



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

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Martin Luther King's Dream of Racial Equality

A dream fulfilled

By David Pitts
Special Correspondent

Washington -- It was a march and a speech that the world cannot forget. August 28, 1963, an estimated 250,000 people marched to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington where they heard Martin Luther King Jr. give a speech of unsurpassable eloquence. Known ever since from

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Dr Martin Luther King Jr

Making Global Warming Politically Hot

By Lea Terhune
Staff Writer

Washington -- Environmental degradation can be countered effectively if politicians and the public are sufficiently educated about the seriousness of global warming. That was the message from experts at a discussion on how to engage communities at Climate Change: Science and Solutions, a conference organized by the Na-



tional Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) January 16-18.

The panel of academics, activists and a Christian evangelical leader agreed that informing people and spurring them to act -- politically and personally -- is critical to success in dealing with climate change.

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Martin Luther King's Dream of Racial Equality . . .

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its "I Have a Dream" passages, the speech gave impassioned voice to the demands of the U.S. civil rights movement -- equal rights for all citizens, including those who were born black and brown.

The speech particularly, coming near the close of the then, largest demonstration in U.S. history, created a new spirit of hope across the land. It was one of those rare moments in history that changed a nation -- paving the way for a transformation of American law and life.

"It was a very peaceful day. A sea of white as well as black faces enveloped the Mall," recalls Dorothy Height, president emerita of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). She was one of the march organizers and sat behind King on the platform. "I think it was a decisive moment not only in U.S. civil rights history, but also in American history. It resulted in a new determination to move toward equality, freedom and greater employment for people of color," she adds.

Height -- still an activist and the author of a memoir, *Open Wide the Freedom Gates* -- says, "The real significance of the march, and the speech, was that it changed attitudes. Righteous indignation against racial discrimination became widespread after the march. It led to a time so full of promise and achievement. You could feel it." Congressman John Lewis (a Democrat from Georgia), the youngest speaker, at age 23 at the 1963 march, agrees. "Because of the march, because of the involvement of hundreds and thousands of ordinary citizens, we

experienced what I like to call a nonviolent revolution under the rule of law -- a revolution of values, a revolution of ideas."

The tangible manifestation of the change that Height and Lewis describe was quick in coming. Less than a year after the march, Presi-



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. acknowledges the crowd at the Lincoln Memorial for his "I Have a Dream" speech. (© AP Images)

dent Lyndon Johnson signed into law the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which banned discrimination in public facilities, such as hotels and restaurants, and also prohibited employment discrimination. The following year, the Voting Rights Act was enacted to ensure that African Americans had the right to vote in reality as well as on paper. In 1968, Congress passed the Fair Housing Act to remove discrimination in buying and renting of housing. This landmark legislation was complemented by new policies, such as affirmative action, designed to

counter the legacy of discrimination and to promote African American advancement.

The 1960s legislation is considered to be the crowning achievement of the civil rights movement. The Civil Rights Act swept away the more blatant forms of segregation and discrimination, banishing centuries-old indignities. The Voting Rights Act empowered millions of African Americans politically, leading to a surge in black officeholders.

The new laws took effect immediately. More evolutionary was a change in attitudes. In a 1963 *Newsweek* poll, 74 percent of whites said racial integration was "moving too fast," a viewpoint that seems shocking today when attitudes are very different. In a 2000 *New York Times* poll, for example, 93 percent of whites said they would vote for a qualified black presidential candidate. More than 60 percent approved of interracial marriage. And 80 percent said they did not care whether their neighbors were white or black.

If King were alive today, he would likely applaud the achievement of most of the aims of the 1963 march, while stressing that his dream still has not been fully realized, particularly as relates to equality of economic opportunity. It is a view also stressed by civil rights leaders, such as Height and Lewis. "We have made much of Dr. King's dream come true," says Lewis. But, he adds, "we still have a distance to go." Closing lingering economic and educational disparities among the races, however, is a much more complex task than ending legally sanctioned segregation and mandating voting rights.

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Making Global Warming Politically Hot . . .

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The 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report underscored potential environmental threats and need for urgent action. Irreversible effects of global warming caused by carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions already have affected the world's most vulnerable regions. Scientists recommend prompt measures to preclude further damage from accelerated polar and glacial ice melt and rising temperatures.

"We don't have a lot of time," said writer-activist Bill McKibben, founder of StepItUp.org, which organizes rallies across the country to demand emissions-cutting legislation. The movement has "mushroomed" in the past year, he said.

"An energy revolution in this country," Apollo Alliance Washington director Dan Seligman said, "is a job creator and an enhancer of our nation's economic competitiveness." The alliance lobbies Congress and raises awareness on clean energy. "We exist to unite diverse constituencies," he said of this coalition of labor, environmental, business and community leaders dedicated to reducing oil dependency.

Michael M. Crow, president of Arizona State University, said he is taking his university out of "the Stone Age" into a new paradigm. "We are working to rethink the very fundamental design and structure of the institution at every possible level," he said, "by organizing student teams that actually work on real world problems." Harnessing the fresh, creative energy of students to "tackle sustainability" is a means of "advancing quality of life

and environmental systems," he said.

The environment concerns many evangelical Christians. Richard Cizik, vice president of the influential National Association of Evangelicals, said it is necessary to "communicate not just the scope and depth of the crisis but its moral magnitude and I would suggest that the crisis is ... a political crisis not just an environmental crisis."

"Ironically, we are both perpetrators and victims," he said.

He said large religious communities joining forces with the scientific community is a powerful tool: "We are people with the capacity to dream of that which doesn't exist and vision it forward," adding the environment is as important as the moral issues evangelicals typically support. "Do not typecast us anymore," he said.

"A culture that understands sacrifice" is required, McKibben said.

Expansion of scientific research emphasis from individual health and security "to include the collective" will help, Crow said.

Seligman said awareness in the business world is "rapidly shifting" to embrace clean energy. This was confirmed across town at the National Press Club, where energy industry representatives attended the U.S. Energy Association's annual meeting on the state of the U.S. energy industry January 16. Their concerns included "the technology pathway" of clean and renewable energy and alliances between private and public sectors for energy efficiency.

"Climate's going to be huge ... we are going to need every bit of energy efficiency help we can get, we're going to need nuclear, we're going to need carbon capture and storage and clean coal plants, we're going to need renewables, we are going to need gas," Tom Kuhn, president and chief executive officer of the Edison Electric Institute, told the gathering. He urged legislation that would meet the needs of the energy industry while bringing in new technologies. The institute represents U.S. shareholder-owned electric companies.

