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*WPD201 11/24/2009

Obama, India's Singh Pledge Support and Cooperation
() (875)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama says the official visit of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh underscores the pivotal role India plays in meeting the major challenges the two nations face.

“The relationship between the United States and India will be one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century,” Obama said at a joint press conference (<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/November/20091124160044xjsnommis0.1715596.html>) with Singh November 24 at the White House.

The two leaders met for nearly two hours in the Oval Office before taking limited questions from U.S. and Indian journalists in the East Room at the White House.

Obama said the invitation to Singh “reflects our admiration for the prime minister’s leadership, the deep bonds between the peoples of the United States and India and the historic opportunity we have to strengthen and broaden the partnership between our nations.”

“When India and the United States meet, it is a moment to celebrate the values of democracy, pluralism, liberty and freedom,” Singh said alongside the president. “In our discussions today, we reaffirmed the importance of our relationship and decided on future steps to enhance our strategic partnership.”

Obama and Singh pledged to improve cooperation on energy security, clean energy initiatives and climate change. Obama said they agreed to a series of new efforts: a clean energy initiative designed to create jobs and improve access to cleaner, more affordable energy; a partnership to reduce poverty through sustainable and equitable development; and an effort to phase out subsidies for fossil fuels.

In December, the 15th Session of the Conference of Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will include representatives from 192 nations, will be held in Copenhagen. The climate accord to be developed at the Copenhagen meeting is designed to succeed the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which required 37 industrialized nations to cut greenhouse gas emissions an average of 5 percent by 2012.

“With just two weeks until the beginning of Copenhagen, it’s also essential that all countries do what is necessary to reach a strong operational agreement that will confront the threat of climate change while serving as a steppingstone to a legally binding treaty,” Obama said.

Singh said he and Obama agreed on the need for a substantive and comprehensive outcome during the Copenhagen talks, which broadly would cover ways to bring about needed changes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are believed to be a significant factor in global warming.

SECURITY COOPERATION

Obama and Singh also agreed to expand the U.S.-India Counterterrorism Cooperation Initiative, which includes sharing intelligence and law enforcement information about global and regional terrorist activities. Such information sharing is considered essential for counterterrorism programs.

“The American people join our Indian friends in remembering the horrific attacks in Mumbai one year ago this week,” Obama said. “To prevent future attacks, we agreed that our law enforcement and intelligence agencies will work even closer, including sharing information.”

Obama thanked Singh for his support of the president’s nuclear nonproliferation agenda laid out in a major address in Prague (<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/April/20090406115740eaifas0.9701763.html>) earlier this year. Obama’s plan includes preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction and missile-related technology.

On regional security issues, Obama said he and Singh held extensive discussions, noting that there have been “historic conflicts between India and Pakistan.”

“We both recognize that our core goal is to achieve peace and security for all peoples in the region, not just one country or the other,” Obama said. “It is not the place of the United States to try to, from the outside, resolve all those conflicts. We want to be encouraging of ways in which both India and Pakistan can feel secure, and focus on the development of their own countries and their own people.”

ENHANCING EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

To enhance global food security, U.S. and Indian researchers will collaborate to improve agricultural output and reduce hunger through enhanced crop forecasting, management and market information; boost regional and global food security through the Group of Eight (G8) food security initiative; work on science and technology issues; and expand private sector investment in agriculture. “India has much to teach the developing world in terms of achieving food sufficiency,” Obama said.

The two leaders also announced the expansion of the binational Fulbright-Nehru Scholarship Program through a 45 percent increase in funding by each government to support increased student and scholar exchanges. The increase in funding will support \$6.7 million in scholarships this year, the White House said in a fact sheet.

And a knowledge initiative will provide \$10 million in combined funding to increase linkages for U.S. and Indian universities and support junior faculty development.

Obama and Singh also announced that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will partner with Indian counterparts to create a new disease-detection center in India that will be designed to combat infectious diseases and promote global health. The collaboration will include a range of activities such as emerging disease detection and response, pandemic influenza preparedness and response, laboratory systems and biosafety, field epidemiology training, health communications, and certain types of disease investigation and control. The center in India will join a network of centers in Kenya, Thailand, Guatemala, Egypt, China and Kazakhstan.

(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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*WPD202 11/24/2009

A Century of History Underscores the Nobel Peace Prize
() (1365)

Washington — The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to those individuals and groups that have devoted themselves to working for peace among nations or abolishing or reducing standing armies or have held or promoted international peace conferences.

“Since World War II, the Peace Prize has principally been awarded to honor efforts in four main areas: arms control and disarmament, peace negotiation, democracy and human rights, and work aimed at creating a better organized and more peaceful world,” according to the Norwegian Nobel Institute.

On October 9, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced in Oslo that it “decided that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2009 is to be awarded to President Barack Obama for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples. The Committee has attached special importance to Obama’s vision of and work for a world without nuclear weapons.”

Obama will accept the peace prize in the Oslo City Hall on December 10, the third sitting American president to be so honored. He will receive the Nobel Medal, a personal diploma and prize money totaling \$1 million. The president will donate the money to charity, according to White House press secretary Robert Gibbs.

In making its announcement, the committee said that “for 108 years, the Norwegian Nobel Committee has sought to stimulate precisely that international policy and those attitudes for which Obama is now the world’s leading spokesman.”

While five Nobel prizes are awarded annually, the peace prize is one of the most widely acclaimed awards in the world, and past recipients have included some of the most highly respected and influential individuals of the past century.

But generally less is known about the founder of the Nobel prizes, a 19th-century Swedish chemist who amassed a fortune from his invention of dynamite, than about those who have received his prizes. The irony of the peace prize bearing the name of the inventor of dynamite has given rise to a myth that Alfred Nobel had a guilty conscience and established the award as an act of expiation.

However, Irwin Abrams, the U.S. author of several books on the Nobel Peace Prize, debunks this myth, explaining that Alfred Nobel was strictly interested in the civil applications of his invention for building canals, mining and commercial construction. As with many scientific discoveries, the military engineers simply found alternative uses for his product.

The establishment of the peace prize was, in fact, not Nobel's initial intention. As a self-educated inventor without a university degree, Nobel wanted to encourage other aspiring scholars. Consequently, he planned to leave his fortune to Swedish institutions that would make awards for physics, chemistry, medicine and literature.

But late in his life, his friend the Austrian Baroness Bertha von Suttner inspired him to establish a prize for peacemaking. She was a prime organizer of an international peace movement and author of the novel *Die Waffen nieder!* (Lay Down Your Arms!).

Nobel's will says the peace prize should go to the person "who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations; for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

On occasion, the prize has been shared by parties who hold peace congresses. In 1973, Henry Kissinger of the United States and Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam were named for a cease-fire agreement that did not hold up. Le Duc Tho refused the award.

