



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

New U.S. Command To Take Broad, Inclusive Approach to Africa

Washington -- The new U.S. regional military command for Africa, an integrated defense, diplomatic and economic organization, will enhance U.S. efforts to advance security and prosperity in Africa, U.S. officials say.

In contrast to traditional military commands, the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, is designed to provide support to Africans as they continue to build democratic institutions and establish good governance. It will focus on tasks such as peacekeeping, security, counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, according to the officials.



*Linda Thomas-Greenfield
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of
State for African Affairs*

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Visiting Professor, Local Journalists Exchange Views on Media Ethics



Professor Mekonen Haddis (far center) lectured about "Ethics in Government and Ethics in Media"

Integrity and ethics in government and media are crucial to democracy. This was the core message in a lecture by Professor Mekonen Haddis to media practitioners in Addis Ababa this week. As part of a speaking tour, Professor Mekonen lectured about "Ethics in Government and Ethics in Media" to a crowd of print and broadcast journalists at the U.S. Embassy on October 17.

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Visiting Professor, Local Journalists Exchange Views on . . .

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In his talk, Professor Mekonen stressed the role of ethical behavior and transparency in a democratic government. He defined an "ethical government" as one that is open and accountable, and protects all of its citizens. He provided a brief history of the Code of Ethics for United States government employees, first adopted by the U.S. Congress in 1958. (Learn more at <http://www.usoge.gov/home.html>) He noted that fair and transparent procedures for government procedures build public trust.

Professor Mekonen focused on government-media relations, noting that both parties have ethical obligations. A government, he said, has the social responsibility to answer

questions from the media, to share information. Conversely, the media must be professional, and take seriously their role as educators of the public.

Professor Mekonen called on journalists to be balanced in their reporting, criticizing when necessary but also covering positive developments. He urged media practitioners to be responsible, doing research to ensure accuracy and context in reports, and correcting any mistakes they might publish. The professor summed up the importance of responsible press by saying journalists have a lot of power, and they must use it properly.

Following the presentation, journalists posed questions about the applicability of the U.S. media experience to other countries, the distinc-

tion in the United States between private and public press, the direction of global media development, and how the media can contribute to societal development.

Professor Mekonen is visiting Ethiopia from Maryland, where he owns a management, business and political consulting firm. Prior to starting his own business, he was an Adjunct Professor at Bowie State University in the Department of History and Politics. He taught courses in political philosophy, world civilization, African-American history, political science and international studies. In addition to his academic publications on foreign policy, Professor Mekonen has written hundreds of poems.♦

New U.S. Command To Take Broad, Inclusive Approach . . .

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AFRICOM's commander, General William E. "Kip" Ward, said that the new command will help African nations provide for their own security by enhancing existing U.S. and international programs.

But he and other U.S. officials said AFRICOM's strategic objectives go beyond military matters.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, principal deputy assistant secretary of state for Africa, said that the United States hopes its support for defense reform and military capacity-building not only will help African nations to manage conflicts and mitigate violent extremism but also create conditions conducive to further economic growth.

Thomas-Greenfield spoke at an October 9-10 conference on infrastructure investment in Africa. Its private-sector participants viewed stability as the critical precondition for investing in telecommunication, transportation, power-generation and other infrastructure projects.

Underdeveloped and dilapidated infrastructure has hampered efforts by many African countries to sustain fast economic growth and engage more fully in international trade.

Thomas-Greenfield said only private capital markets can bridge the gap between what is required to fund costly infrastructure projects and the scarce resources available to most African governments.

Despite significant improvements in the security and business climates in Africa, many U.S. investors still consider long-term infrastructure projects on the continent too risky because of what they perceive as a lack of stability.

Thomas-Greenfield said that the formation of AFRICOM is an acknowledgment that Africa warrants special U.S. attention, and thereby helps boost the U.S. private sector's confidence in the continent.

Security and stability not only make it possible to maintain existing infrastructure, she said, but they also create the right environment for the private sector to contribute to its expansion.

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Fulbright Scholar Alice Klement Discusses Trends in American Journalism

Dr. Alice Klement, Fulbright Scholar at Unity University College, addressed the Ethiopian Center for Strategic Studies on October 14, at 10:00 a.m. on "American Journalism." The Ethiopian Center for Strategic Studies is a non-partisan, independent university-based think tank, founded by Unity University College for the task of collaborative research, networking and interaction on strategic issues pertaining to Ethiopia. Approximately 25 think tank members were in attendance.



Dr. Alice Klement (left) discussing "American Journalism."

Dr. Alice Klement, who has practiced and taught journalism in the United States with various institutions, spoke on ten trends in American journalism. She mentioned first the bad trends which she identified as fewer newspapers, fewer readers, conflict and friction with the government, less news and public

misunderstanding of the role of the media. The good trends were more educated journalists, more diverse journalists, more flexibility in practice of journalism, better technology and the Internet. Following the hour-long presentation, attendees discussed their perception of American media and the role of media in

democratic context. Dr. Alice Klement and members of the media who were present shared experiences and made plans for future collaboration in their field.♦

Ship's Mission To Boost U.S.-Africa Maritime Security Partnership

The following article by the American Forces Press Service was published October 15 on the Web page of the U.S. Department of Defense. There are no republication restrictions.

USS Fort McHenry Mission to Set Tone for U.S. Africa Command *By Donna Miles* **American Forces Press Service**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15, 2007 -- USS Fort McHenry is slated to leave Little Creek, Va., tomorrow for a seven-month deployment to the Gulf of Guinea that the chief of U.S. Africa Command said will exemplify how his new command will operate.

The amphibious dock landing ship will serve as a platform for the Af-

rica Partnership Station Initiative, which aims to work cooperatively with U.S. and international partners in promoting maritime security in Western Africa, Army Gen. William E. "Kip" Ward told Pentagon reporters.

USS Fort McHenry will sail to Spain to take on passengers from several European partners -- Spain, the United Kingdom, Portugal and Germany, among them -- before heading to the Gulf of Guinea, explained Navy Adm. Henry G. "Harry" Ulrich III, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe.

Its full complement will include representatives of U.S. and partner nations' government agencies and non-governmental organizations, all working together to help African

nations increase their ability to provide maritime security.

In addition to the U.S. military, U.S. agencies to participate will be the State Department, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Agency for International Development, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Coast Guard, Ulrich said.

High Speed Vessel Swift will join USS Fort McHenry in the Gulf of Guinea, where it will transport students as well as trainers during visits to Senegal, Liberia, Ghana, Cameroon, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe, he said.

Training teams will focus on a broad range of areas, including

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U.S. Soft Drink Company Teaches African Teens About AIDS

Washington -- Coca-Cola, the largest multinational company on the African continent, has long offered HIV/AIDS education and treatment to its workers. But in recent years, it has put its corporate clout behind attempts to stem the tide of HIV infections among the next generation of workers.

According to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, nearly 25 million of the 40 million people living with HIV are in sub-Saharan Africa.

With 650 employees across the African continent and another 60,000 employed by independent bottling companies licensed to use its trademark, Coca-Cola has long been committed to educating its workers about HIV/AIDS.

But, according to David Brown, director of employee relations for the Atlanta soft drink company, stigma keeps some HIV-infected employees from coming forward to accept free anti-retroviral treatment or counseling. "This is not a Coca-Cola issue only," he said, "but an Africa-wide issue." In fact, he said, experts are unlikely to report progress on erasing that stigma.

That is why, in recent months, Coca-Cola has tried to work on the problem by partnering with non-profit groups that focus on youth, to help the next generation talk openly about sexual and reproductive health.

The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, with a donation of nearly \$3 million, formed a three-year partnership with Dance4Life. The group reaches young people in nine countries -- South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Sierra Leone -- with health messages delivered via

the performing arts. Young participants in Dance4Life school programs learn sexual-reproductive health lessons before presenting them to peers in dramatic, dance or musical performances.

