



Do'stlik



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New American Embassy Compound Dedicated in Tashkent

On December 14 Ambassador Jon R. Purnell and his guests officially dedicated the new facility of the Embassy of the United States of America to the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tashkent's Yunusobod District.

Chief among the Ambassador's guests were General Charles E. Williams, the Director and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations, and Elyor M. Ganiev, Uzbekistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs.



In his keynote address, General Williams described the New Embassy Compound as "a fitting symbol of America's commitment" to maintaining a presence in Uzbekistan. Like Foreign Minister Ganiev, Ambassador Purnell and General Williams gave credit to the close cooperation between Uzbeks and Americans as well as the governments of Uzbekistan and

U.S. Ambassador Purnell (far right) watches the official ribbon being cut by, from left to right, Director of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations General Charles Williams, Mayor of Tashkent Abdukahhar Tuhtaev and Uzbek Foreign Minister Elyor Ganiev.

the United States for making the New Embassy Compound possible.

(Continued on back page)

U.S. Assistant Secretary Fried: "U.S. SECURITY AND DEMOCRACY ARE INDIVISIBLE"

Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Daniel Fried in a visit to Tashkent several months ago underscored that the U.S. wants to have good relations with Uzbekistan. Below is the transcript of the press conference of Assistant Secretary Fried.

Ambassador Purnell: Thank you all for coming this evening and thank you for your patience. We are very pleased to be able to organize this opportunity and I'm delighted to have with us this evening the Assistant

Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia, Mr. Daniel Fried.

You've seen his bio. You know that he has had a long and distinguished career in the Department of State, including the position of Ambassador to Poland, and he has worked together with Condoleezza Rice in her capacity both as Secretary of State and earlier as National Security Advisor. Dan, it is a great pleasure.

(Continued on page 14)

Open Letter from Ambassador Purnell

Dear Readers,

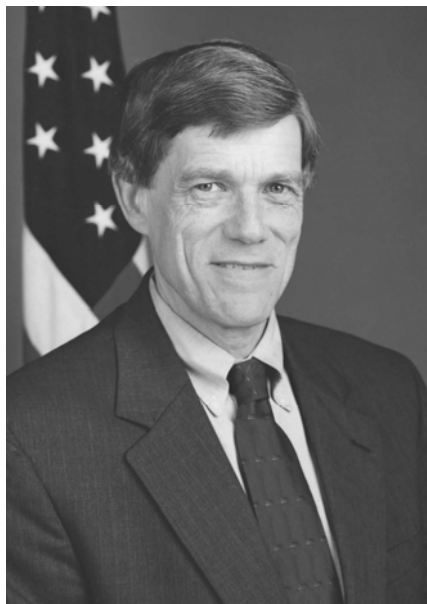
Welcome to the premiere edition of *Do'stlik*! I want to take this opportunity to tell you a bit about this and future issues of our newsletter.

In my numerous trips throughout Uzbekistan during the past two years, I have had the pleasure of meeting with countless Uzbek citizens. They have given me tours of historic mosques and modern factories, introduced me to their students and their hokims, and shared their pride in their accomplishments as well as their hopes and expectations for the future.

They have also asked me questions. A lot of them. They have asked me about my activities and the role of the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent. They have asked me about the policies and programs of the U.S. Government. And they have asked me about life in the United States, about American history and culture and about our values.

Do'stlik is intended to answer these (and other) questions. First, we want to keep you informed about the ongoing work of the United States Embassy in Tashkent. In this issue, for example, we report about how the United States military funded and oversaw renovations at a Tashkent orphanage and how the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is helping to bring clean water to residents of isolated villages in Karakalpakstan. We also answer some of the many questions I have been asked about visas and educational

opportunities in the United States. We promise to keep you up-to-date about Embassy events and activities in future issues and to provide more information about visas and educa-



Ambassador Jon Purnell

tional opportunities in the United States.

Second, we want the newsletter to be a useful and timely source for accurate information about the policies and programs of the U.S. Government. For this premiere issue, we have printed excerpts from President Bush's January 31 State of the Union address that broadly defines America's foreign policy goals as well as the transcript of a press conference with Assistant Secretary of State Dan Fried, during which he answered questions on specific issues relating to U.S.-Uzbek relations. Additional information about U.S. government poli-

cies, including official reports, is available at our website:

<http://uzbekistan.usembassy.gov>

Third, we want to share stories about American life and history, about our culture and values. In this issue, we feature stories about the history and architecture of mosques in America, and the death of Ms. Rosa Parks, a prominent and beloved figure in the American civil rights movement. We also include a piece on the State of California, the first of a series profiling each of the 50 states.

In my time here, I have learned several Uzbek proverbs. My favorite is: "Always keep your soul open to your friends." Mutual understanding is the key to any relationship. As the name of this newsletter suggests our aim is friendship and mutual understanding. My colleagues at the U.S. Embassy and I believe that by sharing information about the United States with you, we can further the bonds of friendship between our nations and our people. I hope that you find our efforts interesting and informative.

Sincerely,

Jon R. Purnell

Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Uzbekistan

Human Rights: A Cornerstone of U.S. Foreign Policy

Promoting human rights and democracy is a cornerstone of American foreign policy. The Department of State integrates democracy and human rights promotion into all aspects of U.S. foreign policy by supporting freedom-loving people around the world in their efforts to protect human rights.

The U.S. aims to:

- Promote democracy with its partners around the world as a means to achieve security, stability and prosperity for the world
- Assist newly formed democracies in implementing democratic principles and developing democratic institutions
- Speak out against regimes that deny their citizens fundamental freedoms

In promoting human rights and democracy, the U.S. employs:

Diplomacy

American officials engage other governments, multilateral institutions, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and individuals around the world to encourage improved human rights practices and transition to democracy.

Human Rights Reports

The State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, the International Religious Freedom Report, the Trafficking in Persons Report, and Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record measure the human rights performances of countries worldwide and U.S. assistance in building democracy. These annual reports receive serious attention in the United

States and around the world and have helped bring about democratic and human rights change.

Democracy and Governance Programs

The State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development provide technical assistance to help governments and civil societies around

the world strengthen their democratic skills. Programs are organized around the core concepts of accountable government, human rights, rule of law, fair elections, free media, civil society, and citizen participation.

"Freedom is the non-negotiable demand of human dignity."

President George Bush

Assistance Based on Performance

For governments that show the will to reform, the United States offers financial, technical and political assistance. For governments lacking the will to reform, the United States can withhold support. In either case, the United States provides assistance to those people within a society who are working peacefully for democratic change.

Supporting Human Rights

- ◆ **Sudan:** Through diplomatic pressure, media interviews, and multilateral engagement with the Sudanese government and militia leaders, the United States has denounced genocide and called for perpetrators of violence against women and children to be held accountable.
- ◆ **Burma:** The United States presses the Burmese junta to allow workers' rights and urges unions to stop the use of forced labor. It speaks out against the imprisonment of Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi

and other courageous advocates for democracy.