But "work for fraternity between nations" is a frequently cited reason for awarding the prize, especially to human rights protectors. The first instance of this was when Albert Lutuli won the peace prize for his civil rights work in South Africa in 1960.

There have been several cases since, including Martin Luther King Jr. (1964) for leading the U.S. civil rights movement, Adolfo Perez Esquivel (1980) for human rights work in Latin America, Lech Walesa (1983) for fighting for workers' rights in Poland, Bishop Desmond Tutu (1984) for fighting apartheid in South Africa, the Dalai Lama (1989) for his work for rights for people in Tibet, and Bishop Belo (1996) for working to protect the people of East Timor (1996).

The first Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in 1901, five years after Nobel's death. Awards are announced each October, the month of Nobel's birth, and presented on December 10, the anniversary of his death. In some years, the prize is shared

between individuals or accorded to organizations. Some years, though, no prize is awarded, as commonly happened during the 20th century's world wars.

Nominations come from Nobel committee members, members of national governments, members of other official organizations and former recipients. Typically, there are about 150 nominations considered.

The peace prize, always the last of the Nobels to be announced, carries with it a monetary award of \$1 million. Presentations were made in a room at the Nobel Institute until 1947, when the event moved to a larger venue in a university auditorium. In 1990, the year Mikhail Gorbachev won the prize, the event moved to Oslo City Hall, where there are more than 1,000 seats. According to the Norwegian Nobel Institute, no one knows for certain why Alfred Nobel wanted the peace prize in particular to be awarded by a Norwegian Committee — or even what prompted him to include Norway in the Nobel Prize proceedings at all.

According to Anne Kjelling, librarian at the Nobel Institute, an important change was made in 1992. Rules had stipulated that the recipient must give a speech outlining his work within six months of receiving the prize. Because the award ceremony was attracting foreign dignitaries and media attention the institute decided the speech should be given that day.

Kjelling recalls that one of the most moving and popular speeches given was that of Elie Wiesel in 1986. Wiesel, a survivor of Nazi concentration camps, said that “remembering is a noble and necessary act.”

In the years since the first award, it has become celebrated to a degree Nobel undoubtedly never dreamed of. David Morley, Canadian director of Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF), said he was awakened by a phone call from a television station at 5 a.m. when his organization won in 1999 and was interviewed on the spot. He said that in Canada, following the publicity of the award, fundraising for MSF quadrupled and that his organization now enjoys greater visibility with government officials.

The prize is often controversial. The five-person selection committee is appointed by the Norwegian parliament, and consequently its makeup is influenced by the relative strength of political parties in that body.

In 1935, Carl von Ossietzky, a pacifist journalist being held by Adolph Hitler, was nominated by friends who wanted to protect him. They did not expect him to get the prize, but he did. A Norwegian foreign minister and former prime minister withdrew from the committee rather than incur the disapproval of the Nazi government.

Since then, no member of the government has been allowed to serve on the committee. In 1977, a rule barred members of parliament from serving as well.

Because committee proceedings are secret, there are always questions about why some recipients are chosen and others left out. Gandhi never got a peace prize; Tolstoy never got a literature prize.

While Nobel originally meant for the prize to go to young people as an incentive, it has often been given to older people in recognition of past accomplishments. The median age for all recipients is 63. More recently, however, the trend has been to choose younger candidates, with the average age dropping to the 50s. The committee may be trying to recognize people young enough to continue their work for some time.

The December 10 ceremony in Oslo will be a gala media event complete with presentation, speech, a royal dinner and a star-studded concert. Former recipient Desmond Tutu reportedly recalls, however, that the most enjoyable moment of his award ceremony in 1984 was when the hall was evacuated because of a security threat. Outside, everyone sang a civil rights song. The bishop said he enjoyed this time the most because he was with ordinary people.

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*WPD203 11/24/2009

Zimbabwean Activist Receives Kennedy Award for Human Rights
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By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — In the early 1980s, Zimbabwe's Magodonga Mahlangu witnessed the massacre of thousands in Matabeleland, including family members, and she decided it was intolerable that the people of Zimbabwe were forbidden to know the truth about what was happening in their country. After she came to lead the Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) movement, co-founded by Jenni Williams in 2002, Mahlangu became an example to Zimbabwean women and men alike that the brutal rule by President Robert Mugabe's regime could be met with peaceful and heroic public defiance.

For her inspirational work and willingness to withstand intimidation and physical abuse by the regime, Mahlangu and WOZA were honored by President Obama at the White House on November 23 with the 2009 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, named for the former American senator and human rights champion who was killed in 1968.

The award was established in 1984 to honor human rights defenders around the world. It carries a cash prize of \$30,000, as well as ongoing legal advocacy and technical support from the Washington-based Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights.

“By her example, Magodonga has shown the women of WOZA and the people of Zimbabwe that they can undermine their oppressors’ power with their own power, that they can sap a dictator’s strength with their own,” Obama said at the award presentation. “Her courage has inspired others to summon theirs.”

Zimbabwe’s women have suffered from the political and economic crisis that has plagued the country under Mugabe’s rule. Obama cited “desperate hunger, crumbling health and education systems, domestic violence and rape, and government repression ranging from restrictions on free expression to abduction and murder of dissidents.”

Obama noted that WOZA has grown from a handful of activists at its founding to a movement of 75,000 people, including a men’s branch. “Over the past seven years, they have conducted more than a hundred protests — maids and hairdressers, vegetable sellers and seamstresses, taking to the streets, singing and dancing, banging on pots empty of food and brandishing brooms to express their wish to sweep the government clean,” he said.

But their protests are usually confronted with violence by Mugabe’s riot police. “They have been gassed, abducted, threatened with guns and badly beaten — forced to count out loud as each blow was administered,” Obama said, adding that 3,000 of their members have been in prison or police custody, and both Mahlangu and Williams are facing a possible five-year prison sentence from a December 7 trial, where the two have been charged with “conduct likely to cause a breach of peace.”

Yet, Obama said, Zimbabweans see inspiration in Mahlangu’s heroic steadfastness in the face of being beaten, having over 30 arrests, having her home searched, and being subject to “brutal abuse” when she is incarcerated.

“More people have come to realize what Magodonga and the women of WOZA have known all along: that the only real way to teach love and nonviolence is by example. Even when that means sitting down while being arrested, both as a sign that they refuse to retaliate, absorbing each blow without striking back, and a warning that, come what may, they’re not going anywhere,” he said.

Mahlangu’s leadership has inspired community action and solidarity among Zimbabwe’s women, which Obama said “may be [her] greatest achievement.”

“She has given them a voice they can only have collectively — and a strength that they can only have together,” he said.

History is not on the side of those who “arrest women and babies for singing in the streets” or dictators who “starve and silence their own people and cling to power by threat of force,” Obama said.

Instead, “it is the way of the maid walking home in Montgomery, the young woman marching silently in the streets of Tehran, the leader imprisoned in her own home for her commitment to democracy,” the president said.

