



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

State of the Union Address Conveys Presidential Agenda, Vision

Washington -- President Bush is scheduled to deliver his State of the Union address on the evening of January 31 to Congress, the nation and a worldwide television and Internet audience.



"State of the Union." This constitutional

serves several purposes. The speech reports on the condition of the United States both domestically and internationally, recommends a legislative agenda for the coming year and gives the president the opportunity to convey personally his vision for the nation.

The U.S. Constitution requires that the president report to Congress "from time to time" on the

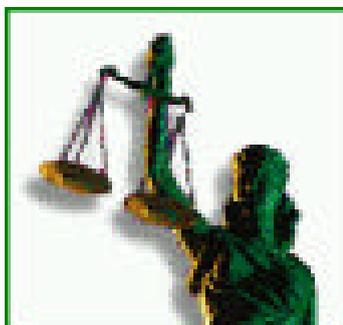
requirement has evolved into the president's annual State of the Union address, which now

Bush's 2005 speech
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The Rule of Law Provides Foundation for Democracy

By Alexandra Abboud
Washington File Staff
Writer

This article is the first in a series of three that explore the components of the rule of law.



The rule of law is a fundamental component of democratic society and is defined broadly as the principle that all members of society -- both citizens and rulers -- are bound by a set of clearly defined

and universally accepted laws. In a democracy, the rule of law is manifested in an independent judiciary, a free press and a system of checks and balances on leaders

through free elections and separation of powers among the branches of government.

Although a written constitution is not a necessary component of democracy -- for example, Great Britain does not have one -- in the United States, the rule of law is based primarily on the U.S. Constitution and on the assurance that U.S. laws -- in conjunction

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addressed a variety of domestic and international issues including the war on terrorism, the U.S. economy, and a plan for Social Security reform. The speech also emphasized continued U.S. support for democracy and freedom worldwide. "Our aim is to build and preserve a community of free and independent nations, with governments that answer to their citizens and reflect their own cultures," said Bush. "And because democracies respect their own people and their neighbors, the advance of freedom will lead to peace." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2005/Feb/02-506149.html>).

The tradition of the State of the Union address dates back to 1790 when George Washington, the first U.S. president, delivered his "Annual Message" to Congress in New York City, then the provisional capital of the United States. His successor John Adams, followed suit.

But the nation's third president, Thomas Jefferson, felt that such elaborate displays were not suitable for the new democratic republic. He delivered a written message rather than appearing in person. Jefferson's influence was such that for more than a century thereafter presidents delivered written Annual Messages to Congress.

In the early decades of the republic, most of these messages were lists of bills the president wanted the Congress to enact -- reflecting the tenor of the times and the practical problems involved in building the young American nation. The speeches also dealt with the international situation and

America's place in the world.

During the crisis that, more than any other, threatened the very existence of the American union -- the Civil War -- Abraham Lincoln wrote perhaps the most eloquent and memorable of all presidential messages sent to Congress.

"In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free -- honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve," wrote Lincoln in 1862.

In 1913, Woodrow Wilson revived the practice of delivering the Annual Message in person. This was a timely decision because the United States was on the eve of a mass media revolution that soon would bring presidents into the homes of Americans, first through radio, then by television.

With the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932, Americans became accustomed to hearing their presidents on radio as well as to seeing and hearing them on the newsreels at the movies.

In 1945, the Annual Message formally became known as the State of the Union address. It also became a television, as well as radio, staple as sales of television sets skyrocketed in the 1950s. In recognition of the power of television to deliver the president's words to a huge audience, President Lyndon Johnson shifted the time of the address from the traditional midday to evening when more viewers could watch.

The tradition of the opposition response began in 1966 when two Republican congressmen, including future President Gerald Ford, deliv-

ered a televised Republican response to President Johnson's State of the Union address.

The broadcast of the State of the Union address on television and the wide national and international audience it attracts -- an estimated 38 million viewers watched Bush's 2005 address -- have changed the fundamental nature of the message, according to political observers.

"As the audience has changed from inside the Beltway [a highway encircling Washington] to outside," says political scientist Paul C. Light, "the State of the Union has changed from a sometimes windy policy address to a major campaign event," in which the main audience is the American voter and those monitoring it overseas, rather than just American lawmakers.

This certainly will be true when President Bush delivers his State of the Union address on January 31. The 2006 address will mark the 217th Annual Message or State of the Union address and the 73rd such address delivered in person. Although there will be a major focus on domestic issues, both American and overseas observers will be listening closely to the president's words as he outlines his vision for the nation in the upcoming year and beyond.

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

The Rule of Law Provides Foundation for Democracy . . .

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with the Constitution -- are fair and are applied equally to all members of society.

In the United States, an independent judiciary, with the U.S. Supreme Court as the highest authority, has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring the government respects the rule of law and that all citizens are treated equally under the law.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, during the American Bar Association's November 11, 2005, International Rule of Law symposium, outlined what he believes are the three major components of the rule of law:

The government is bound by the law;

All people are treated equally under the law; and

The law recognizes that "in each person, there is a core of spirituality and dignity and humanity."

A GOVERNMENT "OF LAWS AND NOT OF MEN"

John Adams, who with Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, wrote in 1776 in his *Thoughts on Government*, "a republic is an empire of laws, and not of men."

In the U.S. legal system, the separation of powers as outlined in the U.S. Constitution ensures that the three branches of U.S. government, legislative (the Congress), judicial (the courts) and executive (the president and his Cabinet) are given certain powers that can be exercised only by one branch. This separation, according to the founders, ensures that one person or

group of people cannot concentrate all political power in their own hands, thereby creating a government that is run not by the whim of a few people, but rather by laws that are passed by Congress, a body that is elected by the people.

Practically speaking, for the U.S. government to act, several safeguards are in place to ensure that one branch cannot wield power without deference to the other branches.

Some examples of these safeguards include the president's ability to veto laws, and the Congress' authority to override vetoes only with a super majority of votes.

Because the U.S. Congress is a body of elected officials, those officials are charged with carrying out the will of the people who elected them. According to Kennedy, this provision ensures "the government is bound by the fact that the law must originate in the consciousness of the people."

The Supreme Court, the highest court in the U.S., ensures that laws, both federal and state, do not violate the rights of the people, which are enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. Even when Congress passes a law that is supported by the president, and enacted into law, a person who is affected by the law has a right to petition the courts if he or she believes the law violates rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. But for this system to work, it is necessary to ensure an independent judiciary.

According to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, establishing an independent judiciary is not an easy task. "Judicial independence just doesn't happen all by itself," she said. "It's very hard to

create, and it's easier than most people imagine to destroy."

An independent judiciary is one that is not subject to the whims of elected officials. Judges and lawyers in the United States are bound by judicial codes of conduct that clearly outline what judges may and may not do.

To ensure judicial independence in the United States, the judicial code of conduct, administered by the Judicial Conference (whose presiding officer is the chief justice of the United States and whose members include top judges from federal circuits and districts), outlines acceptable behavior. The Judicial Conference has committees that enforce the code and call judges to account if a complaint is made. Financial disclosure forms are required to avoid corruption. All of this, says O'Connor, "makes a tremendous difference in enabling the public of the nation to have a little bit of confidence in the impartiality and the fairness and integrity of the judges that are serving."