Dance4Life also holds concerts featuring disc jockeys, rock groups and traditional Arabic music. After one such event in Egypt, an Islamic country in which dancing can be a sensitive issue, a 19-year-old girl named Heba approached organizers after the concert and said: "Tonight I've danced for the first time with other people. It was possible because I felt safe and connected."

On October 18, Tiësto, a Dutch-born DJ who performs to sold-out stadiums and is working on a documentary for Dance4Life's HIV-prevention project, will visit J.G. Zuma Secondary School in Kwa-Mashu, South Africa.

Coca-Cola also has donated \$1.5 million to the Africa Network for Children Orphaned or at Risk (ANCHOR), which seeks to get AIDS orphans back into schools in their communities. "We would never have gotten off the ground without Coca-Cola," said Marion Bunch, an ANCHOR founder, who is affiliated with Rotarians for Fighting AIDS.

Bunch said that a representative from Coca-Cola has gone with her to homes in Johannesburg, South Africa, "where adolescent heads-of-households are common." She said they went into "grubby, dirty, horrible hovels of places," where children are "so bereft, so in need of help, so humble that it is hard not to cry."

Coca-Cola gave ANCHOR "seed money" -- \$50,000 -- in 2004, she said, which helped the group get

enough results to attract even more partners: Emory University's School of Public Health and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief program.

ANCHOR seeks adults in the communities where the orphans live to care for them and help them go to school, but has no plans to build orphanages. The organization provides AIDS orphans with food, school supplies and "life-training skills" to make it easier for them to succeed at school. So far, ANCHOR, with the help of Coca-Cola, has helped 30,000 orphans in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Kenya, Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire.

Because of its marketing expertise, Coca-Cola has banded with the Africa Broadcasting Media Partnership to produce HIV/AIDS awareness messages.

The company also has a relationship with the Global Business Coalition, an organization of 220 companies working to fight AIDS. "Clearly, Coca-Cola knows how to market. It also has distribution networks; maybe we can tap into that core competency," said David Stearns, spokesman for the coalition, which is based in New York.

Stearns said the soft drink company received an award for work it did in China, designing and distributing decks of playing cards in which each card includes a message about sexually transmitted diseases. The target audience is Chinese migrant workers, who are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and are known to enjoy playing cards while waiting for their next job.

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

Experts Weigh Value of Endorsements for Presidential Candidates

By *Eric Green*
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- Political pundits are debating whether newly named Nobel Peace Prize winner Al Gore will endorse one of the candidates for the Democratic Party's nomination for president. But perhaps an equally important debate is whether such an endorsement would even matter in the U.S. presidential race.

Michael Shea, who heads a Boston political consulting firm for Democrats, told USINFO that casting a ballot for president is the "most personal vote a person makes," which diminishes the power of an endorsement from a well-known politician. This is especially true, he said, for the very independent-minded voters of Iowa and New Hampshire, which are scheduled to hold the first presidential caucus and primary, respectively, in the 2008 race for the White House.

Citizens of those two states, Shea said, take their vote "very, very seriously, on the level of a jury in a murder trial." Their vote is not a "frivolous thing," he said.

Where Gore's endorsement would have a large effect is with voters concerned about global warming, said Shea.

"Everybody knows Gore's taken on iconic proportions as an environmentalist," Shea said. Winning Gore's endorsement would solidify a candidate's environmental credentials, he said.

Shea said an endorsement from Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy could be important in the Democratic primary race. But Shea said he does not know if any endorsement from the longtime Democratic senator is forthcoming,

since Kennedy has close ties to a number of the presidential candidates in his party.

Shea said he has seen Kennedy endorse candidates "that I've worked for, and he doesn't just give you his name -- he goes out and personally" campaigns for the candidate. "Nobody builds up a crowd" of political supporters like Kennedy, said Shea.



Shea weighed the importance of other endorsements from labor unions and celebrities. Labor unions, he said, can offer a campaign volunteers who work night and day knocking on voters' doors and work in "phone banks" to recruit other volunteers and votes. Labor unions also help a candidate with raising money, which Shea called the "mother's milk of politics."

He also discussed the importance of celebrity endorsements. Television talk show host Oprah Winfrey's endorsement of fellow African American Barack Obama, for instance, has not helped lift Obama's numbers in the public opinion polls for president.

Shea said Winfrey has succeeded in going beyond the "color barrier" in America and is "venerated by lots of people, not just in the African-American community." Winfrey's

endorsement, he said, translates into more money and exposure for Obama.

DIFFERENT SITUATION ON REPUBLICAN SIDE

Republican political consultant Brian Donahue agreed that a Gore endorsement would add cachet to a Democratic candidate's environmental credentials.

Donahue, senior vice president of the Washington-based Jamestown Associates political consulting firm, told USINFO that an endorsement from Gore, as a former U.S. vice president and "authority on a growing issue like global warming, carries a lot of value in the Democratic primary campaign."

Donahue said a Gore endorsement of Obama definitely would trigger change in the Democratic primary race, meaning it would swing votes to Obama and away from Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton. How drastic a change, he said, depends on how actively Gore would campaign.

A factor working against the importance of a Gore endorsement, said Donahue, is that climate change is not the highest-priority issue for Democrats.

Donahue said an endorsement from President Bush for any of the Republican candidates is "a little more complicated." While the Republican president's support is still high among those in his party, Donahue said, "his long tenure as president has also attracted debatable positions, the most being the war in Iraq."

Donahue said the matter, however, is moot because Bush will not en-

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New U.S. Command To Take Broad, Inclusive Approach . . .

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"The creation of this new command is going to make a difference," Thomas-Greenfield said.

Another speaker, retired general Anthony Zinni, said early successes will be a key to winning the trust of African partners. Combined with an approach of consulting and building relationships with key leaders and groups, such successes can help overcome skepticism and doubts Africans may have about the AFRICOM mission and achieve common understanding of mutual interests, he added. Zinni is the executive vice president of DynCorp International, a company that provides

support to military and civilian government operations.

"We need to engage African nations on an equal playing field," he said.

Ward told a Senate committee in September that AFRICOM will give careful consideration to "what our partners need from the U.S. to help them develop to meet their stated needs."

The AFRICOM structure integrates staff members from civilian U.S. agencies, primarily the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development. One of AFRICOM's two deputies will be Mary Carlin Yates, a senior State

Department official and former ambassador to Ghana.

Zinni called AFRICOM an excellent opportunity and a noble experiment. He said that if it succeeds, it can serve as a new model, an integrated, interagency approach to U.S. engagement with the rest of the world that combines different aspects of U.S. policies.

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Ship's Mission To Boost U.S.-Africa Maritime Security . . .

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maritime domain awareness, leadership, seamanship and navigation, maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, civil engineering and logistics.

Support provided will vary between visits, Ward said. He emphasized that the Africa Partnership Station Initiative and AFRICOM as a whole will strive to help African countries build capacity. "Those things that are within our means to do, we look forward in working with the African nations in providing that kind of assistance," he said.

The new initiative "provides a good example of what the newly established U.S. Africa Command is all about as it relates to helping our partner nations on the continent of Africa build their capacity to better govern their spaces (and) to have more effect in providing for the security of their people," he said.

In addition, Ward said, the Africa Partnership Station Initiative will help globalize African economies and develop societies for the betterment of their people.

AFRICOM declared itself to have initial operating capability Oct. 1 and began bringing the military's activities on the continent under its umbrella.

Ward said the command will give a "consolidated focus" to work currently being conducted by three combatant commands: U.S. Central Command, U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. European Command.

"As we work over the course of the coming weeks and months to stand up the command, we are focused on building the team that will cause value added to be brought to the various pro-

grams we do on the continent," he said. "

Ward said AFRICOM will reinforce efforts under way "by creating a greater synergy of the entirety of the work being done."

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USS Fort McHenry

Wealthy Candidates Abound as Presidential Campaign Costs Zoom

By *Ralph Dannheisser*
USINFO Special Correspondent

Washington -- Chances are strong that the next U.S. president will be a millionaire. All three Democratic



Democrat Hillary Clinton

front-runners and all four of the top Republican contenders fall into that category.

