



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

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Experimental Ethiopian Schools Energize Students, Empower Parents

By Phillip Kurata
Staff Writer

Asallah, Ethiopia — Inside a mud-and-grass-walled school in rural Ethiopia, students sit in horseshoe formations, some with their backs to the teacher, others sideways and some facing her.

At the start of a class, the students look toward the teacher, who introduces a question or a problem. Then the students turn

and face each other and

proceed to discuss the question or solve the problem. At the end, the teacher solicits the answers that the students have reached.



Children outside Gorasillingo primary school, Asallah.

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Ethiopia Eyes a Big Role in Global Leather Industry

By Phillip Kurata
Staff Writer

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia — Well-heeled shoppers in New York, Paris, Tokyo and other global fashion centers are beginning to see a new name, Taytu, beside familiar Guccis and Chanel's among the ladies' handbags in exclusive shops.



Taytu bag on display in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Ethiopia, home to the largest livestock population in Africa, produces and exports millions of hides annually, mainly in the form of semiprocessed leather. Eyeing higher profits, Ethiopia is moving to develop its own trademarked leather products. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is

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Experimental Ethiopian Schools Energize Students, Empower Parents . . .

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What is going on at the Gorasillingo primary school near Asallah, 180 kilometers south of Addis Ababa, is an educational experiment intended to reduce the role of the teacher and energize the students in the learning process. The Ethiopian government is working to revamp teaching practices with the goal of creating a modern labor force capable of staffing an economy plugged into global markets.

“Ethiopia is getting away from lecture-based education, in which the teacher does all the talking and students listen passively,” said Gebi Tussi, an Ethiopian education official. “We are trying to give the students and the broader communities a sense of empowerment in education.”

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) plays a central role in helping Ethiopia implement these educational reforms.

Tesfaye Kelemework, a USAID education specialist, said, “Education is a big component of economic development. The Ethiopian government is working to revive and expand reforms that were interrupted in the 1970s, when a military-backed communist regime took power.”

A key element in the initiative is a program to encourage students, teachers and parents to manufacture their own educational materials. At the nearby Asallah Teachers' College, Tulu Gobu supervises a center devoted to training teachers to make teaching aids from materials they touch in their daily lives. The workshop has hammers, saws,

scissors and other tools, along with paper, glue, paints, wool and an assortment of other common materials.

For example, human anatomy is taught by means of a replica of the human system constructed with

The scientific concept of distillation is taught with a small still that boils water and condenses the steam. Business skills are engrained with props with which students act out shopping procedures.

Velcro arrows that can be placed on



Tulu Gobu displays teaching aids.

stones for teeth and pieces of cloth and strips of wool to represent the organs. The display is attached to a sheet of cardboard. Another teaching aid depicts the circulatory system with blue water running through plastic tubing toward the heart to show veins and red water away from the heart to show arteries.

To learn three-dimensional geometric shapes, students and teachers learn to make cylinders, cones and pyramids from blocks of wood. “These concepts would be hard to teach from a printed page or a teacher talking about them in a lecture,” said Johnson Odharo, another USAID educational adviser.

a square of hanging cloth are used to teach the concept of prepositions — above, below, toward, away from, and so forth. Students and teachers make their own classroom maps to teach history and geography.

Teachers throughout Ethiopia are trained at three such teaching-aids production centers in the country.

“They are making their classrooms very active,” Odharo said. “Students and parents make their own teaching materials and present them to teachers. Teachers limit their talking and encourage students to talk more.”

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Ethiopia Eyes a Big Role in Global Leather Industry . . .

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helping Ethiopia develop its leather processing and branding sector; the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and other development groups are also assisting.

"The Ethiopian government supports an export sector of high-value, finished leather products, not semiprocessed leather," said Taytu Trade and Industry Managing Director Salpi Nalbandian.

Taytu markets the products of 12 Ethiopian manufacturers of leather goods. The consortium was formed in 2006, when the Ethiopian government identified the leather industry as a potentially lucrative sector.

For example, Cabretta leather, prized for golf gloves, because of its strength and elasticity, brings the Ethiopian herder \$2 for the skin needed for one glove, \$5 to the exporter of the leather, and \$25 to the retailer of a glove manufactured outside of Ethiopia.

Another Ethiopian leather product, the Bati goat skin, is reputed to produce the softest, finest suede. Ethiopian herders make about \$10 for the skin need to make one suede coat. The leather exporter collects about \$40-\$50 after tanning. The coat, which is manufactured outside Ethiopia, will bring at least \$400 to the retailer, according to Light Years IP, a group that helps developing countries spur growth through the use of intellectual property rights.

Taytu handbags sold by the upscale Barneys New York fetch prices around \$1,500; one particular Taytu handbag design is priced at \$22,000, according to the com-



Salpi Nalbandian, managing director of Taytu.

pany's Web site. Taytu made contact with Barneys and other high-end foreign retailers by participating in trade shows in New York, Paris and Los Angeles. Theory, another high-end retailer of clothing and accessories, is considering marketing Taytu bags, according to Nalbandian.

Entering the international market is difficult, and Nalbandian credits USAID and UNIDO for helping to make that happen.

"It involves a long chain of work, getting the raw materials, meeting delivery deadlines, correspondence, understanding the work and business conditions abroad. We must win the confidence and trust of foreign buyers," she said. She said UNIDO provided expertise in design and manufacturing and USAID, in marketing. "They have guided Ethiopia into the high-end market niche," she said. "They have advised that Ethiopia should not com-

pete with China and India in producing for the mass market."

Taytu's sales revenues have risen from \$25,000 in 2006, when the consortium was formed, to \$85,000 in the last fiscal year. Five months into the current fiscal year, which runs from July to June, Taytu has received about \$70,000 in foreign orders. Sales from its shop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, also are rising sharply as a result of Taytu's entry into foreign markets.

"When local newspapers wrote about Taytu's success in New York and other cities, Ethiopian consumers became excited about the Taytu name," said Teshome Kebede Redie, a USAID contractor working in the Ethiopian leather sector.

Nalbandian said as Taytu profits rise, it will wean itself from USAID financial support. USAID pays the Taytu shop rent in Addis Ababa and the salaries of the shop staff. The agency also bought the computers and furniture in the Taytu shop.

In another attempt to extract potential leather profits, one Ethiopian leather company, Jonzo PLC, plans to enter the shoe business, which absorbs 60 percent of the world's leather output. Now, Jonzo specializes in leather garments and handbags, some of which are marketed by Taytu.

"Footwear is a big opportunity for Ethiopia," said Jonzo General Manager Solomon Yesuf. He said he expects Jonzo to start shipping footwear to the St. Louis-based Brown Shoe Company in 2009.

USAID's Redie said that many shoe companies in the United States,

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New U.S. Command Fulfills Requests Made by African Leaders

By Jacquelyn S. Porth
Staff Writer

Washington — African leaders see the intrinsic connection between security and development, and they have been telling the new commander of the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) that they want help building strong institutions that will promote growth on the continent.

AFRICOM officially has been in business as the newest U.S. unified military command for only a few weeks, but its commander, Army General William “Kip” Ward, said the United States wants to be “a friend to the continent of Africa, its nations and its institutions.” To that end, he has been traveling broadly to the 53 nations covered by his geographic command, listening to the needs of Africans and conveying the message that the United States is committed to strengthening and maintaining its security ties with Africa.

