



Weekly Special Report



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INSIDE

African issues

State's Yamamoto Concludes "Very Positive" Talks in Ethiopia

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Correspondent



Donald Yamamoto

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto ended a two-day visit to Ethiopia May 29 that included "very positive" talks with the Ethiopian government on settling the border dispute with Eritrea and on political and economic reforms.

"We've made a tremendous amount of progress," Yamamoto said following meetings with

Ethiopian Prime Minister Zenawi Meles and other senior officials.

The U.S. official later left Ethiopia for Chad for meetings that will focus on efforts to establish "a political space for the opposition and to really help President [Idriss] Deby and the opposition parties cooperate more," Yamamoto told the Washington File.

Chad will be the diplomat's final stop on a tour that included a May 26-28 visit to Kigali, Rwanda, to facilitate talks called the Tripartite peace process in which four Great Lakes nations

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Public-Private Sector Gathering at the U.S. Embassy

US Charge d'Affaires Ambassador Vicki J. Huddleston hosted a public-private sector gathering at the U.S. Embassy on May 30 to help Ethiopia prepare for its participation in the upcoming AGOA Forum which will be held in Washington D. C. the week of June 5th. Tony Carroll, an international trade expert with Manchester Trade, one of Washington's premier international trade

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Ambassador Vicki Huddleston and guests at the gathering

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State's Yamamoto Concludes "Very Positive" Talks in Ethiopia . . .

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reached agreement on sharing intelligence on rebel movements and on a list of warlords for sanctioning. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2006/May/30-466329.html>).

In Addis Ababa, the diplomat said, "We talked about bilateral relationships; the continuing issue of the Ethiopian-Eritrean border [dispute] -- on how to achieve permanent peace and secure safe and permanent demarcation of the border. The emphasis was peace."

Yamamoto, a former U.S. ambassador to Djibouti, said he did not meet with members of the political opposition on this trip. "But, we discussed that with the government and our position is that we are still continuing to work with the government on political and economic reform issues. Those are the two critical areas -- and the government was very receptive."

DEVELOPMENT AND AIDS RELIEF

In the critical area of development and economic assistance, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has spent more than \$3 billion in Ethiopia since the 1960s, including \$2.5 billion in food aid. In 2006, USAID is devoting more than \$50 million toward development, including \$5.5 million for democracy and good governance programs.

On another important front, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) devoted about \$80 million for HIV/AIDS prevention and care programs in Ethiopia in 2005 and will continue to support the Ethiopian people in their battle against the disease.

Announced in 2003, the five-year, \$15 billion initiative to turn the tide in combating the global HIV/AIDS pandemic is providing funds to fight the disease, with a special focus on 15 hardest-hit countries. The United States is spending another \$100 million through PEPFAR in 2006, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Janet Wilgus told the Washington File.

The AIDS prevalence rate in Ethiopia is around 5 percent, she added, but "they have a new demographic health survey coming out soon that might show it's a little bit lower than that."

According to Wilgus, "One of the important things PEPFAR is doing in Ethiopia is shoring up the whole infrastructure of the health system so that you can do prevention and treatment on the most effective basis. That means upgrading hospitals, health centers and training community health workers."

Asked if the Peace Corps might return to Ethiopia, Wilgus, a former volunteer herself, said, "We would love it." She said volunteers, who live and work at the village level in a number of African countries, would be especially effective in helping change attitudes as part of the U.S. government's emphasis on "transformational diplomacy."

COOPERATING AGAINST TERRORISM

On Ethiopia's role in the global war on terrorism, Wilgus said, "We have excellent cooperation and we work to maintain that; notwithstanding some of the other differences we may have" on political and economic matters.

The Ethiopian government, she said, has military officers coordinating with the U.S. regional task force stationed at Djibouti and with CENTCOM, the main U.S. military regional command headquartered in Florida that oversees U.S. counterterrorist operations in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as in the Horn of Africa.

In April, Ethiopia was praised for its cooperative efforts on the War on Terror in the State Department's Country Reports on Terrorism. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/Archive/2006/Apr/28-959919.html>).

In the past year, according to the report, "Ethiopia devoted high-level attention to the fight against terrorism and continued its counterterrorism cooperation with the United States.

"As evidence of its political will to fight terrorism," the report continued, "the Government of Ethiopia agreed to a number of new initiatives and continued to cooperate in efforts to collect and share intelligence on terrorist groups. Draft counterterrorism legislation is currently before Parliament for approval."

Other points of cooperation, the terrorism report said, include accommodating requests for arrest warrants of suspected terrorists, passing laws to outlaw money laundering and several other financial crimes and active participation in African Union and Intergovernmental Authority on Development counterterrorism efforts.

For additional information on U.S. policy in the region, see Africa (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/#latest>)◆

Facilities Renovated for Privacy

Confidential pharmaceutical dispensing booths meet the needs of patients on ARV

With funding from USAID, Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus (RPM Plus/MSH) is working with hospitals and health centers nationwide to renovate facilities and improve the infrastructure for effective management of HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals.

One of the main objectives of the renovation is to create confidential counseling and dispensing areas to ensure patients' privacy and thereby reduce stigma. Pharmaceutical counseling on the use of medicines and the importance of adherence can take twenty min-

utes or longer. HIV/AIDS patients, often ill and weak, need a private area to sit while given thorough advice on their medications. ♦



BEFORE Privacy for patients receiving counseling and distribution of antiretroviral drugs was lacking.



AFTER With RPM Plus assistance, confidentiality is enhanced via renovated counseling and dispensing booths.

Public-Private Sector Gathering . . .

(Continued from page 1)

and business consulting groups, provided a briefing to a group of individuals from business and government as well as members of the press. Mr. Carroll was invited by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide support to the Ethiopian delegation going to the AGOA Forum. At the meeting, participants discussed ways in which the Ethiopian delega-

tion can capitalize on the AGOA event to highlight commercial opportunities in Ethiopia. They also discussed opportunities and constraints for Ethiopia's participation in AGOA, and ways to promote dialogue on trade in Ethiopia between the public and private sectors. ♦

U.S. Envoy Yamamoto Continues Personal Diplomacy in Ethiopia

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Staff Writer

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia -- During a May 27-29 visit, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto continued his quiet but effective brand of diplomacy by helping Ethiopians resolve domestic political differences following the nation's orderly but disputed May 2005 elections.

Yamamoto also offered advice on the border conflict between Ethiopia and neighboring Eritrea.

The former ambassador to Djibouti is following the proactive diplomatic approach to Africa set by Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick and Assistant Secretary of African Affairs Jendayi Frazer, who also have made several trips to troubled regions on the continent.

