

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

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## Financial Crisis to Top U.S. Agenda at Asia-Pacific Meeting

*Continued progress toward economic integration key to confronting crisis*

By David McKeeby  
Staff Writer

Washington — President Bush will urge leaders at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' conference to join him in endorsing proposed reform measures formulated by leaders of the Group of 20 (G20) countries to confront the global financial crisis, say top White House officials.

"The G20 represents a certain global consensus," Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs Dan Price told reporters November 19. "As non-G20 members of APEC subscribe to those same principles, it gives them more power and I think enhances the likelihood that we will all succeed in accomplishing those shared goals."

The ongoing financial crisis will loom large on the agenda when leaders of the 21-member APEC forum meet November 22-23 in Lima, Peru, Price said. Nine leaders from APEC member economies took part in the November 14-15 meeting of 20 of the world's leading economies in Washington, where countries agreed on an action plan to reform the global financial architecture and contain the crisis.

The Asia-Pacific region is a vital and growing economic partner for the United States, Price said, noting that APEC economies account for nearly half of all world trade and 41 percent of the world's population. U.S. trade with APEC economies grew from \$1.2 trillion in 2001 to nearly \$2 trillion in 2007, constituting nearly two-thirds of U.S. trade.

Continuing APEC's progress toward regional economic integration will be another top U.S. priority, Price said. The body's goal of creating a free trade area for the Asia-Pacific region by 2012 is rooted in the principles of free trade and open investment, which are also essential to confronting the current crisis, Price said. Trade expansion must not be disrupted by short-term temptations to erect new protectionist trade barriers or close the spigot on business loans — moves that will only exacerbate tightening credit, slumping stock markets and flagging consumer confidence.

Enhancing APEC's competitiveness will be a third U.S. priority, Price said. APEC has helped economies across the region, Price said, by building new partnerships to reduce

costs among regional businesses; spearheading regulatory reforms to attract new investors; and bringing telecommunications ministers together to bridge the digital divide with a proposal to introduce regionwide universal broadband Internet access by 2015.

The United States will build on these partnerships by seeking APEC member support for a framework for liberalizing trade in industrial and agricultural goods. That could set the stage for eventual completion of the Doha Round of global trade talks, Price said. U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab will join Bush at the APEC meeting to seek support among her counterparts for trade liberalization, one of the long-term goals of the Doha Round.

Other issues on the U.S. agenda include discussions on food security and food safety issues, counterterrorism and disaster response, and energy security and climate change, Price said.

### ACTIVE DIPLOMACY ON APEC SUMMIT SIDELINES

While economic challenges are in the spotlight, Bush also plans to meet on the sidelines with leaders from China, Japan, South Korea, Peru and Russia, said White House deputy spokesman Gordon Johndroe, offering a preview of the president's APEC schedule.

Arriving in Lima on November 21, Bush will meet with Chinese President Hu Jintao for wide-ranging talks as both countries prepare to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their diplomatic relations in 2009. Topics of discussion will include follow-up from the G20 meeting; nuclear proliferation challenges from North Korea and Iran; developments in Burma, Zimbabwe and Sudan; as well as human rights and religious freedoms, including Beijing's dialogue with the Dalai Lama.

On November 22, Bush will start the day with an address to the APEC meeting. He will then meet separately with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso for talks on regional trade and security issues, followed by a joint meeting with both leaders focused on North Korea and the Six-Party Talks. Bush will then attend a private session of APEC leaders and join leaders in a meeting with the APEC Business Advisory Council.

Bush will meet with Peruvian President Alan Garcia on November 23 to discuss a pending U.S.-Peru free trade agreement as well as efforts to promote democratic governance and social justice in the Americas through

economic opportunity. Bush will attend a series of APEC events in the afternoon, and is expected to meet with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev for talks covering the global financial situation, efforts to defuse tensions over Georgia and missile defense, and strategic cooperation issues.

Although this will be Bush's final appearance at APEC before leaving office, Price highlighted the administration's commitment to free trade and open markets as a path to economic development, expansion of foreign aid programs and dedication to promoting democracy and the rule of law.

"I don't think this is a farewell," Price said, "but rather an opportunity for the president to continue to carry forward an affirmative agenda."