They range from the wealthiest, Republican Mitt Romney -- with a fortune estimated at between \$190 million and \$250 million -- to Democrat Barack Obama, who only recently achieved millionaire status when advances on two books he wrote in 2005 pushed his reported worth to at least \$1.1 million.

The wealth of Democrats Hillary Clinton and John Edwards, and Republicans John McCain, Rudolph Giuliani and Fred Thompson, fall somewhere between that range.

Access to funding has assumed tremendous importance in this era of almost nonstop election campaigns and huge advertising expenses. Hundreds of millions of dollars will be spent in the current presidential campaign cycle.

Data released October 12 by the Federal Election Commission (FEC) shows that, with the election more than a year off, the 17 Republican and Democratic presidential candidates already have raised nearly \$300 million and spent almost half of it.

"You don't have to be a millionaire to run for president, but it certainly helps," says Larry Sabato, political analyst and director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia. "We're not talking about the garden-variety millionaire, with one or a few millions, either," Sabato told US-INFO. "Many of the candidates are enormously wealthy."

Sabato sees both direct and indirect advantages from their financial status. "Some, like Romney, spend lavishly on their own campaigns, while others, such as Clinton, won't put a penny in. But their status has enabled them to get to know thousands of other famous, rich elites, and their campaigns benefit from those associations," he says.

While the prevalence of the rich appears to have increased, their presence in the race for president is hardly a new phenomenon.

Citing the Roosevelts, the Kennedys and the Rockefellers, Sabato observes that "the wealthy have often had big advantages" in running for the office.

He sees this situation producing a possible distortion in their perspective -- and hence in the political system. "While being rich doesn't mean you can't understand the

problems of the poor, it certainly means you have rarely if ever personally experienced hardships," he says, particularly when the wealth is inherited. "Therefore, empathy with the poor is harder to achieve."

Congress has sought to offset, at least partly, the advantage that



Democrat John Edwards

wealth gives certain candidates. The so-called "Millionaires' Amendment" to the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 allows candidates running against a self-financed opponent to receive larger individual contributions and greater party support.

The provision applies to congressional campaigns as well as presidential.

Among those it has benefited: Obama, in his successful 2004 Senate race, which positioned him as a serious presidential candidate this time around. Securities trader Blair Hull spent some \$29 million of his own money in the Democratic primary race for the seat, raising the amount that Obama could collect from individual primary donors from \$2,000 to \$12,000. "I think it kept us in the ballgame," Obama campaign manager Jim Cauley was quoted as saying at the time, noting

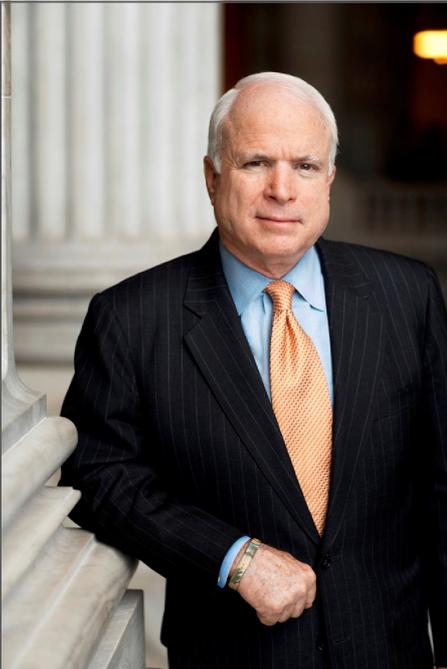
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Wealthy Candidates Abound as Presidential Campaign . . .

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that it added some \$2 million to the amount available to Obama's campaign.

Millionaire status has become less exclusive in a country where pros-



Republican John McCain

perity is high and inflation has swelled the numbers. A 2006 report by TNS Financial Services, a market research and polling firm, found the number of households with a net worth of at least \$1 million, excluding principal residence, had risen to 8.9 million -- roughly 3 percent of the population.

Still, as CNN reported in May, the candidates "are seeking to lead a country where the median net worth is about \$93,000 and the median yearly income is about \$46,000."

"They are an elite class," CNN said, quoting Sheila Krumholtz, director

of the private, nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics.

When President Bush successfully ran for re-election in 2004, he reported a net worth between \$8.1 million and \$21.5 million. Even that paled in comparison to the holdings of his Democratic opponent, Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts -- between \$165.7 million and \$235.3 million. Kerry's total included the separate wealth of his wife, Theresa Heinz.

The Associated Press reported October 6 that Romney already has lent \$17.5 million to his own campaign, and stands ready to spend more.

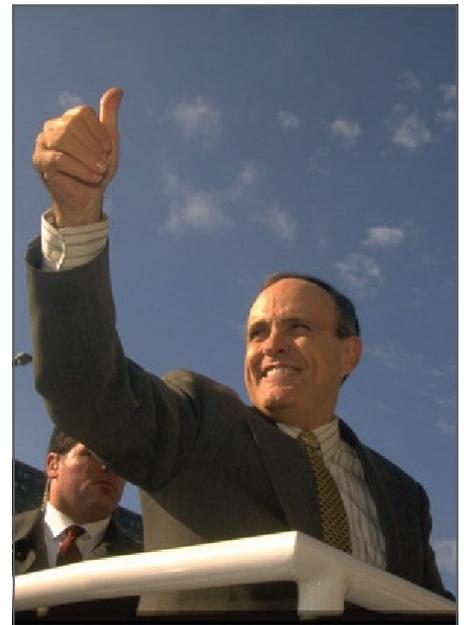
The former Massachusetts governor's total to date is far less than that provided by other wealthy candidates in the recent past: businessman Ross Perot put \$63 million into his failed third-party candidacy in 1992; publisher Steve Forbes contributed about \$38 million in each of his unsuccessful runs for the Republican nomination in 1996 and 2000.

Former candidate Forbes now serves as national co-chair for the Republican primary campaign of former New York City Mayor Giuliani.

Giuliani has reported a net worth of \$18.1 million to \$70.4 million, under FEC rules that allow candidates to present various categories of assets within broad ranges.

Other multimillionaires in the field: former North Carolina Senator Edwards, whose campaign put his holdings at \$29.5 million; Senator Clinton of New York, whose 2005 financial disclosure report showed

net worth between \$10.1 million and \$50.2 million -- including the holdings of her husband, former President Bill Clinton; Senator McCain of Arizona, \$20.6 million to \$32.0 million, including his wife's assets; and Thompson, a former Tennessee senator turned actor, \$2.6 million to \$8.3 million.



Republican Rudolph Giuliani

Bringing up the rear among presidential hopefuls is Democratic Senator Joseph Biden. His 1995 filing showed debts between \$113,000 and \$131,981, ranking him 99th in a 100-member Senate that included no fewer than 40 millionaires.

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

Dalai Lama Receives Congressional Gold Medal

By Stephen Kaufman
USINFO Staff Writer

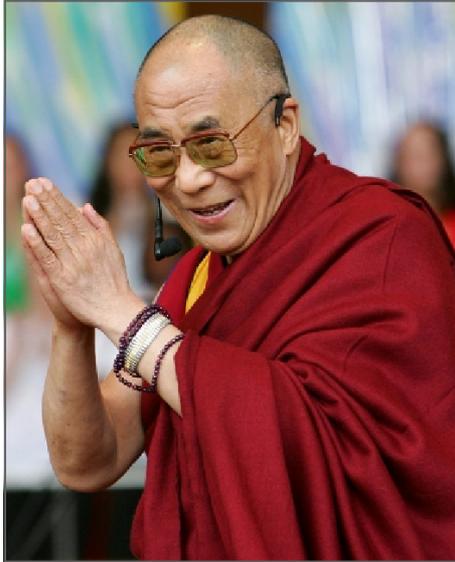
Washington -- By presenting Tenzin Gyatso, better known as the 14th Dalai Lama, with the Congressional Gold Medal, the U.S. Congress is recognizing his role as one of the world's foremost moral and religious figures, who is using his leadership role to advocate peacefully for the cultural autonomy of the Tibetan people within China.