Yamamoto's visit to Addis Ababa follows his attendance at a meeting on the Tripartite Plus peace process in Kigali where he helped facilitate an agreement between the four nations of Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda to better share information on rebels in the region and on a list of individuals and groups marked for sanctions. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=May&x=20060528105443nospmohtrehsifj0.7913172&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>].)

The week before the diplomat arrived in Addis Ababa, one of Ethiopia's leading opposition movements -- the Coalition for Unity and Democracy Party (CUDP) --

made an announcement repudiating the extreme measures called for by some who oppose the ruling party, measures that might have included a series of deadly explosions that ripped through the capital recently.

In its May 25 statement, CUDP said it "condemns the criminals engaged in the recent explosions ... [and] is deeply saddened by the loss of life and destruction of property.

CUDP said it is committed to ending the mistaken belief that 'Who ever ascends to power by force could only be toppled by force. CUDP firmly believes that the rivalry among citizens and killing of each other must stop."

The party, formerly known as CUD, said it "realizes that any activity which is contrary to a peaceful struggle would endanger the sovereignty of the country as well as security of citizens."

Yamamoto addressed the issue of political extremism in both Ethiopia and among the Ethiopian Diaspora in America when he told the House Africa Subcommittee in March, "Some interested groups, both within and beyond Ethiopian borders, seek to undermine what is best for the nation of Ethiopia, in favor of what they perceive to be the best for themselves. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2006/Mar/28-231487.html>].)

"The challenge for the United States," Yamamoto told the lawmakers, is "to share with our Ethiopian partners -- the government, opposition, civil society and the broader public -- the lessons of

America's own democratic experiment and impede the subversive effects of those who put their own objectives above those of the Ethiopian people."

When such a group of Ethiopians in America called the Alliance for Freedom and Democracy (AFD) recently formed claiming CUDP as a member, the party said, "We wish to make it clear a few individuals in the Diaspora masquerading as CUPD illegally may have been engaged in this [extremist] activity.

However, "The legally registered CUDP isn't a member of the new alliance and doesn't have any intention of joining this group in the future."

The push for political reconciliation rather than violent confrontation has been an ongoing theme of Yamamoto's visits to Ethiopia.

In his recent testimony to Congress, the official said, "On numerous occasions the Assistant Secretary [Frazer] has sent me to Addis Ababa to work with the Ethiopian Government and opposition groups in support of U.S. Embassy efforts to encourage a reconciliation of differences between the opposition and the ruling parties and to discuss ways to improve the political process with the Ethiopian Government."

Instead of confrontation, Yamamoto said, the United States "encouraged the opposition parties to take their seats in the Ethiopian Parliament and use their positions as parliamentarians to press to continued political reform and a greater voice for the opposition."

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U.S. Aid Agency Highlights Work for Women's Health

Washington –The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is highlighting programs to address the unique health needs of women, in recognition of the International Day of Action for Women's Health, May 28.

USAID emphasizes voluntary programs in family planning, including contraceptives and an improved quality of care. USAID is integrating family-planning programs with a broader range of community efforts to improve maternal and child health, enhance women's status and prevent transmission of HIV and other infectious diseases.

USAID also has been a leader in biomedical research to produce a range of high-quality contraceptives and develop microbicides to protect women against HIV/AIDS.

In the design of its programs, USAID also is devoted to listening to women clients to include them



in the planning, implementation and decision-making about programs and services.

Ending the practice of cutting female genitals is a goal crucial to women's health and improvement of their standing in society, according to USAID policy. The agency's policy aims to involve entire communities in the campaign

for abolition of the practice, which is "a harmful, traditional practice that violates the health and human rights of women and hinders development," according to USAID's official policy.

In the area of maternal health, USAID is working to reduce maternal mortality with an approach that serves women and children during pregnancy through breastfeeding and early childhood. Improvements in maternal health can have far-reaching effects on a society at large – increasing child survival, decreasing health care costs and improving health productivity and household incomes.

The International Day of Action for Women's Health has been recognized by women's groups, health advocacy groups and development agencies since 1987. ♦

United States Salutes Nigeria's Commitment to Democracy

By Charles W. Corey
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States congratulated the government of Nigeria, President Olusegun Obasanjo and the Nigerian people May 26 on their continued support for democracy promotion in Nigeria by calling for national elections in 2007.

"The decision to resolve the third term debate through constitutional means is a victory for democracy and the rule of law and provides a strong foundation for a peaceful and transparent election," according to a statement issued by the White House press secretary.

"President Obasanjo," the statement continues, "wisely resisted the invitation to challenge this constitutional outcome on the issue of a third term. The American people place in high regard the deeply held commitment of the Nigerian people to bring about change that is based on democratic values and practices."

The 2007 constitutional presidential transition will mark the first time in Nigerian history that a civilian president hands over power through democratic elections, the statement noted.

The statement also credits Obasanjo for being Africa's first

modern military leader successfully to guide a country's transition from military to civilian rule.

Obasanjo's election in 1999 marked a return to democracy after three decades of almost uninterrupted dictatorship. A campaign promoting a third term for Obasanjo reawakened fears of autocratic rule in Nigeria.

The United States looks forward to continuing to work with Obasanjo "to promote freedom and democracy for the people of Nigeria and peace and stability in the region," according to the statement. ♦

Gold Dazzles at the National Museum of African Art

By Bruce Greenberg
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- "African Gold from the Glassell Collection, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston," which debuts May 26 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art, presents some of the finest examples of gold work from west Africa, formerly called Africa's Gold Coast.

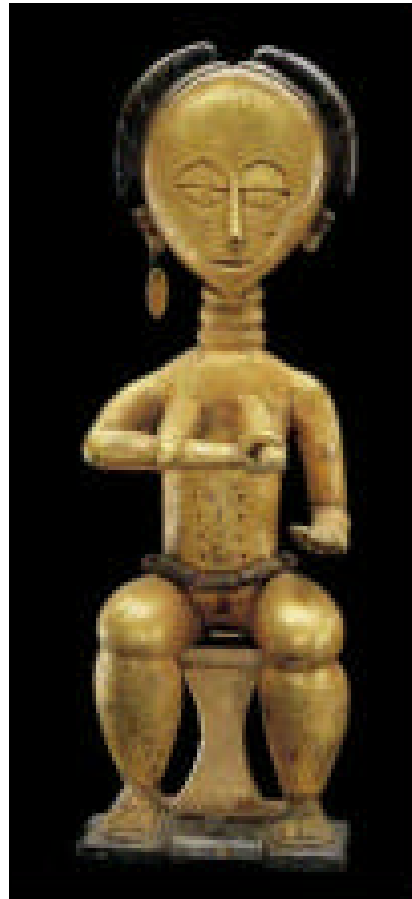
Comprising approximately 100 artifacts ranging from royal wooden staffs of fine gold leaf to personal accessories such as bracelets, necklaces, rings and sandals, the exhibition includes emblems of state power, as well as the adornments of the aristocracy in an age when tribal kings ruled over vast jungle empires in what is now Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire.