The 2009 Robert F. Kennedy Award was the first since the death in August of Senator Ted Kennedy, who understood that his brother’s legacy included a belief in the need to build laws and society with an eye to the difference between right and wrong, Obama said.

Robert Kennedy’s legacy is “a sensitivity to injustice so acute that it can’t be relieved by the rationalizations that make life comfortable for the rest of us — that others’ suffering is not our problem, that the ills of the world are somehow not our concern,” Obama said.

In a November 10 interview with the Voice of America (VOA), Mahlangu welcomed the award as a means of increasing the visibility of Zimbabwe’s human rights struggle.

She said many people have a mistaken impression that the Global Political Agreement (<http://www.america.gov/st/democracyhr-english/2009/September/20090918103546esnamfuak0.7568781.html>) signed between President Mugabe and his political rival Morgan Tsvangirai has brought change “because there is food in the market.”

“People think that things are OK. But we are really setting the record straight, and also we are very grateful for this opportunity to be here, winning, receiving this award, because it is going to amplify the voices of ordinary persons in Zimbabwe,” she told VOA.

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*WPD204 11/24/2009

From Cairo to California, Virtually

(Architects collaborate through Second Life to design, build and learn) (510)

By Kimberly Harrington
Staff Writer

Washington — In his historic speech at Cairo University in Egypt in June, President Obama spoke of a vision to “create a new online network, so a teenager in Kansas can communicate instantly with a teenager in Cairo.”

That vision has taken one step toward reality.

Through the efforts of Amr Attia, a professor of architecture at Cairo’s Ain Shams University, and California-based architect David Denton, more than 70 professional architects, students, journalists and government officials met in the Internet-based virtual world Second Life. A four-person panel led the October 18 online meeting, during which participants discussed Second Life as a tool for professional design and education.

The discussion took place on Second Life’s University of Southern California’s Annenberg School for Public Diplomacy Island, and was organized in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State.

A SMALL VILLAGE

Attia and Denton have been working together professionally since they met, while Attia was an Eisenhower Fellow in the United States in 2007. They use Second Life to work on major commercial projects in Egypt.

Attia now teaches his fourth-year architecture students primarily in Second Life, and described how through increased connectivity and platforms “the whole world is becoming a very small village.”

Developers in Egypt recently broke ground on a complex the pair designed entirely in Second Life: the “Reflections” project in El Sheikh Zayed City, a 130,000-square-meter shopping complex with a cinema, retail store, restaurants and a hotel.

Denton noted that collaborative building and designing in Second Life is “clearly the way of the future,” which enhances the quality of work by supporting “a more comprehensive collaboration with people from different parts of the world ... for more interesting, and more comprehensive, designs.”

BUILDING ON THE “WIKI” MODEL

The four-person panel discussion also included Jon Brouchoud, an architect based in Madison, Wisconsin, and Judy Cockeram, an architecture professor at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

During the discussion, Brouchoud explained how his Studio Wikitecture program, a collaborative architectural tool in Second Life, is making architecture more participatory and creating opportunities for collaboration in virtual worlds. “With the

right tools and the right process, we can use virtual worlds to open source the process of creating architecture,” he said.

Cockeram, who regularly uses Second Life in teaching, expressed her profound hope that Second Life will increasingly become not only a platform for collaboration, but also one that helps break down cultural barriers.

After the panel discussion, participants visited key architectural buildings in Second Life, including the “Reflections” project in Cairo and the Wiki Tree and Studio Wikitecture.

There is no doubt, as Denton said, that Second Life “enhances and enriches collaboration between parties from different parts of the world.” And that is what President Obama’s message in Cairo was really all about.

An English-language video about the virtual meeting (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SP1vr3zSVCE>) is available on YouTube. An Arabic-language video about the event (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_CrD9MsapQ) is also available.

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*WPD205 11/24/2009

Thanksgiving Holiday Is Reminder to Americans to Help Others
(Many see holiday as good time to donate, volunteer, help feed the needy) (886)

By Louise Fenner
Staff Writer

Washington — Most Americans look forward to sharing a Thanksgiving Day meal with family and friends, but many also make a special effort to volunteer at shelters, churches, food banks and other charitable organizations. Many grocery stores and individuals contribute turkeys, potatoes, pumpkin pie and other traditional Thanksgiving items to food banks and soup kitchens, and volunteers spend the day cooking the meal and serving hundreds of people.

“As we gather once again among loved ones, let us also reach out to our neighbors and fellow citizens in need of a helping hand,” President Obama said in his Thanksgiving proclamation (<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/November/20091123150727eaifas0.5840723.html>).

In 2008, then President-elect Obama and his family set an example by helping distribute food at a church in Chicago on Thanksgiving Day, and in a radio message

he thanked those people across America who had “pitched in time and resources to give a lift to their neighbors in need. It is this spirit that binds us together as one American family — the belief that we rise and fall as one people.”

Thanksgiving (<http://www.america.gov/st/pubs-english/2005/November/20051108163712jmnamdeirf0.3664057.html>), which is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, generally centers on a dinner of roast turkey, and thus food drives across the country focus on that main ingredient of the Thanksgiving feast.

Each year in Santa Monica, California, for example, people donate uncooked turkeys or volunteer their ovens to roast a turkey the night before Thanksgiving. In 2008, some 300 turkeys were transformed into more than 2,100 hot meals for the needy and distributed at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium.

Operation Turkey (<http://www.operationturkey.com/>) in Austin, Texas, prepares and distributes Thanksgiving meals and clothing each year with the help of more than a thousand volunteers. Sixteen other cities, half of them in Texas, also have Operation Turkey drives.

DONATING, VOLUNTEERING AND HAVING FUN

Some groups try to make donating fun. In Las Vegas, the Three Square food bank and Wranglers hockey team challenged fans to fill a tractor trailer moving van with donated food, and anyone who brought at least five items earned free tickets to that night’s hockey game. The food bank asked for volunteers to help collect the food at the door, plus one special volunteer to wear a turkey costume during the event.

In St. Mary’s County, Maryland, the local government sponsors a charity golf day on Thanksgiving. Golfers donate bags of nonperishable food and household items for a local food bank. In 2008, more than 2,000 items were collected.

Social media sites are another way to make donating easy and fun. For example, the social networking site SocialVibe offers a “Thanksgiving Feast” application for the Facebook Web site that lets people ask their friends to participate in a game; for each point earned in the game, food is donated to needy people in partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme.

A GROWING NEED

Peggy Grimes, executive director of the Montana Food Bank Network in Missoula, Montana, which provides food to nearly 200 charitable agencies throughout the state, says the need for food donations during the holiday season — and in fact, all year — is greater than ever. In 2008, the food bank distributed about 4 million pounds of food, but “we’ll probably hit 8 million pounds this year,” she said.