"People do have to understand if we are going to invest in the infrastructure of this country for energy, if we are going to make the major investments to meet climate change, that it is going to be a costly endeavor." He said these investments likely will be made because climate change has "major impacts on the environment and our country in the future."

They agreed that the public and politicians must learn about energy realities. Informed legislation was a particular concern in the discussion about how to square the demands of climate change with the demands of the economy.

At the NCSE conference, Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Peter Senge concluded the panel by saying that, around the world, the approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change is "a profound cultural issue. We've been caught in the culture of the industrial era for the last couple of hundred years, which has not been replaced by the culture of the information era." Taking responsibility will ensure a hopeful future, he said. ♦

Bush Discusses His Commitment, Strategy to Assist the People in Sudan

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
January 17, 2008

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AFTER MEETING WITH SPECIAL ENVOY FOR SUDAN
RICH WILLIAMSON

Oval Office
10:56 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: I've just had an extensive visit with Madam Secretary and members of my national security team; Rich Williamson, who is the Presidential Envoy -- Special Envoy to Sudan.

We talked about our common commitment and the commitment of this government to help the suffering of citizens in Sudan who, you know, suffer deprivation and rape. My administration called this a genocide. Once you label it "genocide" you obviously have to do something about it.

Our discussion centered upon our mutual desire to develop a strategy that will help the United Nations become more effective. The United Nations considers the Darfur issue a central issue, and it's on its agenda. We agree. The United States can help what has been a process, frankly, that has unfolded a little too slow for our liking. And we can help.

And secondly, we want to make sure that the peace agreement, negotiated through this administration by Ambassador Danforth between the north and south, holds. So Rich is going to report back to me quickly. And I plan to accelerate



President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice sit in the Oval Office with Rich Williamson, Special Envoy for Sudan Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008, to discuss the continuing commitment by the United States to help the citizens of Sudan. Said the President, "... One of the reasons we care about the suffering in Sudan is because we care about the human condition all across the face of the earth. And we fully understand that when people suffer, it is in our interest to help." White House photo by Joyce N. Boghosian

our efforts.

You know, America is probably wondering why, why do you care? And one of the reasons we care about the suffering in Sudan is because we care about the human condition all across the face of the earth. And we fully understand that when people suffer, it is in our interest to help. And we also understand that when people suffer it makes it more likely that some may turn to the ideology of those who use murder as a weapon. So it's in our national security interest and it's in our -- in the interest of our conscience to confront this, what we have called a genocide. And I want to thank you for taking this on.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMSON:
Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: It means a great deal and you've got my full support.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMSON: I appreciate it. Thank you, sir.

END 11:00 A.M. EST

(end text)

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U.S. Economy Is Fundamentally Strong, President Says

By Merle D. Kellerhals, Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington -- President Bush and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke have emphasized to world economic markets that the U.S. economy remains fundamentally resilient and concerns about a slow-down in growth could be ameliorated by a short-term stimulus package.

"[The U.S. economy] has a strong labor force, excellent productivity and technology, and a deep and liquid financial market that is in the process of repairing itself. So I think we need to keep in mind also that the economy does have inherent strengths and that those will certainly surface over a period of time," Bernanke said during testimony before the U.S.

House Budget Committee January 17. Periodically during the year, Bernanke testifies before Congress on the current economic outlook and future trends.

Coinciding with Bernanke's remarks about the continuing strength of the U.S. economy, President Bush announced January 18 that he is asking Congress for a short-term economic stimulus package to help avoid a slowdown in the economy and to help reassure world markets he is prepared to act swiftly.

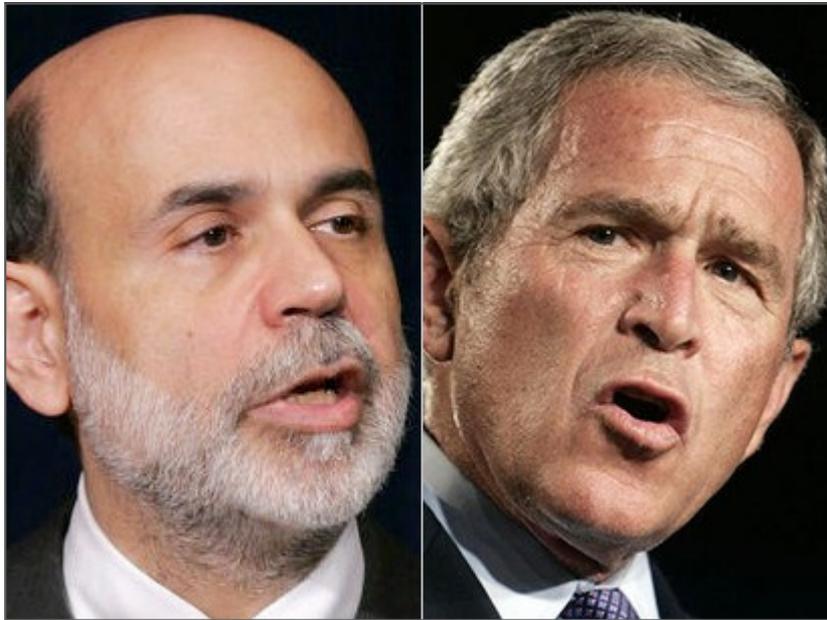
"Our economy has a solid foundation, but there are areas of real concern. The economy is still creating jobs, though at a reduced pace.

Consumer spending is still growing, but the housing market is declining. Business investment and [trade] exports are still rising, but the cost of imported oil has increased," Bush said in a televised White House address.

The proposed \$140 billion stimulus package Bush is seeking amounts

been "under considerable strain."

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, who will lead the effort before Congress for the stimulus package, told NBC News that "the long-term fundamentals of our economy are strong," but "[w]e believe the economy is going to continue to grow slowly here."



President George Bush (R) and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke

Paulson said "this is not an emergency." The president is very focused on taking actions quickly that will give a boost to the economy as soon as possible this year, he said.

The U.S. economy grew at about 5 percent in the third quarter, Paulson said, though the signals are mixed now and there is some slowing of the growth rate.

to about 1 percent of the gross domestic product, and it temporarily will be offering rapid business and consumer incentives, but not long-term tax increases. Bernanke told Congress that he also supports a short-term stimulus package, but he warned that it should not carry any long-term impact that could hamper growth later or worsen the U.S. federal deficit.