- ◆ **Iran:** U.S. human rights and democracy programs support freedom of association and speech, and free participation in the political process. Projects focus on influential democratic actors and groups, including labor, women, and students.
- ◆ **Cuba:** The United States has helped universities and NGOs build solidarity with Cuba's human rights activists, give voice to independent journalists, and defend the rights of workers. The U.S. continues to speak out against the treatment of political prisoners.
- ◆ **North Korea:** The newly appointed U.S. Special Envoy for Human Rights in North Korea is working with the international community and NGOs to raise awareness about human rights and religious freedom abuses in North Korea.

Promoting Democracy

- ◆ **Iraq:** The United States trained over 12,000 poll watchers, funded a national "Get Out the Vote" effort, and helped incorporate women into the political process. The U.S. also is supporting human rights education and rule of law programs.
- ◆ **Afghanistan:** The State Department provided assistance in drafting the new constitution that ensures protection of human rights, especially for women, and freedom of religion.
- ◆ **Middle East Partnership Initiative:** The U.S. has designated \$300 million for grants to support democratic reform in the region through some 140 democracy building projects in 14 countries and the Palestinian territories.

A View: American



The Islamic Society of Greater Houston, Texas, built in the early '90s. (Courtesy Omar Khalidi)

More than 1,200 mosques and Islamic centers existed in the United States, according to a survey conducted in the latter part of the 1990s, but fewer than 100 were actually designed as mosques. The survey revealed that most Islamic congregations in the United States began in buildings that had been constructed for other purposes -- fire stations, theaters, warehouses, and shops.

The situation changed, however, after 1965 when the first large-scale influx of Muslims from various countries came to the United States. Mosques then began to be built for the sole purpose of ministering to the Muslim community as houses of worship and community centers. The great variety of religious diversity and ethnicity among American Muslims today is reflected in the variety of building design and organization.



The innovative design of the Islamic Center of Albuquerque, New Mexico, rethinks the possibilities of geometry, space, structure, and material. (Kirk Gittings)

The photographer and chronicler of mosque architecture, Dr. Omar Khalidi, a senior research scholar at the Aga Khan Program in Islamic Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, explains the three types of mosque architecture that now flourish in the United States.

"First, there are mosques that embody a traditional design transplanted from one -- or several -- Islamic lands," Dr. Khalidi points out. "Second, there are those that represent a



The King Fahd Mosque in Culver City, California (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

reinterpretation of tradition, sometimes combined with elements of American architecture. Third are the designs that are entirely innovative, like those of the Islamic Society of North America's headquarters in Plainfield, Indiana."

Most of the mosques in all three categories also function as classrooms, libraries, conference centers, bookshops, kitchens, and social halls, even as residential apartments.

Mosques



Imam Mohamad Mardini, left, and Muhammad Muniruddin are shown during evening prayers at the opening of the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, Michigan, Thursday, May 12, 2005. The mosque, covering 70,000 square feet, will provide metropolitan Detroit's Muslim population with a main prayer hall that can accommodate up to a thousand men and women at prayer time. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

Another important consideration in mosque architecture is the space for women to worship. In America, women generally are an integral part of mosque activities and play a very active role in the Muslim community. In a typical American Muslim family, the entire family turns out for worship, necessitating separate space for women, usually at a mezzanine level.

In many instances, mosque architecture in North America reflects the prevailing building designs of the area. "Over time a standard design will evolve which will be a happy blend between nostalgia and innovation," Dr. Khalidi predicts. "The new emerging mosques in the West are a far cry from just domes and minarets."



The interior space of the Islamic Center of Evansville, Indiana. (Courtesy Saudi Aramco World)

Demographic Facts

- Mosques in the United States: **1,209**
- American Muslims associated with a mosque: **2 million**
- Increase in number of mosques since 1994: **25 percent**
- Proportion of mosques founded since 1980: **62 percent**
- Average number of Muslims associated with each mosque in the United States: **1,625**
- U.S. mosque participants who are converts: **30 percent**
- American Muslims who "strongly agree" that they should participate in American institutions and the political process: **70 percent**
- U.S. mosques attended by a single ethnic group: **7 percent**
- U.S. mosques that have some Asian, African-American, and Arab members: **nearly 90 percent**
- Ethnic origins of regular participants in U.S. mosques:
 - South Asian (Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi, Afghani) = 33 percent**
 - African-America = 30 percent**
 - Arab = 25 percent**
 - Sub-Saharan African = 3.4 percent**
 - European (Bosnian, Tartar, Kosovar, etc.) = 2.1 percent**
 - White American = 1.6 percent**
 - Southeast Asian (Malaysian, Indonesian, Filipino) = 1.3 percent**
 - Caribbean = 1.2 percent**
 - Turkish = 1.1 percent**
 - Iranian = 0.7 percent**
 - Hispanic/Latino = 0.6 percent**

- U.S. mosques that feel they strictly follow the Koran and Sunnah: **more than 90 percent**
- U.S. mosques that feel the Koran should be interpreted with consideration of its purposes and modern circumstances: **71 percent**
- U.S. mosques that provide some assistance to the needy: **nearly 70 percent**
- U.S. mosques with a full-time school: **more than 20 percent**

Source: *Muslim Life in America*, U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs

President Bush Calls for an End to Tyranny

State of the Union address foreign policy excerpts

Following are excerpts from President George Bush's January 31 State of the Union address related to foreign policy:

Abroad, our Nation is committed to an historic, long-term goal – we seek the end of tyranny in our world. Some dismiss that goal as misguided idealism. In reality, the future security of America depends on it. On September 11th, 2001, we found that problems originating in a failed and oppressive state seven thousand miles away could bring murder and destruction to our country. Dictatorships shelter terrorists, feed resentment and radicalism, and seek weapons of mass destruction. Democracies replace resentment with hope, respect the rights of their citizens and their neighbors, and join the fight against terror. Every step toward freedom in the world makes our country safer, and so we will act boldly in freedom's cause.

Far from being a hopeless dream, the advance of freedom is the great story of our time. In 1945, there were about two dozen lonely democracies on Earth. Today, there are 122. And we are writing a new chapter in the story of self-government – with women lining up to vote in Afghanistan ... and millions of Iraqis marking their liberty with purple ink ... and men and women from Lebanon to Egypt debating the rights of individuals and the necessity of freedom. At the start of 2006, more than half the people of our world live in democratic nations. And we do not forget the other half – in places like Syria, Burma, Zimbabwe, North Korea, and Iran – because the demands of justice, and the peace of this world, require their freedom as well.

No one can deny the success of freedom, but some men rage and fight against it. And one of the main sources of reaction and opposition is radical Islam – the perversion by a few of a noble faith into an ideology of terror

and death. Terrorists like bin Laden are serious about mass murder – and all of us must take their declared intentions seriously. They seek to impose a heartless system of totalitarian control throughout the Middle East, and arm themselves with weapons of mass murder. Their aim is to seize power in Iraq, and use it as a safe haven to launch attacks against America and the world. Lacking the military strength to challenge us directly, the terrorists have chosen the weapon of fear. When they murder children at a school in Beslan ... or blow up commuters in London ... or behead a bound captive ... the terrorists hope these horrors will break our will, allowing the violent to inherit the Earth. But they have miscalculated: We love our freedom, and we will fight to keep it.