### **White House Ceremony Honors Cultural Award Recipients**

*President, first lady applaud nation's diverse roster of talent*  
By Michael Bandler  
Staff Writer

Washington — A Lincoln scholar, an actress from the so-called Golden Age of Hollywood (1930s-1950s), a pioneering comic-book illustrator and a songwriting team are among the latest recipients of America's most prestigious cultural honors, the National Medals of Arts and National Humanities Medals.

In the most recent annual White House tribute to cultural creativity and scholarship, President Bush and first lady Laura Bush saluted an expansive array of artistic imagination and beauty. The November 17 ceremony recognized visionary efforts ranging from the Superman comics that have mesmerized young and old for nearly three-quarters of a century to the sights and sounds of radiant dance and music.

The honorees — including journalists, an author of children's books and a radio talk-show host — "serve as custodians of our history, patrons of our culture, and authors of America's artistic legacy," the first lady said.

To some degree, the aura of Abraham Lincoln and his era could be seen in the roster of medal recipients. The awards ceremony preceded, by just three months, the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of America's 16th president.

Harold Holzer, a leading Lincoln historian as well as senior

vice president of New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art, was awarded a National Humanities Medal, as was Gabor Boritt, professor of Civil War studies and director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. In addition, an arts medal was bestowed on the Ford's Theatre Society, the nonprofit, Washington-based organization responsible for stage presentations at the theater in which Lincoln was shot in April 1865. The working theater will reopen in February 2009 following 18 months of extensive renovations.

Arguably, the two most sentimental favorites among the arts awardees were Olivia de Havilland, 92, the screen legend and winner of two Academy Awards who starred in such classic films as *Gone With the Wind* and *The Heiress*, and Stan Lee, 85, whose dozens of comic-book creations have included *Spider-Man*, the *Fantastic Four* and the *X-Men*.

As for the songwriters — brothers Richard and Robert Sherman — their works (including the scores of such films as *Mary Poppins* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, and the 1964 World's Fair theme song, "It's a Small World") are familiar to many, even if the songwriters' names are not.

This year, there were a number of groups — as well as individuals — among the recipients. They include the Norman Rockwell Museum (in Stockbridge, Massachusetts), which displays the artwork of the beloved, socially conscious magazine illustrator for whom the facility is named, and the José Limon Dance Foundation of New York City, dedicated to the works and vision of the late Mexican-born modern dancer and choreographer.

Arts medal recipients included choristers from one of the United States' pre-eminent black institutions of higher learning. The Fisk University Jubilee Singers, of Nashville, Tennessee, have kept the tradition of African-American spirituals alive for more than half a century.

Also honored were the Presser Foundation (of Haverford, Pennsylvania), which has played an important role in support and furtherance of music and music education, and the John Templeton Foundation, whose goal is to bring scientists and theologians together and to spur research on what it describes as the "big questions" of the day.

The 2008 National Medal of Arts recipients are:

- Stan Lee, comic-book writer/illustrator
- Olivia de Havilland, film actress
- Robert B. and Richard M. Sherman, film and stage composers

- Henry “Hank” Jones Jr., jazz pianist, bandleader and composer
- Jesus Moroles, granite sculptor
- Fisk University Jubilee Singers
- Ford’s Theatre Society
- José Limon Dance Foundation
- The Presser Foundation

The 2008 National Humanities Medal recipients are:

- Gabor Boritt, professor of Civil War studies, Gettysburg College
- Harold Holzer, historian
- John Templeton Foundation
- Myron Magnet, editor-at-large, City Journal
- Albert Marrin, author of children’s books
- Norman Rockwell Museum
- Milton Rosenberg, host, Extension 720, WGN Radio, Chicago
- Robert Smith, philanthropist
- Thomas Saunders III and Jordan Horner Saunders, philanthropists

### **U.S. Intelligence Chief Outlines Successes Against Terrorism**

*Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Indonesia and the Philippines are key partners*

By Jacquelyn S. Porth  
Staff Writer

Washington – Michael Hayden, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, spoke recently of the international community’s successes against terrorism in key regions of the world and diminished worldwide support for al-Qaida.