The U.S. economy has been buffeted by a housing crisis, credit crunch and surge in oil prices. And since last summer, Bernanke said in testimony, financial markets in the United States and in a number of other industrialized countries have

Bush spoke with congressional leaders by conference call January 17, and all agreed to a short-term stimulus package that can be ready for his signature within a week to 10 days. The White House said in a fact sheet that "a growth package can help ensure that consumption and investment is sufficient to protect the health of the broader economy."

A fact sheet (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/01/20080118.html>) on the president's stimulus plan is available on the White House Web site. ♦

Bush, Congressional Leaders Meet on Economic Stimulus Package

By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington -- President Bush and congressional leaders agree that a short-term, temporary set of economic measures is needed to stimulate the U.S. economy at a time of slowing growth. They share a sense of urgency to get money into the economy quickly, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson says.

"Specifically, the president called for a robust package that is large enough to have a real impact on our economy and will boost consumer spending and business investment this year," he said January 22 during a speech in Washington. "The U.S. economy is resilient, [the] unemployment rate remains low, and job creation continues ... at a modest pace."

"The structure of our economy is sound, and our long-term economic fundamentals are healthy," Paulson said.

President Bush met with congressional leaders at the White House the same day and said he was optimistic an economic stimulus package can be developed quickly. He said the package, which is based on

1 percent of the nation's gross domestic product, or about \$140 billion to \$145 billion, would make sure that the current uncertainty does not translate into greater economic woes. The package, which still has to be worked out by Congress, would include tax rebates to consumers and incentives to businesses to stimulate spending and growth.

The U.S. Federal Reserve at the beginning of the day January 22 lowered the federal funds rate, which controls overnight lending between banks, to 3.5 percent -- its lowest level since September 2005. The Federal Reserve also lowered the discount rate, which it charges on direct bank loans, to 4 percent. Both measures are designed to loosen credit lending to consumers and businesses.

"The [Federal Open Market] Committee took this action in view of a weakening of the economic outlook and increasing downside risks to growth," the Federal Reserve announcement said. "While strains in short-term funding markets have eased somewhat, broader financial market conditions have continued to deteriorate and credit has tightened further for some businesses

and households."

Jason Furman, a senior fellow in economic studies at the Brookings Institution in Washington, said the plan proposed by the Bush administration to give the economy a fiscal stimulus is designed to be temporary, timely and targeted -- essential ingredients at a critical time. It is also important that the president and congressional leaders are talking to each other and that they agree on the course that has been proposed.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said before a meeting with the president and other congressional leaders that Congress could get the stimulus package to the president in about three weeks. "We're going to have to get it done as quickly as possible," he said, recognizing that legislation can take some time to make its way through both houses of Congress.

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

Nongovernmental Group Making Personal Philanthropy Easy

By Kathryn McConnell
Staff Writer

Washington -- An American organization is making giving to international development causes easy while ensuring donors their gifts have the effects they expect.

The nongovernmental organization GlobalGiving, founded in 2002 by two former World Bank officials, also offers a way for donors to meet like-minded donors through the Internet.

Through its GlobalGiving Guaranteed program, the organization gives donors assurance their gifts of up to \$10,000 will be used as intended or donors can redirect those gifts to alternative causes. To learn how their gifts are being used, GlobalGiving lets donors track project progress through online updates. GlobalGiving also enables donors to communicate directly by phone and e-mail with those implementing the projects.

The guarantee program is the only one of its kind in the United States.

GlobalGiving's way of directly connecting individual and organizational donors with high-impact, grassroots projects has received financial, technological and business support from executives of the Internet auction site eBay and from the Case Foundation, established by the co-founder of America Online. It also has attracted the support of the Hewlett, Ford and Packard foundations, GlobalGiving founder Dennis Whittle told America.gov.

Whittle, with colleague Mari Kuraiishi, in 2000 created the World Bank's popular Development Marketplace to help "anyone with a

good idea" about how to fight poverty present the idea to bank officials for potential funding.

That led them to create an organization where many more development ideas could be put before potential donors.

They wanted to "explode the myth" that only development professionals



A GlobalGiving-supported program gives vaccinations to mothers and children in a Mali village. (GlobalGiving/Oueslessebouyou Alliance)

could come forward with ideas worthy of funding, Whittle said. He added that they also wanted to show funding could be accomplished more quickly by bypassing a traditional bureaucracy.

"As more donors give online, their expectations for accountability, convenience and impact are increasing. ... We treat donors as customers," Whittle said.

People around the world can access the GlobalGiving Web site to review projects needing support. They then can select those that reflect their interests -- such as clean water, reducing greenhouse gas emissions or reducing hunger. Ten percent of GlobalGiving's donors are from outside the United States, Whittle said.

Donors donate online an amount they can afford -- from \$10 to thousands of dollars.

GlobalGiving also offers donors the option of purchasing gift cards. Card recipients then choose causes they want the values of the cards to support.

The Hewlett Foundation funded technology for GlobalGiving that gives individual donors the ability to link directly with the projects they are supporting and to evaluate the progress of the projects. The Sall Foundation created the computer software to help donors interact online.

And such companies as clothing merchandiser Gap have instituted programs matching employees' gifts to GlobalGiving.

"Gap Inc. employees around the world are using GlobalGiving to support specific nonprofit projects in their own countries and anywhere else they choose. Their donations are matched by the Gap," said Marianne Campbell, manager of community relations at Gap Foundation.

GlobalGiving follows the Case Foundation's belief in the "democratization of philanthropy," Whittle said. That means that donors without large amounts of money can make a difference, he said.

More information (<http://www.globalgiving.com/>) is available on the GlobalGiving Web site.