The assembled items were produced mostly by anonymous artisans of the Akan/Asante peoples of Ghana and the Boule of Cote d'Ivoire from the 19th to the 20th centuries. However, it does include several signed pieces, including the work of the Ghanaian craftsman Osei Bonsu, who during his 60-year career served as chief carver to three Asante chieftains, and also sculpted pieces for U.S. Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Gerald Ford.

"The royal dress and adornment on display ... reflect some of the most spectacular in all of Africa, and provide excellent examples of the splendor of Akan gold," according to curator Andrea Nicolls.

The Akan and Boule cultures trace their beginnings as far back as 1,000 years, and figure prominently in the establishment of

trade routes linking Africa with the Europe during the age of exploration and colonization beginning in the 15th century. By 1500, the



Nursing female figure from a drum ensemble Wood, pigment, glass beads, and metal. Kwedwo Awire, Akan, Ghana

Akans were exporting more than 455 kilograms of gold annually, and in the process contributing to a burgeoning slave trade.

Both the Akan and Boule peoples freely incorporated symbols and images from their European colonizers, and these can be found in a collection of jewelry including faux watch dials and gold fountain pens, all affording their wearers visible displays of personal wealth.

For the Akan rulers, gold-ornamented sandals, not gold crowns, identify the god-given powers of the monarch. Similarly, gold-covered finials on the tops of staffs carried by courtiers would refer to proverbs and portents of the divine right to rule. Another popular motif used in Akan jewelry, and on exhibit, are miniature golden keys and locks incorporated into necklaces to convey the message that the ruler holds the keys to the state.

Because the Akan and Boule are oral languages, several representational pieces in the exhibition are designed to convey timeless homilies of man's struggle with fate. A golden sankofa bird with its head turned backward represents the notion that to move forward one must reflect on the past. A gold leaf and wood staff with sculpted hen and chicks illustrates the Akan saying that a hen's foot may step on a chick, but will not harm it, as a good ruler will walk gently among his subjects, guiding them with wisdom and restraint.

Houston businessman Alfred C. Glassell Jr. collected African art, particularly objects made with gold, since the 1960s. In 1997, he donated his 900-piece collection to the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston.

The exhibit of the assembled Glassell collection, opening at Washington's National Museum of African Art, is scheduled to run through November 26.

Additional information [www.nmfa.si.edu] on the exhibit is available on the Smithsonian's Web site. ♦

U.S. Standards Conference To Help Developing Nation Economies

Washington -- The U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will host a summit in July to find ways to strengthen U.S. efforts that help developing nations build their economies and foster their adoption of standards that ensure fair market access for U.S. exports.

Standards and standardization affect how every consumer product is manufactured.

A standard is a documented agreement -- established by a consensus of experts and approved by a recognized body -- that provides rules, guidelines or characteristics to ensure that materials, products, processes and services are fit for their intended purposes.

Each nation sets its own product standards, but many U.S.-based manufacturers distribute products in Europe, Asia and other international locations, and products manufactured in other countries can be distributed in the United States.

Such global products must comply with the requirements of multiple countries, so many nations seek to harmonize their standards with those of other countries to minimize redundant or conflicting standards.

The "Options for Action Summit," sponsored by NIST and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), is open to representatives of industry, standards organizations and government. It will be

held July 18-19 at the NIST campus in Maryland.

ANSI coordinates the development and use of voluntary consensus standards in the United States and represents the needs and views of interested U.S. entities in standardization forums worldwide.



Options for Action Summit's logo

The conference will highlight international community perspectives about how U.S. standards-setting and technical-assistance activities are received and perceived globally and contrast outreach and technical-assistance efforts of other nations with those being undertaken by U.S. private-sector interests, the executive and legislative branches of government and donor agencies.

It also will identify outreach efforts by U.S. interests in the Asia-Pacific region and other regions of the world.

First-day sessions will include trad-

ing partners' assessments of U.S. standards-setting activities provided by government or industry representatives from China, Egypt, the European Union, Japan and Mexico. Panelists will give their views on how the United States has performed in efforts to advance a global standards agenda.

The opening session will review U.S. standards strategies and the U.S. Commerce Department's Standards and Competitiveness Initiative, launched in 2003 at the urging of industry associations that were concerned about the increasing use of voluntary and mandatory standards as technical barriers to trade.

The sessions will yield recommendations for steps intended to coordinate and improve standards harmonization, ensure market access for U.S. goods and services and increase the effectiveness of capacity building and technical assistance efforts.

Additional information [www.ansi.org/meetings_events/events/action_summit.aspx?menuid=8] about the conference is available on the ANSI Web site.

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

Donors Urged to Integrate Food Aid, Development Policies

By Kathryn McConnell
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Donors must integrate their food aid policies with policies that promote access to clean water, sanitation, health and education, says a top official of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

"Food aid alone cannot reverse the destitution and poverty that

(USDA) -- and with international donors and regional organizations.

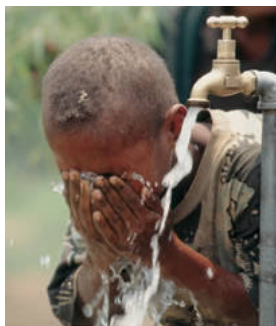
The MCC is the U.S. supplemental aid agency that rewards countries for good governance and commitment to economic growth and investing in their people.

At the same congressional hearing, James Morris, executive director of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), urged Congress

Also testifying, Tony Hall, most recently U.S. ambassador to the United Nations food agencies, said donors must recognize that food aid helps create a "safer and more secure world."

There is a link between "poverty, fragile states and extremist activity," Hall said.

Food aid can be a "motivator," for recipients to become involved in



Clean water



Health



Education



Sanitation

underlies the vicious cycle" of food security emergencies that currently threaten such places as the Horn of Africa, the Sahel region of Africa and Southern Africa, said Michael Hess, assistant administrator for USAID's Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA).

Hess made that comment in May 25 testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives International Relations Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations.

He said in recent years USAID has been integrating its humanitarian and development resources, coordinating with other U.S. government entities -- such as the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the Department of Agriculture

to approve the \$225 million in emergency supplemental funding for food aid for Sudan so the agency can begin to increase rations for millions of starving and undernourished people in the Darfur region.

Morris said that because of increasing food needs in countries facing crises, in recent weeks, his agency has had to make "one of the hardest decisions ever" by halving the number of people it could help or reducing the rations of all the people needing food.