Hayden told the Washington-based Atlantic Council of the United States November 13 that the United States – in cooperation with partners such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and the Philippines – has greatly diminished the reach of several terrorist groups.

Al-Qaida in Iraq, for example, “is on the verge of strategic defeat,” with the flow of money, weapons and foreign fighters into Iraq now “greatly diminished,” Hayden said.

And al-Qaida’s operational arm in Saudi Arabia largely has been defeated, he said. Indonesia has made inroads in detecting and disrupting terrorist plots in the past three years as a result of what he called “aggressive action by one of our most effective counterterrorism partners.” Filipino allies have kept the pressure on the Abu-Sayef group, Hayden said, limiting its effectiveness.

While the remote, tribal areas on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border remain problematic, progress has been made, according to the CIA director. He said the practice of terrorists taking refuge in Pakistan’s Federally Administered Tribal Areas is lessening. Due to cooperation among the Pakistan government, its military and the U.S. intelligence community, terrorist networks have lost many “decision makers, commanders, experienced and committed fighters” who, Hayden said, planned attacks against Europe and the United States.

The Pakistani government and military “deserves great credit for its current campaign against extremists,” he added. More al-Qaida leaders have been killed or captured “in partnership with our Pakistani allies than ... with any other partner around the world,” Hayden said.

The CIA official cited another reason for optimism in the fight against terrorism: “Some hard-line religious leaders are speaking out against al-Qaida’s tactics and its ideology.” Hayden cited generic polling showing declining support for al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden in predominantly Muslim countries.

More and more Muslims “are pushing back against the senseless violence and flawed worldview of al-Qaida,” he said. Credible, authentic, influential Islamic voices are speaking out and “refuting al-Qaida’s twisted justification for murdering innocents” as well as its ideology seeking to erase the distinction between combatants and noncombatants.

Besides Pakistan and Indonesia, Hayden praised the counterterrorism efforts of other U.S. partners such as Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Military and law enforcement activities and even efforts addressing the conflict of ideas have resulted in improvements in the Middle East and Southeast Asia, he said. “I have always said that the civilized world will win this fight when we win the war of ideas,” he added.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Efforts to defeat al-Qaida in the near future will continue to center on Yemen, Somalia and the Afghan-Pakistan border, according to Hayden. Intelligence suggests that some veterans of terror operations in Iraq are now drifting to other regions, such as North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, in search of new action.

Even though al-Qaida has suffered serious setbacks in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, the intelligence-agency director said, “it remains a determined, adaptive enemy.” Al-Qaida

is still “the most dangerous threat we face,” he told the Atlantic Council’s Global Intelligence Forum.

In Hayden’s opinion, al-Qaida’s base of operations on Pakistan’s border with Afghanistan remains “the single most important factor today in the group’s resilience and its ability to threaten the West.” He contends that the remote, tribal areas along the Afghan-Pakistan border have supported terrorist financing, recruiting, training and plotting in the past.

While al-Qaida-related operations in the tribal regions do not rise to the level of activity that once existed in Afghanistan, Hayden said, its recent efforts to destabilize Pakistan are worrisome.

The Pakistani army has been fighting extremists “forcefully and with considerable success since early August,” Hayden said. The Pakistanis have a multibrigade operation under way in the tribal area of Bajaur, and while they have sustained losses, “they are also imposing significant casualties on our common enemy.”

But when al-Qaida is dealt a blow, Hayden said, its senior leadership recalibrates. “They constantly look for ways to make up for losses, extend their reach, take advantage of opportunities, and we’re seeing that ... in some places like ... Somalia or Yemen.”

Yemen has witnessed an unprecedented number of attacks in 2008, Hayden said, including two against the U.S. Embassy. The sophistication of attacks and the range of targets are broadening. Hayden said that, like what has happened elsewhere, terrorist cells in Yemen “are operating from remote, tribal areas where the government has traditionally had very little authority.”

That al-Qaida tends to gain strength only in isolated, ungoverned territories “may be the most damning thing we can say about this organization,” Hayden said. It can subsist only beyond the reach of civilization and the reach of the rule of law.