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The Path to the 2008 Presidential Nomination

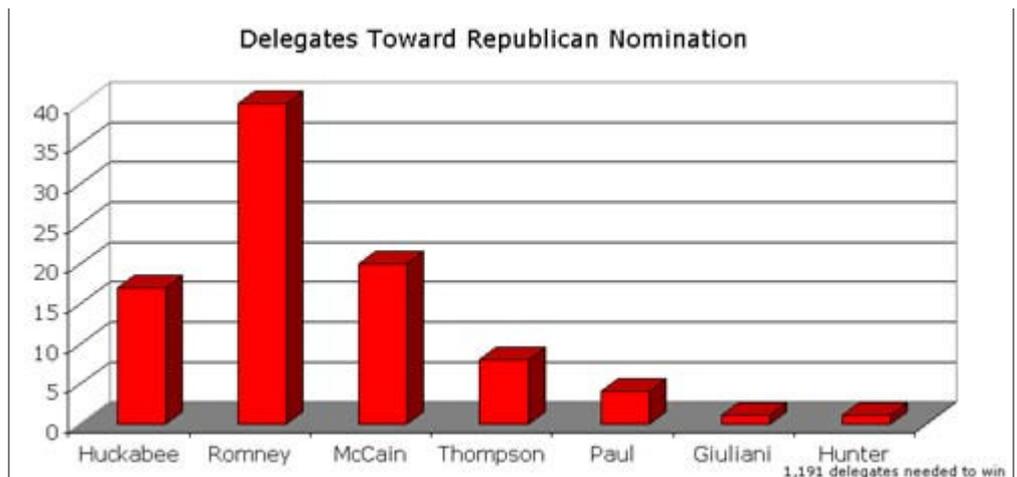
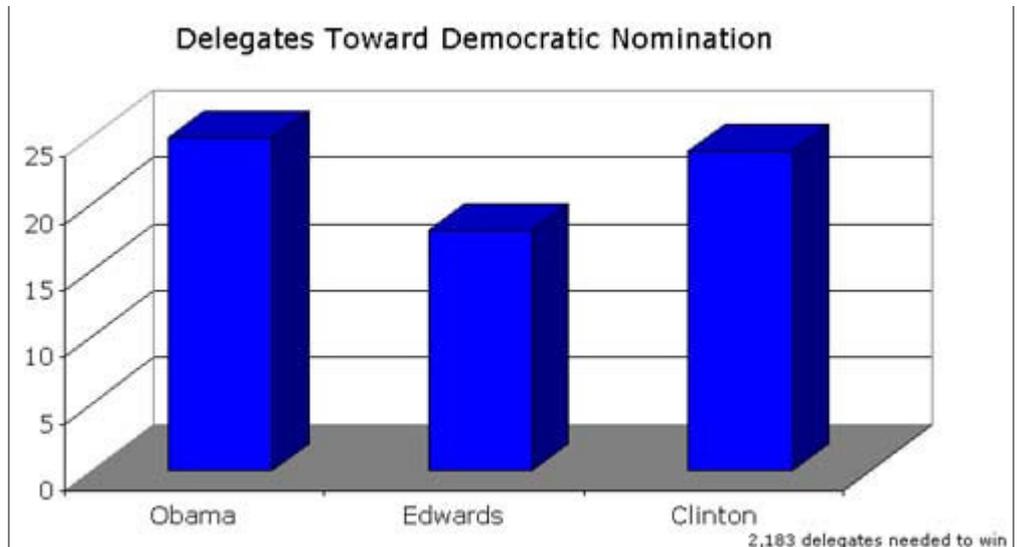
(Updated January 16)

To become a party's nominee for president, a candidate must win the support of a majority of delegates to the party's national convention in the summer of 2008. For whom those delegates will cast their votes is determined by the outcomes of state caucuses and primaries. Convention delegates are divided among states proportionally.

Most of the delegates are "pledged" (or committed) to the candidate who wins the state's primary or caucus. Each party in each state has its own guidelines for awarding delegates. Some states divide their delegates proportionately, while others have a winner-take-all system. Some states' party leaders also select a few "unpledged" delegates and these delegates can vote for any candidate. A candidate must receive a majority of convention votes to secure the party's nomination. If multiple rounds of voting are required to select a candidate

-- something that has not occurred in recent election cycles -- most states allow delegates to change their votes after the first round of voting.

During the primaries and caucuses, Democrats are slated to select 4,364 delegates, which means a candidate would need to receive a majority of 2,183 votes to win the nomination. However, the Democratic Party has said it does not plan to count Michigan's 128 pledged delegates or Florida's 185 pledged delegates at its convention because those states violated party rules by



holding their primaries prior to February 5. As a result of the party's ruling, Democratic candidates did not campaign in those states, and the names of many leading candidates will not appear on Michigan or Florida ballots.

Republicans will elect at least 2,380 delegates, although it is possible the number could be higher if the party revokes its punishment of Wyoming, New Hampshire, Michigan, Florida and South Carolina for scheduling their primaries before February 5. Currently, these states stand to lose half their delegations.

As of January 2008, a Republican candidate would need 1,191 delegates to win the nomination.

RECENT RACES

According to the Green Papers, an organization that tracks the awarding of delegates, Mitt Romney leads the Republican race with an estimated 40 "pledged" delegates, thanks to his wins in Michigan and Wyoming and strong second place finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire. Arizona Senator John McCain has 20 delegates followed by for-

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Mitt Romney, John McCain Win Big Republican Races

By Michelle Austein
Staff Writer

Washington -- After a week with three nominating contests spread across the country, Republicans Mitt Romney and John McCain won their party's latest races. On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton came off with another narrow victory.

Following his second-place finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire, most political experts believed former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney needed a win to stay competitive. He earned such a victory in the January 15 Michigan primary. Romney connected with voters by focusing on economic issues in a state facing severe financial troubles.

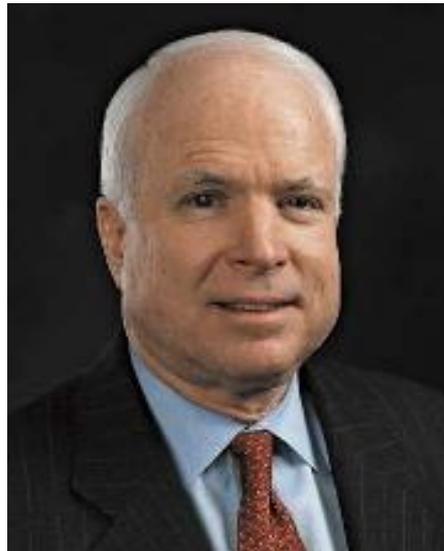
"Only a week ago, a win looked like it was impossible," Romney told his supporters, "but then you got out and told America what they needed to hear ... Michigan heard and Michigan voted tonight."

Romney, who grew up in Michigan where his father once was governor, received 39 percent of the vote, followed by Arizona Senator John McCain with 30 percent. Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee finished third.

Romney achieved another victory four days later. On January 19, South Carolina Republicans headed to the polls in their primary as Nevada Republicans held caucuses. While most Republicans campaigned in South Carolina, Romney focused on the Western state, allowing him to win easily. Romney received more than half of the votes, while the second-place fin-



Republicans Mitt Romney



Republicans John McCain

isher, Texas Representative Ron Paul, received only 14 percent.