Morris also praised the United States for its being the largest WFP donor and for expediting recently 40,000 tons of food aid to Darfur.

their countries' development, Hall said. He cited programs that pay food for work instead of cash. These programs are helping communities achieve development objectives, such as planting deforested areas, constructing small-scale irrigation projects and rebuilding infrastructure.

Food-for-work programs also benefit communities where rampant inflation can undercut the purchasing value of currency. And, in some places, food instead of money for payment is safer for female recipients who may be afraid that if they were given cash for their work their husbands could squander it, he said.

Hess said USAID is expanding its early warning system for detecting

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NATO Retools for New Missions in Africa and South Asia

Washington -- The commander of U.S. and European forces says 2006 will be a pivotal year for NATO.

By the end of 2006, NATO will have assumed its peacekeeping responsibilities in Afghanistan, General James Jones said in a May 25 National Press Club address.

In June, the alliance will demonstrate the capability of its response force in the Cape Verde Islands, he said. This will mark a milestone on the way to the response force achieving full operational capability by year's end.

NATO's supreme allied commander in Europe also pointed to the planned November meeting of heads of state in Riga, Latvia, where leaders will discuss such topics as energy security, critical infrastructure security, drug trafficking, nonproliferation and terrorism.

NATO is not "an alliance that is showing signs of fatigue or irrelevance," Jones said. "To the contrary, this year is a pivotal year," he said, perhaps more so than any of the past several years.

The alliance is undergoing fundamental change and transformation, the commander of U.S. forces in Europe said, adding that the focus of the alliance is shifting almost "180 degrees in terms of its mili-

tary capabilities and culture."

But the alliance also needs to do more to ensure that it has sufficient funds to effect change, he said.



General James Jones

"I think NATO's best days are very possibly in its future. But we must do a better job of understanding what that future is, of explaining it to our nations on both sides of the Atlantic, and of understanding that the future of NATO is not to be a reactive, defensive static alliance, but it is to be more flexible, more proactive," Jones said.

CONFLICT PREVENTION

The alliance must take on missions to prevent future conflicts instead of reacting once they have begun, he said.

Jones pointed to NATO's mission in the political decision-making

process in Africa that involves the United Nations, the African Union and the Sudanese government as they figure how best to facilitate peacekeeping efforts in Darfur.

"Suffice it to say that the mission right now calls for enhanced capacity building of forces assigned to the African Union," he said, "and controlling and enabling the troop lift of African battalions into the Sudan for rotation and then back home again."

Jones also addressed the issue of violence in Afghanistan. He said conflict there is driven by a number of groups, including remnant al-Qaida forces, some Taliban fighters and members of drug cartels.

He also disputed the suggestion that the Taliban or the insurgency has returned with greater strength in Afghanistan. "Until such time as we are able to stitch up the capabilities of the Karzai government," Jones said, "we're going to have . . . areas of instability."

For more information about U.S. policy, see International Security [<http://usinfo.state.gov/is>].

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

U.S. Committed to Transparency in Chemical Weapons Destruction

By Jacquelyn S. Porth
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – U.S. Ambassador Eric Javits says that despite a recent request to extend its deadline for the complete elimination of its chemical weapons stockpile, the United States is committed to “the fullest possible transparency” of its chemical weapons destruction process.

Javits, head of the U.S. delegation to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), told delegates attending the 45th executive council session in The Hague, Netherlands, May 16 that the United States remains fully supportive of the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

Not only is the United States dedicated to the success of the CWC, he said, but also to the success of the OPCW, based in Vienna, Austria, “as a model of effective multilateral action against an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.”

In April, the United States requested a five-year extension for 100 percent disposal of its chemical weapons stockpile, shifting its planned completion date from April 2007 to April 2012. (See related article. [<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/Archive/2006/May/10-394450.html>])

Javits said the United States will strive to achieve its goal of eliminating its entire stockpile of chemical weapons by the new deadline, or, if that turns out not to be possible, it will complete the process

“as soon as feasible thereafter.” (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=April&x=20060420183936sjhtrop0.9848596&t=xarchives/xarchitem.html>].)

He said the request for a deadline extension asserts the United States is doing everything that it can to meet the 2012 deadline, but that “our best projections indicate that the U.S. destruction effort will likely extend beyond that date.” The treaty’s success “is not dictated by the technical and political vagaries that have slowed various destruction efforts,” he said, but its ultimate success remains in the hands of the collective signatories, with each nation responsible for implementing its own national program for destruction of chemical weapons.

Javits also said that a country that has been diligent but not fully successful in meeting its destruction deadline should “not be regarded in the same way as a State Party that has made little or no effort” to comply. The U.S. Army, he said, began destroying its chemical weapons stockpile years before the convention ever entered into force. By the time all its chemical weapons are destroyed, he said, the United States will have spent \$35 billion on this effort.

The United States also has provided money and assistance to other nations intent on destroying their own chemical weapons stockpiles. In 2006, U.S. officials made two technical visits to Asia in conjunction with the OPCW Technical Secretariat. Additional assistance visits and information-sharing meetings to three African nations, five countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, one in Asia and one in Eastern Europe also are planned, he said.



Ambassador Eric Javits

Javits said the United States and Romania have developed an implementation assistance program and offered it to other nations in English; Spanish and French versions of the program are expected soon, he added.

For more information about U.S. policy, see Arms Control and Non-Proliferation [http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/arms_control.html].

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

U.N. Reforms Resisted by Many Who Pay Little in U.N. Dues

By David Anthony Denny
Washington File Staff Writer

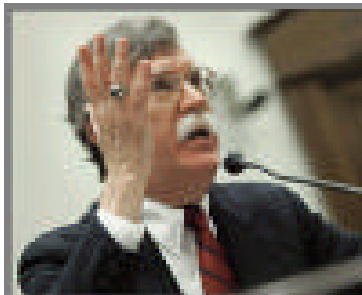
Washington -- Needed management reforms in the United Nations are being resisted by more than 120 U.N. members who, collectively, provide relatively little budget support to the institution, Ambassador John Bolton says.

The U.S. representative to the United Nations testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee May 25 on U.N. reform. Reform efforts, he said, have not yet proven very successful.

The United States, Bolton said, is one of a group of about 50 nations that actively seeks management reform. This group contributes more than 86.7 percent of the entire U.N. budget. It is opposed by more than 120 nations who provide only about 12 percent of the budget, he said. Included in this latter group are many members of the Group of 77 (G-77), whom Bolton said "are resisting efforts by the Secretariat to reform and streamline basic managerial structures and practices."

The G-77 describes itself as "the

largest Third World coalition in the United Nations." Its stated goal is to give the developing world the ability to articulate and promote its collective economic interests and enhance its negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues in the U.N. system.