In a time of testing, we cannot find security by abandoning our commitments and retreating within our borders. If we were to leave these vicious attackers alone, they would not leave us alone. They would simply move the battlefield to our own shores. There is no peace in retreat. And there is no honor in retreat. By allowing radical Islam to work its will – by leaving an assaulted world to fend for itself – we would signal to all that we no longer believe in our own ideals, or even in our own courage. But our enemies and our friends can be certain: The United States will not retreat from the world, and we will never surrender to evil.

America rejects the false comfort of isolationism. We are the Nation that saved liberty in Europe, and liberated death camps, and helped raise up democracies, and faced down an evil empire. Once again, we accept the call of history to deliver the oppressed, and move this world toward peace.

We remain on the offensive against terror networks. We have killed or captured many of their leaders – and for the others, their day will come.

We remain on the offensive in Afghanistan – where a fine president and national assembly are fighting terror while building the institutions of a new democracy.

And we are on the offensive in Iraq, with a clear plan for victory. First, we are helping Iraqis build an inclusive government, so that old resentments will be eased, and the insurgency marginalized. Second, we are continuing reconstruction efforts, and helping the Iraqi government to fight corruption and build a modern economy, so all Iraqis can experience the benefits of freedom. Third, we are striking terrorist targets while we train Iraqi forces that are increasingly capable of defeating the enemy. Iraqis are showing their courage every day, and we are proud to be their allies in the cause of freedom.

Our work in Iraq is difficult, because our enemy is brutal. But that brutality has not stopped the dramatic progress of a new democracy. In less than three years, that nation has gone from dictatorship, to liberation, to sovereignty, to a constitution, to national elections. At the same time, our coalition has been relentless in shutting off terrorist infiltration, clearing out insurgent strongholds, and turning over territory to Iraqi security forces. I am confident in our plan for victory ... I am confident in the will of the Iraqi people ... I am confident in the skill and spirit of our military. Fellow citizens, we are in this fight to win, and we are winning.

The road of victory is the road that will take our troops home. As we make progress on the ground, and Iraqi forces increasingly take the lead, we should be able to further decrease our troop levels – but those decisions will be made by

in World, Advance of Freedom

our military commanders, not by politicians in Washington, D.C.

Our coalition has learned from experience in Iraq. We have adjusted our military tactics and changed our approach to reconstruction. Along the way, we have benefited from responsible criticism and counsel offered by Members of Congress of both parties. In the coming year, I will continue to reach out and seek your good advice.

Yet there is a difference between responsible criticism that aims for success, and defeatism that refuses to acknowledge anything but failure. Hind-sight alone is not wisdom. And second-guessing is not a strategy.

With so much in the balance, those of us in public office have a duty to speak with candor. A sudden withdrawal of our forces from Iraq would abandon our Iraqi allies to death and prison ... put men like bin Laden and Zarqawi in charge of a strategic country ... and show that a pledge from America means little. Members of Congress: however we feel about the decisions and debates of the past, our Nation has only one option: We must keep our word, defeat our enemies, and stand behind the American military in its vital mission.

[...]

Our offensive against terror involves more than military action. Ultimately, the only way to defeat the terrorists is to defeat their dark vision of hatred and fear by offering the hopeful alternative of political freedom and peaceful change. So the United States of America supports democratic reform across the broader Middle East. Elections are vital – but they are only the beginning. Raising up a democracy requires the rule of law, protection of minorities, and strong, accountable institutions that

last longer than a single vote. The great people of Egypt have voted in a multi-party presidential election – and now their government should open paths of peaceful opposition that will reduce the appeal of radicalism. The Palestinian people have voted in elections – now the leaders of Hamas must recognize Israel, disarm, reject terrorism, and work for lasting peace. Saudi Arabia has taken the first steps of reform – now it can offer its people a better future by pressing forward with those efforts. Democracies in the Middle East will not look like our own, because they will reflect the traditions of their own citizens. Yet liberty is the future of every nation in the Middle East, because liberty is the right and hope of all humanity.

The same is true of Iran, a nation now held hostage by a small clerical elite that is isolating and repressing its people. The regime in that country sponsors terrorists in the Palestinian territories and in Lebanon – and that must come to an end. The Iranian government is defying the world with its nuclear ambitions – and the nations of the world must not permit the Iranian regime to gain nuclear weapons. America will continue to rally the world to confront these threats. And tonight, let me speak directly to the citizens of Iran: America respects you, and we respect your country. We respect your right to choose your own future and win your own freedom. And our Nation hopes one day to be the closest of friends with a free and democratic Iran.

To overcome dangers in our world, we must also take the offensive by encouraging economic progress, fighting disease, and spreading hope in hopeless lands. Isolationism would not only tie our hands in fighting enemies,



President George W. Bush delivers his State of the Union Address at the Capitol, Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2006. White House photo by Eric Draper

it would keep us from helping our friends in desperate need. We show compassion abroad because Americans believe in the God-given dignity and worth of a villager with HIV/AIDS, or an infant with malaria, or a refugee fleeing genocide, or a young girl sold into slavery. We also show compassion abroad because regions overwhelmed by poverty, corruption, and despair are sources of terrorism, organized crime, human trafficking, and the drug trade.

In recent years, you and I have taken unprecedented action to fight AIDS and malaria, expand the education of girls, and reward developing nations that are moving forward with economic and political reform. For people everywhere, the United States is a partner for a better life. Short-changing these efforts would increase the suffering and chaos of our world, undercut our long-term security, and dull the conscience of our country. I urge Members of Congress to serve the interests of America by showing the compassion of America.

Working Together



Ambassador Purnell examining new pipeline equipment funded by USAID in Hojaaul, Karakalpakstan.

Hojaaul's climate can be harsh; its landscape is arid. In an area like this, the clean water that is essential to everyone, everywhere for drinking, cleaning and cooking is an increasingly scarce commodity.

In order to support local and other efforts designed to

improve water availability for Karakalpakstanis, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has responded to the specific needs and requests of local residents. The USAID National Resources Management Program in Central Asia, working with the Karakalpakstan Rural Water Supply Organization (KRWSO), aims to bring drinking water into the homes of residents who live in remote villages. According to KRWSO local directors, they needed heavy equipment, such as excavators and generators, as well as welding equipment, for construction and civil works projects designed to expand water services to isolated villages throughout Karakalpakstan. USAID was pleased to respond, and provided the necessary equipment as well as other support.

The project has been underway for slightly more than a year and local directors of the Karakalpakstan Rural Water Supply Organization have managed to install 150 kilometers of pipe that supplies and distributes water to villages throughout the region. To date, approximately 61,800 residents are now being provided with clean water in their homes. KRWSO, working closely with USAID, will continue to install water pipes throughout the region in order to meet the laudable goal of providing clean water services to additional communities during the year.



In February the monthly meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in Uzbekistan was held at the new U.S. Embassy. Ambassador Purnell addressed AmCham members and responded to questions on a variety of topics, including current business activities, Embassy events and developments at the U.S. Department of State regarding Central Asia. The occasion included a tour of the new Embassy and a reception in honor of the members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Uzbekistan.

Towards a Better Future



Ambassador Purnell takes questions from ACCESS Micro Scholarship Project students at the University of World Languages in Tashkent.

The ACCESS MicroScholarship Program's "Art in Embassies" Project was conducted at the National Foreign Language Learning Center of the University of World Languages. Ambassador Purnell addressed a group of

nearly 100 students, parents, teachers and administrators in February.