The Montana Food Bank Network is a partner of Feeding America (formerly called America's Second Harvest), the nation's largest charitable domestic hunger relief organization (<http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2006/December/20061222131405xlrennef0.6872827.html>).

Each day, about 20 to 25 volunteers work for the Montana food bank, sorting cans and boxes of food, repackaging bulk items such as cereal, and boxing up orders. College students and senior citizens often like to come during the day, Grimes said, while church groups and other individuals come in after work. "We're finding that more families want their children to be involved, and they come in the evening — so we've had evenings and weekends busy for about the last six months."

People who want to actually serve meals or distribute food baskets are directed to charitable groups that do that, Grimes said. For a soup kitchen that is serving a big meal at Thanksgiving, many volunteers are needed, she said.

A special program called Hunters for the Hungry lets hunters donate deer, elk, moose and other game they kill. It is taken to the inmate-operated food processing facility at Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge, cut up and frozen, Grimes said. The food bank distributes the meat where it is needed.

"We are seeing so many more families coming in" to the food bank because of job losses due to the economic recession, Grimes said. "When we have difficult financial times across the country, people begin to circle the wagons and say 'What's the most important thing for us to support: making sure people have a home and have food on their table.'"

"So people are stepping up, and they're really generous to us and help get the job done. If they weren't, we just wouldn't be able to get the food out to this many people."

See "Volunteerism Is Integral Part of U.S. Culture (<http://www.america.gov/st/diversity-english/2007/February/20070226171408xlrennef0.5726892.html>)" and "A Nation of Volunteers Enters a New Era of Service (<http://www.america.gov/st/educ-english/2009/April/200904221313581CJsamohT0.8387567.html>)."

(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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*WPD206 11/24/2009
Resources for Teaching Tolerance in the Classroom
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Many Web sites provide free resources for educators who want to develop a tolerance curriculum. A sampling in English includes:

Teaching Kits and Handbooks (Tolerance.org) (<http://www.tolerance.org/teaching-kits>)

Curriculum Connections (Anti-Defamation League) (http://www.adl.org/education/curriculum_connections/)

Teaching Tolerance (Scholastic) (<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=694>)

Five Lessons for Teaching about Tolerance (Education World) (http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson294.shtml)

Teacher's Guides (Seeds of Peace) (<http://www.seedsofpeace.org/getinvolved/educate/teach>)

Tell us if you've developed a curriculum using these resources. What was the result? Can you recommend other resources that can be posted here?

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*WPD207 11/24/2009
Speaking Up Against Intolerance
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The Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama, was founded in 1971 as a small law firm working to defend civil rights. Today, the center tracks hate crimes, teaches tolerance, and continues to achieve significant legal victories against hate groups.

The center published Speak Up! to help people respond to everyday bigotry and intolerance. People across the United States told their stories: about family, friends, classmates and coworkers; about things they wished they had said to stand up against intolerance.

One woman speaks about her mother who she says "uses racial and ethnic terminology — the Mexican checkout clerk, the black saleslady — in casual stories in which race and ethnicity are not factors. Of course, if the person is white, she never bothers to mention it."

From standing against intolerance at home, at work, in e-mail, to even among close friends, Speak Up! explores how intolerance is an issue in everyday life.

How do you fight intolerance where you live?

Download Speak Up! (

http://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/speak_up_handbook.pdf)
(PDF, 1.3MB)

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*WPD208 11/24/2009

Beatrice Biira: How a Goat Changed One Woman's Life

(December 2 CO.NX webchat with Ugandan who is achieving her dreams) (166)

Beatrice Biira, born in a remote Ugandan village, overcame hardships to achieve her dreams of gaining an education. Hear her story in a webchat on December 2 at 9 a.m. EST (14:00 GMT).

When Biira was 9, a goat given by Heifer International provided her family enough money for her to start her education. She then earned scholarships that allowed her to attend an American college. She is currently finishing her master's degree in public service, focusing on international development.

If you would like to participate in this webchat, please go to <https://statedept.connectsolutions.com/women>. No registration is needed. Simply choose "Enter as a Guest," type in your preferred screen name, and join the discussion. We accept questions and comments in advance of, and at any time during, the program.

The transcript of this webchat will be available on America.gov's webchat page (<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/askamerica.html>), where information about upcoming webchats is also available.

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*WPD209 11/24/2009

Transcript: State Department Daily Press Briefing

(Spokesman Ian Kelly briefs the press November 24) (4358)

(begin transcript)

U.S. Department of State
Daily Press Briefing Index
Tuesday, November 24, 2009
2:18 p.m. EST

Briefer: Ian Kelly, Spokesman

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- Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation on Energy Security, Energy Efficiency, Clean Energy and Climate Change
- Secretary Meeting with Prime Minister Singh on Strategic Dialogue
- Civil Nuclear Agreement Important, Benefits Both Countries

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- Providing Technical Assistance to Ensure Free, Fair, Transparent Election/Embassy Monitoring Lead-Up to Elections/Independent Supreme Electoral Tribunal Carrying Out Elections
- Had Concerns about Decrees Restricting Civil Liberties and Media, Decrees Rescinded
- Elections an Essential Part of Solution to Crisis/Watching Very Closely to Ensure Elections Are as Free, Transparent, and Open as Possible/Will Consult with International Observers After Elections/Urging Both Sides to Establish Formation of Government of National Unity

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- Proposal on Table Has Backing of International Community through IAEA, Addresses Needs of Iran/Still Hoping Iran Will Choose to Engage the International Community and Resolve Concerns about Nature of Nuclear Program
- IAEA Board of Governors Meeting on Thursday/P-5+1 Will Consult on Next Steps

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- U.S. Will Sent Interagency Delegation of Humanitarian Mine Action Experts to Second Review Conference in Colombia/Will Attend as Observer/Largest Financial Supporter of Humanitarian Mine Action/Administration Undertook Policy Review and Land Mine Policy Remains in Effect

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- Secretary Looks Forward to Implementing President's Decision

-- NATO Conducting Assessment of the International Security Assistance Force/Secretary Looks Forward to Consulting with Allies on International Role in Afghanistan Strategy/NATO Looks Forward to Playing a Role as to How We Go Forward/Up to Allies to Decide on How They Want to Contribute

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-- U.S. Fully Committed to Goal of Promoting Well-being of Children and Protecting their Rights/U.S. Joining Consensus on General Assembly Resolution
-- Supporting Resolution Not Indication of Intent to Submit Convention on the Rights of the Child To Congress for Ratification/Interagency Policy Review Looking at Many Human Rights Treaties to Which We Are Not Party

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009
(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

2:18 p.m. EST

MR. KELLY: Okay. Good afternoon. We'll wait for Mr. Burns to make his way up here.