Ambassador John Bolton

Bolton told the committee that the G-77 wrote to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan the week of May 15 "chastising him for issuing reports to the public on his proposals for some reforms he feels [are] neces-

sary." (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/Archive/2006/Mar/08-536794.html>].)

The U.S. view, in contrast, is that the U.N. Charter designates the secretary-general as the agency's chief administrative officer, and all member states should support his fulfillment of that responsibility.

Nevertheless, Bolton cited some small successes in the reform effort. Most important was the successful effort in December 2005 to cap spending on the U.N.'s current two-year budget, given lack of progress on the reform effort. He said the spending cap should be

reached in July, and that should allow an evaluation of "progress to date and to determine whether, and in what form, further spending should be authorized."

The creation of a U.N. Peacebuilding Commission and Support Office is another success, though a modest one, Bolton said. The United States has agreed that this entity should be funded with existing resources.

Consequently, member states created an office that Bolton said comprises "predominately reprogrammed positions." Even the few newly created positions, he said, are being funded out of the current budget and therefore require no additional financing.

The full text [www.state.gov/p/io/rls/rm/66904.htm] of Bolton's opening statement is available on the State Department Web site.

More information on the Group of 77 [www.g77.org] is available on its Web site.

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

Releasing Guantanamo Detainees Would Endanger World, U.S.

By Vince Crawley
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, does not violate international law, and releasing detainees would allow dangerous combatants to target innocent civilians worldwide, the State Department's legal adviser told a global Internet audience during a May 25 webchat.

In many cases, enemy fighters captured on battlefields in Afghanistan have broken no American laws and could not be tried in civil courts, yet they continue to pose a severe wartime danger, said John B. Bellinger III, the senior legal adviser to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

In the webchat, Bellinger stressed that it has been common practice throughout the history of warfare to hold enemy fighters in custody until hostilities end. Approximately 460 detainees were being held in Guantanamo as of May 18, the most recent date for which numbers were available, the Pentagon has said. Approximately 290 detainees have been released from Guantanamo -- either set free or turned over to the custody of another government.

Bellinger said the U.S. government "does not believe that any detainee at Guantanamo Bay has been subjected to torture." He did acknowledge isolated cases in which Americans have illegally abused people being held in U.S. custody, but he said those cases have been dealt with in the American legal system, with 89 service members convicted in court-martial.

"We are aware that some critics have alleged that the detention of detainees for a long period without trial ... amounts to psychological torture," Bellinger said. "We do not agree. ... In any armed conflict, the enemy combatants of the opposing side are held until the end of the conflict. It may be stressful, but that does not make it torture, and it does not mean that it is illegal."

Bellinger led a team of more than two-dozen senior U.S. officials to Geneva May 5-8 to present oral and written reports to the U.N. Committee

Against Torture. The exhaustive U.S. presentation included more than 200 pages of written answers to questions that centered on the conduct of U.S. detention operations around the world. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2006/May/08-395333.html>].)

In a State Department news conference May 19, Bellinger said the U.N. committee's report, issued that day, apparently ignored many of the documents submitted by U.S. officials. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2006/May/22-63079.html>].)

"The U.N. Committee did call for the closure of Guantanamo Bay, because the Committee was concerned about the length of detention of the detainees," Bellinger

said in the May 25 webchat.

"The U.S. Government believes that the United States is in an armed conflict with Al Qaida, and that in any armed conflict it is appropriate to hold detained combatants until the end of the conflict," Bellinger said.



"Holding enemy combatants until the end of the conflict does not constitute torture. This said, President Bush has said that he recognizes the concerns that have been raised about Guantanamo. He does not want to keep it open any longer than is necessary. However, there are many dangerous detainees in Guantanamo, who would pose a threat to the United States and other countries if they were released."

It also is important to note what the chairman of the U.N. Committee Against Torture, Fernando Mariño Menendez of Spain, said when the committee report was released, Bellinger said. "He said that the Committee had concerns, but its report should not blown out of proportion, because the United

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Releasing Guantanamo Detainees Would Endanger World, U.S. Says . . .

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States has a good record on human rights," Bellinger said.

Meeting with European journalists May 4 in Brussels, Belgium, Bellinger said the United States would welcome international suggestions on alternatives to the Guantanamo Bay facility. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2006/May/08-445580.html>].)

In his webchat, he said he is not aware of any examples in the history of warfare where "a detaining power has given criminal trials to the combatants it has detained (unless of course the prisoners have also committed war crimes)." Instead, enemy fights have been held until the end of hostilities. "We are also not aware," he said, "of cases where the detaining power has simply released large numbers of enemy combatants during the course of the conflict."

Roughly 10 percent of the hundreds of individuals who have been released from Guantanamo "have returned to fighting us in Afghanistan," Bellinger said.

Some critics have called for criminal trials instead of indefinite detention for those being held at Guantanamo. But Bellinger said trials are not practical in many cases.

"We do not believe that the detainees are simply criminals who were captured by police and who must be given criminal trials," he said.

Many detainees were captured by U.S. or coalition forces in Afghani-

stan, and "in most cases they did not violate U.S. laws when they traveled from their home countries to train in acts of terrorism in Al Qaida training camps," Bellinger said. "But does the fact that they did not violate existing U.S. criminal laws mean that they did nothing wrong and should be released? We think not. We believe that they were combatants who were fighting us in an armed conflict."

Bellinger added, "The United States is absolutely committed to human rights, to the rule of law, and to compliance with our international law obligations, and we believe we are acting in compliance with our obligations in holding detainees in Guantanamo."

He also addressed concerns in Europe about reports of alleged secret CIA flights carrying detainees. The practice of transporting a detainee from one country to another is known as rendition. Bellinger said that the U.S. government "has for decades conducted renditions on infrequent occasions when necessary to bring terror suspects to justice in the United States or to return them to their home countries or other countries where they are wanted."

Alleged CIA flights have been reported widely in European media.

"The vast majority of allegations about renditions are simply untrue," Bellinger said. The U.S. government has "given serious consideration to attempting to deny the many allegations that are untrue," he said. "We have concluded, regretfully, that it is simply not ap-

propriate or possible to deny every inaccurate allegation."

For additional information, see Detainee Issues [http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human_rights/detainees.html].

The transcript [<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2006/May/25-537678.html>] of Bellinger's webchat is available on Webchat Station [<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Products/Webchats.html>], along with information on recent and upcoming webchats sponsored by the State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs.

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Talented, Dedicated Students Can Access Top U.S. Schools

By Anthony Kujawa
Washington File Staff Writer

Montreal -- All talented international students, regardless of economic background should have equal access to opportunities for study in the United States, says Rebecca Zeigler Mano, an EducationUSA adviser, who launched the innovative United States Achievers Program (USAP) in 1999.