After greeting the group in Uzbek and Russian, Ambassador Purnell discussed the importance of foreign language learning and shared a personal anecdote of meeting a Japanese friend in Rome and communicating in German. Using their English-language skills, the students asked the Ambassador questions on a wide range of subjects. They also performed skits in English.

As part of the Project, Regional English Language Officer David Fay conducted an interactive slide show presentation on the new American embassy's art collection.

On January 29, Tashkent's Infant Orphanage, a municipal facility assisting the city's youngest citizens, dedicated several recently completed renovation projects. The projects had been paid for by the United States Military's Central Command Humanitarian Assistance Fund.

Together with the Director of the Orphanage, Guli Abaskhanova, Ambassador Purnell cut a ribbon to mark the opening of a renovated kitchen, hydrotherapy room and medical clinic as well as eight suites that serve as residences for approximately 100 children and the playgrounds connected to those suites. During his remarks, the Ambassador emphasized that "although material assistance is necessary, the human relationships formed in this joint project to help the children are far more important and lasting." He was referring both to the members of the United States military who oversaw the \$150,000 renovation project as well as the many other members of the U.S. Embassy community – past and present – who have donated their time, talents and funds to the orphanage.



Ambassador Purnell and Director Guli Abaskhanova cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the renovated orphanage in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Representatives of the Tashkent city Khokimiyat and the Ministry of Health also attended the ceremony.

United States Pledges \$334 Million to Global Fight Against Avian Influenza

Ambassador Nancy Powell, the State Department's Senior Coordinator for Avian Influenza and Infectious Diseases announced the United States' pledge of approximately \$334 million to support the global campaign against avian influenza and a potential influenza pandemic. Ambassador Powell made the announcement at the International Pledging Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza in Beijing, China on January 17-18, 2006.

The U.S. funds will be largely in the form of grants and technical assistance to countries threatened by the virus. They will be used to assist those countries in a variety of ways, including to develop and exercise national preparedness plans, to improve surveillance and response systems, to monitor and evaluate the use and distribution of animal vaccine, to produce and test vaccines for humans, to train local rapid-response teams and medical personnel, and to support communications and public awareness campaigns to limit practices that contribute to the spread of the avian influenza virus. Portions of the pledged U.S. funds will also be used for international research activities and to support the influenza-related work of international technical agencies, private-sector partners, and non-governmental organizations.

In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly last September, President George W. Bush announced the formation of an "International Partnership" to combat avian influenza and to deal with the threat of a possible human pandemic. The President said the global community has "a moral duty to protect our citizens, and heal the sick, and comfort the afflicted".

According conference officials, the combined total of pledges from all donor countries and organizations amounted to \$1.9 billion. The United

States' pledge represented the largest national contribution to the global campaign against the virus.

Conferees also discussed the importance of strong programs at the individual country level to combat the virus, the need for transparency in sharing information about outbreaks, and a "financing framework" proposed by the World Bank as a means of tracking coordinated donor contributions.

International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza: The President in his September address to the UN announced this U.S. initiative to combat avian influenza and improve global readiness for a potential pandemic. The Partnership aims to elevate the issue on national agendas; coordinate efforts among donor and affected nations; mobilize and leverage resources; improve transparency and surveillance; develop preparedness plans; and build local capacity to identify, contain, and respond to a pandemic influenza. Senior Officials from 88 countries and nine international organizations attended an implementation meeting for the Partnership in Washington, D.C., on October 6 and 7, 2005. They agreed on three priority areas for further action: building stockpiles of drugs and supplies; speeding vaccine development and distribution; and implementing rapid response and containment measures.

U.S. Leadership in Building Capacity: The President on May 11, 2005, signed an emergency supplemental budget that allocates \$25 million to prevent and control the spread of avian flu in Southeast Asia. This funding has already supported technical assistance and grants that the United States has provided to affected countries in Southeast Asia and to the World Health Or-

ganization for influenza pandemic preparedness in the past year. On November 1, President Bush announced the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza, and requested emergency funding to begin immediately implementing the strategy, which includes \$251 million for international efforts to enhance surveillance and response capabilities to detect and contain outbreaks.

International Cooperation and Planning: Senior Bush Administration officials from the Departments of Health and Human Services, State, Agriculture, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, accompanied by representatives of key international organizations, traveled to Southeast Asia in October to promote a concerted, coordinated, and effective response to the international challenge of combating avian influenza. They underscored the U.S. commitment to engage on surveillance and prevention; preparedness, planning and outreach; and response and containment measures.

Bilateral Initiatives: Under the leadership of President Bush, the United States is actively pursuing opportunities to collaborate with other countries in the fight against avian influenza, most recently reaching agreement with Indonesia and Singapore. The United States will partner with Singapore and Indonesia to create a model project to control avian influenza in Indonesia. The United States and China are also developing an initiative to strengthen bilateral cooperation on this important issue.

Source: U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs (<http://usinfo.state.gov>)

America Responds to Pakistan Earthquake

U.S. RESPONSE TO PAKISTAN'S EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

American Contributions:

- The United States responded immediately and generously to Pakistan's call for assistance following the tragic and devastating earthquake of October 8. Our response has been consistent with our humanitarian values and our deep commitment to Pakistan.
- The U.S. has pledged a total of \$510 million in earthquake relief and reconstruction efforts to assist the people of Pakistan and to support Pakistani government relief efforts. This total includes \$300 million in humanitarian relief and reconstruction assistance, \$110 million in military support for relief operations, and at least \$100 million anticipated from U.S. private contributions.
- The U.S. has encouraged the international community to respond generously to Pakistan. At the November 19 Donors Conference in



Cpt. Kristen Hyer, from Huntsville, Utah, a nurse with the U.S. 212th MASH unit (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital), treats Dali Jaeem, 60, an earthquake survivor, at the hospital in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2005. AP/Wide World Photo.

Pakistan, 75 countries and international organizations confirmed \$6.2 billion in new and previous

pledges for relief and reconstruction.

- The onset of winter will increase the hardships faced by many quake survivors. Helping the Government of Pakistan to ensure that earthquake victims are adequately sheltered during the winter months remains the United States' highest priority.
- U.S. assistance to Pakistan has focused on immediate needs of shelter, relief supplies, health, water, sanitation and logistics. To date, the U.S. has provided more than \$79.8 million in humanitarian assistance and food to earthquake-affected communities through non-governmental organizations and the United Nations.

Unique U.S. Resources Committed:

- Over 1,000 American personnel are in Pakistan to assist with relief efforts. The U.S. military will support the relief effort at the invitation of Government of Pakistan until the operations can be effectively transitioned to the host nation, U.S. civilian disaster response managers, the United Nations, the NGOs, and other international support organizations. Some resources have already been re-deployed as needs were being met through other means.
- American helicopters have flown over 3,300 sorties delivering over 10 million pounds of relief supplies to the disaster area and transporting over 15,000 people, including over 4,000 needing medical attention.
- Over 250 U.S. military and civilian cargo airlift flights have delivered more than 7000 tons of medical supplies, food, shelter material, blankets, and rescue equipment to Pakistan.

