of 351 participants from 93 households had neutralizing antibodies to H5N1,” the report says. None of the participants recalled having any respiratory illness during the 12-month period prior to the survey, despite regular, close contact with poultry, and in some cases, pigs.

The investigators report that they cannot come to a definitive conclusion on why only one person developed illness when so many others reported similar poultry expo-

sure, though they acknowledged a small chance that previous H5N1 levels might have been missed in the antibody testing.

The findings do provide the basis for suggesting that transmission to humans occurs in persons who have “unique host susceptibilities and a predisposition to an abnormal inflammatory response that results in severe and fatal outcomes,” the study says.

The villagers also had very different ways of handling their birds, the research team found, a variance that could be another factor in their vulnerability to infection. Some families kept their birds closer to the house, potentially reducing their contact with wild birds that might carry the virus, in comparison to families that allowed their birds to roam broadly.

The researchers further noted varying practices in tending poultry with some villagers cleaning stalls and cages more regularly than others, and removing potentially infectious materials.

“These findings may highlight the value of educating farmers about hygienic animal-handling practices,” the study said.

See the research in *Emerging Infectious Diseases* (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol12no10/06-0424.htm>).

(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., French Team Tracks Storm Formation with Weather Balloons

Washington -- To find out how some of the most dangerous hurricanes form, U.S. and French researchers are launching large, specialized balloons carrying nearly 300 instruments over wide swaths of Africa and the Atlantic Ocean.

The eastern tropical Atlantic Ocean is out of range for U.S. hurricane-hunter aircraft, and forecasters have little skill predicting which systems brewing there will develop into hurricanes, atmospheric scientists say.

The first launch of an instrumented balloon, called a driftsonde, took place at Zinder, Niger, August 28, according to an August 31 press release from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF).

Seven more driftsondes will be released from Zinder through late September, coinciding with the peak period of hurricane formation over the tropical Atlantic.

"Data from the driftsondes should help characterize the conditions that either foster or suppress hurricane formation," said Cliff Jacobs from NSF, who oversees support for the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Colorado.

Scientists and engineers at NCAR and the French space agency, Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), developed the driftsondes. NSF -- NCAR's primary sponsor -- and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration funded the research.

Each balloon will drift from Africa toward the Caribbean at heights of 20,000 to 21,000 meters, where light easterly winds prevail. Twice a day, each balloon will release an instrument called a dropsonde that falls by parachute, sensing the weather conditions during its 20-minute descent and sending data back to the balloon and then to the researchers by satellite.

Atlantic and Gulf coasts, the Caribbean and Central America.

"The driftsondes will provide unique data on the conditions that lead to Atlantic hurricanes," said NCAR scientist David Parsons, U.S. project coordinator. "They float at a speed close to the movement of the easterly waves, so we can stay above those waves and monitor them from their earliest stages."

To build the driftsonde system, scientists, engineers and machinists overcame many hurdles. Each driftsonde had to be robust enough to endure days of extreme stratospheric cold (averaging minus 62 degrees Celsius) and the intense sunlight in the high, thin atmosphere.

For the balloon deployment to be affordable and practical, the system also required low-cost, lightweight, off-the-shelf

instruments capable of operating reliably in low pressure and extreme temperatures with very low power.

Because of their flexible and relatively inexpensive nature, scientists believe that driftsondes might soon become a popular way to monitor and study many types of weather across the world's oceans and other remote regions.

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At the airport in Zinder, Niger, technicians from the French space agency (CNES) prepare for the historic launch on August 28 of the first driftsonde used for weather research. (Photos by Terry Hock, NCAR.)

Scientists will control the process from an operations center in Paris. If a weather system develops, they can signal the balloon to release more dropsondes -- as often as once per hour.

The Niger site was chosen to study weak weather systems, called easterly waves, which serve as "seedlings" of hurricanes.

Dozens of these waves move across Africa into the Atlantic between about 10 and 20 degrees north. A small number develop into tropical storms and hurricanes, some of which reach the U.S. At-

Data from U.S. Agencies Show Ozone Layer Is Recovering

Washington -- A new study using NASA and U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data finds consistent evidence that Earth's ozone layer is on the mend.

A team led by Eun-Su Yang of the Georgia Institute of Technology analyzed 25 years of independent ozone observations at different altitudes in Earth's stratosphere, which lies between 9.6 and 50 kilometers above the surface, according to an August 30 NASA press release.

The observations were gathered from balloons, ground-based instruments and NASA and NOAA satellites.

"At the current recovery rate," Yang said, "the atmospheric modeling community's best estimates predict the global ozone layer could be restored to 1980 levels -- the time that scientists first noticed the harmful effects human activities were having on atmospheric ozone -- some time in the middle of this century." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=August&x=20060824150850lcnirellep0.1721918>).