But even though judges are required to adhere to a code of conduct and can be called to account for not following the code, they are in no way held to account for independent decisions that they make in cases.

"Judges must be independent not so they can do as they choose, they're independent so they can do as they must," said Kennedy.

The judicial code of conduct (<http://www.uscourts.gov/guide/vol2/ch1.html>) is available on a Web site of the federal judiciary.

For more information, see *The Supreme Court of the United States: Highest Court in the Land* (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/0405/ijde/ijde0405.htm>).♦

Laura Bush Announces New U.S. Funds To Fight AIDS in Nigeria

By Charles W. Corey
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- U.S. first lady Laura Bush January 18 announced a new U.S. commitment of \$163 million to fight AIDS in Nigeria and presented an initial shipment of anti-retroviral drugs to the St.

Mary's Catholic Hospital outside the Nigerian capital of Abuja.

While in Nigeria she also said education is a Bush administration priority in Africa, adding that Americans share Africa's goals for greater economic development.

The anti-retroviral drugs presented at the hospital seek to strengthen efforts to prevent mother-to-child transmission of the deadly virus and will be used to treat more than 500 patients now living with HIV/AIDS.

The first lady was in Nigeria on the third and final stop of an African trip that also took her to Liberia and Ghana.

While in Nigeria, the first lady also visited the National Center for Women Development. Addressing the women at the center, she said, "The people of the United States share your goal, and the women of the United States know your struggle.

"It was only in the last century, 150 years after our Declaration of

Independence," she reminded her audience, "that women attained the vote in the United States. Young girls need role models whose lives are examples of achievement," she said.

The first lady also reminded everyone that African women increas-

"The question we must answer now is how do we nurture the development of the next generation of women leaders in Africa and worldwide," she said, offering education as the answer to that question.

"Education is the foundation of a happy and healthy life. Educated children grow up to be adults who have more opportunities to work, to support their families, and to fully participate in the life of their communities.

"Sadly," she told her audience, "too many children around the world do not have access to education." She called the problem "particularly acute" in sub-Saharan Africa.

"The people of the United States believe in Africa's future," the first lady, a former librarian and teacher, said, pledging that the United States would work with African nations to make education more widely available.

"Education in Africa is a priority for President Bush," she said, noting that the Africa Education Initiative is a \$600 million commitment to provide books, scholarships, school uniforms and teacher training so that more children can attend school.

The initiative includes funding to train 920,000 teachers in 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. As of



Laura Bush holds hands with an HIV positive mother during a prayer at St. Mary's Hospital in Gwagwalada, Nigeria, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2006

ingly are assuming leadership roles in their governments.

"On Monday, the world witnessed the inauguration of Liberia's president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. President Johnson-Sirleaf is the first woman to be elected the leader of an African nation. This is a historic time -- for Liberia, for Africa, and for women everywhere," she said. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=January&x=20060115195514niremydolem0.2297632&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>).)

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Laura Bush Announces New U.S. Funds To Fight AIDS in Nigeria . . .

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December 2005, more than 300,000 new and experienced teachers had received training. The initiative also has facilitated the shipment of more than 2 million books to African schools and libraries. (See fact sheet (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Jul/01-640358.html>).

A major goal of President Bush's Africa Education Initiative is to enroll more girls in school, she said. To meet that goal, the United States sponsors the Ambassadors' Girls' Scholarship Program, which will provide 550,000 scholarships to girls at the primary and secondary level. So far, she said, 120,000 scholarships have been provided in 40 countries. The scholarships pay for tuition, fees, books, uniforms and other essential supplies.

"The people of the United States are pleased to work with schools in Nigeria to make education a reality for thousands of students. We support these scholarships, because we believe that investing in a child's education will produce benefits many times over in the future," she said.

THE LINK BETWEEN EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Education is important, the first lady said, because education produces many social benefits, per-

haps none greater than better health.

She said the United States is working with governments and private organizations throughout Africa to prevent HIV/AIDS, and to provide treatment and care to those who are already infected by the disease. Educated girls and boys are more likely to know what HIV is and how to prevent infection.

"Through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the people of the United States are supporting treatment for more than 400,000 men, women and children in 15 focus countries, including 29,000 people in Nigeria," the first lady said, adding that the United States' partnership with Nigeria, led by Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, has been a vital component of this success.

The Nigerian leader, she said, stood with President Bush and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the White House in the Rose Garden in December 2002 for the announcement of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2002&m=December&x=20021202113026eichler@pd.state.gov0.8355219&t=xarchives/xarchitem.html>).

In 2004, the first lady said, the United States provided Nigeria with almost \$71 million through the PEPFAR program, to prevent, treat and manage the effects of HIV/AIDS. In 2005, she said, the United States provided more than \$110 million, and she again reminded everyone of her announcement earlier in the day that in 2006, the United States is providing more than \$163 million to overcome HIV/AIDS in Nigeria.

"The United States is proud to work with the people of Nigeria on many important issues. We will continue to work together to help the next generation reach its full potential," she concluded.

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

A transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/01/20060118-2.html>) of the first lady's remarks is available on the White House Web site.

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

United States Welcomes Slovene President's Darfur Initiative

By Jeffrey Thomas
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States welcomes Slovene President Janez Drnovsek's willingness to marshal additional international resources to provide aid for the estimated 1.8 million internally displaced persons in Sudan's western Darfur region and 200,000 refugees in Chad, the State Department said January 23.

Drnovsek held a press conference on the initiative January 18 at the United Nations headquarters in New York. "The World for Darfur" initiative, which is sponsored by Slovene humanitarian organizations as well as by the Slovene government, is intended to provide shelter, water, food and schools for 10,000 Sudanese.

Acknowledging the "modest" scale of Slovenia's aid package given the magnitude of the humanitarian emergency in Darfur, Drnovsek said the initiative also is aimed at generating greater awareness about the crisis, which has resulted in as many as 180,000 deaths and has displaced millions in the past three years.

"While the parties continue to seek a political solution to the crisis in Darfur and the African Union Mission in Sudan strives to monitor the fragile cease-fire agreement, there remains the daunting daily task of caring for the innocent victims of this humanitarian tragedy," the State Department said in a January 23 statement welcoming the initiative. "It is expressions of generosity as es-

poused by President Drnovsek and the Slovenian people that stand to benefit the 3.4 million people currently affected by the political and humanitarian crisis in Darfur."

President Bush was the first head of state to speak out publicly on the unfolding violence and atrocities in Darfur in 2004, and the



President of Slovenia Janez Drnovsek reacts to a question during a news conference on the humanitarian crisis in Sudan's war-ravaged Darfur region Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2006, at the United Nations in New York. (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

United States was the first country to call for action in the United Nations Security Council, as well as later providing \$160 million to help fund an African Union (AU) peace-keeping mission to Darfur.

The United States, which has facilitated talks on the conflict in Abuja, Nigeria, has held the Khartoum government and Khartoum-backed militias called the Jingoite responsible for much of the violence in Darfur.

"We continue to make categorically clear the responsibility of the government of Sudan -- now the government of national unity -- to both end support of the Jingoite and to work actively to stop its actions while ensuring the discipline with the government of national unity's own forces," Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer told a House subcommittee on Africa November 1, 2005. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2005/Nov/03-953040.html>.)