- A 125-person Naval Mobile Construction Battalion is working to clear debris and to build support structures at camps for displaced persons.
- A U.S. Army Mobile Army Surgical Hospital operating in Muzaffarabad and a U.S. Combined Medical Relief Team operating in Shinkaria have provided urgent medical care to over 9,000 injured people.
- The U.S. military constantly assesses support requirements and coordinates closely with the Pakistani Government to ensure the appropriate personnel and equipment are available to support the Pakistani-led relief operations. Any shift in the current level of support would be based on and decided after close consultation with the Pakistani Government.

Private Sector Engagement:

- American private charitable donations to earthquake assistance have totaled \$73 million. These contributions continue to be extremely important in helping Pakistan recover from this devastating disaster.
- Five distinguished corporate leaders, supported by President Bush, have undertaken a nationwide effort to encourage donations from corporations and individuals for relief and reconstruction through the South Asia Earthquake Relief Fund (SAERF). To date, up to \$24 million has been pledged to this new fund.
- Information about making individual donations to one of the humanitarian organizations working in the affected areas may be found at <http://www.usaid.gov/>.



The State of California -

Nicknamed the "Golden State," California is the third largest state in area after Alaska and Texas. The discovery of gold and the immigration in 1849 of thousands of "forty-niners" in search of the precious metal helped California's admission into the Union in 1850. Today, California, land of the giant redwoods, has the highest population of any state in the nation and is America's principal agricultural state. It is also the home of Hollywood, the center of America's movie and television industry. Its capital is Sacramento and the state flower is the golden poppy.

From Gold Rush days, people from around the country and the world have viewed California as a land of opportunity. Today, the faces of its citizens reflect virtually every area of the globe, as new arrivals continue to stake their claims to the California dream.

The Golden State has more people who speak Spanish,



Yosemite National Park, Tunnel View; Credit: Robert Holmes



Disneyland, Sleeping Beauty Castle; Credit: Robert Holmes

and people of Native American, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean and Vietnamese ancestry, than any other state.

Non-Hispanic Caucasians - whose ancestors came from countries such as England, Ireland, Germany, and Italy - are the largest group, making up a bit more than half of the population.

More than a quarter of Californians are Hispanic. Most of them have ethnic roots in



Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco; Credit: Robert Holmes

Spain and Latin America, especially in Mexico and Central America.

Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders are about one-tenth of the state's population, and African-Americans are about 7 percent. Although Native Americans make up less than one percent of the total population, California has about 250 Native American tribes, more than exist in any other state.

One of the best ways to learn about Californians is to eat in ethnic restaurants. There you can find Chinese dim sum (dumplings and other "little bites"), Japanese sushi (rice with bits of raw fish), American meat kabobs, Nicaraguan tamales, Mexican fish tacos, and *Pad Thai* (noodles with shrimp).

The many festivals and celebrations held in the state also reflect its ethnic diversity. In San Francisco, the annual Chinese New Year Festival and Parade (usually in February) features a huge dancing dragon and brightly lit floats. In early May, Mexican-Americans throughout the state celebrate Cinco de Mayo; some of the biggest fiestas are held in Los Angeles and San Jose.

Native American tribes gather from across the country to dance and sing at the annual Indian Fair held each June in San Diego. And in late summer, the Los Angeles African Marketplace and Cultural Faire celebrates African culture around the world.

Each July, the French Festival in Santa Barbara celebrates the music, art, dancing, and food of France. In Sacramento, the Japanese Cultural Bazaar is held every August. This popular, 50-year-old festival features Japanese food, dancing, art, and Taiko drummers.

- The Golden State



History of Hollywood—America's movie-making center

Hollywood was established by emerging American filmmakers who were fleeing Thomas Edison's efforts to monopolize the movie industry—through heavy equipment licensing fees—in the New York area. Universal Studios was formed in 1912. In 1913 Universal's first feature length film earned \$450,000. In 1914 Universal purchased the Taylor Ranch in North Hollywood and set up a studio. *Damon and Pythias* was the first film produced at Universal City. Hollywood attracted filmmakers because its sunny climate allowed year-round film production. Another attraction was its proximity to Mexico, which would be advantageous if Edison pursued them on the West Coast.

An important aspect of Hollywood motion picture production during the first half of the 20th Century was the studio system in which the studios signed directors and stars to long-term contracts. Stars were expected to act in four to five films each year. The studios also controlled distribution by owning the large movie theatre chains although this practice was halted in 1949 as a violation of antitrust laws.

Beginning in the 1950s, movie stars and directors become more independent. By the end of the century, short-lived, single-project companies and independent filmmakers were producing many films. The major studios eventually came to focus less on film production and more on film distribution, and the provision of a variety of other services—including providing financing, physical facilities and technical equipment and skills.

Also starting from the 1950s the major film studios began devoting some of their efforts and resources to producing shows for the emerging television medium. Some of the popular shows produced in California at this time included *I Love Lucy*, *Maverick*, *Lawman*, *77 Sunset Strip*, *Cheyenne*, and *Hawaiian Eye*. Eventually, Hollywood and nearby Burbank became the center of the television entertainment industry. Today, the vast majority of prime time television originates in California.

By the 1990s, Hollywood, with its vastly superior production and post-production capabilities, had even captured most TV commercial production from Madison Avenue, spurring growth in the already considerable Los Angeles advertising industry. Moreover, the balance of power in the industry continued to shift westward. Of the four leading commercial networks, two are now owned by California-headquartered companies—Disney (ABC) and Fox.

Sources: Official websites of California, California Travel and Tourism Commission and California Dept of Finance.



U.S. Map, courtesy of U.S. Census Bureau

Quick Facts

- **Abbreviation:** CA
- **Capital City:** Sacramento
- **Governor:** Arnold Schwarzenegger
- **Date of Statehood:** September 9, 1850 (31st)
- **Population:** 35,893,799 (2004 estimate)
- **Area:** 155,973 sq. mi.; 3rd largest state
- **Origin of State's Name:** Named by the Spanish after Calafia, a mythical paradise in a Spanish romance written by Montalvo in 1510.
- **Largest Cities:** Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco, Long Beach
- **Economy:**
 - * California's top industries include: tourism, manufacturing, construction, agriculture, telecommunications, engineering services, aerospace and entertainment (including motion pictures, TV, and recording). The state is geared for the future with continuing advances in microelectronics, biotechnology and environmental technology.
 - * California generates 13% of the United States Gross National Product.
 - * Currently, California has the fifth largest economy in the world, and is the nation's number one exporting state.
 - * More than 2.6 million small businesses account for 98 percent of all employers in California.

(Continued from front page)

A/S Fried: Thank you Ambassador, and thank you all, and please accept at the opening my apologies for keeping you. I have just returned from a meeting with President Karimov, which went on longer than I'd expected, so please accept that excuse. I arrived last night in Tashkent with an interagency delegation, representatives of the National Security Council staff and the Department of Defense. Our purpose in coming here was to discuss bilateral relations with Uzbekistan after a very difficult patch. After a difficult period, which included grave concerns, which we have expressed about the human rights situation here following the events in Andijon. Our purpose was to determine the basis for moving ahead in relations and determining what basis there is for cooperation, taking as a basis the Joint Declaration of 2002. I mentioned this declaration because it outlines a number of areas on which our cooperation should be based.