Ward told the annual meeting in Washington of the International Peace Operations Association (IPOA) October 27 that he has been receiving requests to pursue traditional joint military activities, such as training and mentoring, as well as combined exercises and professional development. Ward said African leaders are concerned about a myriad of threats including illegal fishing, drug and human trafficking, terrorism and illicit weapons proliferation.

There is no cookie-cutter approach, the general said, so a different model is applied according to the perspective of each African nation.

The idea is to help African countries increase capabilities to carry out peacekeeping, counterterrorism and coastal and border security missions and to offer support as Africans

sored by the State Department. ACOTA has trained 45,000 African soldiers and added 3,200 African trainers.



Malian Interior Minister Sadio Gassama and U.S. Ambassador Gillian Milovanovic, left, review troops before a military exercise.

tackle poverty, disease, piracy, conflicts, natural disasters and territorial disputes.

AFRICOM’s mission is to work with U.S. government agencies and international partners to conduct “sustained security engagement through military-to-military programs, military-sponsored activities and other military operations as directed to promote a stable and secure African environment in support of U.S. foreign policy.” The focus is on what is often called the “3 Ds” — defense, development and diplomacy.

As an example, AFRICOM is helping the African Union achieve its goal of developing additional peacekeepers with the 21-nation African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) program spon-

Ward frequently quotes South African civil rights leader Nelson Mandela, who once said: “We strive for an Africa where Africans provide for their own security, but with the help of our friends.” He said the establishment of AFRICOM signals the U.S. intention to be a reliable partner with Africa and one that is consistently, rather than episodically, involved.

TEAMWORK IN AFRICA WILL REAP REWARDS

Council on Foreign Relations fellow Stewart Patrick told Voice of America that AFRICOM will serve to integrate U.S. policy engagement with the continent and ensure that “there will be more sustained attention by senior U.S. policymakers to security challenges” in Africa.

The U.S. response should be better tailored to Africa since the new regional command is staffed permanently not only with military officers but senior civilian experts from the departments of State, Treasury, Homeland Security, Commerce, and Energy as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such a unique staffing structure allows officers to learn from each other and make informed decisions about the most effective approaches.

Ward told students at Boston Uni-

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Obama Foreign Policy May Be Rooted in Multilateral Diplomacy

By Michelle Austein
Staff Writer

Washington – When Barack Obama takes the oath of office January 20, 2009, a new American approach to foreign policy may be in the works. But change will not come immediately, a political analyst says.

For the Obama administration, there is “potential for making real progress” in foreign policy, Stephen Flanagan of the Center for Strategic and International Studies told journalists at the State Department’s Foreign Press Center November 4.

Although “the expectations are enormously high,” Flanagan said, there is a “limit to how quickly things can change, given, already, that the new president is saddled immediately with whatever the state of the global financial crisis is, still two major military operations overseas, [and] a great deal of other priorities at home that are demanding attention.”

Throughout Obama’s campaign, the Illinois senator and his staff stressed his willingness to work with and strengthen relationships with U.S. allies. His campaign repeatedly said Obama would implement a multilateral approach to foreign policy that would restore America’s image to the world.

“There will be a different way of dealing with the international community,” Flanagan said, adding that there likely will be “a greater commitment to multilateralism.”

It is an approach that many in the world may welcome, as Flanagan



Barack Obama met British Prime Minister Gordon Brown in July. Obama may look to revitalize U.S.-European relations.

cited several international and domestic polls indicating “a profound sense in the United States right now that our foreign policy is not quite on the right direction.”

Many will be watching around the world to see how the 44th president will work with U.S. allies, interact with international institutions and confront transnational challenges.

OBAMA’S FOREIGN POLICY GOALS

With two ongoing wars, most Americans expect the security situation in Iraq and Afghanistan to be among Obama’s top foreign policy concerns, as well as the financial crisis, which is being felt on a

global scale.

Even before assuming office, Obama will be reviewing new proposals on how to manage the war in Iraq and looking toward a “gradual turnover of further responsibility to the Iraqi people,” Flanagan said.

Obama will also be examining the struggle against violent extremism and terrorism on a more global scale, Flanagan said. The focus of this fight likely will be in Afghanistan and Pakistan, he added. The next president may decide that deterring terrorism may need a more multilateral approach, Flanagan said.

Obama may take a multilateral approach to climate change, a topic in which the European community is particularly interested, he said. The next president likely will be looking to revitalize partnerships with European allies, Flanagan said. Obama will also be looking for a “way to work [with] Russia with areas of common interest,” he said.

The Obama administration will inherit many strong relationships with Asian countries, Flanagan said. Obama is likely to pay particular attention to China and India, two major powers that will “play an enormous role in the international economic system,” he said.

The Obama administration is likely to recognize “the growing importance of Africa,” Flanagan said.

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President-elect Obama Planning Response to Economic Crisis

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — President-elect Obama said he and his transition team will confront economic challenges “head-on” in the coming weeks, working with economic experts to develop policies to ease the flow of credit and to support struggling American families.

Obama was elected president November 4, but, as provided by U.S. law, will not assume office until January 2009.

At his first press conference as president-elect, Obama reminded observers that the United States has only one president at a time, and that president is still George W. Bush. Obama said he will meet with President Bush at the White House on November 10.

Speaking in Chicago on November 7, Obama said Americans are “facing the greatest economic challenge of our lifetime, and we’re going to have to act swiftly to resolve it.”

The president-elect said after he is sworn in on January 20, 2009, he will “confront this economic crisis head-on by taking all necessary steps to ease the credit crisis, help hard-working families, and restore growth and prosperity.”

Obama spoke after meeting with his transition economic advisory board, a group that will work with his transition team to plan a response to



President-elect Obama said in his first press conference since his victory that he will tackle the economic crisis “head-on.”

immediate economic challenges and strategies for longer-term economic strength.

Members of the board include past federal officials such as former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker and former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, and private-sector financial experts such as investor Warren Buffett and Time-Warner Chairman Richard Parsons.

“I do not underestimate the enormity of the task that lies ahead,” Obama said. “It is not going to be quick and it is not going to be easy for us to dig ourselves out of the hole that we are in, but America is a strong and resilient country. And I know we will succeed if we put aside partisanship and politics and work together as one nation.”

Obama said he anticipated his November 10 White House visit will include “a substantive conversation” with the president along with a tour of the Obamas’ future home. “Now is a good time for us to set

politics aside for a while and think practically about what will actually work to move the economy forward. And it’s in that spirit that I’ll have the conversation with the president,” Obama said.

FUTURE PRESIDENT MOVING “WITH DELIBERATE HASTE” ON CABINET

Asked about U.S. relations with Iran, Obama repeated his campaign policies opposing Iran’s develop-

ment of nuclear weapons and its support for terrorist organizations.

He said he planned to review a letter recently sent to him by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and “respond appropriately,” but added it is important to remember that there is only “one president at a time” in the United States.

“I want to be very careful that we are sending the right signals, to the world as a whole, that I am not the president and I won’t be until January 20th,” Obama said.

The president-elect also acknowledged the intense interest in whom he will nominate to Cabinet-level positions, saying announcements will be made in the coming weeks.