In fiscal year 2005, the United States provided more than \$650 million in humanitarian assistance and support to the AU peace-keeping mission, and more than \$450 million in reconstruction and humanitarian assistance to other areas in Sudan.

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

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

United States Offers Condolences for Peacekeepers Killed in Congo

The United States offered its condolences January 23 to the families of eight Guatemalan peacekeepers killed in operations of the U.N. Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

According to the U.N. News Centre, the eight, along with five other peacekeepers who were injured, were seeking Ugandan rebels who had displaced thousands of local civilians from a park.

The peacekeepers had been engaged in reconnaissance operations for the past 10 days against suspected elements of the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), the United Nations said. These elements were reported to be present in the Garamba National Park in the Haut Uélé district of eastern DRC, about 70 kilometers from the border with Sudan.

"We join with the United Nations and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in condemning the threat posed by foreign and domestic armed groups operating in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said in a statement, underscoring U.S. support for U.N. Security Council Resolution 1649, which calls for the elimination of these armed groups.

Following is the text of the State Department statement:

(begin text)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
January 23, 2006



U.N. peacekeepers patrol on the streets of Bunia, the main town in north-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo's troubled Ituri district.
REUTERS/David Lewis/Files

Statement by Sean McCormack, Spokesman

UN Peacekeepers Killed in Democratic Republic of Congo

The United States offers its condolences to the families of eight courageous and dedicated Guatemalan peacekeepers who were killed during operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The peacekeepers were part of a mission against the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in northeastern DRC. We also ex-

press our concern for the welfare of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) peacekeepers and Congolese armed forces soldiers injured during the operation.

We join with the United Nations and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in condemning the threat posed by foreign and domestic armed groups operating in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We underscore our support for United Nations Security Council Resolution 1649, which calls for the elimination of these armed groups, and we commend the UN and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for its robust action to end the threat posed by the presence of the Lord's Resistance Army and other militia.

(end text)

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U.S. Navy Captures Suspected Pirates Off Somali Coast

Washington -- The U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill captured a group of suspected pirates in the Indian Ocean January 21, approximately 87 kilometers (54 miles) off the coast of Somalia, the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command announced in a press release the same date.

Personnel aboard the destroyer acted after receiving a report of an attempted piracy from the International Maritime Bureau in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on the morning of January 20, according to the release.

The U.S. Naval Forces Central Command said the USS Winston Churchill and other U.S. naval forces in the area located the suspected pirate vessel and reported its position after receiving the report. The Churchill, which is attached to the U.S. 5th Fleet, then shadowed the vessel through the night and into the morning of January 21.

At 8:03 a.m. local time January 21, the Churchill began querying the pirate vessel over ship-to-ship radio. The Churchill requested that the crew leave the vessel and board the two small boats the vessel had in tow.

Following repeated unsuccessful attempts to establish communications with the vessel, the Churchill began "aggressive maneuvering" in an attempt to stop the vessel,

which continued on its course and speed.

At 11:31 a.m., the Churchill fired warning shots and the suspected pirate vessel stopped dead in the water. At 1:02 p.m. local time, the Churchill issued a warning via ship-to-ship radio that it would begin



A boarding team from the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill approaches a suspected pirate vessel to conduct a boarding and inspection at sea, on Saturday Jan. 21, 2006 in the Indian Ocean. AP Photo/ U.S. Navy Kenneth Anderson, HO

taking further actions to force the crew to respond to questioning and depart the vessel.

The Churchill fired additional warning shots at 2:21 p.m. Immediately following that action, the crew of the suspected pirate vessel established communications by radio and indicated that they would begin sending personnel to the Churchill via their small boat in tow.

At 2:54 p.m., the master of the suspected pirate vessel began sending members of his crew to

the Churchill. U.S. Navy sailors from the Churchill then boarded the suspect vessel and discovered small-arms weapons on board.

The Churchill is part of a multinational task force patrolling the western Indian Ocean and Horn of Africa region to thwart terrorist activity and other lawlessness.

AREA PLAGUED BY PIRACY

Waters off the coast of Somalia have been plagued by recent attempts at piracy targeted against international shipping. Somalia currently is torn by renewed clashes between militias fighting for control of the country.

In November 2005, Somali pirates freed a Ukrainian ore carrier and its 22-member crew after holding it for 40 days. It was unclear whether a \$700,000 ransom demanded by the pirates had been paid.

Also in that month, two boats full of pirates approached a cruise ship carrying Western tourists about 160 kilometers (100 miles) off the coast of Somalia and fired rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles.

The crew of the cruise ship used a weapon that directs ear-splitting noise at attackers and then the cruise ship was able to take evasive action and speed away. ♦

Millennium Aid Agency Becoming More Assertive, Chief Says

By Kathryn McConnell
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is becoming more "assertive" in working with countries to help them develop and implement effective proposals for its aid funds, MCC's chief executive officer says.

To further assist countries that might apply for funding, MCC January 24 issued guidelines to help ensure that countries propose development projects that comply with environmental regulatory requirements, said John Danilovich.

The MCC, a U.S. government corporation designed to help poor countries achieve sustainable economic development, is based on the principle that aid is most effective when it reinforces sound political, economic and social policies. The MCC administers the funds appropriated to the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA).

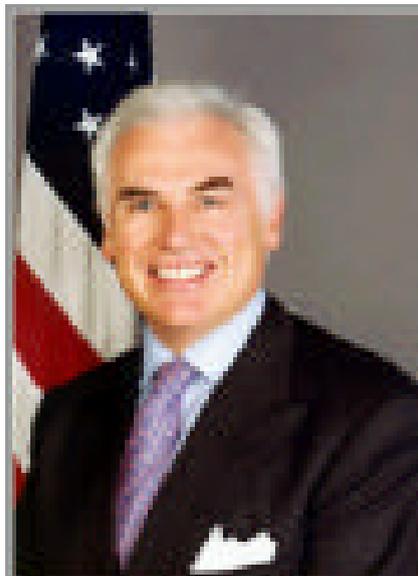
Although MCC will work with countries that are "serious about reducing poverty," it will not grant aid to a country if it wavers from its proposed goals or if it continues to suffer from "corruption, poor governance and instability," Danilovich said.

"We will not hesitate to say 'no' or 'no more'" to a country, Danilovich said January 23 at the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington-based policy research group.

As an example of its ability to say no, Danilovich said that MCC decided to postpone sending a project-evaluation team to The Gam-

bia because of deterioration in the country's human-rights and political situations.

MCC conducts this examination process with all countries that it has determined are eligible for funding consideration.



John Danilovich
MCC's chief executive officer

The corporation also delayed its decision to approve MCA funding for Armenia based on concerns about reported "irregularities" during the country's November 2005 constitutional referendum, according to MCC.

Consistent with its practice of working with countries to help them understand the MCA grant proposal process, the agency suggested to the president of Armenia "corrective steps" his government could take to regain the MCC's confidence. On January 18, MCC said it would recommend to the MCC board approval of Armenia's request for funding to improve its

agricultural water infrastructure, and for technical assistance and credit support.

Danilovich spoke just prior to traveling to Morocco and Benin, which have both submitted proposals for MCA funding. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=January&x=20060123171333WCyeroCO.3181421&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>).)