President Bush attended the awards ceremony October 17 at the U.S. Capitol, becoming the first sitting U.S. president to meet the Dalai Lama in public. The ceremony is "a special one that we have in American traditions," White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said October 16. (See transcript (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=texttrans-english&y=2007&m=October&x=20071016154544xjsnommis0.4071009>).)

Representative Tom Lantos (Democrat from California), who chairs the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, told USINFO the Dalai Lama's "difficult but wise position ... has allowed those of us who support rights of the Tibetan people, but also support positive engagement with China, to work constructively with Beijing on the issue of Tibet."

The Chinese government has insisted that the Dalai Lama is seeking Tibet's independence from China. "That is simply untrue," Lantos said. "He seeks genuine autonomy within the borders of China, and in accordance with the Chinese Constitution."

The decision to bestow the medal, which is the highest civilian award that the U.S. Congress can give, has been condemned by the Chinese government. However, Lantos said it is "both the right thing and



Dalai Lama

the smart thing to do," and it provides China's leaders "a golden opportunity to prove that they are prepared to deal on a sincere basis with His Holiness and to respect the rights of the Tibetan people" on the eve of China's hosting of the 2008 Olympics.

"It is time for China to take the responsible next move. I call on our Beijing friends to invite the Dalai Lama to visit China early next year to resume talks about the status of Tibet," Lantos said.

A House Foreign Affairs Committee staff member, speaking to USINFO on background, said it has taken decades for the Dalai Lama to achieve public recognition by U.S. officials, who had kept their distance from him for fear of upsetting

the Chinese government. The Congressional Human Rights Caucus, she said, was the first to give him a public forum in 1987, at a time when President Reagan and officials at the State Department would not see him.

Lantos, who was a founding co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in 1983, was one of the main forces behind awarding the Dalai Lama the Congressional Gold Medal. He said he hopes the award will "underscore to the Chinese authorities that this is a man who is taken very seriously," the staff member said. The Dalai Lama is not promoting Tibetan independence, but rather the "cultural autonomy for the people within the People's Republic of China and under their constitution." He also has been outspoken in his support for peaceful pro-democracy protests in Burma.

President Bush signed legislation (Public Law 109-287) on September 27, 2006, to bestow the medal to recognize the Dalai Lama's "many enduring and outstanding contributions to peace, non-violence, human rights and religious understanding," according to the text of the legislation.

"Over the last 20 years, the Beijing government has changed not one iota in its stance toward the Dalai Lama or toward the cause of Tibetan autonomy," the congressional staff member said. "The one thing that might be different now is that since China is hosting the Olympics in 2008 and is in the world spotlight, it has an opportunity to show that it has some concern for human rights" not only with regard to Ti-

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President Bush's Remarks on the Economy

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
October 11, 2007

**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AFTER MEETING WITH ECONOMIC
TEAM**

THE PRESIDENT: Just had a meeting with members of my economic team -- and I thank you all for coming. I particularly want to thank Director of the OMB Jim Nussle for his briefing on the newest numbers regarding our deficit.

You know, last February, it was projected that our deficit would be \$244 billion, and today the Director informed us that the deficit -- actual deficit is \$163 billion. In other words, as a result of the hard work of the American people, this economy is growing; the growing economy has yielded more tax revenues than anticipated. And because of fiscal restraint, those tax revenues went to reduce our deficit.

The deficit today is at 1.2 percent of GDP, which is lower than the average of the last 40 years. In other words, we have told the American people that by keeping taxes low we can grow the economy, and by working with Congress to set priorities we can be fiscally responsible and we can head toward balance. And that's exactly where we're headed.

Now the fundamental question is whether the United States Congress will work constructively with the administration to keep taxes low

and to keep spending sound. I look forward to working with members of both parties to continue keeping this -- keeping our fiscal house in order, to continue to head for a balanced budget. But it's going to require the Congress to show fiscal restraint, fiscal discipline. One of the reasons why the Constitution wisely gave the President the veto is to help them exercise fiscal discipline and fiscal constraint.

to keep them low. After all, people are working here in America. We've had 49 consecutive months of uninterrupted job growth, which is a record. And we intend to keep breaking that record by good fiscal policy here in Washington, D.C.

I want to thank you all for your briefing. Thanks for coming by.



President George W. Bush meets with his economic advisors Thursday, Oct. 11, 2007, in the New Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C. (White House photo by Chris Greenberg)

It's very important for Congress to also understand that they should not be trying to take money out of the pockets of the small business owners and working people. One of the reasons why this economy is robust is because taxes are low. And in order to keep -- make sure that this economy grows we've got

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

More Women in Powerful Positions Change Public Attitudes

By Jane Morse
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- There has been a "seismic change" in cultural assumptions about women and leadership, says a top scholar on politics in the United States.

In 1995, Kathleen Hall Jamieson, then dean of the Annenberg School



Kathleen Hall Jamieson

for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, published a book called *Beyond the Double Bind: Women and Leadership*. In it she described the "damned if you do;

damned if you don't" choices that many women faced when they ventured beyond their traditional sphere of home and family.

Jamieson documented cases in which women political figures had difficulty gaining a hearing or respect for their ideas, were tied to "female issues" and were perceived as not capable of winning elections. "The history of Western culture is riddled with evidence of traps for women that have forcefully curtailed their options," she wrote.

Recent history, however, is much different.

"Since I wrote the book, women have increasingly held positions as heads of state" around the world, Jamieson said in an interview with USINFO. More American women are serving as governors, in the Congress, in presidential Cabinets,

as heads of major philanthropic organizations and as university professors; and all have demonstrated their competencies as leaders to the public.

"All of those [women] constitute opportunities for the public to see female leadership," Jamieson said. "Since I wrote *Beyond the Double Bind*, there have been a great number of changes in the culture -- most of them increase the likelihood that a woman will be taken seriously as a presidential candidate."

She credited the women's movement for raising public awareness that there were women with expertise who were being barred access to visible positions of authority. Jamieson, now the director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, said the women's movement had a personal impact on her as well.

When Jamieson published *Packaging the Presidency*, the first of what eventually would be some 20 books

"I attribute that to the fact that the mass media were recognizing that women were in the audience and they [the networks] needed to make sure that they had women on television," she said.

Despite fewer barriers to women entering politics, there is no evidence of increased interest in politics among either young women or young men, Jamieson said. "But there is no evidence of a drop, either. So I take that as a somewhat hopeful sign. It could be worse."

Jamieson acknowledged that "[w]omen's leadership doesn't necessarily solve all of the problems. And women's leadership doesn't necessarily ensure that you address the problems that are unique to women. ... The difference that we attribute to a difference in gender may well be the difference that gender brings in the form of life experiences. ...

"There are times in which the difference that a woman makes is a difference that occurs because that



Hillary for President is focusing on women changing America. The campaign will highlight the decisive role women play in this election and celebrate the ways that women are changing America.

she has written on U.S. politics, she was "invited to be in more media places than I wanted to be; I was taken aback by the attention."

woman is more likely, perhaps, to have been a mother; perhaps to have cared for elderly parents; perhaps to have experienced discrimi-

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Opinions Vary on Need for Fairness Doctrine in Broadcast Media

By Eric Green
USINFO Staff Writer

Washington -- A hot topic on American radio talk shows is whether the Fairness Doctrine, dropped as a rule in 1987, might be reinstated.

The Fairness Doctrine essentially says that U.S. broadcast outlets have to air both sides of controversial issues. The Fairness Doctrine was enforced by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from 1949 to 1987, when it was rescinded during the administration of President Ronald Reagan.

The topic once again became news after conservative radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh was accused of questioning the patriotism of American soldiers critical of the Iraq War. Limbaugh, who has denied the accusations, derisively calls attempts to revive the Fairness Doctrine the "Hush Rush Law."