The South Carolina primary was seen by many as a battle between McCain and Huckabee. McCain defeated Huckabee by three percentage points. Former Tennessee Senator Fred Thompson placed third.

After a series of disappointing finishes, Thompson withdrew from the race January 22.

South Carolina is the first state to vote in the South region where Republicans have strong support. No Republican has won his party's nomination without winning South Carolina -- a fact McCain knew firsthand, having lost the state in a close contest to George W. Bush in the 2000 presidential primary.

"Thank you, South Carolina, for bringing us across the finish line first in the first-in-the-South primary," McCain said. "You know, it took us a while, but what's eight years among friends?" the senator joked.

McCain said that despite his victory, "there are some tough contests ahead."

The next such contest is the January 29 Florida primary, where former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani has been campaigning heavily over the past few weeks. Giuliani has not done well in the first contests, but that was expected as he has focused his efforts on winning Florida, believing that a victory there will propel him to big wins on February 5, when more than 20 states hold races.

With three Republicans having won primaries or caucuses and Giuliani campaigning heavily in Florida, there is still no clear front-runner.

DEMOCRATS FACE OFF IN NEVADA

There was a Michigan Democratic primary on January 15 as well, but

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Mitt Romney, John McCain Win Big Republican Races . . .

(Continued from page 9)

it received little attention from the candidates. The Democratic Party had mandated that only certain states could hold nominating contests prior to February 5. Michigan was not one of these states.

When the state opted to move its primary to January, the Democratic Party responded by stripping the state of its delegates to the national convention. Along with some other Democratic candidates, Illinois Senator Barack Obama removed his name from the ballot.

The only major candidate left on the ballot, New York Senator Hillary Clinton, won the state with 55 percent of the vote. Forty percent of Michigan Democrats voted "uncommitted" meaning they did not support any of the candidates on the ballot.

Because the major Democratic candidates pledged not to campaign in Michigan and the South Carolina Democratic primary is not until January 26, the candidates spent

much of the past week focusing on Nevada, which held party caucuses on January 19.

The Nevada race was a close and contentious one between Clinton and Obama, but Clinton recorded a narrow victory. Former North Carolina Senator John Edwards finished a distant third, with about 4 percent of the vote.

In the days before the caucuses, union members campaigned for both candidates, resulting in a last-minute legal case. A teachers union that endorsed Clinton asked a court to shut down caucus sites at nine casinos. The union argued that holding caucuses in the casinos gave an unfair advantage to supporters of Obama. Many casino employees are members of the Culinary Workers Union which endorsed Obama.

The court ruled January 17 that holding caucuses at the casinos was fair, since the Democratic Party picked the locations, and the caucuses went on as scheduled.

While Clinton won the popular vote and therefore the U.S. media considers her the victor, the Obama campaign said he likely will earn more delegates to the national convention when Nevada officially awards them this spring. This is because of strong support Obama received in rural areas. Similar to the Electoral College, which uses proportional representation to divide up electoral votes, Nevada Democrats use a system that weighs rural votes more heavily.

With the close Nevada race, Clinton and Obama remain in a tight contest as they focus on winning the upcoming South Carolina primary. Florida Democrats also vote January 29, but like Michigan, Florida was penalized for holding an early primary and will award no delegates.

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

The Path to the 2008 Presidential Nomination . . .

(Continued from page 8)

mer Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee with 17 delegates. Four other Republican candidates have also earned delegates.

Even though the Democrats recently held a contest in Michigan, no delegate votes were awarded due to the state's violation of party rules. The Democratic race continues to be a close one between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton: having each having won a nominating contest by narrow margins, Obama lead Clinton by only one

delegate. John Edwards is currently in third place with 18 delegates.

For the latest information on the recent races see the Guide to the 2008 Elections (<http://usinfo.state.gov/politics/elections/>).

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

Barack Obama's U.S. Presidential Bid Bridges Racial Divisions

By Eric Green
Staff Writer

Washington -- The candidacy of Barack Obama for U.S. president is galvanizing the American people, several students of the U.S. political scene tell America.gov.

With his stirring oratory sparking "Obamania," the Illinois Democratic senator connects to people of all different racial and ethnic backgrounds, said William Jelani Cobb, associate professor of history at Spelman College in Georgia.

Americans are attracted to Obama's message of bringing people together and the fact that he is African American is "icing on the top," said Cobb, also an author who specializes in 20th-century American politics. Cobb said Obama's candidacy is "not driven by race."

Cobb said endorsements by several prominent African Americans for Obama's Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, will not entice a majority of the U.S. black community to vote for the New York senator and former first lady.

Clinton may get a "substantial number of black votes, but it will not be because of the endorsements," said Cobb. He said early endorsements by the black leaders for Clinton were prompted by the fact that she seemed "low-risk" and a "safe bet" as a strong Democratic candidate for the White House. But no one foresaw that Obama would enjoy such large voter backing in the Democratic primaries and caucuses, Cobb said.

Black leaders who endorsed Clinton "are on the defensive now and having to explain to the people they



Barack Obama campaigning for 2008 presidential election

purportedly lead why they are so far out of step," said Cobb.

The professor said the chances of Obama capturing the White House, if he wins the Democratic nomination, depend on which Republican candidate opposes him in the general election. Obama's strongest Republican rival would be Arizona Senator John McCain, said Cobb.

Support for another Republican candidate, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, is "pretty narrow," while the "personality" of Republican candidate Mitt Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, "does not draw people to him," Cobb said.

VIEWS OF ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

Arizona State University history professor Thomas Davis says: "I am not sure blacks in the United States collectively see Senator Obama any

differently than whites collectively see him. The range of views is probably the same across race."

Davis, the author of *Race Relations in America*, among other books, said that "for almost every perspective some white person has of Senator Obama, there is some black person who probably has an almost indistinguishable perspective."

Davis said the difference between the views of blacks and whites of Obama "arises primarily in where the views cluster." A greater percentage of blacks, said Davis, see Obama as a "sign and symbol of their hopes for improved race relations, which more pointedly in their views means improved circumstances and conditions in their lives." In that regard, added Davis, more blacks appear likely to "invest unreasonable expectations" in Obama.

(Continued on page 19)

Terrorist Group List Highlights Why Terrorism Is Unacceptable

By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States views action to identify and list "foreign terrorist organizations" as an effective tool for denying them financial support, blocking their international travel and criminalizing support for them. Such listing also helps to expose terrorism generally as an unacceptable means for political change, says a senior State Department official.