The first of these areas, that is the first issue discussed in this joint declaration is democracy, including human rights and political reform. The joint declaration also includes security cooperation, including cooperation against terrorism, and economic cooperation. In my meeting with the President, I referred on several occasions to this joint declaration as the basis for Uzbek-U.S. relations and expressed the hope that we would return to its principles. As Secretary Rice has said, our interests in security and our interests in democracy are indivisible. We can proceed and advance our relations with Uzbekistan if we are able to make progress in all of these areas and such is our intention. My President and Secretary Rice have emphasized the importance of democracy throughout the world and they don't make exceptions for this.

I would describe the conversation with President Karimov as intense, substantive, open, respectful, and we concluded that we should continue...that the two governments should continue the dialogue on all of these issues. I think it is fair to say that we did not agree on all issues. I made it clear that the United States supports civil society, including nongovernmental organizations around the world. And that foreign NGOs operate on American territory...they are welcome to do so. I hope that my visit here will mark a period in which the United States and Uzbekistan can start to move forward in relations based on the principles I outlined. That is, common efforts - not simply in counter- terrorism, but common efforts to advance democracy, respect for human rights, civil society and economic reform - all of which is outlined explicitly in the joint declaration.

I've met here with representatives of American business, representatives of American nongovernmental organizations. I had lunch with a number of senior Uzbek thinkers and former officials in foreign policy, and tomorrow I will meet with representatives of Uzbek civil society. My message to all my interlocutors was the same: the United States wishes to have good relations with Uzbekistan on the basis of the principles I have outlined.

Tomorrow I, and my delegation, will go on to Kyrgyzstan and later this week to Kazakhstan. Now I stand ready to answer any questions you might have and please, again, accept my apologies for keeping you so long. I had not expected the meeting with President Karimov to go on quite so long, though I am grateful to him for his time.

Question: Mr. Fried, what is your reaction to testimony given yesterday by one of the Andijon defendants that he received money from the American Embassy?

A/S Fried: There have been various accusations raised against the United States in the course of this trial about the events of Andijon. These allegations are ludicrous. The assertion that the United States would support an attack by those who are accused of Islamic extremism after fighting four years against exactly such people is non-credible on its face and barely deserves a response. Yet I do feel obligated to respond at least to your question. I believe that the defendant said that his objective was to establish a caliphate. More, the American government has been criticized for many things, but we've not, to date, been accused of attempting to establish a caliphate in Central Asia. I think that subject needs no more elaboration.

Question: Mr. Fried, please, tell me during your talk with the President of Uzbekistan did you make any conclusions about the base in Khanabad?

A/S Fried: The Uzbek government has made a request in accordance with the terms of our agreement to terminate this base and we intend to leave it without further discussion. We will respect this request by the Government of Uzbekistan. I did not come here to ask that this decision be reconsidered. I did not ask that it be reconsidered, directly or indirectly. This was not the purpose of my visit. And it came up only in passing.

Question: In your speech you have mentioned that you have not reached agreement on all issues. Could you specify which issues are outstanding and what should be done to reach agreement on them?

A/S Fried: I don't want to discuss in detail all of the matters that President Karimov and I went over. That would not be fair to the



Assistant Secretary Daniel Fried (right) and Ambassador Jon Pumell (left) at the press conference, September 27, Tashkent.

confidentiality of that discussion, which I feel obligated to respect. We did agree that our dialogue should continue. That is, not this dialogue with me, but the dialogue between the two governments. We did agree that we have common interests in the war on terror. I would say we did not fully agree either about the events of Andijon or the nature of American support for NGOs and democracy. I think that that is a fair statement.

Question: Could you mention to us what is the last date for the American base in Uzbekistan, and when are you leaving, I mean fully leaving the country, and where to, because the arithmetic is different based on the rumors. Somebody says that the last day is in November, the others say that it is October. When and where will the troops be transferred to?

A/S Fried: It's not for me to discuss the technical details. That is the province of my colleagues of the Department of Defense. We will respect the deadline, which is part of our understanding, which is part of the conditions for the base. I don't want, and it is not really my province

to get into details of what other arrangements we might make. I am not here in the region to discuss basing rights. That is not my job as Assistant Secretary of State.

Question: Your meeting with the President lasted quite longer than any other meetings. And what is your personal opinion – does he really believe that there is an American trace in Andijon events?

A/S Fried: I cannot, and probably should not, attempt to characterize what the President really thinks. For myself I was very clear. The events in Andijon surprised us. We had no foreknowledge of them. We did not in any way support or condone at any time the attack on the prison or the other government facilities. Our condemnation of the shooting of the civilians and the civilian casualties is well known and is a matter of record. And I made clear throughout the course of all my conversations today that accusations of American complicity in or foreknowledge of these events were, as I said before, ludicrous.

Question: Right from the first years of its independence Uzbekistan was more headed towards the United States of America. What happened in the relationship? Why for the last several years is the United States experiencing, maybe relatively negative attitudes from Uzbek government? This is my first question. And the second question is, what do you think about the future of the U.S. NGOs operating in Uzbekistan, like Internews and many others?

A/S Fried: I am afraid that some of the U.S. NGOs, including Internews, are under pressure from the government and I regret this. President Bush and Secretary Rice have made clear, especially, and especially dramatically clear since the President's reelection. They've made clear that democracy is a central principle of American foreign policy. We do not recognize exceptions. We believe that countries to be effective partners in the world, whether it is effective partners in the war on terror or in any other way, need to move ahead with democratic reforms. Democracy will look different in different countries, but it has elements in common, including freedom of the press, freedom of religion, free elections and the rule of law to protect individuals from unjust arrest. Those are general principles. They are not specifically directed toward any one country. We do look for our partners to advance in the direction of freedom and in the Declaration of 2002, if you read it, and it does make for very interesting reading, it is clear that the Government of Uzbekistan and the Government of the United States agreed that the principles of democracy would be one of the key inalienable pillars of our relationship.

Question: They say that the United States of America has appropriated \$23 million in order to get the right to base their troops in the Khanabad military base. At the same time now they say that Uzbekistan is requesting some more amount of money in order to continue this cooperation. Is this true?

A/S Fried: Not entirely. We do not pay for the use; we do not pay for the right to have a base. The \$23 million to which you refer is our considered calculation of payment, which is owed to Uzbekistan for services, for material services rendered in the course of operating the base. In other words, this is money we owe them for what they have actually provided the base. We as a government, we need to pay our debts. [...]

END.

Opportunity of a Lifetime: International

If you are a student preparing to apply for admission to colleges and universities in the United States, it is important for you to understand the procedures most U.S. institutions will follow in deciding whether to admit you to their program of study.

In other countries, it is usually the ministry of education, or some similar body, that determines the general eligibility of applicants coming from outside their own educational system. In the United States, each college or university is free to set its own standard for admission and establish its own criteria to determine if a student's academic qualifications meet that admission standard.

The higher the standard, the more selective the college and the harder it is to gain admission. U.S. schools are generally classified as: 1) highly selective; 2) selective; 3) somewhat selective; and 4) open admission (institutions able to admit students regardless of their previous academic performance).

Your previous study records, therefore, may meet the standards at some institutions but not at others.

It is the responsibility of the college or university to review your educational background to determine if you meet the standard required for admission.