“I want to move with all deliberate haste, but I want to emphasize deliberate as well as haste,” he said. “I think it’s very important ... to get it right and not to be so rushed that you end up making mistakes.” ♦

Illinois Congressman Is Obama's First White House Appointment

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — Less than 48 hours after his election victory, President-elect Barack Obama made one of the most crucial personnel selections for his White House by asking Illinois Democratic Representative Rahm Emanuel to serve as White House chief of staff.

According to a Democratic Party official, Emanuel accepted the position November 6, even though it will require him to give up his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As chief of staff, Emanuel will be serving in a position that has been described as the gatekeeper to the president, and the second-most-powerful post in Washington. The role of the chief of staff changes with every administration, but it entails both the day-to-day management of White House personnel and serving as one of the president's closest advisers. Emanuel also will spend much of his time promoting the president's agenda with congressional leaders and members of the president's Cabinet.

Former chief of staff John Podesta, who served under President Clinton from 1998 until the end of Clinton's administration in 2001, described his job as "sort of an enforcer." The chief of staff is "the guy who has

to tell the president when things are bad, deliver the bad news," he told PBS' NewsHour program in a March 28, 2006, interview.

"He has to be a person who looks at the facts and says, 'You know, Mr. President, it's not easy to tell you this, but here's the way it really is.' And I think he needs to be able to have a firm hand with the entire



Congressman Rahm Emanuel will serve as President Obama's "gatekeeper" in his role as White House chief of staff.

Cabinet, including the foreign policy members of that Cabinet," Podesta said.

Along with being a close presidential confidant, the chief of staff usually is given free reign to hire and fire White House staff members and to set the agenda and schedule for the White House's daily operations.

During the weeks of the political transition, he probably also will be making recommendations on nominations to the Cabinet.

The chief of staff job is notoriously

strenuous, and it is normal for a president to have more than one chief of staff during a four-year term. Professional burnout is a risk, and the chief can be blamed for internal staff disagreements and poor communications or organization. Sometimes a president appoints a new chief of staff simply to shake up and re-energize the White House.

Emanuel, 48, first was elected to the House of Representatives in 2002. He began his public career with the consumer rights organization Illinois Public Action and then worked on Paul Simon's 1984 Senate campaign.

Emanuel has White House experience as assistant to the president for political affairs and then senior adviser to the president for policy and

strategy during the Clinton administration. He also brings congressional leadership experience: He was chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee that helped elect a Democratic congressional majority in 2006 and subsequently was elected chairman of the Democratic House Caucus.

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

Non-U.S. Journalists Cite American Voter Enthusiasm, Role of Race

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — As U.S. news commentators continue to assess the meaning of Senator Barack Obama's November 4 presidential election victory, 50 journalists invited to the United States by the State Department's Foreign Press Center shared their impressions, expressing surprise at how highly engaged average Americans were in the campaigns.

The group of newspaper, magazine, online and radio journalists covered the election for their organizations from the so-called battleground states on which John McCain's and Barack Obama's campaigns focused special attention. The program was funded by the State Department and administered by the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), a nonprofit professional organization.

Speaking in Washington November 6, one African journalist commented on the role of identity politics in the race and the enthusiasm of American voters. "I think we had a front-row seat in this drama of race and religion," he said.

RACE AND U.S. POLITICS

A Ugandan journalist covering the election from Pennsylvania said he arrived in the United States already impressed with Obama's oratory and political skills. "But I didn't know this exuberance, the enthusiasm from all the Americans.

"People have talked about African Americans, the black race and all that. But I know that the black

Americans are only 12 percent [of the vote]," he said. He was surprised that white Americans came out so strongly in support of Obama.

ICFJ's director, Jerri Eddings, said race is becoming less important in American politics. "It's not going to disappear. It's probably never going to disappear," she said. "But the



Luciana Geuna, a reporter with Critica in Buenos Aires, Argentina, at an Obama/Bill Clinton rally in Kissimmee, Florida.

Many of the visiting journalists noted that Obama's support extended well beyond the African-American community. President-elect Obama's identity as the son of a black man from Kenya and a white woman from Kansas, and his Islamic middle name "Hussein" were topics of discussion among some American voters during the campaign and had the potential to be divisive in some communities.

"[T]he enthusiasm with which [white Americans] give him the vote, they supported him, the fundraising. You know, for me that was really a shock to me throughout this tour," the Ugandan journalist said.

fact that Obama was elected actually proves how much less of an issue [race] is now than it was."

"Churches are very involved in elections and a large part of the population takes into account religious beliefs and the beliefs of the candidates," he said.

AMERICAN POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

Several journalists remarked on how the crowds at campaign rallies demonstrated U.S. voter enthusiasm.

"People were waiting for four to

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Non-U.S. Journalists Cite American Voter Enthusiasm, Role of Race . . .

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five hours to listen to a 13 minute speech of the candidate," said one. "People were taking little children with them. It was very interesting for me."

A Nigerian journalist recalled that people stood for two hours waiting to hear Senator Hillary Clinton speak at an Obama rally. "In Nigeria, nobody attends conventions. You have to transport people to the place. You have to provide food if possible," he said.

Others were struck by the dedication of campaign volunteers on both sides. "I met some who left their homes, who left their jobs just to be volunteers for their candidate and also women who left their homes to be babysitters for the volunteers. ... This was something that I noticed very strongly," said another African journalist.

Of the 50 program participants, 11 were from sub-Saharan Africa, eight from East Asia and the Pacific, eight from Europe, 11 from the Middle East and North Africa, five from South Central Asia, and seven from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Depending on where they were stationed, some journalists cited the high number of African Americans involved in the Obama campaign; some reported especially enthusiastic support for his campaign among blacks who recently had immigrated to the United States from Africa and the Caribbean.

Eddings, speaking from her own experience as an African American

who had come from a politically active neighborhood, said activism varied from community to community.

"I've always had a theory about immigrants versus people who have been here for several generations, which is that immigrants come with a sense of hope and opportunity and black people in this country,



Jackie Khoury, news director for Radio A-shams in Nazareth, Israel, covers Obama rally in Columbia, Missouri on Thursday, October 30. Khoury is one of 48 international journalists taking part in ICFJ's Elections 2008 Program.

particularly in the South ... have lost their sense of opportunity," following experiences such as segregation and discrimination.

"But in this election, I think many of those very same people who had lost their sense of hope and opportunity actually regained it," she said.

A Mexican journalist working in Florida remarked on how different voter groups she met had different priorities and concerns that played out in their opinions. Cuban Americans, she said, were "hit very hard" by accusations from the McCain campaign that Obama was a socialist.

"They told me, 'Well, we came out of the island, fleeing from [Fidel] Castro because he was a communist from there, and now a socialist wants to be president of the United States,'" she said.

She also observed a generational dynamic, as elderly Jewish voters expressed concerns over the economy and about rumors that Obama was a Muslim. However, "their younger relatives didn't think about that." A generational divide was also in evidence at a Florida university. "They were all Obama lovers. ... You didn't really have a real discussion over there."

However, one of her colleagues said he had been surprised to find that many young voters were uninformed on the issues and expressed support for their candidate based on more trivial matters such as racial identity or the desire to have "a president with whom I can share a beer."

Butler said, indeed, some Americans vote for candidates they feel they can relate to rather than investigating their policies, and the U.S. system of democracy allows each voter to apply personal criteria when casting a ballot.