#### HANDLING THE TRANSITION

As head of the CIA, Hayden’s service may continue into the Obama administration, although frequently a new president appoints his own director. Asked about his interest in continuing in his present position — which includes conducting daily presidential intelligence briefings at the White House — the director said he serves at the pleasure of the president, but would consider staying if asked.

As this is the first wartime presidential transition for the United States in 40 years, some thought is being given by transition officials to keeping some Bush appointees, at least temporarily, so the transfer of power from one administration to another is as seamless as possible.

Hayden said members of the Bush administration have been directed to “make this the smoothest transition in recorded history.” With the United States on a wartime footing and al-Qaida already having made a critical remark about President-elect Barack Obama on the Internet, the director said, efforts are under way to get a new team ready for any contingency as swiftly as possible “so that there is no diminution in the ability of the Republic to defend itself.”

#### Victims, Counselors Reclaim Lives from Torture

*Survivors of torture find ways to contribute to their new communities*

By Jane Morse  
Staff Writer

Washington — Survivors of torture and persecution who fled to the United States for asylum have had much taken away from them: their sense of dignity and personal safety, their family and friends, the security of having homes and careers.

But meeting them and the counselors who try to help them heal wounds and adjust to their new country reveals that they bring skills, generosity and an enthusiasm to give back to their new communities.

Recently, in a community room at a local church, some dozen survivors of torture and trauma gathered to share their stories. They are the clients of Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (ASTT), one of about 23 nonprofit organizations in the United States dedicated to providing mental health and social services to victims of what the United Nations has labeled “the most profound of human rights abuses.”

The attendees came from many parts of the world. In their home countries, these survivors of persecution were students, teachers, lawyers or just plain working folk. A few were human rights and political activists, but most ran afoul of their governments for simply speaking their minds.

A harvesting and irrigation technologist enraged his government by telling his students certain standard irrigation practices were not effective for every part of the country. A teacher joined a teacher’s professional

organization and was accused of espousing a “hidden agenda” in opposition to the ruling regime.

“Everyone has a responsibility to their community,” said one survivor. “But everyone has his own way of thinking. A person should be free to be an individual.”

#### RETAINING A SPIRIT OF GIVING

There are more than 400,000 torture survivors who have found refuge in the United States. About 40,000 live in the Baltimore-Washington area, where ASTT, funded primarily by U.S. federal and state sources as well as donations from the general public, counsels more than 200 each year.

Karen Hanscom, executive director of ASTT and a licensed psychologist who helped found the nonprofit in 1994, told America.gov: “The number of [torture survivors] who go into the helping professions – that shocks me. I would think that after you’ve had so much taken away – your whole sense of who you are and your sense of worth, because that’s what torture does – how you then have an ounce of strength to give to other people is a phenomenon to me.

“But they do, though. They want to be teachers, or they want to be human rights workers here [in the United States]. They get onto nonprofit boards. A lot become nurses. So it’s amazing to me that they then want to start giving again.”

In fact, one of the oft-repeated desires the survivors voiced at their recent meeting was their eagerness to find jobs or go back to school once their asylum petitions were approved by the U.S. government.

When torture survivors do find paying jobs, they often contribute what they can financially to those who helped them.

“The other thing that is shocking to me,” Hanscom said, “is people who have gotten asylum and they’re working three jobs and they’re trying to make a go here and all of a sudden we’ll get a money order [from them] for \$50. That’s really meaningful.”

#### IMPRESSIONS OF AMERICA

“I am amazed by Americans,” one survivor told America.gov. “I feel comfortable I can talk to Americans. I appreciate people listening. Even strangers will listen and try to help and give encouragement.”

Many survivors told America.gov that the election campaigns of Barack Obama and John McCain were a special source of amazement to them – and not just because a person of African descent could win the presidency of the United States.

In his country, one survivor said, the loser of the election would be thrown in prison for having criticized the winner during the campaign.

The survivors find plenty to be amazed at in the United States, but their counselors also find much to admire in their clients.

Joachim Nthawie, a native of Zambia who previously worked in that country with refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has been with ASTT since 2003 and has a doctorate in pastoral counseling from Loyola College in Maryland.