"We must fight terrorists with precise, calibrated force in order to buy space and time to transform the environment and the conditions that terrorists exploit, and to build enduring solutions that transcend violence," Ambassador Dell Dailey, the State Department's coordinator for counterterrorism, said in a recent Washington speech.

Annually, the State Department issues its Country Reports on Terrorism, which includes the Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) list. The list was created by the U.S. Congress in a 1996 amendment to federal law, and additional changes were made under the 2004 Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act. The list is designed to cut off funding to terrorist groups, block their immigration into the United States and authorize deportation once members of the group are located in the country.

Since the attack on the United States September 11, 2001, the FTO list has taken on an even more critical role in confronting global terrorism.

The secretary of state is authorized to designate any group as a foreign terrorist organization if it meets certain specific criteria. And, while the State Department is the lead agency on counterterrorism, designating an FTO actually involves the joint work of the State, Justice and Treasury departments. Information on terrorist groups is gleaned from both classified and unclassified sources and is compiled in a detailed "administrative record,"



Colombian protesters demand release of kidnap victims held by the left-wing rebel group known as FARC in July 2007. (© AP Images)

which explains why a group should be given that designation.

The first FTO list was published October 8, 1997, and later included in the 1997 Patterns of Global Terrorism report. The report was revised in 2004 and now is known as Country Reports on Terrorism.

Currently, the list includes 42 foreign terrorist organizations. The list, however, serves another broad purpose as a key symbol of U.S. counterterrorism policy.

A group can be designated an FTO if it meets three requirements -- it is foreign, it engages in terrorist activity as defined in federal law and its

activity threatens the security of U.S. citizens or the national security of the United States. At the heart of identifying a terrorist organization is the definition of terrorism.

The Department of State, in its terrorism report, uses several key definitions that are found in federal law:

The term "terrorism" means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, with the actions usually intended to influence an audience.

The term "terrorist group" means any group practicing, or that has significant subgroups that practice, international terrorism.

And, the term "international terrorism" means terrorism involving citizens or the territory of more than one country.

There are three consequences for a group that is designated an FTO:

Any member who knowingly provides "material support or resources," which includes financial assistance, lodging, training, expert advice or assistance, safe houses, false documents or fake identification, communications equipment, weapons or transportation, can be prosecuted in U.S. courts.

Any representatives or members of a designated FTO can be denied admission to the United States, or, if already in the country, can face deportation.

(Continued on page 13)

Terrorist Group List Highlights Why Terrorism Is Unacceptable . . .

(Continued from page 12)

And, any financial institution that becomes aware that it is holding funds from a designated FTO or its agents, must freeze the funds and report the action immediately to the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

However, the FTO list is not the only "terrorist list" published by the U.S. government. As terrorism has become an increasing threat to U.S. national security, the government has responded vigorously.

A second well-known list is the "state-sponsors of terrorism," which is required by the 1979 Ex-



Colombians call FARC terrorists murderers. (© AP Images)

port Administration Act. It also is included in the annual Country Reports on Terrorism.

Currently, five countries are included on that list -- Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria. The

law imposes a range of export controls on any designated state sponsor, and U.S. foreign aid also is prohibited to countries so listed.

The Foreign Terrorist Organization list (<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/fs/37191.htm>) is available on the State De-

partment Web site.

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Martin Luther King's Dream of Racial Equality . . .

(Continued from page 2)

As for King, his dream at the March on Washington is now part of the political mainstream, his birthday a national holiday during which Americans honor his ideas and his memory. Political leaders from both major parties supported a memorial to be built in his honor in the nation's capital alongside three giants of American history -- Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. It is a measure perhaps of how much a nation can grow and change that King's dream now is accepted as irrefutable truth by the overwhelming majority of Americans.

And not just Americans. Through-

out his short life of just 39 years, King fought for racial justice everywhere, not just in the United States. To that end, he traveled the world proclaiming his vision of the "beloved community," and defining racism as a worldwide evil. "Among the moral imperatives of our time, we are challenged to work all over the world with unshakable determination to wipe out the last vestiges of racism," he remarked. "It is no mere American phenomenon. Its vicious grasp knows no national boundaries."

Even on the day of his "I Have A Dream" speech, when he was talking to Americans in particular, King was conscious of the worldwide impact of the march and its mes-

sage. "As television beamed the image of this extraordinary gathering across the borders and oceans," he said, "everyone who believed in man's capacity to better himself had a moment of inspiration and confidence in the future of the human race."

The universal significance of the events of August 28, 1963, is underlined by Height. "Wherever I have been in the world these last 40 years, it's incredible to me how much people know about the civil rights movement and Dr. King -- often in very specific detail. The world was watching us on that day," she says. "The march touched the world as well as America." ♦

Bush, Mubarak Pledge To Strengthen Efforts for Middle East Peace

By Merle D. Kellerhals, Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington -- President Bush January 16 said that, with steady engagement, a Palestinian-Israeli peace accord could be reached by the end of his term in office, and that the prospects for reaching an accord are strengthened greatly by support from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Mubarak emphasized in a meeting 16 with Bush at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula that he regards the Palestinian question as being at the core of problems and conflict in the Middle East. The two world leaders met on Bush's final day of an eight-day journey that has taken the U.S. president through the Middle East.

"I also emphasized that we in Egypt, we are keen on supporting peace efforts that we're ready, hand in hand with the United States of America ... to put an end to this Israeli-Palestinian conflict," Mubarak said at a joint briefing at the conclusion of his talks with President Bush.

Mubarak said that the resolution of this conflict will open new horizons for the Middle East for a more peaceful and secure future.



President George W. Bush and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak shake hands after their joint availability Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. President Bush visited the seaside town on the final stop of his eight-day, Mideast trip. White House photo by Chris Greenberg

Bush pledged continued engagement in the Middle East peace process through the final year of his administration. The president also said he plans to return to the region by May and continue talks begun in the past eight days -- in his first major trip to the Middle East -- when he visited Israel, the Palestinian Territories, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

"When I say I'm coming back to stay engaged, I mean it. And when I say I'm optimistic we can get a deal done, I mean what I'm saying," Bush said at the briefing.

In addition to discussing the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Bush and Mubarak also discussed the security and political situation in Lebanon and the importance of countries across the region lending their support to Prime Minister Fouad Siniora. "It's important to encourage the holding of immediate and unconditional presidential elections according to the Lebanese Constitution and to make it clear to Syria, Iran and their allies [that] they must end their interference and efforts to undermine the process," the president said.