"You can vote based on whether you think the guy is good looking or not," he said. "That's the way democracy works. You can't require people to be educated about the issues." ♦

Kenyans Celebrate Barack Obama as One of Their Own

By Thomas J. Dowling
Special Correspondent

Nairobi, Kenya — After weeks of news coverage and popular conversation that bordered on obsession about the Barack Obama phenomenon, Kenyans greeted the long-hoped-for election of Obama to be the 44th president of the United States with intense rejoicing and high expectations, not only for America but for themselves. In towns across Kenya, thousands took to the street for celebrations that were a far cry from the violence that greeted their own presidential election nearly a year ago.

Many people throughout the world celebrated Obama's victory as a significant moment in U.S. history, but perhaps no country was as excited for Obama as Kenya. The home country of Obama's father has followed the Illinois senator's campaign closely, viewing him as one of its own.

At about 7 a.m. local time November 5, with the first rays of dawn just lighting the sky over Nairobi, time stood still in Kenya as the entire country watched televisions or listened to radios and heard that several of the United States' battleground states had indeed gone to Kenya's favorite son, securing Obama enough Electoral College votes to become the next U.S. president.

With the rejoicing, some of which was heard in the tents that covered the lawn of the American ambassador's residence in Nairobi and which

was carried live by Kenya's many TV and radio stations, one would have believed Obama had been elected president of Kenya.

The president of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki, was among the first to offer Obama his congratulations. He declared November 6 a holiday in honor of the historic elevation of



U.S. Ambassador Michael Ranneberger raises a toast to the President-elect of the United States, Senator Barack Obama, to the unrestrained jubilation of the Kenyans present.

this son of Kenya. Kenya Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka stopped by the U.S. Embassy at the end of the morning to deliver the congratulations of the government of Kenya.

U.S. Ambassador Michael Ranneberger had invited more than 2,500 Kenyans to join embassy staff and American citizens to monitor the election results at his residence starting at 5 a.m. School buses carrying more than 1,000 high school and university students began arriving at 4:45 a.m. — no one wanted to miss a minute of the election returns as the polls closed in the United States. Politicians, officials, business people and especially students intensely watched

the unfolding drama as votes were counted.

After Republican John McCain's concession speech and Obama's acceptance speech, Ranneberger addressed the boisterous crowd, citing the rigor of the contest, the focus on issues over personality, the diversity of the electorate and the upcoming peaceful transition of power. He also said the morning's events would only deepen the continuing U.S.-Kenyan partnership.

A Kenyan official told the group that people in his country had learned from the American election that they must campaign not only about their own tribe but all tribes, as Obama and McCain had shown their willingness to talk to all Americans during their hard-fought, but peaceful, campaign.

In Kenya, news outlets, government sources and people on street corners repeated that America had proven it was a country of its ideals, that every man or woman could truly become president of the United States and that the transition from one party to another did not involve any form of violence. In the American elections, Kenyans seem to see a reflection on their own still-nascent democracy.

As one commentator put it, within the cheers for Obama was the longing for Kenya's dawn. Other comments reiterated the need for openness and inclusion in politics but also the need to tackle the issues of corruption, tribalism and institutional reform so Kenyans can redeem their hope in democracy. ♦

Veterans Day Honors Those Who Served in U.S. Military

Washington — November 11 is Veterans Day in the United States, and parades, ceremonies and tributes to veterans are planned in small towns and large cities throughout the country to honor those who have served in the U.S. military.

“Our country is forever indebted to our veterans for their quiet courage and exemplary service,” said President Bush. “On Veterans Day, we remember these heroes for their valor, their loyalty, and their dedication.”

This year, as always, the memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery, just outside Washington, remains the focal point for national Veterans Day ceremonies. The traditions have been firmly established: a combined color guard representing all military services executes “present arms” at the tomb, the president lays a wreath, and a bugler plays “taps,” the beautiful and haunting bugle call used at U.S. military funerals.

In 1958, two unidentified American war dead, one from World War II and one from the Korean War, were buried in Arlington Cemetery alongside the Unknown Soldier from World War I who had been interred there in 1921. And in 1984, an unknown serviceman from the Viet-

nam War was placed beside them. They jointly symbolize all Americans who gave their lives in all wars.

The earlier, more narrowly focused Armistice Day commemorated the end of fighting in World War I under the armistice implemented at 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918 — “the eleventh hour of the eleventh

cils of the nations.”

Armistice Day’s message of peace and international solidarity was reiterated when the holiday formally received its name in 1926. Congress passed a resolution asking the president to call for the U.S. flag to be displayed on all public buildings on November 11, and to call on citizens

“to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.”

Congress followed up in 1938 by designating Armistice Day a legal holiday, dedicated to the cause of world peace.



On Veterans Day, November 11, Americans honor those who fought for their country or served in the military. (AP Images)

day of the eleventh month.”

President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first Armistice Day just a year later, setting the characteristic tone of the U.S. observances in years to come. He said that the holiday would be “filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the coun-

But Wilson’s hope that World War I would be the “war to end war” collapsed soon after, with the outbreak of new fighting in Europe. The United States entered World War II in 1941. More than 16 million Americans were to take part; 407,000 of them died, more than 292,000 in battle.

Seeking to pay tribute to those 16 million, and others who had served the nation in any of its wars, Congress and President Dwight Eisenhower in 1954 redesignated the

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Veterans Day Honors Those Who Served in U.S. Military . . .

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November 11 holiday as Veterans Day. "On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores to preserve our heritage of freedom," Eisenhower wrote in his first Veterans Day proclamation, "and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain."

In May 2004, aging but proud veterans attended the dedication of the National World War II Memorial on Washington's National Mall, between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

In 2007, a 15-hour-long Ken Burns documentary, *The War*, featured interviews with dozens of World War II veterans. Burns said he had undertaken the project partly because the war's veterans were dying at an accelerating pace. "It hurt me that we were hemorrhaging these memories," he said.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial, which will be the focus of the annual Veteran's Day ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial — in Constitution Gardens, adjacent to the National Mall — features a black stone wall inscribed with the names of more than 58,000 service mem-

bers killed or unaccounted for in the Vietnam War. The names of eight service women who died in the Vietnam War are included.

The women's memorial is a sculpture that depicts three women, including one who is caring for a soldier. More than 265,000 American women served during the Vietnam War.

"By honoring women in military service during the Vietnam era, the Vietnam Women's Memorial paved the way for recognizing the many women who serve in our armed forces today," said Diane Carlson Evans, founder and president of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation, who served as an Army nurse in the Vietnam War. ♦

New U.S. Command Fulfills Requests Made by African Leaders . . .

(Continued from page 4)

versity October 22 that it is all about teamwork. Together, these experts can help Africans address their need for good governance, the rule of law, democratization and anti-corruption initiatives.

The general said there are no plans "for the foreseeable future" to move staff headquarters from Germany to Africa. Security assistance programs will be conducted from Stuttgart with elements of the eventual civil-military staff of 1,300 traveling as needed to ensure implementation. Ward said fears that the United States may seek to colonize Africa are unfounded: "We won't be putting large numbers of troops on the continent in the form of permanent garrisons or stationing large numbers [of troops]."

Several panelists at the IPOA summit on "Engaging AFRICOM" urged patience both in terms of what can be accomplished in Africa, where poverty, famine and conflict are widespread, and with respect to the pace of the command's recruitment of appropriate specialists. Paul Saxton, AFRICOM's director of outreach, partnering and strategic communications, told the 250 specialists that Rome was not built in a day. He said the interagency effort is off to a strong start and the command is keen to work with the business community.