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR EXPECTED IN 2006

In addition to the environmental guidelines, MCC is expected in 2006 to add to its list of country performance "indicators" one pertaining to the effective management of natural resources.

MCC uses indicators -- or qualifying standards -- developed with measurements from independent institutions such as Transparency International, Freedom House and the World Bank, to determine if a country is eligible to apply for its funding for multiyear projects. There currently are 16 indicators grouped into three categories: ruling justly, investing in people and economic freedom, according to the agency.

A standard highlighting environmental protection could be incorporated into an existing indicator, Danilovich.

The current indicators, which have evolved since the MCC became operational in early 2004, are "solid" ways to determine the degree to which a country's politi-

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New Challenges Call for New Diplomatic Strategies, Rice Says

By Rebecca Ford Mitchell
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – A more integrated world with global threats -- terrorism, weapons proliferation, diseases, and trafficking in persons and drugs -- requires new diplomatic strategies, says Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Speaking at Georgetown University in Washington January 18, Rice said the United States is now engaged in transformational diplomacy, which means working with foreign citizens to help them "build and sustain democratic, well-governed states that will respond to the needs of their people and conduct themselves responsibly in the international system."

"Let me be clear," she added. "Transformational diplomacy is rooted in partnership, not in paternalism; in doing things with people, not for them."

Rice said today's diplomatic challenges, such as encouraging democracy to the Middle East, are difficult, but that America has met formidable challenges in the past.

"In 1946 and 1947, Germans were still starving in Europe. In 1946, Communists won big minorities in Italy and in France. In 1947, there was civil war in Greece; there was civil conflict in Turkey. In 1948, Czechoslovakia fell to a Communist coup; Ger-

many was permanently divided in Berlin. And, in 1949, the Soviet Union exploded a nuclear weapon five years ahead of schedule, and the Chinese Communists won. This wasn't just a kind of minor setback for democracy, these were huge strategic setbacks," she said.



US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice speaks at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Rice spoke about "Transformational Diplomacy: Meeting the Challenge of the 21st Century." (AFP/Getty Images/Alex Wong)

Now, however, Europe is whole, prosperous and at peace, Rice said, because of the U.S. commitment to democratic values.

In Iraq, she said, "It's difficult for people who have solved their differences, their entire existence by fighting and by coercion and by repression and by violence, it's really hard for them to find a way to resolve their differences by politics instead, and by compromise. It's really hard in Afghanistan, where you still have terrorists who will blow up innocent children at a moment's notice. It's really hard to go to a place like Jordan and see this hotel where this wedding

party, of all things, was blown up by a suicide bomber. It's hard to see the difficulties that the Palestinian people live with every day. It's really hard. But it's been hard before for countries that made it."

We have seen the alternative to democracy, she said, in Afghanistan under Taliban-rule where al-Qaida freely operated and in the Darfur region of Sudan. (See [Rebuilding Afghanistan \(http://usinfo.state.gov/sa/rebuilding_afghanistan.html\)](http://usinfo.state.gov/sa/rebuilding_afghanistan.html) and [Darfur Humanitarian Emergency \(http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/darfur.html\)](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/darfur.html).)

"Democracy is hard and democracy takes time," she said, "but democracy is always worth it."

TRANSFORMATIONAL DIPLOMACY INITIATIVE

Today's diplomats must do more than report on countries and analyze policy, Rice said; they must support the growth of democracy and be "first-rate administrators of programs, capable of helping foreign citizens to strengthen the rule of law, to start businesses, to improve health and to reform education."

The secretary said that the new front lines of U.S. diplomacy are in the transitional countries of Africa, Latin America and the Middle East and the emerging regional leaders like India, China, Brazil,

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cal, social and economic policies serve to promote broad-based sustainable economic development, Danilovich said.

EMPOWERING POOR COUNTRIES

Danilovich said MCC's goal is to become an agency with expectations of "clear, measurable results [of its aid recipients] at the front end and with an exit strategy at the back end."

"The MCC is about ... empowering poor countries to grow out of the poverty trap," he said.

"We believe that a great many of the poor will thrive if they are provided access to economic systems and if wealth creation strategies are made available to them," he said.

The MCC currently is working with 23 "eligible" countries and 18 "threshold" countries, or countries that are close to being considered eligible to apply for funding. (See

related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/Archive/2005/Nov/09-949636.html>).

The agency has signed and is implementing five compacts (funding agreements) -- with Madagascar, Honduras, Cape Verde, Nicaragua and Georgia -- and two threshold agreements-- with Burkina Faso and Malawi, Danilovich said.

He said three more compacts are close to completion and that more compacts and threshold agreements are expected by the end of 2006.

During 2006, the agency will examine ways to increase its cooperation with the private sector to boost development efforts, Danilovich said.

The MCC is a "unique and excellent program which ... will help us as a nation to continue to entrench and deepen our democracy, create a vibrant society and ensure a better life for future generations," Jose Brito, Cape Verde's ambassa-

dor to the United States, said at the same event.

In addition to the chief executive officer, the MCC is managed by a board of directors comprising the secretaries of State and Treasury, the U.S. trade representative, the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and four people from the private sector.

Danilovich's January 23 prepared remarks (http://www.mcc.gov/public_affairs/speeches/012306_JDD_2nd_anniversary_AEI.shtml) are available on the MCC Web site, as is the full text (http://www.mcc.gov/guidance/FY06/Environmental_Guidelines.pdf) of the environmental guidelines (PDF, 15 pages).

For additional information, see Millennium Challenge Account (http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/mca.html). ♦

New Challenges Call for New Diplomatic Strategies, Rice Says . . .

(Continued from page 10)

Egypt, Indonesia and South Africa. The U.S. diplomatic corps should be repositioned to reflect that reality, she said.

In 2006, Rice said, the United States will move 100 positions from Europe and Washington to countries like China, India, Nigeria and Lebanon. Another of the goals, she said, is to spread the U.S. diplomatic presence beyond foreign capitals.

"There are nearly 200 cities worldwide with over 1 million people in which the United States has no formal diplomatic presence," she said. "This is where the action is today, and this is where we must be."

The State Department, she said, will develop more American presence posts, like those currently in Egypt and Indonesia, where diplomats live and work in communities outside the embassy, engaging in discussions with private citizens as

well as government officials. In addition, the department is exploring virtual presence posts in which foreign citizens can meet with U.S. diplomats via the Internet.

A transcript (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/59306.htm>) of Rice's remarks and fact sheet (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/59339.htm>) on transformational diplomacy are available on the State Department Web site.

♦

Reorganization Places Foreign Aid Decisions Under One Official

By Bruce Odessey
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Responsibility for directing U.S. foreign assistance rests with a single new leader within the State Department under an organizational change announced by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Rice named Randall Tobias, a former business executive who two years ago launched and led President Bush's emergency plan for global HIV/AIDS relief, to serve as this new director of foreign assistance for both the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Bush announced his intention to nominate Tobias as USAID administrator, succeeding Andrew Natsios; Tobias would serve concurrently as foreign assistance director and USAID administrator if confirmed by the Senate for the USAID position.

"The current structure of U.S. foreign assistance risks incoherent policies and ineffective programs and perhaps even wasted resources," Rice said January 19 in making the announcement. "We can do better, and we must do better."