The program has enabled more than 100 "economically disadvantaged" students from 13 countries to study at elite schools such as Harvard, Yale, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and many other top U.S. colleges and universities. USAP helps highly talented, economically disadvantaged students negotiate and finance the application and financial aid process for admission to institutions of higher education in the United States.

Zeigler Mano, an EducationUSA adviser at the U.S. Embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe, discussed the goals and growth of the program with the Washington File May 25. She is among the 80 EducationUSA advisers in Montreal for the NAFSA: Association of International Educators annual conference, a gathering of more than 7,300 educators, administrators and government officials from 95 countries. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=May&x=20060524190940mbzemog0.9285242&t=scv/lc-latest.html>].)

Zeigler Mano led a May 25 NAFSA conference session on the program with EducationUSA advisers from

Brazil and the United Kingdom, outlining the USAP's history, growth and benefits to students and universities.

According to Zeigler Mano, USAP students represent the best of their countries' youth, in terms of academics, leadership skills, community service and participation in extracurricular activities. Key criteria for the highly competitive selection process include academic achievement, an ethos of giving back to community, economic disadvantage and demonstrated leadership skills. The program provides guidance throughout the college application process, helps with test preparation and assists with financing the admissions process.

Discussing her reasons for launching the program, Zeigler Mano said USAP was an effort to reach a wider audience in terms of educational advising in Zimbabwe. "The people who walked through the doors of the educational advising center [in Harare] were elite students who felt they had the funds that could take them to the United States, and yet this wasn't necessarily the highest talent pool [of students in Zimbabwe]," she said.

"We wanted to extend the idea that if you are a highly talented, dedicated student, regardless of your financial background, you have the right and the ability to access the amazing opportunities that are abounding in higher education in the U.S.," the EducationUSA adviser said.

Another aim of the program, according to Zeigler Mano, is to build open-minded, skilled, well-educated future leaders who are committed to sharing their knowl-

edge and experience to improve their communities.

"Effective leaders come from backgrounds where they can relate to the majority of people, so finding someone who has grown up, in my case in Zimbabwe, in a rural village or a township urban background who then gets amazing educational opportunities is more likely to remember home and be able to do something in their life to make a difference for the people at home," she said.

Zeigler Mano challenged the community of international educators the NAFSA conference to improve access for economically disadvantaged students in international educational exchange.

On May 24, Zeigler Mano was awarded the "Marita Houlihan Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Field of International Education" in recognition for her "imaginative activity, outstanding personal enterprise, and creative contributions to the field through research, writing, or program development." Houlihan, a former State Department official, pioneered in the establishment and administration of the Fulbright international student exchange program in the 1940s and 1950s.

USAP STUDENTS ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

Zeigler Mano said USAP students are achieving top marks at their U.S. schools and have big plans on graduation.

On graduation from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania in 2005 with a degree in biology, Tafadzwa

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Talented, Dedicated Students Can Access Top U.S. Schools . . .

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Muguwe, a USAP participant from Zimbabwe, was awarded a Rhodes scholarship to study pharmacology at the University of Oxford in England. After graduation, Muguwe will proceed to Harvard Medical School where he plans to continue biomedical research focusing on development of an AIDS vaccine, Zeigler Mano said. Muguwe has been part of HIV medical research teams, focusing on the pathology of HIV-1 virus at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. This summer, he plans to work with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

In a statement on her USAP experience, Doreen Mashu, a class of 2007 student at Ithaca College in New York, writes: "USAP has brought me to a place in my life I would never otherwise have imagined. It's a lot more than just studying abroad, it's the connections, the friendships, the 'familyhood,' and the aspiration to be an active member of any community you live in."

Mashu, majoring in accounting with a minor in economics, plans to become a certified public accountant offering financial advisory services to budding entrepreneurs in Zimbabwe and neighboring countries, with a focus on empowering women and young adults through entrepreneurial activities.

U.S. SCHOOLS VALUE DIVERSE FOREIGN STUDENT POPULATION

The consensus message from May 25 interviews with several U.S. university officials attending the USAP panel was clear – U.S. universities welcome foreign students and strive to achieve greater cultural and socioeconomic diversity among their student bodies.

"The [USAP] students from Zimbabwe have been amazing members of the community. Our students can learn so much about the world getting their perspective – both in and out of the classroom," said Elisabeth O'Connell, director of international admissions at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Ann Kuhlmann, director of the office of international students and scholars at Yale University, told the Washington File: "For Yale it has really helped us with our goal of achieving greater socioeconomic diversity in our international student body. The students -- individually and collectively as a group -- have changed the lives of their roommates and classmates giving them new, global perspectives they might not have had."

"We all think about global education and global leadership in preparing students for a global world, so having USAP students on our campus adds incredible depth to

our student body. Whether in a classroom talking about economics with students from Zimbabwe or in the residence hall or eating dinner together with USAP students from Uganda and Mongolia -- this adds to whole educational experience," added Jale Okay of the admissions office at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts.

In fall 2006, USAP students from three more countries -- Colombia, Madagascar and South Africa -- will be among 52 students beginning school at U.S. colleges and universities. Current participants include students from Bangladesh, Brazil, Latvia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Romania, Russia, the United Kingdom, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

For additional information on the program, see the United States Achievers Program [www.usapkids.org] Web site or visit an EducationUSA advising center [www.educationusa.state.gov/centers/].

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

Progress Seen in Fighting AIDS, but Epidemic Outpaces Response

By Cheryl Pellerin
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- According to new data in the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 2006 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, released May 30, the epidemic seems to be slowing down globally, but new infections continue to increase in some regions and countries.

The report shows that progress has been made in country AIDS responses, including increases in funding and access to treatment, and decreases in HIV prevalence among young people in some countries over the past five years.

At a May 30 press briefing in New York, UNAIDS Executive Director Dr. Peter Piot called the report "the most comprehensive analysis of both the global epidemic and of the response."

UNAIDS brings the efforts and resources of 10 U.N. system organizations to the global AIDS response. The UNAIDS secretariat works on the ground in more than 75 countries.

An estimated 38.6 million people live with HIV worldwide. In 2005, some 4.1 million became infected with HIV and 2.8 million died of AIDS-related illnesses, according to the report.

PROGRESS, CHALLENGES

The report is a five-year assessment of progress in AIDS using indicators developed by UNAIDS, individual nations and a range of partners. It arose from the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on

HIV/AIDS, adopted at a special session of the U.N. General Assembly.

At that meeting, 189 U.N. member states committed to targets for delivering the HIV prevention, treatment, care and support needed to halt and begin to reverse the global epidemic by 2015.