Saxton said 50 percent of the command will be civilians drawn from organizations as diverse as the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Agriculture Department. This percentage is much higher than in the other military commands, where civilian slots

might account for as much as 20 percent of the structure. He also said discussions are under way on future programs with allies including Canada, France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Army Major Shannon Beebe, an Africa analyst, told the group success will come through synergy as departments, governments, nonprofit groups and businesses join with Africans to meet persistent challenges, including how to foster greater stability.

Summit speaker Sean McFate said security-sector reform is very important in Africa because security is a precondition to successful economic development. More nonmilitary police are needed to provide prison, border and immigration security, the consultant added. ♦

United States Sends Rescue, Engineering Teams to Haiti

By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — The United States has sent a search and rescue team from Fairfax County, Virginia, and an eight-person military engineering team to help the Haitian government with recovery efforts at a school that collapsed during classes in Petionville on November 7, U.S. officials said.

Firefighters, who are members of the Virginia Task Force 1, were flown in from Fairfax County by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to assist search-and-rescue efforts in the wreckage of College La Promesse Evangelique on the outskirts of Port-Au-Prince, the Haitian capital, USAID officials said November 7.

USAID also dispatched a disaster assistance response team (DART). "The team arrived on the scene within hours of the collapse," USAID said.

U.S. Ambassador Janet Sanderson presented condolences to the Haitian people November 7.

"I heard with great shock and sadness of the building collapse today at the 'La Promesse Evangelique' School, which has killed and injured many young students. I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost their children today. One cannot imagine any greater blow and we mourn with you," the ambassador said in a prepared statement.

"We also extend our deepest sympathies to the students who have been injured, their families, and to all the children who have lost dear friends and classmates today. Our



A firefighters search for survivors of a school collapse in Petionville, Haiti.

thoughts and prayers are with the children, the parents and the teachers of 'La Promesse Evangelique' School, as well as the Haitian people, as they face this tragedy," Sanderson said.

HIGH-RISK RESCUE TEAMS

The U.S. firefighters are members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team, which has participated in rescue missions worldwide. "The team will be composed of 38 personnel, four search and rescue [dogs] and 31,000 pounds [14,000 kilograms] of rescue equipment," the agency said in a prepared statement.

The USAR team will be accompanied by four additional USAID disaster experts who will join the DART already in country. The team arrived in Haiti on November 8.

"This is a tragic situation, especially since children are involved. We are working alongside the Haitian government to provide immediate assistance in the rescue effort," said USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore. "On behalf of the American people, I wish to convey our sympathy, thoughts and prayers to the families and loved ones of all the victims of this tragedy."

The Virginia search-and-rescue team joined French and Haitian firefighters at the scene.

In addition to firefighters, the U.S. military's Southern Command sent an eight-person military dive-and-engineering team. The team consists of six U.S. Navy divers, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hydrologist and a senior U.S. Air Force engineer.

The military team had been in Haiti since November 3 supporting efforts to deal with flooding in surrounding areas, but changed missions immediately to support the search-and-recovery effort at the school, Southern Command said.

Southern Command said the team will use all-purpose Humvees to help transport supplies, equipment and personnel from a makeshift camp at a local soccer field to the collapse site approximately 4.8 kilometers away.

In addition, the military team is providing site and safety assessments of the ongoing rescue-and-recovery efforts to the Haitian government.

On November 8, Southern Command donated \$10,000 in medical supplies to Haitian hospitals caring for victims of the school collapse. ♦

Washington Prepares for Global Economic Summit

By Elizabeth Kelleher
Staff Writer

Washington — Leaders of the Group of 20 countries will dine at the White House and meet at Washington's National Building Museum November 14–15 to discuss reforms of the global financial system.

All of the "Group of 20" heads of state are expected. The G20 was established in 1999, during the last financial crisis with worldwide effects, and includes developed and emerging market economies, whose finance ministers and central bank governors already regularly meet. Members are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States, plus the European Union.

Also attending the summit will be representatives of the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations and the Financial Stability Forum.

Discussion will begin with the causes of the current global financial crisis and move to actions already taken and broader reform principles that might prevent a recurrence.

The Bush administration has said the agenda will include increased transparency, improved risk management, coordination among regulators, and adoption of more consis-



President Bush makes a statement at the White House on October 11 after meeting with G7 finance ministers about the financial crisis.

tent rules in some areas, such as accounting and capitalization.

President Bush will also remind other countries' leaders that the situation is no excuse to walk away from commitments on humanitarian and development assistance.

A CLASH OF WESTERN ALLIES?

U.K. Prime Minister Gordon Brown has spoken of the need for a new Bretton Woods system, referring to the World War II-era agreement that established the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. The effectiveness of these international institutions will be discussed — how they might be improved, their coordination with national regulators, and their role in preventing future problems.

But, while White House press secretary Dana Perino said the admini-

stration recognizes "there need to be some changes, especially when it comes to the interlocking nature of the economy," the administration will frown on any proposal to scrap international institutions.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy has called for rewriting the rules of capitalism and suggested that financial regulations should apply across country borders. The Bush administration does not favor a single global regulator for financial institutions. Rather, the White House says, countries should improve their own rules in ways appropriate to their own national circumstances.

While some pundits emphasize a coming clash between European countries and the United States, there will be many other voices at the table, including those of emerging market countries that have ac-

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Washington Prepares for Global Economic Summit . . .

(Continued from page 14)

complished much as the result of free-market capitalism, press secretary Perino said. And she emphasized that, despite media reports drawing distinctions, “even hostilities,” between U.S. and French positions, the countries cooperate.

“There is going to be nationalism rearing its head,” said Scott Talbott of the Financial Services Roundtable, which represents U.S. and foreign banks. “Each country will say: ‘We are the best. We didn’t have these failures. Follow us.’” But, in the end, he expects the summit to produce agreement.

His members — which include Allianz, a German insurer; Aegon, a Netherlands insurer; Barclays, a British bank; Japanese-owned Union Bank of California; and U.S. banks Citigroup and JPMorgan Chase — are isolated from each other “in silos,” Talbott said. He thinks the summit could help the industry get more communication and more “effective regulation.”

NEXT STEPS

This will be the first of several agreed-upon summits and, assuming leaders agree on principles — such as transparency of complex financial instruments — they will go back home to consult with economic experts before moving forward.

President Bush has indicated that the group should reconvene in a short period of time. The date of a next summit and the possibility of including more countries will be discussed.

President-elect Obama, while declining to participate in this first meeting, announced November 12 that former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Republican Congressman Jim Leach will be available to meet with G20 delegations on the behalf of the Obama-Biden team. Albright served as secretary of state and as ambassador to the United Nations under the Clinton administration. Leach was a congressman for 30 years, serving on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and chairing the Banking

and Financial Services Committee. In a statement released by the president-elect’s transition office, Obama commended President Bush for calling the summit and explained his intention to miss the summit thus: “There is one president at a time in the United States.”

Obama likely will be in attendance at any subsequent financial summit meetings, by virtue of the fact that he will be sworn in as president of the United States on January 20, 2009. A member of the National Security Council “will be in close consultation with the president-elect’s transition team and his international economic people ... over the next couple weeks,” Perino said.