Okay. Well, let me give you a quick rundown on the Secretary's events. You know she attended the bilateral over at the White House this morning, and she is co-hosting a luncheon upstairs with Vice President Biden. In addition, in about 45 minutes, she will sign a memorandum of understanding to enhance cooperation on energy security, energy efficiency, clean energy and climate change. That's with the Indian foreign minister. Through this memorandum, both countries will work jointly to accelerate development and deployment of clean energy technologies and to strengthen cooperation on adaptation to climate change, climate science, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from forests and land use.

And then finally, later on this afternoon, she will go over to the Willard Hotel to have a meeting with Prime Minister Singh, where they will discuss progress in our Strategic Dialogue with India, how the United States and India can work together to meet global challenges like terrorism and climate change and other matters of regional and bilateral interest. And with that, I'll take your questions.

QUESTION: Do you have any response to the report in The Nation regarding what it says was a joint operation between the Joint Special Operations Command in Pakistan and Xe Services, nee Blackwater?

MR. KELLY: I do not. I have not seen this article.

QUESTION: So you have no response to that?

MR. KELLY: Well, I don't know. I'm sorry, you've – I just am not aware of this article. We'll look at it and we'll see if we can get a response for you.

Yeah, Andy.

QUESTION: I have a question on the prime minister's visit. The President this morning again reaffirmed that the U.S. is fully committed to implementing the nuclear – civil nuclear deal. But there is this question of the reprocessing agreement, and that doesn't seem to have been mentioned explicitly during this visit, and it's a significant holdup. And I was just wondering if you could tell us what is – where are we with the reprocessing deal, why hasn't the U.S. approved it yet, and what's the outlook for approval going forward?

MR. KELLY: This is an important agreement and we do look forward to implementing it. I think that to address some of the specific questions you have, though, I think we may need to get back to you in terms of what exactly is holding up the reprocessing part of it. We do support this deal. It – I think it benefits both of our countries. It helps – I mean, India has committed itself to some of the safeguards and standards that are implicit in this kind of civil nuclear agreement. And so we look forward to implementing it, but let me see if I can get you a more --

QUESTION: And when you're finding that answer, if you could – my understanding, and I could well be wrong, but I've been told that this is a State Department decision. So any --

MR. KELLY: Okay.

QUESTION: -- explication you can give on the process of where this approval --

MR. KELLY: Yeah.

QUESTION: -- comes from, that would be great.

MR. KELLY: All right, fair enough. Okay, Andy, we'll do that.

QUESTION: Do you have any --

MR. KELLY: Robert, yeah.

QUESTION: -- comment on the British launching an inquiry into the cooperation with the U.S. in the Iraq war?

MR. KELLY: Well, I think we've seen that – we've obviously seen the report of the launch of it. The – we are very appreciative of all of the cooperation that the United Kingdom extended to us in their – and they played a very important role in the south

of Iraq. We know that the transition is a difficult matter, but we've been working closely with the United Kingdom on this transition.

This is an internal matter for the United Kingdom, and obviously, we'd have to refer you to them on this inquiry.

QUESTION: There's – is there no sort of diplomatic question about providing witnesses for the British? They want to have American participation? I'm just --

MR. KELLY: Yeah. I mean, of course, we would be happy to cooperate insofar as that can be helpful. If they need information and if it's in our power to provide that kind of information, of course, we're willing to cooperate. It's an important democratic process.

Yes.

QUESTION: Yes. I was wondering the State Department's position on the upcoming elections in Honduras.

MR. KELLY: The State Department's position on the upcoming election in Honduras? Well, that hasn't changed. We are providing technical assistance to help the Hondurans ensure that this is a free, fair, and transparent election. Of course, it's going to take place in a number of days. We, of course, have an Embassy on the ground, and the Embassy is closely monitoring the lead-up to the elections themselves, which take place on Sunday.

I think it's important to understand that these elections are being carried out by the independent Supreme Electoral Tribunal. It's not being conducted by the de facto regime. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal was selected and installed in a transparent, democratic process before the coup. The candidates for the election – I think there were six – were nominated well before the coup. So this whole process has been in train for quite a while. I think one of the six candidates have – he was an independent – has dropped out of the race.

And we support this process. We think it's important that the people of Honduras have the opportunity to express their votes in a free and transparent way.

QUESTION: So if I can follow up with that, the candidate that did drop out cited human rights abuses, which were also noted in the Amnesty International report, as well as Human Rights Watch. So under that climate which is still ongoing in Honduras right now, you will support the outcome of the elections under that climate?

MR. KELLY: Well, I mean, we can't say until November 29th how this will come out, so we can't say we're going to support something – support an outcome which hasn't happened yet. However, we will say that while we had some concerns about a number of decrees restricting civil liberties and some restrictions on the media were

in place, they have now – they have since then been rescinded. And we particularly welcome the news that opposition television Channel 36 is now able to broadcast free of interference. So we did have some concerns, but many of those concerns have been already addressed.

Yeah.

QUESTION: To Brazil --

QUESTION: If I could just --

QUESTION: This is following up on this.

QUESTION: Yeah. And I just want to say one last thing on this.

MR. KELLY: Yeah. Go ahead. That's --

QUESTION: The OAS and the Union of South American Nations has – they've pulled out all their observers and they have condemned these elections because of a lot of the things I mentioned, as well as four of the officials who will be part of that cabinet overseeing the elections are former affiliates of the Micheletti government, which means he does have some people who will be overseeing this election in that cabinet.

So what kind of message do you think that's sending to South and Central America that despite the fact that the OAS and the Union of South American Nations refuse to acknowledge this election, but the United States is supporting it?

MR. KELLY: Well, I – first of all, I'd have to see exactly what the OAS and this other organization has said about the elections. I'm not aware that they have condemned the elections. I mean, we see the running of these elections as a – assuming that they're run in a fair and transparent way, we see them as an essential part of the solution of this crisis. Now, again, it's important that these elections be seen as free, fair, and transparent, and are monitored by a credible international monitoring process. And this is exactly what we're supporting. But we can't judge the outcome of something that hasn't happened yet. But the process that we see in place is a process that we are supporting.

Having said that, we're watching this very closely to ensure that the elections are as free, transparent, and open as possible, and that includes this – the run-up to the elections, this period of time right now. So I just think that we – our position is, is that after the elections take place on November 29, we will make a judgment then. We will consult with the international observers who are in place. And after consulting with them and with our friends and allies in the region, we'll make our determination.

Yeah, Indira.

QUESTION: Brazil this morning criticized the U.S. for not agreeing to delay the election, and specifically said that they were, quote, “disappointed and frustrated with the United States, they hope the U.S. would change its position, and that the U.S. stance on refusing to delay the Honduran elections would hinder regional ties.” What’s your response to that – the largest country --

MR. KELLY: Well – yeah.

QUESTION: -- in Latin America taking a very strong leadership stand, and saying that the --

MR. KELLY: Yeah.

QUESTION: -- U.S. is alone on this basically with Panama?

MR. KELLY: Yeah. I don’t know that we’re alone.