"On the AIDS response side," Piot said, "there is good news." Many countries have made important progress over the past five years, with increased funding; a decrease in the number of new infections, especially among young people; and more people being treated.

"This signals that we're beginning to see a return on the investment for AIDS funding," Piot said, "and we could say it's about time."

But AIDS is still an exceptional threat, the report says. Some countries are doing well on treatment but poorly on HIV prevention efforts, and significant challenges remain, including the need for better planning, sustained leadership and reliable long-term funding for the AIDS response, according to the report.

The report was released in advance of the U.N. General Assembly 2006 High Level Meeting on AIDS, which is bringing world leaders to New York from May 31 to June 2 to review progress made since 2001.

SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN AIDS RESPONSE

The report cites significant improvements in several elements of the global AIDS response.

In the key area of financial resources, the \$8.3 billion available for the AIDS response in 2005 is more than five times the funding available in 2001, and is well within the Declaration of Commitment target range.

The report also cites significant increases in global political leadership, which is key to maintaining the AIDS response at the center of national and international development planning.

The report shows that young people and children increasingly are affected by the epidemic, and efforts to protect these and other vulnerable groups are not keeping pace with the epidemic's impact.

"For too long," said Ann Veneman, executive director of the U.N. Children's Fund, who attended the press conference, "children have often been the missing face of the AIDS pandemic."

It is critical, she added, "that the impact of HIV/AIDS on children be addressed through programs to prevent mother-to-child transmission and to treat cases of pediatric AIDS."

On HIV prevention, the report documents behavior changes, including delays in first sexual experience, increasing use of condoms by young people, and resulting decreases in HIV prevalence in young people in some sub-Saharan countries.

The report also makes clear that on many issues and in most regions of the world, greater action

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against the epidemic is required now and will be required long into the future.

PREVENTION

In terms of prevention, six of 11 African countries reported declines of 25 percent or more in HIV prevalence among 15- to 24-year-olds in capital cities. Rates of sexual activity among young people declined in nine of 14 sub-Saharan countries.

Use of HIV testing and counseling, an important tool for treatment and prevention, quadrupled from 2001 levels to 16.5 million people tested in 2005. In 58 countries reporting, 74 percent of primary schools and 81 percent of secondary schools now provide AIDS education.

The Declaration of Commitment called for 90 percent of young people to be knowledgeable about AIDS by 2005, yet surveys indicate that fewer than 50 percent of young people achieved comprehensive knowledge levels.

An area of exceptional concern is the ongoing shortfall in care to prevent mother-to-child HIV infection, in which just 9 percent of pregnant women now are covered.

TREATMENT, LEADERSHIP

Access to anti-retroviral treatment has expanded significantly, from 240,000 people in 2001 to 1.3 million people in low- and middle-income countries in 2005.

Prices for anti-retroviral therapy dropped significantly and procurement systems have improved, as has generic drug availability.

Still, HIV treatment coverage varies considerably within regions. In sub-Saharan Africa, treatment coverage ranges from 3 percent in the Central African Republic to 85 percent in Botswana.

AIDS leadership and political action also increased significantly since 2001. Ninety percent of reporting countries have a national AIDS strategy, 85 percent have a single national body to coordinate AIDS efforts and 50 percent have a national monitoring and evaluation framework and plan.

But systems for implementing such plans are inconsistent, as are civil society involvement and the involvement of people living with HIV.

"We must move to build upon an increasingly strong foundation," Piot said, "by transforming the AIDS response from a year-to-year crisis management approach to one of long-term strategic planning that includes sustained leadership and funding to reduce the epidemic and its impact."

The 2006 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic is the most comprehensive report on the response to AIDS ever compiled, using data from 126 countries and more than 30 civil society organizations. The report (http://www.unaids.org/en/HIV_data/2006GlobalReport/default.asp) is available at the UN-AIDS Web site.

For information on U.S. policy, see AIDS and Other Infectious Diseases (http://usinfo.state.gov/global_issues/hiv_aids/hiv_aids_archive.html).

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U.S. AIDS Initiative Is Good Partnership with Rwandans

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Staff Writer

Kigali, Rwanda -- The Rwandan army, respected for its efficiency, discipline and care of its troops, is expanding its HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs for soldiers and civilians with help from President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

The United Nations reported in December 2005 that sub-Saharan, with 10 percent of the world's population, was home to 60 percent of all people living with HIV. (See related article [<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Nov/25-438271.html>].)

Although devastated by war and genocide, Rwanda has managed to cope with the disease and has an AIDS prevalence rate of under 4 percent, one of the lowest in Africa.

As a result of growing rates in other developing nations, President Bush announced an ambitious \$15 billion program in 2003, saying America never could have real security if the developing world was left to cope with the disease alone. More than a dozen countries have been targeted for PEPFAR support, including a number of African nations.

Before he left for the June 2005 Group of Eight Summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, Bush told an audience in Washington, "We're making life-giving treatment possible for more than 230,000 adults and children in Africa. We're determined to reach our five-year goal of treating two million." (See related article [[http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/Archive/2005/Jul/01-](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/Archive/2005/Jul/01-254582.html)

[254582.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/Archive/2005/Jul/01-254582.html)].)

The president cited the importance of partnership, adding, "This effort [PEPFAR] is succeeding because America is providing resources and Africans are providing leadership."

Lieutenant Colonel John Ruffing, the U.S. Embassy defense attaché who oversees the PEPFAR program with the Rwandan military for the U.S. Department of Defense, also made that point.

"PEPFAR is a good program because it has allowed Rwandans to take a leadership role. Recently, they showed their program to members of the Burundian medical corps," he told the Washington File May 25.

Ruffing explained that PEPFAR is implemented by three main U.S. agencies, the Centers for Disease Control, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Defense Department. The latest PEPFAR effort with the Rwandan military involves a \$1.6 million grant.

The new effort has two components, he said. Prevention efforts are administered by Population Services International (PSI), a large health care nongovernmental organization based in Washington. Drew University in New Jersey runs the treatment programs.

On a visit to Kanombe Military Hospital in Kigali, Dr. Charles Murego, a civilian physician who works for the Rwandan military's Directorate of Medical Services, told the Washington File he was pleased with the partnership between Rwanda and the United States in the fight against AIDS.

The prevention phase of the new program, begun by PSI in fall 2005, has been "especially effective in changing behavior" and "risky habits," such as mixing alcohol with sex, frequenting sex workers and not using condoms.

"Most soldiers are young men and for them alcohol is a danger," he explained, because it lowers their inhibitions and makes them forget sex safety precautions.

As part of its PEPFAR funding, PSI is raising AIDS awareness and prevention among Rwanda's troops through novel devices like establishing anti-AIDS clubs in each brigade to bring peer support and peer pressure to bear.