The two leaders also discussed the role of Iraq and Egypt in the world. "Our friendship with Egypt is deep and broad. Egypt will continue to be a vital strategic partner of the United States. We will work together to build a safer and more peaceful world," Bush said.

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

U.S.-Afghan Women's Council Investing in Afghanistan's Future

By David McKeeby
Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S.-Afghan Women's Council shows the power of public-private partnerships to transform lives and invest in the future of developing democracies. "The Council shows what individual Americans can do to aid our country's humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan," first lady Laura Bush says.

"It shows what Afghans can do to invest in their country's future," she says.

The council was created in 2002 by President Bush and Afghan President Hamid Karzai to help Afghan women get the skills and education denied to them by the Taliban so that they can fully contribute to Afghanistan's emergence from decades of war and oppression.

"Through the Council, individual American citizens, mainly women, are making a very personal investment in Afghanistan's women," Laura Bush said January 17 at a council meeting in Washington.

Co-chaired by Under Secretary of State Paula Dobriensky, Afghan Minister of Women's Affairs Hussan Bano Ghazanfar and Minister of Foreign Affairs Rangin Dadfar Spanta, the council has attracted several major corporate supporters, including Time-Warner and Daimler-Chrysler, as well as Microsoft, Gateway and Dell Computers. Since the toppling of the Taliban in 2001, the first lady said, Afghans

already have experienced dramatic improvements in their lives. More people than ever have access to



Undersecretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Dr. Paula Dobriensky, right, looks on as first lady Laura Bush participates in a U.S.-Afghanistan women's council at Georgetown University in Washington, Jan. 17, 2008. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

basic health care. Schools have been reopened for more than 5 million children -- including 2 million girls. More than 2,000 kilometers of new roads have helped restart the economy, which has been growing at an average rate of 15 percent per year since 2002.

These developments have brought hope, she said, but much more remains to be done.

"Rural areas lack the basic infrastructure of roads, irrigation and electricity. And, of course, this

keeps rural areas remote from education and from economic development," the first lady said. "Many people struggle to provide for the basic human needs of food, clean water and shelter."

A public-private partnership, the council has brought together American business leaders and institutions with Afghan community leaders to channel private donations into concrete projects that change lives for thousands of families across Afghanistan.

Laura Bush highlighted the council's successes, including the creation of 17 women's resource centers that provide training ranging from basic literacy to operating a small business; a network of seven community banks offering microfinance loans to as many as 30,000 female entrepreneurs; training to Afghan female judges and lawyers on the country's new constitution; midwife training allowing more than 1,000

Afghan women to reduce infant mortality levels; and a teacher training institute, supported in part by Microsoft and Dell Computers, to train a new generation of educators.

"One special characteristic of Americans that I think is really important is that Americans genuinely and sincerely want to see other people succeed," she said. "We are encouraged and buoyed by the success of other people -- especially in Afghanistan." ♦

Global Broadcasters Unite To Confront Threats to Press Freedom

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington -- In response to growing challenges in reaching their audiences around the world, the five most influential international broadcasters have joined together for the first time to condemn what they describe as the "grave and rising threats to the right to gather information and communicate it across national borders."

A joint statement expressing concern over global media freedom was issued November 30, 2007, by the United Kingdom's BBC World Service, Germany's Deutsche Welle (DW), Radio France Internationale (RFI), Radio Netherlands Worldwide (RNW) and the Voice of America (VOA).

"We do think, indeed, that it has been declining over the last years," said Radio Netherlands Worldwide Director-General Jan Hoek, the current chair of the group of five broadcasters, noting gloomy reports on press freedom from independent organizations such as Reporters Without Borders and Freedom House. "It's one of the basic human rights, but it's really being under threat more and more."

The statement calls attention both to abuses against journalists and interference with broadcasts, including restrictions against allowing programs to be distributed by local affiliates.

"If you look at what has been happening over the past couple of years, you can see that reporters,



Jan Hoek of Radio Netherlands Worldwide believes press freedom is increasingly under threat. (Radio Netherlands Worldwide)

who was held captive in Gaza by a radical Palestinian group for 114 days, as well as RFI journalists killed in Cote D'Ivoire and Congo, and translators from RNW and DW killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, respectively.

Speaking for VOA, Gary Thatcher, an associate director at the International Broadcasting Bureau, said one of its stringer reporters was killed in Kyrgyzstan in October 2007 after refusing to bow to threats against his reporting. Also, Parnaz Azima, a reporter for VOA-affiliate Radio Farda, was detained in Iran between January and September in 2007.

Thatcher said virtually every international broadcaster has encountered the same challenges to staff members. "Some of them have not been publicized because they just don't want to put other staff mem-

bers or family members at risk." "Everyone has seen an increase in two things: one is the degree of difficulty in getting access to specific areas to get the stories out, and then the problem is unique to international broadcasters, and that is to get the story back in [to the country]," he said.

Employees of all five broadcasters have been affected, he added. Among the events of 2007, he mentioned the kidnapping of the BBC's Alan Johnston,

In recent years, international broadcasters have adapted their transmissions away from traditional shortwave frequencies in favor of using local affiliates and television stations because fewer people are listening to shortwave transmissions worldwide. The practice has saved money and improved the quality and availability of reception, but also has placed the broadcasters more at the mercy of the institutions and governments in the host countries.

Deliberate interference or jamming of signals by some governments still is an issue and has expanded to blocking Internet access. Most recently, local rebroadcasts in some countries are being restricted or discontinued, often because of government licensing and regulatory processes.

VOA has seen a precipitous drop in the number of its local affiliates in Russia, from 78 at the beginning of 2005 to 11 in January 2008. Thatcher said the affiliates were being told by government authorities that their station's license to carry foreign programs did not apply to VOA or its sister station, Radio Free Europe (RFE).

In November 2007, the Pakistani government shut down the coun-

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Modern Abolitionists at the U.S. State Department

By Solmaz Sharifi
Special Correspondent

Washington -- After recruiters painted a beautiful picture of foreign job prospects, Aye Aye Win, a Burmese national, and some 800 Burmese migrants willingly traveled to a shrimp-farming and -processing factory and were forced to work day and night, were never paid and were forbidden to leave the remote barbed-wire-fenced compound.

When she tried to escape, she was tied to a pole in a courtyard, beaten and denied food or water. She was freed by Thai police in 2006.

Reflecting on Aye Aye's story, Mark Lagon, head of the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, asked: "Beaten and tortured, starved and humiliated: Is this not slavery?"