The secretary said existing foreign assistance programs are too fragmented to plan coherent policy

or align such spending with foreign policy goals, especially the goal of preventing failed states such as Afghanistan was prior to U.S. intervention.

According to the State Department, Tobias has authority over planning, implementing and over-

entire U.S. federal government, including development of country plans, as well as provide guidance to the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the Office of Global AIDS Coordinator, according to a State Department fact sheet.



U.S. Secretary Condoleezza Rice, left, smiles after announcing that Ambassador Randall Tobias, right, has been named to coordinate the Bush administration's \$18 billion foreign aid programs and make them more effective, at the State Department in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 19, 2006. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

seeing all foreign assistance spending by the department and USAID -- about 80 percent of all such U.S. spending, \$19 billion or more this year in 18 separate spending accounts.

"We believe that, if we can more effectively align these two agencies, it will be easier to get coordination within the U.S. government writ large" on foreign assistance spending, a senior State Department official, who asked not to be identified, told reporters.

Tobias will develop a coordinated foreign assistance strategy for the

The administration already has acted to redirect foreign assistance spending from an agency outside State and USAID to promote a foreign policy goal. The unidentified official cited the department's Office of the Coordinator for Stabilization and Reconstruction, which has authority to redirect money from the Defense Department.

"We've made some moves in that direction and we hope to continue to move in that direction," the official said.

The official said that, for now, the administration is not asking for any changes in the accounts themselves, which are dedicated to a wide range of goals including fighting illegal drug trade, promoting economic development and building democracy.

NO NEW LAW NEEDED TO AUTHORIZE CHANGE, RICE SAYS

According to Rice, the organizational change requires no legislation. She added, however, she intends to ask Congress for legisla-

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United States To Begin Issuing New, Secure Passport Cards in 2006

By Anthony Kujawa
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States anticipates issuing a new, secure passport card for land border crossings by the end of 2006, an alternative to the traditional passport book that will meet the proposed documentation requirements of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, according to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff.

"As we add these new documentation requirements ... we want to make sure we're doing it in a way that continues to support the free movement of people and cargo across the border," Chertoff said at the State Department January 17, announcing with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice a joint vision for secure borders and open doors in the information age.

The three-part plan to welcome visitors to the United States without compromising security, aims to renew America's welcome with improved technology and efficiency; develop travel documents for the 21st century; and create "smarter screening" of travelers. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Jan/17-781544.html>) and fact sheet (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Jan/17-319770.html>).

Chertoff said the passport card will meet the statutory mandates

of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, which stipulates that anyone applying for admission to the United States, including U.S. citizens, must present secure travel documents that denote citizenship and serve as proof of identity. Other forms of identification, less secure than a passport, historically have been accepted for citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda.



U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, left, speaks at a joint news conference with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, right, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2006, at the Department of State in Washington. (AP Photo/Haraz N. Ghanbari)

Officials say the goal of the program is to strengthen border security and make it faster and simpler for U.S. citizens and foreign travelers both to enter and leave the United States.

The program stems from the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, signed into law by President Bush in December 2004. The 2004 law mandated that the secretary of homeland security, in consultation with the secretary of state, de-

velop and implement a plan to require U.S. citizens and foreign nationals to present a passport or other secure document when entering the United States, regardless of the country of origin.

Homeland Security and State formally proposed regulations to implement the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative September 1, 2005. If adopted, those regula-

tions would take effect in phases, applying the new passport or secure document requirement to air and sea travel to or from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda as of December 31, 2006. By December 31, 2007, the passport requirement would extend to all land border crossings. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng->

[lish&y=2005&m=September&x=20050901150605AS-relliM0.9521295&t=xarchives/xarchitem.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2005&m=September&x=20050901150605AS-relliM0.9521295&t=xarchives/xarchitem.html)).

SEARCH FOR "INEXPENSIVE, EFFICIENT, INTEROPERABLE" SYSTEM

Rice and Chertoff formally announced that the United States is committed to making a cheaper, secure alternative to the passport book by 2006 for U.S. citizens in

(Continued on page 15)

Equal Protection Essential Component of Rule of Law

By Alexandra Abboud
Washington File Staff Writer

This article is the second in a series of three that explores the components of the rule of law.

Washington -- Equal protection under the law is a fundamental component of the rule of law and ensures that all federal and state laws are applied to citizens of the United States equally, regardless of their race, religion, gender or minority status. This tenet has been the catalyst for much of the social progress made in the United States in the 20th century.

Equal protection is outlined in the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Constitution is the highest U.S. law, and is viewed as a document that ultimately protects citizens' freedom and fundamental rights. Although some democracies do not have constitutions, in the United States, the Constitution plays a unique and fundamental role in maintaining the rule of law.

"We use the Constitution to define the meaning of our own existence as a nation, said U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy about the role of the Constitution in the United States.

"Americans come from many backgrounds, from many countries, but in large part they define themselves as being one people because of the Constitution."

In 1868, the U.S. Congress adopted the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. Congress may propose a Constitutional amendment with a two-thirds vote of

those present; the amendment then must be ratified by three-fourths of the states to become effective. Part one of the amendment secures equal protection of the law for all citizens of the United States: "No state [may]... deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

The principle of equal protection did not appear in the first draft of



the U.S. Constitution but, over time, through historical changes, the 14th Amendment and Supreme Court cases that interpreted and applied that amendment have become a foundation of U.S. democracy and the rule of law.

The 14th Amendment ensured that the Constitution's Fifth Amendment, which requires due process, applies to state governments as well. This provision offered protection for all citizens from unjust state and federal laws, including state laws that allowed slavery-like conditions for black Americans, even after the abolition of slavery by the 13th Amendment. (See also Equal Protection of

the Law (<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/rightsof/equal.htm>.)

The 14th Amendment, which was ratified soon after the end of the Civil War and the abolition of slavery originally seemed to apply only to cases involving racial discrimination. However, the Supreme Court, through various rulings, expanded the equal protection clause to include the concept that the law must treat all people alike. If a law discriminated against a person or group of people, and the motivation for that law was hostility toward a group, the law could be found unconstitutional.

Although the equal protection clause does not list specific forms of discrimination, it has been held to cover those discriminated against on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender or religious beliefs. Anyone who believes that state or federal law unjustly affects him or her may bring an equal protection claim before the Supreme Court.

AMENDMENT ALLOWS FOR EVOLUTION OF LAWS

The 14th Amendment allows laws to evolve over time and address the needs of citizens, Justice Kennedy has said. "We are blind to the injustices of our own times," he said. "It would be unwise to have an exclusive list of those classifications that deserve equal protection."

The equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution throughout U.S. history has been used as the basis for reversing social and legal

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Equal Protection Essential Component of Rule of Law . . .

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injustices, such as school segregation and discrimination against women in the workplace.

One of the most famous 14th Amendment cases decided by the Supreme Court is the 1954 decision *Brown v. Board of Education* in which the court held that racial segregation in schools denied black children equal protection under the law.

"Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal," wrote Chief Justice Earl Warren in the unanimous decision. "Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs and others ... are, by reason of the segregation complained of, deprived of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment."

In 1996, the Supreme Court ruled 7-1 in *United States v. Virginia* that an all-male military academy violated the 14th Amendment by allowing only men to attend.