The stratosphere is Earth's second-lowest atmospheric layer. It contains about 90 percent of all atmospheric ozone.

The researchers concluded the Earth's protective ozone layer above the Polar Regions stopped thinning around 1997. Ozone in these areas declined steadily from 1979 to 1997.

The abundance of human-produced ozone-destroying gases such as chlorofluorocarbons peaked at about the same time -- 1993 in the lowest layer of the atmosphere, 1997 in the stratosphere.

Use of such substances was phased out after the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer came into force. The international agreement, to which the United States is a party, called for phasing out production and consumption of compounds that deplete ozone in the stratosphere -- chlorofluorocarbons, halons, carbon tetrachloride and methyl chloroform.

"Our study is unique because it measures changes in the ozone layer at all heights in the atmosphere," said Ross Salawitch, a senior research scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, "then compares the data with models as well as observations from other instruments that measure variations in the total amount of ozone in the atmosphere."

To measure ozone at different altitudes in the stratosphere, the team combined data from balloons and independent ground-based observing networks with monthly averaged satellite data. The satellite data came from five independent NASA and NOAA instruments.

Measurements were compared with computer predictions of ozone recovery that considered actual measured variations in human-produced ozone-destroying chemicals. The calculations accounted for other factors that can affect ozone levels, such as sunspot cy-

cle behavior, seasonal changes and stratospheric wind patterns.

The researchers concluded that about half the observed ozone change was in the region of the stratosphere above 18 kilometers and the rest in the lower stratosphere from 9.6 to 18 kilometers. The researchers attribute the ozone improvement above 18 kilometers almost entirely to the Montreal Protocol.

"Scientists expected the Montreal Protocol to be working in the middle and upper stratosphere and it is," said co-author Mike Newchurch of the University of Alabama. "The real surprise of our research was the degree of ozone recovery we found at lower altitudes, below the middle stratosphere."

There, he added, ozone levels are improving faster than expected, seemingly due to changes in atmospheric wind patterns, the causes of which are not yet well understood.

"Until the cause of the recent ozone increase in the lowermost stratosphere is better understood," Newchurch said, "making high-accuracy predictions of how the entire ozone layer will behave in the future will remain an elusive goal."

The full text (http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2006/aug/HQ_06300_Ozone.html) of the press release is available on the NASA Web site.

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Library of America Preserves, Spreads . . .

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lass and W.E.B. DuBois and the fiction of Richard Wright.

Novelists and playwrights of the American South are prominently represented through the works of James Agee, William Faulkner and Tennessee Williams, women by Edith Wharton, Willa Cather and Gertrude Stein. Immigrant writers from Isaac Bashevis Singer to Vladimir Nabokov are here.

The formula of reasonably priced collections of classic literature has

won a substantial audience, in many cases for works that long have been out-of-print. Annual sales total about a quarter-million books. LOA actively distributes its titles throughout Europe and Japan, and, through its "LOA Worldwide" program, has donated sets to libraries in such nations as Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Namibia.

For critic Norman Podhoretz, the Library of America "has grown into one of the glories of our civilization." As philanthropist Brooke Vincent Astor remarked on the release of the

first four LOA volumes, "Five hundred years from now, when they dig up the books, the literature of America will be here."

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United States Urges Sudan To Accept New U.N. . . .

(Continued from page 2)

The African Union said that it cannot continue to field its 7,000-troop mission and agreed that the United Nations should take over operations. But Sudan strongly has opposed a U.N.-led force.

Nevertheless, the sponsors of the resolution said they do not expect UNMIS to fight its way into the region. The resolution allows the United Nations to finalize the extensive planning and logistical work needed to field such a major peacekeeping operation and provide for a smooth transition from AMIS to the United Nations. It is also a strong signal of the Security Council's determination to live up to its responsibilities to the people of Darfur, they said.

The resolution authorizes the U.N. peacekeepers to "use all necessary means" to protect U.N. facilities and personnel, ensure the freedom of movement of U.N. personnel and humanitarian workers and prevent attacks and threats against civilians. U.N. troops will be stationed in buffer zones and demilitarized zones and inside camps for internally displaced persons.

UNMIS also will monitor movements of government troops and rebel groups, seize or collect weapons that violate cease-fire and peace agreements, and help with the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

The council has set September 8 for a high-level meeting to discuss the situation with Sudanese offi-

cial and representatives from other organizations such as the African Union, the Arab League and the Islamic Conference.

For further information, see Darfur Humanitarian Emergency (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/darfur.html>).

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