Hearing the stories of torture survivors can be painful and depressing, he acknowledged, but he added: “I feel admiration for their resilience – that in spite of these terrible things, there is still hope that things can be better.”

This sense of hope, he said, “is a force of life that you can’t just extinguish.” The strength of the survivors inspires him. “I want to be a part of their life journey.”

#### Law of the Sea Convention Enjoys Broad U.S. Support

*Secretary of state’s legal adviser urges Senate to ratify treaty*

By Daniel Gorelick  
Staff Writer

Washington – The Bush administration strongly supports ratifying the U.N. Law of the Sea Convention, according to senior State Department official John B. Bellinger III.

Bellinger, the legal adviser to the secretary of state and former legal adviser to the National Security Council, outlined the administration’s position in a November 3 speech to the Law of the Sea Institute.

The 1982 treaty sets a common legal framework for managing and conserving marine resources. Key provisions include methods for establishing rights of navigation and access to resources on and under the ocean floor and a procedure to settle marine-related disputes between countries.

The United States is not yet among the more than 150 countries, including Russia, Japan, China, the United

Kingdom and most European nations, that have ratified the treaty. However, the United States is now in voluntary compliance with all aspects of the convention.

The U.S. Senate has not voted on whether to approve the treaty. In the U.S. system of government, the executive branch negotiates and signs international agreements but most such agreements cannot be binding on the United States until ratified by a two-thirds vote of approval in the Senate.

President Reagan refused to support the treaty because of concerns that access to deep seabed minerals would be restricted (Part XI) and cause harm to U.S. economic interests. In response to the fall of Communist governments beginning in 1989, Part XI was modified. President Bush supports ratifying the treaty.

In 2004, members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously approved the convention, but it was not brought to the Senate floor for a vote.

"I don't know of any treaty so widely supported," David Caron, co-director of the Law of the Sea Institute at the Berkeley School of Law in California, said in an interview with Public Broadcasting Service in August. "It gives us procedures; it gives us common language and will facilitate greatly the U.S. advancing its own interests."

Bellinger said that after careful review in 2003 by a wide range of government agencies, the White House decided to "strongly support" signing the treaty. "After plumbing the depths of the issue – and diving into the details – I have concluded that joining the convention is the right thing to do."

#### NATIONAL SECURITY, ECONOMICS, MARINE PROTECTION

In his speech, Bellinger said the treaty supports U.S. national security and economic interests and will protect the marine environment and its natural resources.

At a time when the United States is conducting military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and faces increased threats from around the world, the treaty guarantees military and commercial vessels navigational rights through all oceans, including the right of innocent passage through foreign territorial seas. For this reason, all branches of the U.S. military support joining the treaty, according to Bellinger.

The treaty also codifies sovereign rights over all ocean

resources. The United States has one of the longest coastlines in the world, and the treaty would "maximize legal certainty regarding U.S. rights to energy resources in vast offshore areas," particularly around Alaska, Bellinger said.

Another benefit of the treaty is that it establishes obligations for protecting oceans from pollution. According to Bellinger, the treaty would balance navigation rights with environmental protection.

"As the nation with the world's largest navy, an extensive coastline and a continental shelf with enormous oil and gas reserves, and substantial shipping interests, the United States certainly has much more to gain than lose from joining the Law of the Sea Convention."

#### WIDESPREAD SUPPORT

Bellinger cited widespread support for the treaty throughout the U.S. government.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the national security adviser wrote letters supporting the treaty, as have several Cabinet members, including the secretaries of Homeland Security, Interior and Commerce. The second-ranking officials at the departments of State and Defense both testified in support of the treaty at a Senate hearing in September 2007.

Representatives of the oil and gas, shipping and telecommunications industries also testified in favor of the treaty before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In October 2007, the committee voted to support the treaty and recommended that the full Senate vote in favor, but opponents used procedural maneuvers to prevent the full Senate from taking up the issue.

"In my view, it is most unfortunate that a small but vocal minority – armed with a series of flawed arguments – has imposed upon the United States a delay that is contrary to our interests," Bellinger said.

"I hope too much time does not elapse before the United States joins the convention and is able to place its rights on the firmest legal footing and take its seat at the table with the other parties to the convention as they make decisions affecting the world's oceans."

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