Although the institution suggested that a comparable all-female institution could be formed, the court ruled that the institution did not show "exceedingly persuasive justification" for not allowing women to attend the institution, therefore the institution had violated female applicants' equal protection rights.

"The Court has repeatedly recognized that neither federal nor state government acts compatibly with the equal protection principle when a law or official policy denies to women, simply because they are women, full citizenship stature -- equal opportunity to aspire,

achieve, participate in and contribute to society based on their individual talents and capacities," said Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in the opinion of the court.

The Supreme Court hears several cases each term in which petitioners claim that their 14th Amendment rights to equal protection have been violated, demonstrating that the right to equal protection continues to be one of the most important and powerful elements of U.S. democracy and the rule of law.

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United States To Begin Issuing New, Secure Passport Cards in 2006 . . .

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border communities who frequently cross land borders.

"We continue to consult very closely with our Canadian and Mexican partners in the Security and Prosperity Partnership and with our other allies in this part of the world about how to best facilitate border movement in a way that is consistent with the law and security," Chertoff said.

"[O]ur first step is to develop an inexpensive, efficient, interoperable travel card system," he added.

The Homeland Security secretary said the passport card would be particularly useful for those citizens in border communities who regularly cross northern and southern borders. "We're talking about essentially like the kind of driver's license or other simple card identification that almost all of us carry in our wallets day in and day out," he said.

Chertoff called the passport card "an important first step" in implementing a broader shared vision for a unified, user-friendly system for "trusted travelers."

He also said the United States is working to establish a global enrollment network that will unify the various registered traveler programs into a single comprehensive system.

"The idea here is to get necessary information only one time from an applicant, and then create a system and architecture that allows both DHS and State Department officers to get access to this data to confirm the traveler's identity," he said.

The State Department anticipates that the border-crossing cards cur-

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Wilson Pickett Dead at 64

By Michael Jay Friedman
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Wilson Pickett, one of the most influential figures of 1960s soul music and a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, died January 19 of a heart attack. He was 64.

Known for a string of 1960s hits including "Mustang Sally," "In the Midnight Hour," and "Land of 1000 Dances," Pickett was among the artists who popularized 1960s soul and rhythm and blues (R&B).

Born in Prattville, Alabama, Pickett during his teenage years moved to Detroit, where he formed a local gospel band and was invited to join the Falcons, a successful R&B group and subsequently signed a solo contract with Atlantic Records.

Atlantic maintained working relationships with two of the premier southern soul music labels, Memphis-based Stax Records, and Fame Records, located in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. At the former, Pickett worked with Jerome "Jerry" Wexler, the renowned producer who recorded such artists as Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles and the Drifters, and cut "In the Midnight Hour," a track described by one critic as "a key transitional performance that brought R&B into the soul age."

Pickett's Memphis and Muscle Shoals recordings featured such sidemen as Steve Cropper of Booker T and the MGs, and Duane Allman, later of the Allman Brothers Band.

Pickett was known for his trademark raw voice and rough, highly

a soul band with the goal of meeting and performing with Pickett.

A highly praised 1992 compilation, *A Man and a Half*, offered remastered versions of Pickett's 1960s and 1970s hit recordings.

Pickett's last album, *It's Harder Now*, (1999) earned a Grammy nomination and three W.C. Handy Awards from the Blues Foundation.

His influence as a songwriter spanned genres. Among the artists recording his compositions were Led Zeppelin, Bruce Springsteen and Creedence Clearwater Revival.

Producer Wexler recounted Pickett's intense, raw vocal style for the Chicago Tribune: "James Brown would

scream and it was a scream, but Wilson could scream notes. His voice was powerful, like a buzz saw, but it wasn't ever out of his control, it was always melodic."

For information on other famous Americans, see U.S. Life and Culture (http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life_and_culture.html).

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Soul legend Wilson Pickett, pictured in 2000, best known for songs like "In The Midnight Hour" and "Mustang Sally" died of a heart attack. He was 64. (AFP/File/Eric Cabanis)

emotive vocals -- a contrast to his fellow Stax artist Otis Redding.

Although known primarily for his Stax and Fame recordings, Pickett cut a number of 1970s hits for Kenneth Gamble and Leon Huff, the Philadelphia-based producers whose smoother and more complex arrangements are known today as the "Philadelphia Sound," and represent a transition between 1960s soul and 1980s disco.

Pickett's popularity spiked in 1991 with the release of the movie and soundtrack *The Commitments*, an adaptation of Roddy Doyle's 1987 novel about a group of unemployed Dubliners who form

No Truce with al-Qaida or Osama bin Laden Possible, Cheney Says

Washington -- The Bush administration rejected an alleged truce offering from Osama bin Laden after the Arab television network al-Jazeera broadcast an audiotape January 19 purportedly made by the al-Qaida leader.

"We do not negotiate with terrorists," said Vice President Cheney in an appearance on Fox television the same day.

"Not only have they struck here in the United States, but we've had attacks all over the world in places like Madrid, in Casablanca, and Istanbul, and Bali, and Jakarta. This is not an organization that sits down and signs a truce. I think you have to destroy them."

Because this is the first time bin Laden has been heard from in more than a year, Cheney said it would be important to determine not only when the tape was made, but if it is "something pieced together from the past."

The tape contains threats of further violence against the United States. The vice president said that he believes problems with al-Qaida would continue even without bin Laden.

"We see ample evidence of continued plotting against the United States," he said. "We continue to work aggressively against the or-

ganization -- I think with considerable success. But I think we have to assume that the threat is going to continue for a considerable period of time."

Cheney said the counterterrorism actions taken by the Bush administration have prevented terrorist incidents in the United States since September 11, 2001, attacks in New York and Washington.

"You cannot, obviously, make any promises that it won't happen again in the future. ... But the fact of the matter is, we've done some very good work at interrupting the activities of the enemy, of disrupting proposed plots, of capturing and killing al-Qaida," he said.

Nonetheless, Cheney said, it is important for people everywhere to maintain their guards and not become complacent about the risk from terrorists.

In a January 19 interview with CNBC television, the vice president said the United States continues to use diplomatic means to halt Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and expressed concern about "outrageous" statements made by Iran's current president, Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad, calling for the destruction of Israel. He criticized the current political system in Iran, under which Ahmadi-Nejad was

elected, as one in which no one can run for national office without the permission of unelected senior clerics who also have been "staunch supporters" of terrorist groups like Hezbollah.

"One of the more hopeful things about the situation in Iran," Cheney said, "is that you've got a whole, younger generation that is very interested in the West and ... finds the current theocracy that governs Iran distasteful, would like to see a change in their own government." The United States and other nations are supportive of movement toward true democracy in Iran, he said.

The present Iranian government, he said, needs to change its policies if it wants "be treated by the international community as a full member of the world community."

For additional information on U.S. policy, see Response to Terrorism (http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/terrorism.html).

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United States Still Determined To Fight Terrorism, Cheney Says

By Judy Aita
Washington File Staff Writer

New York -- The American people do not support "passivity, resignation and defeatism" when confronting terrorism, U.S. Vice President Cheney said January 19 in a speech describing the United States' resolve to wage a broad-scale war against terrorists at home and abroad and continuing support for Iraq.

Cheney told the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research that the United States "made a decision: We will never go back to the false comforts of the world before September 11, 2001. We will engage these enemies with the goal of victory. ... The enemies of America need to know we are serious and this administration will not let down our guard."