“Obama is doing what most would see to be the appropriate thing by keeping away,” said Karen Hult, author of several books on the presidency and a transition adviser to the White House. She said the benefit to Obama is that the leaders can get the conversation started and he will be buffered from any not-so-desirable results. ♦

Ethiopia Eyes a Big Role in Global Leather Industry . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Germany and Italy are looking away from China to shoe suppliers in other regions because of rising prices that Chinese manufacturers are charging.

Jonzo is building a shoe factory on the outskirts of Addis Ababa and expects to have the capacity to make 55,000 pairs a day by the end of 2009. Its goal is to export

half the production. The Ethiopian government facilitates the growth of the shoe industry by providing customs facilities, bonded warehouses and concessionary rates for land rental at the factory site.

Getting the financing for expansion from Ethiopian banks has presented a challenge for Jonzo. But USAID has played a helpful role by offering to guarantee 50 percent of the

loans as an enticement for an Ethiopian bank to put up the other 50 percent.

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

U.S. Financial Rescue Works but Needs Refinement, Paulson Says

By Andrzej Zwanecki
Staff Writer

Washington — U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson says the U.S. and global financial systems have improved in recent weeks, but the challenges faced by U.S. credit markets require a revised approach from the government.

“Our system is stronger and more stable than just a few weeks ago” as a result of steps taken by governments and central banks around the world, Paulson said November 12.

However, he said, the system remains fragile in the face of a significant economic downturn and the weak positions of financial institutions that have many troubled assets on their balance sheets.

The treasury secretary reviewed the progress in implementing the \$700 billion financial rescue plan and announced a change in its focus.

He said the administration will continue to use the remaining portion of the initial \$250 billion to purchase stock in banks as a way of encouraging them to increase their lending.

The same day U.S. banking regulators issued a joint statement that calls for all U.S. banks to resume lending to creditworthy borrowers, consider paying out dividends only if they have strong capital positions, and pursue executive compensation policies “aligned with the long-term prudential interests of the institution.”

Some lawmakers and analysts have expressed concern that banks par-



U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson speaks on the financial rescue plan as the financial system shows signs of improvement.

ticipating in the stock-purchase program may use the money to finance takeovers and hefty compensation packages for their executives rather than for lending.

The regulators threatened an unspecified action against banks whose dividend policies are found to be inconsistent with sound capital and lending policies.

Paulson said it will take time for markets and institutions to “absorb” new policies implemented in a short period.

But he said his department has revised the rescue program’s targets in response to changing financial and economic conditions. He all but excluded purchasing bad mortgage-backed securities, an option viewed

as the best approach to the financial crisis at the time the financial rescue bill — the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) — was enacted in the beginning of October.

“Our assessment at this time is that this is not the most effective way to use TARP,” Paulson said.

Instead, he said, the administration is considering supporting credit markets outside the banking system, such as auto loans and student loans, which together with credit card loans constitute 40 percent of U.S. consumer credit. He said these loans are increasingly hard to get and their costs are rising. Other options include reducing the risk of foreclosure and providing matching funds to banks able to raise capital on their own.

However, Paulson ruled out the possibility of using the financial rescue funds to help struggling U.S. automakers unless Congress changes the related law.

“But the solution has got to be one that leads to viability [of the U.S. auto industry],” he said.

On November 11, in a separate action, the administration announced a plan to aid homebuyers who have difficulty keeping up with mortgage payments.

A transcript of Paulson’s remarks (<http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/hp1265.htm>) is available on the Treasury Department Web site, and the banking regulators’ statement (<http://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/press/bcreg/20081112a.htm>) is on the Federal Reserve Web site. ♦

Financial Crisis Underscores U.S.-Chinese Relations

By Kelly Daniel
Staff Writer

Washington — The interdependence of the U.S. and Chinese economies has become more apparent during the recent period of worldwide financial turmoil, according to Alan Holmer, special envoy for China and the Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED).

“Addressing these developments requires the dramatic steps we are taking in the United States, and it requires close international collaboration and cooperation,” Holmer said in a speech about the future of the U.S.-China economic relationship presented at The Johns Hopkins University-Nanjing University Center in Nanjing, China, November 5.

Holmer said the United States and China are enjoying their most productive relationship ever thanks in part to an economic framework that created the most sophisticated dialogue ever between the nations.

Holmer’s remarks highlighted the challenges and opportunities in the U.S.-China relationship, touching on bilateral investment treaties, energy security and environmental sustainability, product safety, intellectual property rights, market-based pricing on interest and exchange rates, and open trade and investment policies.

“One of the most important decisions facing the new American president will be how to respond to China’s emergence as a global power,” Holmer said. “Possibly the

most consequential economic question of the 21st century for the United States and for China is whether we get our economic relationship ‘right.’”

China and the United States are linked economically, Holmer said, with the two countries combining for more than 30 percent of world



Chinese workers make clothes to be exported to the United States. Exports to the United States account for 10 percent of Chinese GDP.

wide gross domestic product (GDP) in 2007. China is the third-largest export market for the United States and, in 2007, Chinese exports to the United States accounted for 9.5 percent of Chinese GDP. In the past decade, U.S. exports to China increased six times as fast as U.S. exports to the rest of the world.

During the past two years, thanks to the structure and communication afforded by the SED, both nations have navigated crises in global markets, political changes in both governments and protectionist trends that could take both countries in “unhelpful” directions, Holmer said. The SED, created by President Bush and President Hu Jintao of China in 2006, has achieved tangible, important results by focusing on policy

areas in which China’s reform agenda and U.S. interests intersect, creating a U.S.-China relationship that is more productive and dynamic than ever, he said. The SED played a key role in creating a culture of collaboration that led to a signed Ten Year Framework on Energy and Environmental Cooperation, worked to modernize the financial sector and will see the formalizing of steps to open U.S. Food and Drug Administration offices in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

“The mere creation and sustained attention of the SED demonstrates to the people of both countries that the United States values a stable, prosperous, and peaceful China,” Holmer said. Continuing to recognize the commonalities between the two nations — “that we mutually benefit from trade, investment and deepening exchange” — is the key to the future, the special envoy said.

China can also benefit from the lessons the U.S. financial markets are learning as the global economic crisis has shown “the U.S. financial system is in need of reform,” Holmer said. The United States continues to work on implementing the findings of U.S. experts in the President’s Working Group on Financial Markets and of international experts in the Financial Stability Forum, which Holmer said are particularly applicable to financial markets around the world. However, the special envoy added it would be unfortunate if Chinese policymakers abandoned their pursuit of financial sector innovations as a result of the global economic turmoil. ♦

Rice Encourages Support for Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process

By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — Palestinian and Israeli negotiators have pledged to continue the peace talks President Bush began at the Annapolis Conference on the Middle East in November 2007, and the international community — including the United States — fully supports their work.

“The American people want to see the Palestinian people living in their own state, and that is a shared goal,” Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said at a November 8 briefing in the West Bank town of Jenin in the Palestinian territories.

During her visit to the Palestinian territories, Rice stopped in Jenin to see new construction and rebuilding in a town that had once been the scene of considerable conflict. Rice opened a new hospital wing that had been renovated with U.S. funds.

“This wonderful hospital, where I saw mothers with their newborn babies, is an example of an improvement in the life of the Palestinian people,” Rice said.