PSI also plans to organize regular sports, theater and music competitions on AIDS-prevention subjects for members of the clubs to reinforce their adherence to the "ABCs" of AIDS prevention: Abstinence, Be faithful and appropriate use of Condoms.

Murego said he was excited about the Drew University effort, which started recently but has the potential for improving care for his military patients, families and civilians who come down with the disease.

"I would especially like to get more up-to-date testing and laboratory facilities," Murego said. As it stands now, he said testing is a lengthy process and more modern lab equipment would make it easier for him to adjust the combination of treatment drugs to fit individuals' needs and tolerances. ♦

U.S. Agencies Launch New Environmental Satellite

Washington -- A new geostationary environmental satellite, designed to track hurricanes and other severe weather, reached orbit May 25 after being launched from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, officials from NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) report.

The NOAA satellite -- initially called GOES-N -- will be called GOES-13 once it reaches final orbit. It will supply data critical for fast, accurate forecasts and warnings for severe weather, including tornadoes, winter storms and hurricanes.

Geostationary satellites orbit the equatorial plane of the Earth at a speed matching the planet's rotation, allowing them to hover continuously over one position on the surface.

Geostationary orbit is reached at about 35,888 kilometers above Earth, high enough to give the satellites a full-disc view of the planet.

GOES-13 also will detect solar storm activity, relay distress signals from emergency beacons, monitor the oceans and scan the landscape for the latest drought and flood conditions.

"This satellite will serve the nation by monitoring conditions that trigger dangerous weather," said NOAA Administrator Conrad Lautenbacher, "and it will serve the world by contributing vast amounts of observational data, as part of our contribution to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems [GEOSS]."

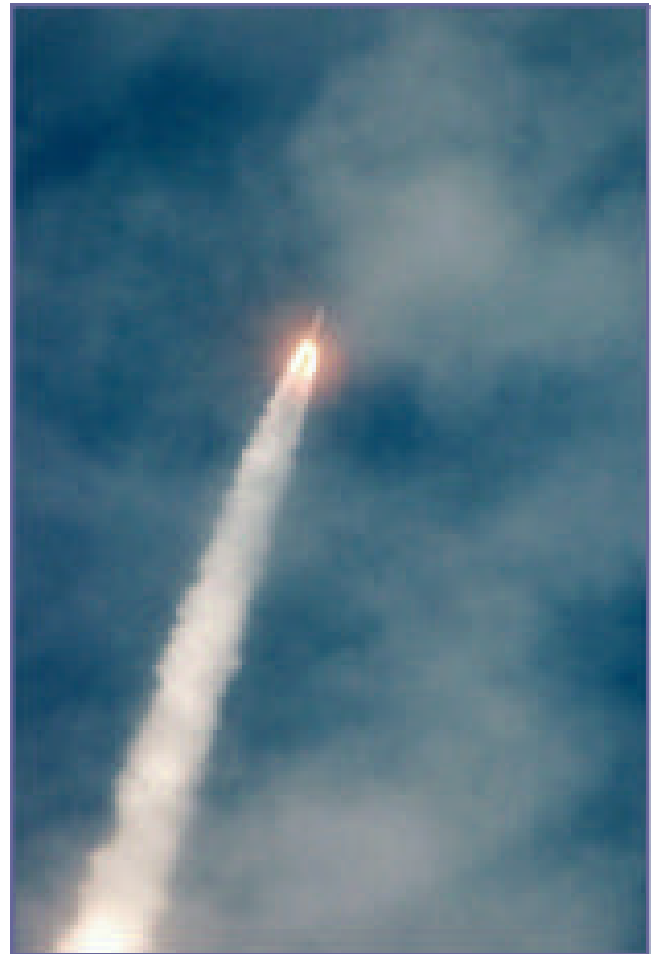
GEOSS is a large international cooperative effort involving 61 countries and the European Commission to bring together existing and new Earth observation hardware and software, creating a compatible supply of data and information to all nations at no cost.

GOES-13 will improve the performance of the satellite's imager and sounder instruments and provide expanded measurements for the space and solar environment monitoring instruments.

The satellite also features a new dedicated broadcast capability to be used by the Emergency Managers Weather Information Network and a new digital weather fax capability for higher-quality transmissions of data and products.

Once it reaches geostationary orbit, GOES-13 will undergo a series of tests for six months before completing its checkout phase. Afterward, GOES-13 will be put into storage mode and will be ready to replace one of the two existing NOAA GOES spacecraft should either experience trouble.

The press release [www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2006/



NOAA GOES-N satellite being launched from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida Wednesday aboard a Boeing Delta IV rocket trailing a plume of smoke as it roars through the thin cloud cover on its way to space (NASA photo)

s2636.htm], launch images [<http://mediaarchive.ksc.nasa.gov/search.cfm?cat=95>] and information about the NOAA Satellite Information Service [www.nesdis.noaa.gov] are available on the NOAA Web site.

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Donors Urged to Integrate Food Aid, Development Policies . . .

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droughts and subsequent food crises.

The agency also is expanding its food aid facilities in areas of the world where they are likely to be needed most, particularly to sites near or on the African continent, Hess said.

In addition, USAID is implementing community-based feeding centers that allow health care workers to travel to homes where malnourished children respond better to treatment for such threatening illnesses as diarrhea, and to prevent the spread of disease by not grouping sick children together in one place, Hess said.

He said the Bush administration's budget request to Congress for fiscal year 2007 includes a proposal that USAID be granted authority to use up to 25 percent of its appropriated food aid funds for local and regional purchases of food aid and distribution so people threatened by a food security crisis can be helped quickly.

For more information on U.S. development efforts, see Global Development and Foreign Aid [http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/global_development.html].

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U.S. Envoy Yamamoto Continues Personal Diplomacy in Ethiopia . . .

(Continued from page 4)

According to their May 25 press release, CUDP agreed, declaring, "One can [only] resolve differences through dialogue and discussion." It stressed that it "strongly opposes a culture of armed struggle to change a government" and affirmed that "CUDP respects the constitution and laws of the country ... [and] will only pursue its objectives peacefully in line with the constitution and the rule of law."

Vicki Huddleston, the charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, told the Washington File that relations between the

Ethiopian government are "much improved" compared to the aftermath of the May 2005 elections and demonstrations that resulted in violence.

She said she was especially heartened recently when all the major opposition parties came out with a joint statement "endorsing a commitment to constitutional and democratic processes."

Referring to the CUDP's press release, the former U.S. ambassador to Mali and Madagascar said she also was pleased that "the newly reformed CUD party made its de-

but marking out position seeking to build democracy and development by working through the legislative system and eschewing violence."

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