Fighting the war on terrorism is a significant test of military skill and U.S. national resolve, he continued.

"We've had to hunt down terrorists in remote areas. We've made it clear that regimes that support terror are equally guilty of terrorist crimes and must be held to account. We've strengthened our intelligence capabilities and undertaken a major anti-proliferation effort with other countries to protect the civilized world from the threat of weapons of mass destruction," Cheney said.

The War on Terror, whether in Iraq, Afghanistan, other nations around the world or in the United States will continue to be hard work, because "we are dealing with enemies who have declared the intention to bring great harm to

Because the United States and the American people are prime targets of the terrorists, the United States has a continuing responsibility to lead the fight, Cheney said.



Vice President Dick Cheney delivers remarks on Iraq and the war on terror to the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research in New York. Cheney said that Al-Qaeda has been weakened but remains a "lethal" threat. (AFP/Don Emmert)

any nation that opposes their aims," he said. The terrorists' objective is to gain control of a country so they have a base for waging war against governments that fail to meet their demands and overthrowing other governments to build an empire from Spain to Indonesia, the vice president continued.

The United States, Cheney said, is still at risk for terrorist attacks. Even though the enemy that struck on September 11, 2001, is "weakened and fractured," it is still lethal and still determined to attack the United States again, he said.

STRATEGY IN IRAQ

Talking about his recent visit to Iraq, the vice president said that U.S. and coalition forces are helping the country become "a nation that will never again be a safe zone for terrorists and can defend itself and be a model for peaceful democratic reform" in the region.

U.S. strategy for Iraq is clear, Cheney said. "Our tactics will remain flexible. We will keep working until we finish the job. Progress does not come easily, but it has been steady."

"As the [Iraqi] security force grows in strength and the political process advances, we will eventually be able to decrease troop levels without losing any capacity to do battle with the terrorists," he said.

Any decisions about U.S. troop levels in Iraq "will be driven by the conditions on the ground and the judgment of our commanders not by artificial timelines set by our politicians in Washington," Cheney said.

The vice president also talked

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Experts Explain Intellectual Property Rights in New Publication

Washington -- A new, illustrated publication that explains the ins and outs of intellectual property rights (IPR) -- patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, and new forms of intellectual property -- has been released by the State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs.

Focus on: Intellectual Property Rights (<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/intelprp/index.htm>) consists of essays by government, academic and industry experts, among them professor Thomas G. Field Jr. of the Franklin Pierce Law Center in New Hampshire.

The "International Perspectives" section opens with "Why Protecting Intellectual Property Matters" by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs E. Anthony Wayne, and "A Short Guide to International IPR Treaties" by Paul E. Salmon, a patent attorney with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Martial arts star Jackie Chan contributes a short piece about his international

anti-counterfeit campaign, "Fakes Cost More."

"The Laws in Evolution" segment includes: "The Challenge of Copyright in the Digital Age" by Marybeth Peters, register of copyrights at the Library of Congress' Office of Copyright; "Roundtable: Enforcement, a Priority for All Countries," featuring officials from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Justice Department's Computer Crimes and IP Section; and "New Tools for Fighting Optical Disc Piracy," co-authored by Bonnie J.K. Richardson, vice president for trade and federal affairs at the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Issues by Industry" offers: "A Trade Association at Work" by Patricia L. Judd, Association of American Publishers' director of international copyright enforcement; "The Cost of Developing a New Drug" by Pfizer Inc.'s director of economic policy, Neal Masia; "Malaria: Partnering to Find a

Cure," co-authored by P. V. Venugopal of the Medicines for Malaria Venture; and "Protecting Trademarks on the Internet" by Angelo Mazza, Internet expert with the New York City firm of Gibney, Anthony & Flaherty LLP.

Other articles explain why countries need effective intellectual property systems, and what governments in each region are doing to enforce IPR. The publication includes a glossary of IP terms, a list of print and Internet IP resources and a separate resource list for children and young adults.

A complete listing (<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/>) of other IIP publications is available on the USINFO Web site.

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rently in use -- also known as a "laser visa" -- will continue to be acceptable as a substitute for a passport and a visa for citizens of Mexico traveling into the United States from across the Mexican border. The department also anticipates that existing documents used at land border crossings in international frequent traveler programs known by the acronyms SENTRI, NEXUS and FAST will be accepted. Although the three pro-

grams vary slightly, they are based on the same principle of pre-screening and identifying low-risk travelers so they can cross the international border without having to go through the traditional inspections process.

Through a "unified architecture," Chertoff said the United States aims to decrease wait times at ports of entry and focus resources on that minority of people who pose a threat.

Additional information is available on the Web site of the departments of Homeland Security (<http://www.dhs.gov/>) and State (<http://www.travel.state.gov/>).

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

Confirmed Human Deaths from Bird Flu Worldwide Reach 80

By Charlene Porter
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Confirmation of the death of a Chinese poultry worker due to avian influenza January 19 pushes the world total of human fatalities from that disease to 80, just as international donors committed almost \$2 billion to the worldwide campaign to fight the disease and prevent a human flu pandemic.

A World Health Organization (WHO) announcement confirms the findings of Chinese health officials that a 35-year-old woman who had been working at culling infected birds died January 11, eight days after the appearance of her first symptoms.

The news comes the day after the end of an international pledging conference on avian and pandemic influenza at which nations committed to providing \$1.9 billion to resource-poor nations that are combating or vulnerable to bird flu. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Jan/18-421920.html>).

Just a week earlier, the United Nations' coordinator for avian and human influenza, David Nabarro, had predicted a pledge total in the range of \$1.2 billion to \$1.4 billion.

Nabarro called the outcome of the January 17-18 Beijing meeting, "quite extraordinary," according to the U.N. News Center.

"What we've seen today is that the world really does care and wants to respond effectively to the

threat of avian influenza and a possible human pandemic," he said.

The disease started more than two years ago in Southeast Asia and has become the greatest outbreak of its kind with the appearance of the highly pathogenic avian influenza strain in 13 nations from Asia to Europe.

So far, almost 150 humans also have been afflicted with the dis-



A patient with flu-like symptoms is transferred from a Hong Kong hospital ward in 2005. (AFP/File)

ease, which had infected humans only rarely before the outbreak began in December 2003. In virtually all cases, people have acquired the disease after contact with sick birds.

Health officials warn that if the disease becomes contagious among humans and is passed through coughing or sneezing, a global pandemic influenza could emerge with the possibility for millions of deaths and widespread social and economic upheaval.

DONORS' MEETING

The United States offered a \$334 million pledge at the Beijing confer-

ence, the largest amount committed by any single nation. That figure includes \$54 million originally earmarked in 2005, and another \$280 million approved in a 2006 budget bill.

"Resources will be used to assist countries with national preparedness plans," said a statement from the White House, "to improve surveillance and response systems, to train local rapid-response teams and medical personnel, and to support public awareness campaigns to limit practices that contribute to the spread of the avian influenza virus."

The European Union and its member nations are putting more than \$250 million into an international fund that will be distributed as grants, loans and technical assistance.

"The investments we make now, to prevent and control further spread of the virus, are investments in long-term development," said Paul Wolfowitz, president of the World Bank, a co-sponsor of the Beijing meeting.