QUESTION: It’s just – I think it’s just the U.S. and Panama.

QUESTION: And Colombia.

QUESTION: And Colombia, she’s saying.

MR. KELLY: Yeah. Well, again, I’ll have – we’ll have to look at what the OAS has said and what other organizations have said and what Brazil has said. But I – and I’ve just stated what our position is, is that –

QUESTION: What’s your specific response to Brazil? Because I submitted that earlier, so I know you guys had that.

MR. KELLY: I don’t have a significant – I don’t have a specific response to a press report. But our position on the elections hasn’t changed. I’ve just laid it out to you. We see it as a – as one way for Honduras to come up with a solution to the crisis. This is one part of it. Another part of it is the – is, of course, the implementation of the rest of the San Jose-Tegucigalpa Accord, and that’s the formation of the government of national unity. We’re still urging both sides to establish that. But I mean, as I said before, we’re not going to judge the outcome of elections that haven’t taken place yet.

Yeah, Andy.

QUESTION: Change of subject to Iran. The Iranian foreign ministry today is saying that they may consider sending low-enriched uranium overseas, but that they would need what they’re calling 100 percent guarantees from the West that they would get

fuel in return. And this is being interpreted by some as a softening of their position on the possibility of sending the LEU overseas. I'm just wondering, have you heard of this? Does the U.S. have any position on giving them guarantees of fuel in return for uranium that they send overseas --

MR. KELLY: Yeah.

QUESTION: -- and what's the status of that situation now, as far as you understand it?

MR. KELLY: Yeah. Well, I mean, what -- I mean, our position is, is that there is a very good and very balanced proposal on the table. This proposal has been agreed to by the United States, by Russia, by France, and has the backing of the international community through the International Atomic Energy Agency. And I'm not sure exactly what they mean by 100 percent guarantees, but this is a very, very good proposal on the table.

And unfortunately, the -- Iran has so far refused to accept the proposal and has refused to engage with the P-5+1, because part of the agreement from the agreement in principle from the October 1st meeting was that we would meet again to engage on the nuclear program. So I mean, we feel like this is a good proposal. And it addresses the needs of Iran. It addresses the humanitarian needs that they have, the responsibility they have to their people. But it also addresses the responsibilities that they have to the international community. And that's helping raise the confidence of the international community in their intentions with their nuclear program.

So we are still hoping that Iran will choose to engage the international community and resolve some of these concerns -- very, very deep concerns -- of the international community about the nature of their program.

QUESTION: And just a quick follow-up. Is there any more word on scheduling for the next P-5+1 meeting on its own? I know that they were talking after the last meeting -

MR. KELLY: Yeah.

QUESTION: -- that there was going to be one soon.

MR. KELLY: Right. No, they have agreed that they will have one. I think right now, the next important event is Thursday when the Board of Governors from the IAEA will meet and discuss the assessment by the director general on Iran's nuclear program and make their recommendations. So I think once that takes place, I think the partners in the P-5+1 will consult on what the next steps are, including a possible next meeting.

QUESTION: On North Korea?

MR. KELLY: Yes.

QUESTION: Does the United States Government make any decision to relist North Korea as a terrorist country?

MR. KELLY: You mean to put them back on the list as a --

QUESTION: Yeah.

MR. KELLY: -- terrorist country?

QUESTION: Yes, sir.

MR. KELLY: I am not aware of any decisions to put them back on the --

QUESTION: Congress requested President for the relist of the terrorist list.

MR. KELLY: I'm sorry, what did Congress do?

QUESTION: Congress asked to the President final say on that.

MR. KELLY: Yeah.

QUESTION: Do you have anything on it?

MR. KELLY: No, I'm afraid I don't have anything on that.

Yes.

QUESTION: Yesterday, you said you might have something on the land mine treaty conference in --

MR. KELLY: Yes, I do have something on the land mine treaty. Maybe I spoke too soon. Boy, I did have something on the land mine treaty. And I do have something on the land mine treaty. It's under miscellaneous.

QUESTION: That's a good place for it.

MR. KELLY: Earlier this year, Colombia's President Uribe invited President Obama to attend the Second Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention in Cartagena. The U.S. has accepted the invitation and will send an interagency delegation of humanitarian mine action experts from State, DOD, USAID, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to observe the conference, which is next week, I understand.

The U.S. is proud to be the world's single largest financial supporter of humanitarian mine action. Since 1993, the U.S. has provided more than \$1.5 billion worldwide, dedicated to building new partnerships with more than 50 post-conflict countries and supporting efforts by dozens of NGOs to promote stability and set the stage for recovery and development through mine clearance and conventional weapons destruction programs. And we congratulate Colombia for hosting this important conference.

QUESTION: So --

QUESTION: What about the U.S. signing on to the land mine ban?

MR. KELLY: Our -- we -- this Administration undertook a policy review and we decided that our land mine policy remains in effect.

QUESTION: Why?

MR. KELLY: Why? Well --

QUESTION: Well, why do -- I think we're one of only two nations and Somalia is about to sign it, right? I mean --

MR. KELLY: Yeah.

QUESTION: So we're going to be the only nation in the whole world who doesn't --

MR. KELLY: Well --

QUESTION: -- believe in banning land mines. Why is that?

MR. KELLY: Yeah, I'm not sure about that, but we made our policy review and we determined that we would not be able to meet our national defense needs, nor our security commitments to our friends and allies if we sign this convention.

QUESTION: Was that made public by -- did you make a statement to that effect? Because I never heard it.

MR. KELLY: I don't know the answer to that, Robert. It's possible. We didn't make a statement on it.

QUESTION: So what are you planning to do at the conference, then, when you --

MR. KELLY: Well, we're there as an observer. I mean, clearly, we have -- as a global provider of security, we have an interest in the discussions there. But we will be

there as an observer, obviously, because we haven't signed the convention, nor do we plan to sign the convention.

QUESTION: So that's official? The review is finished and we – and the U.S. will not sign the convention?

MR. KELLY: The policy review resulted in a recommendation to maintain the policy towards land mines, towards the convention. That was --

QUESTION: When was that decision made?

MR. KELLY: I don't have that information, Indira. I'm not sure when it was done.

QUESTION: Okay.

MR. KELLY: Fairly recently, I think, though.

Charley.

QUESTION: Another topic, please. Can we turn to Afghanistan?

MR. KELLY: Uh-huh.

QUESTION: Amidst all the speculation that a decision has been or soon will be made and an announcement is coming, can you share with us what preparations the Department and the Secretary of State are making to carry that forward? Will the Secretary be participating in congressional hearings, and how will she be reaching out to friends and allies?

MR. KELLY: Well, without reference to any kind of decision that the President will make and without making any kind of implication about when it will take place, of course, the Secretary looks forward to implementing the President's decision after that decision is made. We have an important component to the Afghan strategy through our – the civilian aspect through the State and USAID development efforts, good governance efforts. And under that rubric, of course, comes support for the Afghan Government in building a more transparent and accountable government, helping them fight the problem of corruption.