While there, Rice also pledged \$14 million in new American assistance to Jenin to be spent on road improvements; a new co-educational school in Jalboon; water and sanitation rehabilitation and expansion; continued economic development; rehabilitation of schools, parks and community centers in and around Jenin; support for the Jenin Court; and funds to implement joint youth

programs and initiatives. The U.S. Agency for International Development will implement the projects.

Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, who was at the briefing with Rice, expressed gratitude to

“Since the conclusion of the Annapolis conference we have exerted tremendous efforts, in terms of building, construction, [and] preparation toward the creation of the Palestinian state and its capable institutions,” Fayyad said.



U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (L) shakes hands with nurses at the Dr. Khalil Suleiman Hospital in the West Bank town of Jenin November 8, 2008. REUTERS/Tara Todras-Whitehill/Pool (WEST BANK)

the United States for its support. He said that during this visit to Jenin considerable emphasis was placed on health issues, but there are other projects where U.S. aid has been vital.

ANNAPOLIS CONFERENCE RELAUNCHED PEACE TALKS

Since the 2007 Annapolis Conference on the Middle East relaunched talks between the Israelis and Palestinians, Fayyad said, negotiators have been working to implement the road map that was designed to resolve core issues confronting the Palestinians and Israelis and lead to statehood for the Palestinian territories.

Core issues to be resolved in the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks include the final borders of a Palestinian state, the future of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, Palestinian refugees, water resources and future relations between the two states.

Rice said that, because of the work being done in Jenin and elsewhere in the Palestinian territories,

statehood is going to come.

After meeting with Palestinian officials, Rice met with senior representatives of the Quartet for Middle East Peace — the United Nations, the European Union, Russia and the United States — at the Egyptian Red Sea resort in Sharm el-Sheik. Rice was seeking to reinforce international support for the Annapolis process.

“We have an international strategy now, to finally establish the two-state solution, which President Bush set as a goal several years ago,” Rice said November 9 at a Quartet press conference. “And so, I believe that the Annapolis process

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Rice Encourages Support for Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process . . .

(Continued from page 18)

is now the international community's answer ... to how do we finally end the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis."

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni reaffirmed their commitment to "vigorous, ongoing and continuous negotiations in order to conclude a peace treaty resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues, without exception, as specified in previous agreements."

Ban added, reading from a statement by the Quartet, that the Quartet endorsed the goals set out by the Israelis and Palestinians and called on the international community to lend their diplomatic

and political support to achieve those goals.

Quartet Envoy Tony Blair, the former British prime minister, said it is imperative for the new U.S. admini-



Secretary Rice speaks at a Quartet press conference November 9.

stration to engage in this peace process from the start of its term, which begins January 20, 2009.

"It can do so knowing that there is

a foundation upon which we can build," Blair said at the Quartet press conference. "For the first time, we have comprehensive political negotiations through the Annapolis process. For the first time, we have a proper plan to build security capability for the Palestinians, which is necessary to create a Palestinian state."

Rice added that the negotiations are producing an atmosphere of trust, as well as a foundation on which to build.

Rice's four-day trip to the region, which included stops in Israel, the Palestinian territories, Jordan and

Egypt, was her eighth since the Annapolis conference, and likely to be her final trip to the region as secretary of state before the end of the Bush administration. ♦

Experimental Ethiopian Schools Energize Students, Empower Parents . . .

(Continued from page 2)

"In addition to empowering students, the USAID-supported reforms involve the development of parent-teacher associations [PTAs] to bring in parents as part of the educational process."

An issue facing the Gorasillingo school is the lack of water on the premises. By involving the association, the government and school officials gain input from the community about meeting this need. Kele-

mework said this is a new concept for many people in the rural, conservative society. "They are used to asking the government to solve problems instead of finding solutions on their own. Some PTAs are more advanced than others in this process."

The USAID community-school partnership program works with 1,800 schools and parent-teacher associations in Ethiopia to address problems ranging from inadequate classrooms to lack of potable water. The program specifically coaches

PTAs to design and implement solutions. According to a USAID document, the program has built the capacity of more than 45,000 PTA members and provided more than \$4 million in assistance to schools. Local communities, for their part, have contributed \$8 million in labor, materials and cash to the program, the document says.

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

“On-Call” Scientists Project Promotes, Protects Human Rights

By Daniel Gorelick
Staff Writer

Washington — A new project unveiled by the Science and Human Rights Program (SHRP) aims to create an international network of “on-call” scientists to whom human rights organizations can turn for free consultations on scientific questions.

Founded in 1977, SHRP works with scientists to promote and protect human rights around the world, according to its mission statement. It is part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

The “on-call” scientists project began in October 2008.

Previous connections between scientists and human rights organizations requiring scientific capability were made informally, often through word of mouth, according to Mona Younis, director of SHRP.

The new “on-call” scientists Web site allows scientists to create a profile describing their expertise. AAAS will use these profiles to match scientists with the particular needs of human rights organizations.

Scientists of all disciplines — behavioral, life, physical and social scientists, as well as engineers, technicians, medical and public health professionals — can provide advice regarding scientific method,

data analyses and data interpretation, according to AAAS.

“The partnerships that we hope to form are strictly between human rights organizations and nongovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and relevant U.N. agencies and offices. We do not partner with governments or government agencies,” Jessica Wyndham, a project director at

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), a nongovernmental organization, frequently uses physicians with molecular biology and forensic experience to expose human rights abuses, such as those revealed through the investigation of mass graves in Bosnia.

“We’re very excited about cooperating with this program,” said PHR Deputy Director Susannah Sirkin.



Forensic experts inspect and collect body remains at a mass-grave site in the remote mountain area in the village of Kamenica near the Eastern-Bosnian. Human rights organizations rely on scientific expertise.

Geographers are crucial to Amnesty International’s Eyes on Darfur project, in which scientists analyzed commercial satellite images to determine the extent of damage to areas of Darfur, Sudan. According to Ariela Blätter, director of the Crisis Prevention and Response Center, using satellite images was a “huge advance” and helped raise public

SHRP, told America.gov. “It is our view that these [nonprofit] organizations lack the resources and access to scientific expertise that governments enjoy, and it is that gap that we hope to fill.”

ROLE OF SCIENCE IN HUMAN RIGHTS

At a panel discussion unveiling the program, representatives of three human rights organizations discussed how epidemiology, forensics and geography are among the many scientific disciplines critical to documenting human rights abuses.

awareness about the systemic human rights abuses occurring in the region.

Eyes on Darfur also allows people around the world to continually monitor, by the use of satellite imagery, 12 intact but vulnerable villages. There have been few or no attacks on these villages, Blätter said.

A similar program used analysis of satellite images to document the Zimbabwean government’s program of forced evictions and demolitions

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Quakers Played Major Role in Ending Slavery in United States

By **Ralph Dannheisser**
Special Correspondent

Washington — A focus on advancing human rights, a hallmark of many contemporary religious groups, is nothing new for the Quakers.

That sect, formally called the Religious Society of Friends, has championed equal rights for women and for religious and racial minorities virtually since its founding in 1640s England.

Quakers were among the earliest and most insistent voices opposing slavery and the slave trade in both England and the United States, and they led the 19th century abolitionist movement that preceded the U.S. Civil War.

Despite the sect's long history of commitment to human rights, some early

Quakers were slave owners. William Penn, who founded the colony of Pennsylvania in 1682 as a haven for Quakers and other minority religious groups, owned slaves.