However, U.S. Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin says broadcasters such as Limbaugh should be required, as embodied in the Fairness Doctrine, to give listeners both sides of issues so voters can make informed decisions.

Durbin, an Illinois Democrat, said that "I have this old-fashioned attitude that when Americans hear both sides of the story, they're in a better position to make a decision."

Steve Rendall, a senior analyst for the New York-based Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), told USINFO that "most of what people know about the Fairness Doctrine is wrong because incompetent or cor-

rupt commentators have misrepresented" the rule.

Rendall, also co-host of FAIR's national radio show called Counter-Spin, said the doctrine does not say "you cannot be a conservative talk radio show. It merely says that on issues of public controversy you have to offer some differing views"



Senator Richard Durbin supports reinstating the Fairness Doctrine. (AP Images)

in the same time slot to balance opinions of a show's host. The doctrine, he added, is about "expanding speech" and offering a wider variety of opinions than those expressed by the regular radio or TV host.

Rendall said the major television and radio networks are still the "major force" that provides most Americans their news, despite the proliferation of Internet, satellite and cable television news. He expressed scorn for broadcasters who claim they have "this unique posi-

tion in the national dialogue to exclude views they don't like and run views they like 24 hours a day when [in fact] they don't own the airwaves." Rendall said the U.S. Supreme Court has found that the interests of viewers and listeners are paramount, not those of broadcasters.

Rendall said the Republican Party almost unanimously opposes the rule, as does the broadcast industry "because it would require more public interest" programs on news and controversial subjects, as well as requiring programs to present opposing views on issues.

Many Democrats are against the rule as well, Rendall said, "because they are close to the broadcast industry," or because they see it as "too much of a wedge, hot button issue" and "something they would rather avoid."

OPPOSITION TO FAIRNESS DOCTRINE

David Silverman, a lawyer who specializes in broadcast and media issues, told USINFO that restoration of the Fairness Doctrine is a "possibility" if the Democratic Party wins the 2008 presidential election and retains control of the U.S. Congress.

Silverman, with the Washington firm of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, said a major argument against the Fairness Doctrine being restored lies with the "plethora of media choices" now available to the American public.

He said even if the Democratic-

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Opinions Vary on Need for Fairness Doctrine in . . .

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controlled Congress bring back the Fairness Doctrine, "I think there would be a constitutional challenge to it, and part of that challenge would consist of the fact there's no rationale" for the measure because of the abundance of other news outlets.

Daniel Polsby, dean of the George Mason University School of Law in Virginia, told USINFO that the Fairness Doctrine will not return because the measure is "so yesterday."

Polsby said the political support for the measure "isn't there, and that its constitutionality" is such a "weak reed that legislators who might otherwise be sympathetic" to the Fairness Doctrine "will in many cases be turned off."

Polsby said the FCC could vote to have the rule restored. But he

added that a court challenge to the doctrine inevitably would result in a ruling that it violates the U.S. Constitution.

Craig Crawford, a contributing editor for the Washington-based Congressional Quarterly publishing company, told USINFO that activist Democratic Party lawmakers want the Fairness Doctrine restored. But that sentiment is not shared by the Democratic leadership in Congress, he added.

Crawford, also a television political commentator, said he is a "First Amendment purist and uncomfortable with government setting regulations" on the media. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of free speech and protects the media from censorship. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2005/May/02-722299.html>).)

"My guess is that any talk of putting the Fairness Doctrine back into law is intended to pressure owners of broadcast outlets to include both sides" of an issue, Crawford said. But he added such pressure amounts to "only talk" and not action.

See Rendall's article (<http://www.fair.org/index.php?page=2053>) on the Fairness Doctrine on the FAIR Web site.

For related stories, see Freedom of the Press (http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/rule_of_law/press_freedom.html).

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More Women in Powerful Positions Change Public . . .

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nation; perhaps to have a combination of experiences in the economic world. ... And those kinds of things do make a difference," she said.

Jamieson said other countries have led in putting women in leadership positions higher than the highest position held by women in the United States. "In some ways, the women of the United States should look to those countries that have been led competently by women as a way of assuring themselves that the United States' time will come as well," she said.

But she added: "To the extent that women in other countries are struggling to gain freedoms that we take for granted in the United States, the message that I tried to convey in the book *Beyond the Double Bind* is, I think, still a good message: that if you look across the history of the United States, the progress that women have made has been relatively steady. The model that says women make progress and are then pushed back, doesn't seem to fit the historical data. ...

"My take on history is that progress [for women] is slower than it should be, but progress tends to be steady and sustained. And one would only

hope that in many of the countries where the oppression is backbreaking and mind boggling that that progress will be faster and more strongly sustained than it has been the past."

For related stories, see Women in the Global Community (http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human_rights/women.html).

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Work on Market Imperfections Wins Three Americans Nobel Prize

Washington -- Three U.S. economists won the 2007 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for advancing a theory that helps to identify market imperfections and design mechanisms that make some market operations and social interactions more efficient.



Roger B. Myerson of the University of Chicago won the 2007 Nobel prize in economics for investigating market flaws. (AP Images)

Leonid Hurwicz, Eric Maskin and Roger Myerson will share the \$1.5 million prize for their work on mechanism design theory, which has found broad-ranging applications in economic policies and public life that range from auctions of government bonds and public goods to voting procedures and labor negotiations.

Announcing the winners, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said that the contribution of the three "allows us to distinguish situations in which markets work well from those in which they do not." This, it added, has helped identify efficient trading mechanisms, regulation schemes and voting procedures. The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, formally known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, was established by the Central Bank of Sweden in 1968 and was awarded for the first time in 1969.

The mechanism design theory, a subset of game theory, focuses on the gap in knowledge between con-

tractual parties, for example buyers and sellers, and the costs and consequences of their behavior. Because those parties have different levels of knowledge about the value of the transaction and their behavior is driven by opposite incentives – sellers, for example, seek the highest possible sale price and buyers the lowest -- the final outcome may not be efficient for the economy as a whole and society in general. The general goal of the theory is to design the rules of economic transactions, political bargaining and other situations to achieve desirable, efficient outcomes.

Myerson described his work in an interview with the Associated Press as investigating "how does information get used in society to allocate resources."

Maskin, in an interview published on the official Web site of the Nobel Foundation characterized his contribution and those of his fellow laureates as a "further step on the road to designing institutions that align individual incentives with overall social goals. He said the most "dramatic" application of the theory were auctions set up by governments around the world to sell off public assets in the hope that those assets would be put to better use in private hands. In the United States, an auction of parts of the radio spectrum has contributed to the telecommunications revolution, Maskin added.

In an interview on the same Web site, Hurwicz, who laid the foundation of the theory almost 50 years ago, said he is particularly pleased about its applications for welfare economics.

Hurwicz, who is 90 years old and an emeritus professor at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, was born in Moscow and studied in London, Geneva and Warsaw, Po-



Eric Maskin of the Institute for Advanced Study shares the Nobel prize for work on election and auction systems. (AP Images)

land, before leaving for the United States in 1941. Maskin is a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, and Myerson is a professor at the University of Chicago.

U.S. economists have won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in most of the years it has been awarded.

More information (http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economics/laureates/2007/press.html) about the laureates can be found on the official site of the Nobel Foundation.

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Stop the Terror in Burma

The following op-ed by U.S. first lady Laura Bush first appeared October 10 in The Wall Street Journal. It is in the public domain; there are no republication restrictions.

Stop the Terror in Burma President Bush is preparing further U.S. sanctions against the dictatorship.

**By Laura Bush
Wednesday, October 10, 2007**

It is 2 a.m. in Rangoon, Burma. In the middle of the tropical night, army troops pour into the neighborhood surrounding a peaceful Buddhist monastery. The soldiers occupy nearby homes, so that residents will not peek through their windows or go outside to witness the raid. Troops then storm the monastery, brutalizing, terrorizing and arresting the monks inside.