"They will help countries better protect themselves against future threats of pandemic," he added, "and prevent the unraveling of their hard-won economic and social gains."

The director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations echoed that message when he warned the conference about the potential entrenchment of avian influenza in the Black Sea, Caucasus and Near East regions.

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Continuous AIDS Therapy Better than As-Needed Treatment



Patients receiving as-needed treatment for HIV/AIDS were twice as likely to experience a progression of their disease compared to patients receiving continuous treatment with anti-retroviral drugs.

An international collaborative study under way in 33 nations reported these findings in a January 18 announcement from the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

As a result of this finding, NIAID, one of the National Institutes of Health, has stopped enrolling patients in the drug trial, Strategies for Management of Anti-Retroviral Therapy (SMART).

Clinics managing the patient cases have adjusted the treatment of those participating in a regimen

that has proven less effective than continuous treatment with anti-retroviral therapy (ART).

The study, with almost 5,500 participants, began in January 2002 to test a treatment management program to administer ART to patients only when key immune system cells – CD4+ cells -- dropped to a certain dangerous level.

Study designers theorized several possible benefits to the episodic or drug conservation (DC) regime: the patients might avoid complications of continuous therapy, such as kidney, liver and cardiovascular problems; the cost and quality-of-life problems of lifelong ART might be mitigated; and the DC regimen might allow drug supplies to be stretched across greater numbers of people in poor countries.

After patients were on the DC treatment plan for 15 months, an analysis revealed that patients were more than twice as likely to see their disease progress compared to patients on continuous ART. The DC patients also showed an increase in major complications.

“We were surprised to learn that in the short term, episodic anti-retroviral therapy carries such an increased risk without evidence of sparing patients the known side effects associated with ART,” said Dr. Wafaa El-Sadr of the Harlem Hospital Center and Columbia University in New York City, one of the principal investigators for the trial.

Research centers in Great Britain, Denmark, Australia and the United States coordinated the study, which NIAID’s Dr. Anthony Fauci describes as “one of the largest HIV/AIDS treatment trials ever conducted” and “pivotal.”

Patients in the study receiving ART will continue to do so. Study sponsors are advising physicians working with patients previously on the DC regimen to consider re-starting ART.

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United States Still Determined To Fight Terrorism, Cheney Says . . .

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about domestic issues in the War on Terror, including efforts to renew the Patriot Act, which would give law enforcement the tools needed to track down terrorists inside the United States, presidential authority to authorize interception of suspected communications between those within the United

States and al-Qaida or other terror networks and increasing other efforts to strengthen homeland security, according to the vice president.

The transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/01/20060119-5.html>) of the vice-president’s re-

marks is available on the White House Web site.

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

Mice Studies Show Potential of New Smallpox Protection

Results from a new study indicate that hybrid laboratory antibodies from chimpanzees and humans may offer a potentially safe and effective way to treat serious complications that can occur after smallpox vaccination – and may protect against the deadly disease itself.

The study was led by researchers from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

A worldwide immunization program officially eradicated naturally occurring smallpox disease in 1980. But concerns about a bioterrorism attack involving the highly contagious and fatal virus have prompted researchers to search for new smallpox vaccines and treatments.

"It is imperative that we have effective treatments available that everyone could use in the event of a bioterror attack," said NIAID Director Anthony Fauci. "This study shows that there are potential alternatives to existing treatments and perhaps to existing vaccines that we can use to enhance our arsenal of medical countermeasures."

The currently licensed smallpox vaccine consists of a live, but weakened, strain of vaccinia virus, a relative of the variola virus that causes smallpox.

Vaccinia immunization has been effective in generating immunity against smallpox virus. Most reac-

tions to the vaccinia virus are mild, but the vaccine can cause serious, even life-threatening, complications in people with weakened immune systems or skin conditions such as eczema, in infants younger than 12 months and in pregnant women.

Health care providers treat smallpox vaccine complications with anti-vaccinia immune globulin (VIG) – pooled antibodies taken from the blood of people immunized with the smallpox vaccine.

But VIG is in short supply since the United States discontinued its public smallpox vaccination program in 1972.

NIAID-funded researchers have been working to develop alternatives to VIG based on antibodies they created in the laboratory.

In the most recent study, they developed hybrid antibodies from chimpanzees and humans that inhibited the spread of vaccinia and variola viruses in test tube experiments. The hybrid antibodies were more effective than VIG when tested in mice infected with vaccinia virus, even when given two days after virus exposure.

The test involving the smallpox virus was performed at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Georgia. The smallpox virus exists only at CDC

and at a laboratory in Russia.

"This study demonstrated that the hybrid antibodies provide instant protection against the vaccinia virus and likely smallpox," said study co-author Dr. Robert Purcell, "and are potentially more potent and more specific than the treatment we currently have available."



The hybrid antibodies should be tested in another animal model for effectiveness against the monkeypox virus, Purcell said, which closely mirrors smallpox but is less virulent in people.

Additional information (<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/index.asp>) on small pox is available on the CDC Web site.

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Confirmed Human Deaths from Bird Flu . . .

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David Harcharik said the movement of people, goods and migratory birds could easily transport the virus into Africa, which so far has remained unaffected.

"If it were to become rooted in the African countryside," Harcharik said, "the consequences for a continent already devastated by hunger and poverty could be truly catastrophic."

"Vigilance, surveillance and information sharing are paramount," said Dr. Lee Jong-wook, WHO director-general, in his address to the pledging conference, citing action in Turkey as an example of a methodical response.

Since the disease was confirmed in Turkey in early January, health officials have given tissue samples from patients to international laboratories. This gives researchers a chance to learn more about the virus, knowledge that may help prevent a pandemic.

For additional information on the disease and effort to combat it, see Bird Flu (Avian Influenza) (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/bird_flu.html).

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Reorganization Places Foreign Aid Decisions Under One Official. . .

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tion allowing the United States to "respond more quickly and effectively to the development needs of weak and poorly governed states."

Later, the unidentified official said the proposed legislation would somehow reorganize the 18 spending accounts. Even though those accounts support a number of effective individual programs, the official said, "what we haven't had is a way of looking more broadly at what we're trying to accomplish either in a region or a country and making sure that all of the funds that we're using are actually being used in the most effective way."

An official said that Tobias plans to develop coherent five-year, country-based strategies focused on development goals over the longer term.

"We recognize now that development, the promotion of democracy, the promotion of better government, are central elements of American foreign policy and that foreign assistance has to do more than just buy friendship over the short term from other countries," the official said. "It has to make these countries effective partners with us and countries that are effectively able to serve their own people."

Prior to taking on the AIDS relief position, Tobias was president, chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of pharmaceuticals producer Eli Lilly and Company and before that was chairman and CEO of telecommunications giant AT&T International.

"True development requires far-reaching fundamental changes in

governance and institutions, human capacity and economic structure, so that countries can sustain further economic and social progress without permanently depending on foreign aid," Tobias said.

A transcript (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/59408.htm>) of the secretary's remarks and a transcript (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/59426.htm>) of two senior department officials are available on the State Department Web site, as is a fact sheet (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/59398.htm>). The announcement (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/01/20060119.html>) on Tobias' nomination to USAID is available on the White House Web site. ♦