The U.S. government estimates that some 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders annually and millions more are trafficked within their own countries. They are coerced into indentured servitude or bonded labor, bought and sold into prostitution, domestic servitude or farm labor and captured to serve as child soldiers. Approximately 80 percent of transnational victims are female, and up to 50 percent are minors. Most females are trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation.

The State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, with a staff of 31 people, now is recognized widely, not the least because of its annual report on trafficking. In operation only since November 2001, the office



An Indian girl protests human trafficking during a January 2008 rally in Hyderabad, India. (@AP Images)

was recognized by New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof as "one of the most effective units in the U.S. government."

THE TIP REPORT

The office emphasizes what it calls "the three P's": prosecuting traffickers, protecting and assisting victims and preventing trafficking from occurring or continuing. Its annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report ranks 164 countries into one of four categories (Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List and Tier 3) based on their compliance with the minimum standards for eliminating human trafficking. Much of the report's information is collected during on-the-ground visits by office representatives, who venture into isolated regions to uncover hidden routes and trafficking tactics.

In part because of the report:

Cambodia shut down a red-light

district where 10-year-olds openly were sold and prostituted and "cheap girls" were advertised on the Internet;

Japan slashed the number of entertainment visas issued to certified Filipina dancers, singers or other entertainers because traffickers were forcing many of these women into prostitution;

The United Arab Emirates eliminated the exploitation

of South Asian boys as camel-racing jockeys and paid for the repatriation of more than 1,000 boys to their home countries;



Japan limited issuance of "entertainment visas" following the State Department's 2007 human trafficking report. (@AP Images)

Jamaica pledged to step up prosecutions this year;

Saudi Arabia said it intended to adopt the 2000 U.N. Trafficking in Persons Protocol; and

Taiwan vowed to strengthen its antitrafficking laws.

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Modern Abolitionists at the U.S. State Department . . .

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From the report's release in June through the following February, office representatives engage foreign governments on antitrafficking objectives in the report and collect fresh information. The most important destinations are Tier 3, Tier 2 Watch List and Tier 2 countries deemed at risk of falling to lower categories in the coming year.

FORGING PARTNERSHIPS

The office manages a variety of grants, ranging from \$25,000 to more than \$1 million. One such grant provided partial funding for a *Journal of the American Medical Association* study on the link between sex trafficking and HIV incidence. The study found that HIV prevalence among women trafficked from Nepal and prostituted in India is 38 percent and exceeds 60 percent among girls prostituted prior to 15 years of age.

The office also creates new models for rescuing, rehabilitating and repatriating victims. It partnered with the International Finance Corporation in 2006 to provide counseling,

job training and employment opportunities for human trafficking victims and at-risk women in developing countries.

The office partners with U.S.-based nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) such as the International Justice Mission, Free the Slaves, World Vision, the Protection Project, the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and the Polaris Project. A recent collaboration with the Polaris Project studied the migration of Washington pimps and traffickers from the streets to online outlets following police crackdowns.

Worldwide, the office has partnerships with grantees from India to Mexico, governments from Sweden to Ghana and international entities such as the International Labor Organization.

The office also has consulted on movies, television shows and books, including the Lifetime Network's film *Human Trafficking*, screened in more than 80 U.S. embassies worldwide.

ACTION AT HOME

Addressing trafficking in the United

States, Lagon said, "In addition to offering advice to other governments on how to live up to the basic standards of the U.N. Protocol on TIP, efforts at home are invaluable to our diplomacy." He added, "These actions show we have a problem, are trying to make strides, hold ourselves to account and have models to share as partners."

"This campaign to raise awareness about human trafficking to find more victims is a quintessentially American response," Lagon said. "It's an exceptionally important effort because we are helping the most degraded, most exploited, most dehumanized people in the world."

The author is a public affairs specialist in the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. This article was adapted from a longer piece that appeared in the January 2008 edition of *State Magazine*.

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Global Broadcasters Unite To Confront Threats to Press Freedom . . .

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try's domestic broadcasters and allowed them back on the air only under emergency regulations that prohibit foreign broadcasts. Likewise, Venezuela's president, Hugo Chavez, has suppressed independent media in his country, including shutting down RCTV, a Venezuelan cable television network, in May 2007.

"I think it's fair to say [broadcasters] have never encountered anything as sustained or as threatening to their very ability to cover and distribute the news as this kind of effort that they're facing now," Thatcher said.

"There are places in the world that are deliberately interfering with our broadcasts. There are places in the world where we believe we can pull resources and get better results, and absolutely we're continuing to look at ways that we can draw closer

together in common cause to overcome these problems," he said.

In an average week, the five broadcasters reach an audience of hundreds of millions in 60 languages through radio, television and the Internet. Although they often compete for the same audience, the erosion of press freedom has drawn them together to combat the shared challenge.

Director-General Hoek said that despite any competition, the broadcasters fundamentally share the same mission to promote press freedom and the availability of independent information. "The overriding goal is bigger than all of us," he said.

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Barack Obama's U.S. Presidential Bid Bridges Racial Divisions . . .

(Continued from page 11)

"The more influence he appears to have, the more blacks will want from him," said Davis.

Meanwhile, whites on the whole are less demanding of Obama, the professor said, and "tend to see him more simply as a signal of a new moment in U.S. history and life."

Any concerns by voters that Obama, because of his relative youth (he was born in 1961), was not involved in America's civil rights struggle of the mid-20th century are unfounded, Davis said.

"The civil rights struggle is ongoing. It is not something past ... it is something present. And it is something in which Senator Obama is actively engaged," said

Davis.

Davis said that despite all of Obama's cross-racial appeal, he does not see the senator winning the White House.

"I am not yet convinced that this is the right time for a black candidate to have a realistic chance to become president," Davis said.

He explained that "in the closed confines of the hearts and minds of a majority of Americans, to say nothing of the privacy of voting booths, Senator Obama will be an attractive candidate, but he will be too few voters' actual choice for president."

OBAMA THE GREAT WHITE HOPE?

David Greenberg, assistant profes-

sor of journalism and media studies at Rutgers University in New Jersey, said in a January 13 Washington Post article that Obama's "allure" stems from his "near-perfect pitch in talking about race to white America."

Greenberg quoted from social commentators that a President Obama would be a "ringing symbol" that racism no longer rules in the United States. That, said Greenberg, makes Obama the "great white hope."

Greenberg said many voters and political pundits "remain intoxicated ... with the hope" that Obama can "deliver ... a categorically different kind of change" from Hillary Clinton or the Republican presidential candidates. ♦