Eventually the monks are imprisoned inside Rangoon's former Government Technical Institute. According to one eyewitness, hundreds are crammed into each room. They have no access to toilets or sanitary facilities. Many of the monks refuse food from their military jailers. There is no space to lie down and sleep.

These are the stories of Burma's "Saffron Revolution." The protests that started a few weeks ago with a 500% spike in regime-controlled gas prices have now unleashed 19 years of pent-up national anger. As the demonstrations play out on front pages, computer monitors, and TV screens across the globe, millions of people have been inspired by the sea of orange-robed Buddhist monks standing up to the military dictatorship.

Millions have also been stunned by the junta's shameful response: non-violent demonstrators struck down with batons, tear gas, smoke grenades and bullets; civilians, including children, seized at random; innocent men and women slain.

The generals' reign of fear has subdued the protests--for now. But while the streets of Burma may be eerily quiet, the hearts of the Burmese people are not: 2007 is not 1988, when the regime's last major anti-democracy crackdown killed 3,000 and left the junta intact. Today, people everywhere know about the regime's atrocities. They are disgusted by the junta's abuses of human rights. This swelling out-



Buddhist monks march in the rain in the western Yangon suburb. Photo: AP

rage presents the generals with an urgent choice: Be part of Burma's peaceful transition to democracy, or get out of the way for a government of the Burmese people's choosing.

Whatever last shred of legitimacy the junta had among its own citizens has vanished. The regime's stranglehold on information is slipping; thanks to new technologies, people throughout Burma know about the junta's assaults. The public mood is said to be "a mixture of

fear, depression, hopelessness, and seething anger." According to reports from Rangoon, "The regime's heavy-handed tactics against the revered clergy and peaceful demonstrators have turned many of the politically neutral in favor of the recent demonstrators."

The international community, too, is distancing itself. On Saturday, during a "Global Day of Action for Burma," thousands of people marched through dozens of cities--from Kuala Lumpur to London, Sydney to Paris--in solidarity with the monks. Spiritual leaders, including Pope Benedict XVI and the Dalai Lama, have enlisted millions of faithful to pray for peace and justice in Burma.

Governments from Spain to Estonia to Panama to Australia have voiced their disapproval. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has denounced the generals' actions as "repulsive." Burma's neighbor, Malaysia, has urged the regime to hold "unconditional" talks with Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of Burma's popularly elected National League for Democracy party. India, one of Burma's closest trading partners, has called for an inquiry into the

regime's crackdown, and encouraged the junta to hasten the process of political reform.

On Friday, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon described the regime's violent repression as "abhorrent and unacceptable." Yesterday, Mr. Ban called me to say that he will send the U.N.'s special envoy to Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, back to the region "as soon as possible." Mr. Gambari will coordinate with Burma's neighboring govern-

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First Lady Laura Bush's Visit to Middle East October 20-26

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the First Lady
October 15, 2007

STATEMENT FROM PRESS SECRETARY SALLY MCDONOUGH

Mrs. Bush will travel to the Middle East October 20-26, 2007 to visit the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Jordan. During



Mrs. Laura Bush

the trip, Mrs. Bush will meet with key officials, medical and educational leaders, and leaders of women's

groups. While in the region she will also visit several cancer treatment and screening centers and launch new cancer awareness activities. She will observe first-hand the U.S.-Middle East Partnership for Breast Cancer Awareness and Research and discuss ways to expand its role.

In the United Arab Emirates, Mrs. Bush will visit a Pink Majlis in Abu Dhabi – where women can go to learn about breast cancer and preventative care. In Dubai, she will join private sector leaders to launch a Breast Cancer Workplace Awareness program. She will meet with Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, widow of the founder and president of the country, the late Sheikh Zayed.

In Saudi Arabia, Mrs. Bush will launch the U.S.-Saudi Arabia Partnership for Breast Cancer Awareness and Research at the King Fahad Medical City in Riyadh and tour the Kingdom's first-ever community cancer screening center. While in Jeddah, she will hold a discussion with breast cancer survivors and

advocates. She will also meet with King Abdallah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

In Kuwait, Mrs. Bush will meet with women democratic reformers, legal advocates and business leaders, and visit successful Middle East Partnership Initiative programs, including education and scholarship projects.

In Jordan, Mrs. Bush will visit the King Hussein Cancer Center to unveil a model of Jordan's first community breast cancer screening center and announce the expansion of the Partnership to additional countries in the Middle East. She will also tour the facility, highlighting its use of cutting-edge technology in breast cancer care and meet with child cancer patients. In addition, Mrs. Bush will visit the UNESCO World Heritage site in Petra. She will also meet with His Majesty King Abdullah II.

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Stop the Terror in Burma

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ments, encouraging them to use their influence with the junta to bring about a transfer of power.

And last week, the United States led an effort to put Burma, for the first time in history, on the agenda of the U.N. Security Council. The United States expects that the Security Council--especially permanent members Russia and China, who typically support Burma's military dictatorship--will keep pressure on the regime.

The junta has also shut itself off economically. Money talks--and we know it speaks to those who rule the country, Gen. Than Shwe and his deputies. One of last week's more promising developments was the general's statement indicating, for the first time, his willingness to meet with Ms. Suu Kyi--but on the condition that she "stop calling for economic sanctions." The junta is feeling the financial squeeze.

The economic pressure will only grow more intense. Last week, the European Union tightened its sanc-

tions against the regime; over the weekend, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown called for harsher measures. Amid growing outrage over the murder of a Japanese journalist, Japan--one of the largest providers of aid to Burma--is likely to suspend assistance.

President Bush has directed the U.S. Treasury Department to freeze the assets of 14 senior members of the Burmese junta. Our State Department has identified top junta officials and their immediate fami-

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Political Dynamics Shifted During 2006 Israel-Hezbollah Conflict

Terje Roed-Larsen, who has been involved for more than a decade in the Israeli-Palestinian peace effort, says the positions of parties sometimes can evolve "very radically over brief periods of time." During an interview with USINFO Staff Writer Jacquelyn S. Porth, he also said negotiators must be ready to return to the table repeatedly in the quest for peace.

Washington -- Nowhere is the old adage "the devil is in the details" truer than in a negotiation to separate and end fighting between warring parties.

Sometimes hostilities end through the good offices of a charismatic leader, sometimes when the opposing sides realize their goals are unachievable or otherwise have a change of heart.

Norwegian Ambassador Terje Roed-Larsen has experienced the highs and lows that are part of any artful negotiation because he long has been involved intimately in various efforts to restore Middle East peace.

He recalled his personal experiences as the United Nations special envoy during the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah conflict in a recent USINFO interview that reveals the need for negotiators to be nimble and flexible.

Roed-Larsen was vacationing in Norway when the conflict broke out and then-U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan asked him to travel to the Middle East, at a time when the diplomat was serving as special envoy for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1559 -- a position he had assumed in January 2005. U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559 calls for the protection of Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

It requires the disbanding and disarming of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militia. (See full text (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2004/sc8181.doc.htm>) of the resolution.)

Annan asked him to see how hostilities between Israel and the Lebanese Shiite Muslim group Hezbollah might be halted and what would be necessary to persuade Hezbollah to release several Israeli soldiers it had abducted.

Roed-Larsen said the crisis was precipitated when Hezbollah crossed the U.N. Blue Line in southern Lebanon July 12, 2006, and entered Israeli territory, abducting two Israeli soldiers and killing three in the process. This triggered an Israeli military response, including aerial bombardment and the dispatch of ground troops into Lebanon.

GETTING TO FIRST BASE

Before leaving for Lebanon, the U.N. team -- including U.N. envoy Alvaro de Soto and Annan's special political adviser, Vijay Nambiar -- went to Cairo, Egypt, to meet with Arab League Secretary-General Amr Musa and a range of Arab foreign ministers. They were very critical of Hezbollah's actions and put their weight behind the team's effort to negotiate a cease-fire by issuing supportive public statements.