I think that you've probably seen that NATO is conducting its own assessment of the International Security Assistance Force, the NATO-led ISAF force in Afghanistan. There is a – now, there's going to be a force generation conference, I think in early December, sometime after the President has made his announcement, and the Secretary looks forward to consulting with our allies on the international role in the Afghanistan strategy.

QUESTION: What about in the domestic realm, though? Will she be going to Capitol Hill?

MR. KELLY: I think nothing is set yet, but I think it's – that would be an appropriate role for her and for Secretary Gates, because an important part of this, of course, will be to brief Congress on the rollout of the strategy or the rollout of the President's decision. Congress needs to --

QUESTION: Can you confirm that she'll testify before Congress next week?

MR. KELLY: No, it is not confirmed that she will testify before Congress next week. I mean, you've heard what the President has said, that it's going to – the announcement will come sometime after Thanksgiving in early December. And I'm sure there will be hearings set up very soon after that.

QUESTION: And will Ambassador Eikenberry be participating in any way?

MR. KELLY: I don't have any information on that, Charley. I would imagine that he will play a role in this.

QUESTION: And can you say when you expect the President's announcement to come?

MR. KELLY: No, I can't, Charley. I'll refer you to what the White House has said – after Thanksgiving, early December.

QUESTION: And is it – I'm sorry, just one more question on this. Is there anything that you can add to what the President said about his policy will be aimed at finishing the job?

MR. KELLY: Aimed at finishing the job? Well, I think we all want to make sure that the mission is done there, the mission of destroying al-Qaida and of giving the Afghan Government the wherewithal to provide for their own security and provide services of – to their own people and deny terrorists a safe haven.

Yeah, Christophe.

QUESTION: You say the Secretary will consult with your allies after the President's announcement, so will she ask them to send more troops to Afghanistan?

MR. KELLY: I think that this is something for the countries themselves to work out. I think that the Secretary General of NATO has – I think he – he has approached the allies, and I think that NATO looks forward to playing a role in how we go forward with Afghanistan. But it's not accurate for us to say that we're going to make any demands on our allies. That's up for them to decide how they want to contribute.

QUESTION: Yeah, but she might try and convince them, for instance, without making demands.

MR. KELLY: Well, I – that implies that our – that we would make these kinds of demands on allies, that they wouldn't make these kind of decisions on their own. I mean, I'm not going to try and prejudge that.

Yes.

QUESTION: I asked about another treaty yesterday, the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

MR. KELLY: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: Actually, that's the treaty the U.S. hasn't ratified.

MR. KELLY: Yeah.

QUESTION: The only country that hasn't ratified the treaty (inaudible).

MR. KELLY: Right, right.

QUESTION: Do you have anything on that?

MR. KELLY: I do. I do. And then I think this has got to be the last question because we've got a camera spray upstairs. I want to give you guys a chance to go if you want.

The U.S. is fully committed to the goal of promoting the well-being of children worldwide and protecting their rights. This resolution by the General Assembly highlights important issues of children's rights and interests, particularly their ability to express their views in matters that affect them either directly or through a representative, and their ability to participate in decisions that impact their lives. The U.S. is committed to this principle.

And many U.S. states have already put in place offices of child advocates or ombudspersons. These child advocates provide an important vehicle through which children can make sure their voices are heard in crucial matters that affect them, such as child custody, foster care, and juvenile justice. It also underscores key protections for children against exploitation and promotes their health, which are core principles in which the United States believes both domestically and internationally.

The U.S. is joining consensus on this resolution, and we also join consensus on the similar resolution from 1995 to 2001.

QUESTION: You are not joining the treaty?

MR. KELLY: Sorry?

QUESTION: You are not joining the treaty? Have you made a decision whether you are going to ratify the treaty or not, or are you conducting a policy review?

MR. KELLY: You may be asking about a different thing that I just gave you an answer to. (Laughter.)

QUESTION: Well, I'm not asking about a resolution.

MR. KELLY: Oh, okay. We have a --

QUESTION: So, yeah.

MR. KELLY: We have an answer to the resolution. Are you talking about the Convention on the Rights of the Child?

QUESTION: That was the treaty, international treaty.

MR. KELLY: Okay. Well, I got long talking points on something totally different. (Laughter.) Okay. Here's your answer.

Supporting this resolution is not an indication of intent to submit the Convention on the Rights of the Child for ratification to Congress. Any decision to pursue ratification of the convention will result from an interagency policy review that is looking at many human rights treaties to which we are not party, including the CRC. We support the goals of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and are committed to undertaking a thorough and thoughtful review of it.

So there's your answer. We're conducting a policy review of it.

QUESTION: Thank you.

MR. KELLY: Okay. Thank you.

(The briefing was concluded at 2:47 p.m.)

(end transcript)

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*WPD210 11/24/2009

Transcript: Remarks by Obama, Indian Prime Minister Singh at Press Conference
(Leaders agree to intensify trade, investment and economic cooperation) (3296)

(begin transcript)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
November 24, 2009

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT OBAMA
AND PRIME MINISTER SINGH OF INDIA
IN JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE

East Room

12:04 P.M. EST

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Please be seated. Hello, everybody. Namaste. I am very pleased to welcome Prime Minister Singh to the White House on this, the first official visit of my presidency. As I said earlier, this reflects our admiration for the Prime Minister's leadership, the deep bonds between the peoples of the United States and India, and the historic opportunity we have to strengthen and broaden the partnership between our nations.

India today is a rising and responsible global power. In Asia, Indian leadership is expanding prosperity and the security across the region. And the United States welcomes and encourages India's leadership role in helping to shape the rise of a stable, peaceful, and prosperous Asia.

Beyond Asia, as the world's largest multiethnic democracy, as one of the world's fastest-growing economies, and as a member of the G20, India will play a pivotal role in meeting the major challenges we face today. And this includes my top economic priority, creating good jobs with good wages for the American people.

So I believe that the relationship between the United States and India will be one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century, and this visit underscores the strengthening of that partnership, which I hope will continue throughout my presidency. That's why I've made it a priority to broaden the cooperation between our nations.

My administration's commitment to India can be seen in our new strategic dialogue, which addresses the full range of challenges and opportunities before us. And I'm pleased that we're joined today by the co-chairs of our dialogue -- Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Foreign Minister Krishna.

And our commitment to India can be seen in my personal partnership with Prime Minister Singh. We've worked together on economic matters at our G20 summits in London and Pittsburgh, as well as L'Aquila. I consider him a wise leader who has helped unleash India's extraordinary economic growth. He is a man of honesty and integrity. I respect him and I trust him, and I have happily accepted his gracious invitation to visit India next year.