Many institutions will have their own staff evaluate or assess your previous study. Other schools might require you to send your academic records to an agency that specializes in providing

evaluations of a non-U.S. education. Sometimes an institution will specify a particular agency, or provide you with a list of several agencies from which you can choose. Despite assessing your previous education and providing the institution with their evaluation, these agencies do not make the decision whether or not to admit you. Only the college or university to which you have

applied will make the admission decision.

Pay close attention to the instructions on each admission application you submit. Follow the instructions

carefully. If you apply to more than one institution you will probably be required to follow different instructions for each. Do not assume that one institution's requirements are the same as another.

Regardless of whether your records are going to be reviewed by the college or university to which you apply or by an outside agency to which you have been referred, you will need to provide all of your previous academic records:

You will need to have an official or attested copy of all of your previous academic records (often referred to in application materials as a "transcript") sent to the institution to which you apply, and to the agency that will review your education. 'Official records' mean that the school where you studied must send a copy of your academic record

directly to the institution to which you apply and/or to the evaluating agency. You, as the applicant, should not mail these records to the institution yourself because, if you do, the records might not be considered "official."

Academic records not in English will need to be translated. A copy of the translation must also be sent to the institution to which you apply and/or to the agency evaluating your education. Institutions and agencies will need to have the academic record in both the original language and the translation.

You will need to pay particular attention to the instructions regarding translation. You might need to have an 'official' translation, or one by an 'authorized' or 'licensed' translator. Yet, some institutions and agencies might allow you to do the translation yourself, if you are sufficiently proficient in English.

External examinations are an important part of the process for U.S. institutions to decide whether to admit you to their programs. If you have been educated in an educational system that uses external national examinations such as the *Baccalauréat* from France, or Ordinary and/or Advanced level examinations from the United Kingdom, you will need to send copies of the results of these examinations.

If you are applying as a first-year student at the undergraduate level (for a Bachelor's degree) you may also need to take certain standardized assessment tests usually required of U.S. applicants, too, such as the SAT or ACT. Schools will instruct you as to which tests to take and how to make arrangements for testing.

Those applying as graduate students (for the Master's degree or PhD) might be required to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), or the Gradu-



Paula Nirschel, founder of 'The Initiative to Educate Afghan Women,' walks with two program participants at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. AP/WWP Photo by Victoria Arocho

Admissions to U.S. Colleges

ate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) if applying for an MBA. Again, the institutions to which you apply will tell you which standardized tests are required for their graduate applicants and how to make arrangements for testing.

If English is not your native language, or if you have not been educated in a country or region where English is a native language, both undergraduate and graduate applicants may be required to present the results of an English proficiency test, such as the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Graduate applicants who seek a teaching assistantship may also be required to take the Test of Spoken English (TSE) as evidence of their ability to teach in English.

If you need an F-1 or M-1 (student) visa, or a J-1 (exchange visitor) visa, you will need to present evidence that you have adequate financial support for the entire period of your anticipated study. Most U.S. colleges and universities will ask you to complete a form regarding your financial backing for your studies, or will tell you what documentation is required. You will usually have to complete a form outlining the sources of your financial support as well as provide verification for it. Again, carefully follow instructions regarding financial documentation.

Deadlines are extremely important!



A South Korean student at the University of Southern Mississippi English Language Institute serves a Korean dish during the university's annual International Food Fair. AP /University of Southern Mississippi Photo by Steve Rouse

Please pay particular attention to any deadlines listed on the application forms. The admission of international students takes more time than does the admission of U.S. students to U.S. institutions. Most colleges and universities will have earlier application deadlines for international students, and it is essential that your applica-

tion be received before that deadline. Many U.S. colleges and universities receive hundreds or even thousands of applications from international students each year. In order to be considered for admission for the term you desire, you will need to have all materials received by the indicated deadlines.

It is highly recommended that you visit an EducationUSA Advising Center if there is one close to you in your home country. The EducationUSA offices have staff that can provide you with information about applying to U.S. colleges and universities. They also have information about specific institutions and can assist you in your search for a school in the United States. The U.S. embassy in your country can tell you the locations of EducationUSA offices, or you can find this information and more at <http://www.educationUSA.state.gov/centers.htm>.

Your studies in the United States will be an exciting and rewarding time. To start your experience in the best possible way, follow the instructions of each institution carefully. If you have any questions about your application process or what you need to provide, contact the institutions in which you are interested for clarification or assistance.

(Taken from See You in the U.S.A., An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, September 2005)



A group of international students at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisburg, Virginia are studying together on the lawn. Courtesy of Eastern Mennonite University

President Bush Addresses Coretta King Memorial Service



President Bush addresses guests at the homegoing celebration for Coretta King, Feb. 7, 2006 at the New Birth Missionary Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Addressing a memorial service attended by at least 10,000 people, many of whom lined up before 3:00 a.m., and a parade of dignitaries including three of his predecessors and more than one dozen United States senators, President Bush on February 7 offered the nation's sympathy at the passing of Coretta Scott King, "a woman who worked to make our nation whole."

Mrs. King, the widow of the slain Martin Luther King Jr., died January 30 at the age of 78.

Her body lay in honor at the Georgia state Capitol, and at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Martin Luther King Jr. held the pulpit as co-pastor with his father from 1960 to 1968, and then at the 10,000-seat capacity New Birth Missionary Baptist Church. The Associated Press estimated that more than 160,000 mourners have paid their respects.

Following is the text of the president's remarks:

THE PRESIDENT: To the King Family, distinguished guests and fellow citizens. We gather in God's house, in God's presence, to honor God's servant, Coretta Scott King. Her journey was long, and only briefly with a hand to hold. But now she leans on everlasting

arms. I've come today to offer the sympathy of our entire nation at the passing of a woman who worked to make our nation whole.

Americans knew her husband only as a young man. We knew Mrs. King in all the seasons of her life - and there was grace and beauty in every season. As a great movement of history took shape, her dignity was a daily rebuke to the pettiness and cruelty of segregation. When she wore a veil at 40 years old, her dignity revealed the

deepest trust in God and His purposes. In decades of prominence, her dignity drew others to the unfinished work of justice. In all her years, Coretta Scott King showed that a person of conviction and strength could also be a beautiful soul. This kind and gentle woman became one of the most admired Americans of our time. She is rightly mourned, and she is deeply missed.

Some here today knew her as a girl, and saw something very special long before a young preacher proposed. She once said, "Before I was a King, I was a Scott." And the Scotts were strong, and righteous, and brave in the face of wrong. Coretta eventually took on the duties of a pastor's wife, and a calling that reached far beyond the doors of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

In that calling, Dr. King's family was subjected to vicious words, threatening calls in the night, and a bombing at their house. Coretta had every right to count the cost, and step back from the struggle. But she decided that her children needed more than a safe home -- they needed an America that upheld their equality, and wrote their rights into law. And because this young mother and father were not intimidated, millions of children they would never meet are now living in a better, more welcoming country.

In the critical hours of the civil rights movement, there were always men and women of conscience at the heart of the drama. They knew that old hatreds ran deep. They knew that nonviolence might be answered with violence. They knew that much established authority was against them. Yet they also knew that sheriffs and mayors and governors were not ultimately in control of events; that a greater authority was interested, and very much in charge.