Penn believed, author Betty Wood has said, that "slavery was perfectly acceptable, provided that slave owners attended to the spiritual and material needs of those they enslaved."

Jim Powell, a senior fellow at the libertarian Cato Institute, described the dichotomy: "William Penn was the first great hero of American liberty. ... [In an era] when Protes-

tants persecuted Catholics, Catholics persecuted Protestants, and both persecuted Quakers and Jews, Penn established an American sanctuary which protected freedom of conscience.



Quakers being led to execution in Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 1600s.

"Almost everywhere else, colonists stole land from the Indians, but Penn ... negotiated peaceful purchases. He insisted that women deserved equal rights with men. He gave Pennsylvania a written constitution which limited the power of government, provided a humane penal code and guaranteed many fundamental liberties."

Yet, Powell points out, Penn "had a curious blind spot about slavery. ... Quakers were far ahead of most other Americans, but it's surprising that people with their humanitarian views could have contemplated owning slaves at all."

"RIGHT" VERSUS "GREED"

In her book *The Abolitionist Movement*, Claudine Ferrell observes the history of the anti-slavery movement during the Colonial period "is, with few exceptions, the history of Quaker arguments, publications, pronouncements and activists," even though their progress was "slow, inconsistent and piecemeal."

She writes that "the inner battles between 'right' and 'greed' became the focus of a handful of [Quaker] individuals from the late 1600s to the late 1700s," including George Keith and his followers. In 1673, they published *An Exhortation & Caution to Friends Concerning Buying or Selling of Negroes*, perhaps the first anti-slavery protest published and circulated in the American Colonies.

By 1688, a group of Quakers and German Mennonites meeting in Germantown, Pennsylvania, issued a petition explaining "why we are against the traffick of men-body."

"To bring men hither, or to rob and sell them against their will, we stand against," the document said. "In Europe there are many oppressed for conscience sake; and here there are those oppressed wh[o] are of a black colour. ... Ah! Doe consider well this thing, you whoe doe it, if you would be done at this manner? And if it is done according to Christianity?"

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Quakers Played Major Role in Ending Slavery in United States . . .

(Continued from page 21)

Efforts to end slave-owning, at least by Quakers themselves, continued with the impassioned words of itinerant preacher John Woolman in the mid-1700s and the writings of educator and abolitionist Anthony Benezet, including his 1760 essay "Observations on the enslaving, importing and purchasing of Negroes."

By 1787, the year the U.S. Constitution was adopted, virtually no Quakers owned slaves; in 1790 the Society of Friends petitioned the United States Congress to abolish slavery.

MATCHING ACTION TO RHETORIC

As the abolition movement gained momentum in the 1800s, Quakers matched their human rights rhetoric with strong action, often at great risk.

Ohio schoolteacher Richard Dillingham was arrested in Tennessee during an 1848 attempt to help three slaves escape. He died of cholera while serving a three-year sentence in the Tennessee State Penitentiary in Nashville, Tennessee.

Quakers played a major role in organizing and running the so-called "Underground Railroad" — a system of secret routes and safe-houses that helped runaway slaves reach freedom in the northern states and in Canada.

Educator Levi Coffin and his wife, Catharine, hid slaves in their Indiana

home over a 21-year period. Coffin, later a delegate to the 1867 International Anti-Slavery Conference in Paris, claimed to have helped 3,000 slaves escape.



Quaker's history traces back to 1901 when several top oat-milling companies incorporated under the name Quaker Oats Co. The Quaker Oats Man is one of the oldest advertising characters still in use. Although none of the founding owners were Quakers, the image was chosen to represent purity, simplicity and quality. In 1877, this image became the first registered trademark for a breakfast cereal.

Another major figure in the movement, Thomas Garrett, openly defied both the system and slave hunters as he operated an Underground Railroad stop in Wilmington, Delaware. Found guilty of helping a family of slaves escape in 1848, he was fined \$4,500. Garrett worked closely with famed African-American abolitionist Harriet Tubman, who frequently brought runaway slaves through his Wilmington "station."

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ABOLITIONISM

Several female Quakers worked at the intersection of women's rights and abolitionism.

Minister and social reformer Lucretia Mott, a champion of women's rights, labored in the pre-Civil War period to wipe out slavery. Susan B. Anthony, born a Quaker, worked to ban slavery even as she pursued a woman's right to vote.

Anthony articulated the link between the two in the broader context of human rights when she asked at the 1859 Ninth National Women's Rights Convention, "Where, under our Declaration of Independence, does the Saxon man get his power to deprive all women and Negroes of their inalienable rights?"

Slavery, curtailed by President Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation, was outlawed by the 1865 ratification of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The 15th Amendment in 1870 guaranteed the right of black men to vote, but neither Mott nor Anthony lived to see women gain the franchise through the 19th Amendment in 1920.

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

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Telling America's story

Obama Foreign Policy May Be Rooted . . .

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Flanagan said he expects the United States to play an important role in advancing regional cooperation on both economic and political activities on the continent.

Throughout his campaign, Obama said he would review U.S. trade agreements with Central and South American nations. "Obama has been seen as more critical of some of the existing free trade agreements," Flanagan said. "I don't think it's an anti-free trade kind of posture, but I do think it's wanting to look more specifically at the way some of those deals were put together."

Like any president, Obama at some point will face unprecedented challenges. "It's almost inevitable that there will be some kind of international event" like a terrorist attack or major problem related to the financial crisis, Flanagan said. "There will

be some event that will, in all likelihood, test the next president."

Many presidents have faced major international crises early in their terms. Just nine months into his presidency, President Bush led the country through the September 11, 2001, attacks.

This is why presidents begin setting up their foreign policy teams before they take office. In the coming weeks, President-elect Obama will nominate people to serve in important foreign policy posts, including secretary of state, secretary of defense and national security advisor. These people could play an influential role in shaping the new administration's foreign policy goals.

A transcript of Flanagan's remarks (<http://fpc.state.gov/111555.htm>) is available on the State Department Web site. ♦

"On-Call" Scientists Project Promotes, Protects Human Rights . . .

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in June 2005. The program, Operation Murambatsvina (Restore Order), affected 700,000 people, according to Amnesty International.

GROUP ALSO HELPS U.S. ADDRESS POTENTIAL ABUSES

Scientists also provide crucial expertise investigating potential human rights abuses in the United States.

During arrest, incarceration and transfer, law enforcement personnel withhold personal effects, including medications, from prisoners. This practice poses risks to prisoners with hypertension, whose blood pressure might rise

until treatment is resumed, increasing their risk of stroke. In prisoners with HIV/AIDS, temporarily ceasing anti-retroviral therapy poses a more serious threat because it increases the likelihood that the virus will develop resistance to the medication, making the medication less effective when it is resumed.

Philip Fornaci is the director of the D.C. Prisoners' Project, which advocates the humane treatment of prisoners from Washington. He had anecdotal evidence that prisoners were denied access to medications, a constitutional violation if there is a "substantial risk of serious harm." But Fornaci needed a systematic analysis of widespread abuse to substantiate his claim of prisoner abuse.

Chris Beyrer, an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, led a team of scientists that interviewed prisoners, documented cases where medication was withheld, and analyzed the data, which was presented at a D.C. City Council hearing on prisoners' rights.

The study's findings led the council to change health care providers in local jails, and the provision of health care has improved, Fornaci told America.gov. "The difference is like night and day," he said.

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