Meanwhile, fighting between the two sides had shut down Lebanese commercial air traffic, so obtaining transportation was the team's first hurdle. A European government provided an aircraft to fly them to Cyprus, where a British Royal Air Force helicopter ferried them across the Mediterranean to a Beirut, Lebanon, airstrip, where they rushed through a city emptied by fighting to meet with the Lebanese Cabinet.

The Lebanese government made clear, Roed-Larsen said, that it was not consulted nor informed about Hezbollah's attack. He said this put the government "in an incredibly difficult position," because violence had erupted not between two governments, but between a neighboring nation's army and a militia within Lebanese territory.

He said his team made a deliberate decision to negotiate exclusively with the Lebanese government -- not Hezbollah -- to underline the legitimacy of the democratically elected government of Lebanon. Elected Lebanese leaders were left to negotiate with Hezbollah.

KEY INFLUENTIAL PARTICIPANTS

Roed-Larsen said his team continued to consult not only with the Arab League, but also with key regional countries, including Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. He said they also consulted with the United States and France -- which long has exercised influence in Lebanon -- as well as with other European governments, particularly Spain, through the efforts of Foreign Minister Miguel Moratinos.

A perilous security situation created "a difficult backdrop for the negotiations," said Roed-Larsen, as negotiators sought to determine under what circumstances Hezbollah would accept a cease-fire and hand over the kidnapped soldiers to Israeli authorities or a third party. In the initial round of negotiations, he said, the return of the soldiers was seen as key to an Israeli agreement to stop bombarding Hezbollah targets in Lebanon and end its invasion.

[The soldiers have yet to be freed. Annan appointed a confidential fa-

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Stop the Terror in Burma

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lies--more than 200 people--as subject to a ban on entry into the U.S., and President Bush is preparing further U.S. sanctions against the dictatorship.

Gen. Than Shwe and his deputies are a friendless regime. They should step aside to make way for a unified Burma governed by legitimate leaders. The rest of the armed forces should not fear this transition--there is room for a professional military in a democratic Burma. In fact, one of Burma's military heroes was also a beloved champion of Burmese freedom: General Aung San, the late father of Aung San Suu Kyi.

As part of a peaceful transition process, the generals must immediately stop their terror campaigns against their own people. They must commit to a meaningful, unrestricted dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and other opposition leaders--including the demonstrating monks, the 88 Generation Students and members of Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party. The junta has taken a small, promising first step by appointing its deputy labor minister as a liaison to Ms. Suu Kyi. Now, the regime must release her--and all members of the political opposition--so they can meet and plan a strategy for Burma's transition to democracy.

Meanwhile, the world watches--and waits. We know that Gen. Than

Shwe and his deputies have the advantage of violent force. But Ms. Suu Kyi and other opposition leaders have moral legitimacy, the support of the Burmese people and the support of the world. The regime's position grows weaker by the day. The generals' choice is clear: The time for a free Burma is now.

Mrs. Bush is first lady of the United States.

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Political Dynamics Shifted During 2006 Israel-Hezbollah . . .

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cilitator to deal with the Israeli government and Hezbollah in an effort to win their freedom. These efforts continue.]

He went on to say that the parties' initial position was quite different from what evolved subsequently. The lesson is that positions can "evolve sometimes very radically over brief periods of time," the ambassador said.

After a debriefing at U.N. headquarters in New York, Roed-Larsen said, the team realized its previous negotiating efforts "were no longer relevant because the parties [now] had different priorities and positions." Israel, he said, "dropped its de facto demand for the release of the soldiers as an absolute precondition for the cessation of hostilities."

ACHIEVING THE END GAME

A peace conference of key foreign ministers, chaired by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Italian Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema, was organized in Rome in July 2006. It led to the secretary-general's offer to work with the United States, France and other key Security Council members to try to propel the process forward.

Roed-Larsen said that effort led to further rounds of negotiations and, ultimately, to Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended hostilities and offered some preconditions for a lasting cease-fire. (See full text (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/sc8808.doc.htm>) of resolution.)

The ambassador attributed the about-face to the parties' realization

that there could be no short-run winner. This meant each side was looking for an exit, he said, but needed political cover to make it "acceptable to both."

Resolution 1701 not only ended the fighting, he said, "but also reinforced preconditions for a lasting cease-fire" by repeating some of the essential elements of Resolution 1559, including resolving the militia problem and a call for the soldiers' release, as well as stipulating the need to address certain controversial border territory issues.

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Nobel Prize for Al Gore Highlights New Environmental Awareness

Washington -- By winning the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, former U.S. Vice President Al Gore joins a roster of prominent U.S. politicians and activists recognized by the Norwegian Nobel Committee. He shares the prize with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an international body of scientists from more than 100 countries.

Earlier American Nobel Peace laureates include: President Theodore Roosevelt (1906); President Woodrow Wilson (1919); Secretary of State Cordell Hull (1945), known as "the father of the United Nations"; the civil rights advocate Martin Luther King Jr. (1964); Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (1973), who shared the prize with the then-Foreign Minister of Vietnam Le Duc Tho; and former President Jimmy Carter (2002).

Gore was awarded the prestigious prize for his environmental advocacy, exemplified by his Oscar-winning documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. The main premise of the film -- that human activities, especially carbon dioxide emissions, put at risk Earth's natural environment -- has gained widespread acceptance by scientific communities and governments, including the Bush administration.

"Vice President Gore has helped to bring attention to climate change," said White House spokesman Tony Fratto. "The IPCC scientists have done remarkable work to bring scientific rigor to the questions sur-

rounding climate change....The next step ... is implementing climate change strategies that are effective and practical, and that allow ... countries to do the work that they need to do to lift people out of poverty," he said.

Although the IPCC's specific recommendations on environmental issues sometimes differed from the approach of the Bush administration,



*Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore
Winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace prize*

U.S. government investments in climate-related research contributed to the development of IPCC's reports, according to U.S. officials.

IPCC was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme. The U.S. delegation to IPCC includes experts from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the State Department.

Made up of more than 2,000 experts, the IPCC does not conduct research, but collects and reviews data from other organizations, in-

cluding the multiagency U.S. Climate Change Science Program, which has spent approximately \$9 billion on climate change science.

Commenting in February on a recently issued IPCC report, the U.S. Department of Energy said the report "confirms what President Bush has said about the nature of climate change and it reaffirms the need for continued U.S. leadership in addressing global climate issues."

The United States is devoting more than any other nation -- nearly \$29 billion -- to scientific research, technology, international assistance and incentive programs aimed at curbing dangerous emissions, according to the Department of Energy.

For more information on U.S. and international action on climate change and other environmental issues, see *Climate Change and Clean Energy* (http://usinfo.state.gov/global_issues/global_issues/climate_change.html).

On environmental issues and U.S. film industry, see also *Hollywood Goes Green* (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0607/ijse/green.htm>).

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Effect of Climate Change on Recovery of Ozone Hole Remains Unclear

By Cheryl Pellerin
USINFO Staff Writer

This is the first article in a two-part series about the Montreal Protocol and stratospheric ozone.

Washington -- For 20 years -- since September 16, 1987, when representatives of 24 nations signed the first accord -- the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer increasingly has limited the production and use of nearly 100 substances that destroy stratospheric ozone.

The agreement, ratified by 191 countries, has helped cut production of ozone-depleting chemicals from more than 1.8 million metric tons in 1987 to 83,000 metric tons at the end of 2005.

Because of broad international compliance with the protocol and development by chemical manufacturers of less-harmful substitutes for the controlled substances, the ozone layer -- Earth's protection in the stratosphere against the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation -- has not grown thinner since 1998 over most of the globe and is projected to return to pre-1980 levels by 2050 to 2075.

The projected recovery, especially of the severe and recurring ozone depletion in springtime over Antarctica, called the ozone hole, depends on continued compliance with the protocol's provisions and, scientists are discovering, the ultimate effects of climate change.

"When these predictions were made, the issue of climate was not so much on the table," Guy Bras-seur, associate director of the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research in the Earth and Sun Systems Laboratory, told USINFO.