[...]

But some had to leave before their time -- and Dr. King left behind a grieving widow and little children. Rarely has so much been asked of a pastor's wife, and rarely has so much been taken away. Years later, Mrs. King recalled, "I would wake up in the morning, have my cry, then go in to them. The children saw me going forward." Martin Luther King, Jr. had preached that unmerited suffering could have redemptive power.

Little did he know that this great truth would be proven in the life of the person he loved the most. Others could cause her sorrow, but no one could make her bitter. By going forward with a strong and forgiving heart, Coretta Scott King not only secured her husband's legacy, she built her own. Having loved a leader, she became a leader. And when she spoke, America listened closely, because her voice carried the wisdom and goodness of a life well lived.

In that life, Coretta Scott King knew danger. She knew injustice. She knew sudden and terrible grief. She also knew that her Redeemer lives. She trusted in the name above every name. And today we trust that our sister Coretta is on the other shore -- at peace, at rest, at home. May God bless you and our country.

Civil Rights Catalyst Rosa Parks Dead at 92

Washington -- On December 1, 1955, African-American seamstress Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a segregated Montgomery, Alabama, bus and subsequently was fined and jailed. In the words of President George W. Bush, this "show of defiance was an act of personal courage that moved millions" and an example that "helped touch off the civil rights movement and transformed America for the better." In 1996, when President Bill Clinton awarded Rosa Parks the Presidential Medal of Freedom, he declared that Parks had "ignited the single most significant social movement in American history."

The "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement" died of natural causes on October 24 at her home in Detroit. She was 92 years old.

Born Rosa Louise McCauley on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama, McCauley dropped out of high school to care for her ill grandmother. In 1932, she married barber Raymond Parks, who encouraged her to earn her diploma, which she did in 1934, and to become active with the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

In the summer of 1955, Parks attended an interracial leadership conference at the Highlander Folk School, a school founded in Monteagle, Tennessee, to train labor organizers. The school subsequently branched into training of desegregation advocates and numbered the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. among its attendees.

Parks was a 42-year-old Montgomery resident in December 1955 when she took a middle-row seat on a Cleveland Avenue bus. The first four rows were reserved for whites only, with blacks limited to the rear and only permitted in the middle if no white passenger

wished to sit there.

On this occasion, Parks declined to give up her seat. On a 1987 television documentary, she recalled this exchange with the bus driver: "When he saw me still sitting, he asked if I was going to stand up and I said, 'No, I'm not.' And he said, 'Well, if you don't stand up, I'm going to have to call the police and have you arrested.' I said, 'You may do that.'"

Parks was jailed and fined \$14.

Beginning on December 5, African-Americans led by King, the newly installed pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, began to boycott the Montgomery bus system. In an event often held to mark the opening of the modern civil rights movement, black citizens carpooled, patronized black-owned taxis or simply walked to work, to shop and to school.

Despite sometimes violent opposition, which included the arrest of King and the bombings of his house and those of other African-American leaders, the boycott continued until December 1956. It ended only after the U.S. Supreme Court, in a case argued by NAACP lawyers including future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, upheld a lower court decision declaring unconstitutional the state and local laws segregating Montgomery buses.

The *New York Times* wrote that the decision, which cited the earlier *Brown v. Board of Education* case, "was thought to have placed a headstone at the grave of *Plessy v. Ferguson* [the 1896 decision that upheld the doctrine of 'separate but equal.']"

After the bus boycott, the Parks family moved to Detroit, where Rosa Parks continued to work as a seamstress until 1965, when she accepted a position as a



Rosa Parks (Feb 4, 1913 - Oct 24, 2005)

staff assistant in the Detroit office of U.S. Representative John Conyers Jr.

In 1987, Parks helped found the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Improvement, a Detroit-based youth organization.

In addition to the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Parks was also a recipient, in 1999, of the Congressional Gold Medal. Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Senator John Breaux of Louisiana said, "Role models who put personal bravery and self-sacrifice before self-interest and personal gain are few and far between. We can all look at Rosa Parks as someone who possesses these virtues."

In 2000, the Rosa Parks Library and Museum opened on the Montgomery street corner where Parks boarded the local bus on December 1, 1955.

Speaking after Mrs. Parks' death, U.S. Representative Charles Rangel of New York said: "I truly believe that there's a little bit of Rosa Parks in all Americans who have the courage to say 'enough is enough' and stand up for what they believe in. She did such a small thing, but it was so courageous for her as a humble person to do."

New American Embassy Compound Dedicated in Tashkent

(Continued from front page)

The Dedication Ceremony was a celebration for those who have worked on the buildings and for those who will be working in them. Municipal officials, including the Mayor of Tashkent, Abdukahhar Tuhtaev, attended the ceremony as did representatives from the construction companies who helped build the facility and the American and Uzbek embassy personnel who will eventually be working there.

The contractor for the design-build project was J.A. Jones Construction Company of Charlotte, North Carolina. It retained the American architectural firm of Hellmuth Obata + Kassabaum of Washington to design the facility. Praising the impressive work of these world-renown companies, General Williams noted that "the new facility represents a major step forward in our ability to promote and protect American inter-

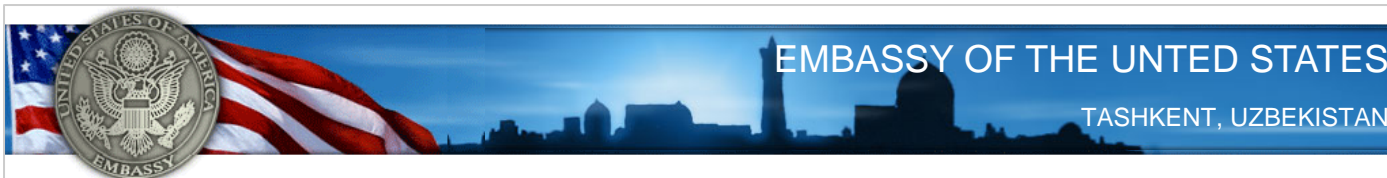
ests and to deliver services to American citizens who travel to Uzbekistan. We will now have a beautiful new building that is secure and appropriate to support American agencies in their work towards regional economic development and trade."

The new chancery, with more than 11,000 square meters of space, shares the 4.5-hectare site with several ancillary buildings and support facilities, including the Marine Security Guard Quarters. The cost: approximately \$60,000,000. In addition to the lavish use of marble and other materials from the region, the new chancery houses an art collection of 71 paintings, photographs, ceramics, sculptures and works on paper created by American and Uzbek artists.

Since the Groundbreaking Ceremony in June 2003, more than 300 Uzbek workers have been employed at the project site. Moreover, a substantial portion of the construction materials was purchased in Uzbekistan. Altogether, the project added at least \$10,000,000 to the local economy.



Marine security guards presenting colors at the new Embassy Dedication Ceremony in Tashkent.



The Embassy of the United States of America has moved. Our new contact information is:

Embassy of the United States of America

3 Moyqorghon Street
5th Block, Yunusobod District
Tashkent, 700093
Republic of Uzbekistan

Phone: (371) 120-5450
Consular Section: (371) 120-4718, 120-4719
Fax: (371) 120-6335
Website: <http://uzbekistan.usembassy.gov>