"We now know that as climate is changing, we have a change of temperature in the stratosphere, which is cooling while the surface is warming," he added. "The amount of water in the stratosphere could change, and so the link between the ozone problem and the climate problem becomes important and could accelerate or delay the recovery of ozone."

INTO THE STRATOSPHERE

Ozone (O₃), discovered in laboratory experiments in the mid-1800s, is a gas that is naturally present in the atmosphere. About 10 percent of ozone is in the troposphere, from the Earth's surface upward 10 kilometers to 16 kilometers. The rest is in the stratosphere, from the top of the troposphere to an altitude of 50 kilometers.

Ozone helps life on Earth or hurts it, depending on its location in the atmosphere. Near the surface, in the troposphere, ozone levels increased by human-made pollutants can warm Earth's surface, limit crop yields and forest growth and reduce human lung capacity, causing chest pains, throat irritation and coughing.

Above the troposphere, stratospheric ozone absorbs some of the sun's biologically harmful ultraviolet (UV-B) radiation; protects people from increased risk of skin cancer, cataracts and suppressed immune systems; and protects animal and plant life from a range of damage.

Ozone forms throughout the atmosphere in a series of chemical steps involving sunlight.

In the stratosphere, sunlight breaks apart an oxygen molecule (O₂), producing two oxygen (O) atoms. Each oxygen atom combines with an oxygen molecule to produce ozone (O + O₂ = O₃). The reactions occur wherever sunlight is present in the stratosphere, and ozone production is balanced with its destruction by natural and human-made gases in the stratosphere.

Gases that are most damaging to stratospheric ozone contain the chemicals chlorine and bromine, called halogens, and various source gases transport both into the stratosphere. Some of the most destructive chlorine source gases are human-made chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

DEPLETING OZONE



A section of the ice sheet covering much of Greenland. Scientists say the ice is thinning and blame global warming, predicting a 3-foot rise in ocean levels by the end of the century through a combination of thermal expansion of the water and melting of polar ice. (AP Images)

CFCs were developed in the 1930s and were used in industrial, commercial and household applications because they are nontoxic, non-flammable and do not react with

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Effect of Climate Change on Recovery of Ozone Hole . . .

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other chemical compounds, at least not at the Earth's surface.

CFCs are used in coolants for commercial and home refrigeration units, aerosol propellants, electronic cleaning solvents, foam-blowing agents and other products.

"These were great compounds when they were first invented," Anne Douglass, deputy project scientist for NASA's Aura spacecraft, told USINFO. Aura's instruments monitor the atmosphere's chemical composition and gather data that help researchers better understand ozone chemistry through computer models.

Before CFCs, she added, "electric refrigerators were dangerous because of the gases they had in them -- including ammonia -- and they weren't safe. The thing that makes these compounds dangerous to ozone, which is that they don't get broken apart unless they're at 30 kilometers [altitude], is the exact thing that makes them safe for people."

MEASURING SUCCESS

In 2006, some 310 international scientific experts released the Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2006. The study was sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP)

"As a result of the Montreal Protocol," the report reads, "the total abundance of ozone-depleting gases in the atmosphere has begun to decrease in recent years. If the nations of the world continue to fol-

low the provisions of the Montreal Protocol, the decrease will continue throughout the 21st century."

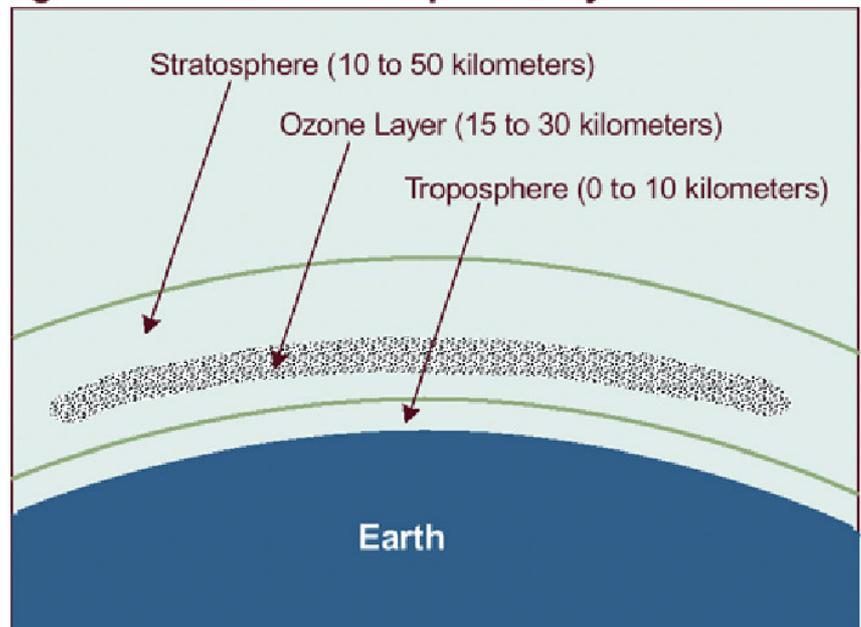
So the protocol is working as intended in terms of atmospheric abundances of ozone-depleting substances, but questions remain.

"Right now, we are in the accountability phase of the protocol," A.R. Ravishankara, director of the

ment Panel, "The citizens of the world came together through their representatives and made the protocol. Now, I think it's perfectly appropriate for them to ask, did it work as intended?"

More information (<http://ozone.unep.org/>) about the Montreal Protocol is available at the UNEP Web site.

Figure 15. Earth's Atmospheric Layers



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Chemical Sciences Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Earth System Research Laboratory in Colorado, told USINFO. "In other words, did it work as intended and are there things we don't know, are there things we need to know, and are there other angles we should be thinking about?"

Added Ravishankara, a co-chair of the WMO-UNEP Scientific Assess-

The full text (<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/csd/assessments/2006>) of Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2006 is available at the NOAA Web site.

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**PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SECTION
AMERICAN EMBASSY**

P.O.Box 1014
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Phone: 251-11-5174007
251-11-5174000
Fax: 251-11-1242454
Email: pasaddis@state.gov



Dalai Lama Receives Congressional . . .

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bet, but also in other areas such as the Darfur region of Sudan.

"There is ... a whole range of things that China could be doing to enhance its image in the eyes of the world as the Olympics approach," the staff member said.

Legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal must be co-sponsored by two-thirds of the membership of both the House of Representatives and the Senate before the congressional committees can consider it. After the legislation is passed by both houses, the medal is forged specially by the U.S. Mint, which creates a unique design for each award.

The medal first was awarded in 1776 by the Second Continental

Congress to then-General George Washington during the U.S. War of Independence. Among the award's non-American recipients are Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former Russian dissident and Israeli Cabinet member Natan Sharansky.

For related stories, see The United States and China (http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/east_asia_pacific/china.html).

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Experts Weigh Value of Endorsements for Presidential . . .

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dorse any of the Republicans until that party's voters choose their candidate for president, and maybe not even then. Sitting presidents normally do not choose a candidate in their party's primary, Donahue added.

Celebrity endorsements, meanwhile, create "quick news stories that might have a little pop effect that do not carry over for the long term," said Donahue. But he added that celebrities can host "extravagant events" that raise significant money for candidates.

PROFESSOR SEES LITTLE VALUE FROM ENDORSEMENTS

Ross Baker, a political science professor at Rutgers University in New Jersey, was more succinct about the value of endorsements.

"I don't view them very highly," he told USINFO.

Baker, also a radio commentator, newspaper columnist and author of a new book on the U.S. Congress and Supreme Court, Strangers on a Hill, said an endorsement may reinforce a voter's decision to support a particular candidate. But he doubted, for example, whether the October 12 endorsement of Clinton by Georgia Representative John Lewis, a former civil rights leader, will cause supporters of Obama or Democratic candidate

John Edwards to switch their allegiance to the New York senator.

Baker added that Winfrey's endorsement of Obama will not have much impact.

"Oprah is much more effective in endorsing books than candidates," said Baker.

For related stories, see U.S. Elections (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/elections.html>).

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