Now, this spirit of friendship infuses our very productive discussions today and is the reason we've made so much progress in recent years. We agreed to strengthen the economic recovery and expand trade and investment so we can create jobs for both our peoples -- Americans and Indians.

Indian investment in America is creating and sustaining jobs across the United States. The United States is India's largest trading and investment partner. There is significant balance in our trading relationships that I think is very important and reflective of the framework that we put forward at the G20. And to sustain this momentum we're creating new initiatives to promote trade, investment and technology cooperation, especially among our small and medium-sized businesses that create most of the jobs here in the United States.

I reaffirmed to the Prime Minister my administration's commitment to fully implement the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Agreement, which will increase American exports and create jobs in both jobs.

We agreed to move forward with our commitments at the G20 summit in Pittsburgh to pursue balanced growth while ensuring that emerging economies like India have a greater voice in shaping the international financial architecture.

We've made progress in confronting climate change. I commended the Prime Minister for India's leadership in areas like green buildings and energy efficiency, and we agreed to a series of important new efforts: a clean energy initiative that will create jobs and improve people's access to cleaner, more affordable energy; a green partnership to reduce poverty through sustainable and equitable development; and an historic effort to phase out subsidies for fossil fuels.

With just two weeks until the beginning of Copenhagen, it's also essential that all countries do what is necessary to reach a strong operational agreement that will confront the threat of climate change while serving as a stepping-stone to a legally binding treaty.

And to that end, Prime Minister Singh and I made important progress today. We reaffirmed that an agreement in Copenhagen should be comprehensive and cover all the issues under negotiation. We resolved to take significant national mitigation actions that will strengthen the world's ability to combat climate change. We agreed to stand by these commitments with full transparency through appropriate

processes as to their implementation. All this builds on the progress that we made in Beijing, and it takes us one step closer to a successful outcome in Copenhagen.

We also agreed to deepen our cooperation against transnational threats. The American people join our Indian friends in remembering the horrific attacks in Mumbai one year ago this week. To prevent future attacks, we agreed that our law enforcement and intelligence agencies will work even closer, including sharing more information. We discussed my review of our policy in Afghanistan, and I thanked Prime Minister Singh for India's substantial contributions to the Afghan people.

I welcomed the Prime Minister's support for the non-proliferation agenda that I laid out in Prague, and I look forward to India's participation in our nuclear summit -- nuclear security summit next year, as well as India's participation as a full partner in our shared vision of a world without nuclear weapons.

Now, part of that vision is working together to ensure that all nations, including Iran and South -- North Korea, live up to their international obligations. We agreed to expand the educational exchanges that will fuel our knowledge-based economies. We're dramatically expanding the Fulbright-Nehru program that brings so many of our students and scholars together, especially in science and technology. And we are increasing ties and exchanges between our universities and community colleges as part of a new Obama-Singh -- or Singh-Obama -- (laughter) -- 21st Century Knowledge Initiative. We think it's appropriately named.

To advance our historic food security initiative, American and Indian researchers will collaborate to improve agricultural output and reduce hunger -- not only in India, where enormous strides have been made, but around the world -- and India has much to teach the developing world in terms of achieving food sufficiency.

And our Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will partner with their Indian counterparts to create a new disease detection center in India to combat infectious diseases and promote global health.

This is the concrete progress made today across a whole range of issues to create jobs, opportunity and security for our people. As a result, I believe the relationship between our two countries has never been stronger -- a reminder that it will be one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century.

We look forward to celebrating our partnership tonight, as Michelle and I host the Prime Minister and Mrs. Kaur at the first state dinner of my presidency. It will be another opportunity to convey to the Prime Minister and the people of India, as India assumes its rightful place as a global leader in this century, that you will have no better friend and partner than the United States of America.

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you so much for your presence here today. The floor is yours.

PRIME MINISTER SINGH: Mr. President, distinguished ladies and gentlemen of the media. I thank from the core of my heart President Obama for his very generous hospitality and for his very warm sentiments towards India -- and to me, in particular. I am honored to be here today in this great country at the invitation of His Excellency, the President.

When India and the United States meet, it is a moment to celebrate the values of democracy, pluralism, liberty, and freedom. Today we have done that and much more.

In our discussions today, we reaffirmed the importance of our relationship and decided on future steps to enhance our strategic partnership. We have agreed to further intensify our trade, investment, and economic cooperation in a way that creates jobs and prosperity in both our two countries and stimulates global economic recovery.

We admire the leadership that President Obama has provided to stimulate and guide the G20 process that is now fully in place. We have decided to give a fresh impetus to collaboration in the fields of education, agriculture, and health. We will deepen our ongoing cooperation in frontier areas of science and technology, nuclear power, and space. This will open new opportunities for our universities and laboratories, and create human capital to meet the global needs of the future.

We had a very constructive exchange of views on strategic issues. Our defense cooperation is progressing well. We agreed on the early and full implementation of our Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. Our strategic partnership should facilitate transfer of high technologies to India. The lifting of U.S. export controls on high technology exports to India will open vast opportunities for giant research and development efforts. It will enable U.S. industry to benefit from the rapid economic and technological transformation that is now underway in our country.

In a few weeks from now, the meeting of the conference of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will take place in Copenhagen. Both President Obama and I have agreed on the need for a substantive and comprehensive outcome, which would cover mitigation, adaptation, finance, and technology. We reaffirmed our intention to work to this end bilaterally and with all other countries.

We welcome the President's commitment to a major program for promotion of renewable energy, and I drew his attention to India's own ambitious national action plan on climate change, which has eight national missions covering both mitigation and adaptation.

Just as we partnered each other in the shaping of the knowledge economy, we have the opportunity today to become partners in developing the green economy of the

future. I underlined India's desire to benefit from clean and energy-efficient technologies from the United States. Our partnership will contribute to global efforts to combat climate change and achieve energy security.

We had a detailed discussion on important regional and global issues. We agreed that the Indo-U.S. partnership was important for addressing the challenges of an increasingly interdependent world that we live in. The global economic crisis has brought home the fact that our prosperity is interlinked.

Our dialogue covered the need to have an open and inclusive architecture in the Asia Pacific regions. It is important for the international community to sustain its engagement in Afghanistan, to help its emergence as a modern state.

The focus -- the forces of terrorism in our region pose a grave threat to the entire civilized world and have to be defeated. President Obama and I have decided to strengthen our cooperation in the area of counterterrorism.

India welcomes the renewed international interest in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We have been a consistent advocate of a world free of nuclear weapons. We will work with the United States and other countries for the success of the nuclear security summit, which President Obama is hosting next April.

In our discussions today, there was a meeting of minds on the future direction of our relations. I was deeply impressed by President Obama's strong commitment to the India-U.S. strategic partnership and by the breadth of his vision for global peace and prosperity.

I have invited President Obama to visit India. A very warm welcome awaits him, his gracious wife and his two daughters.

I thank you.

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Thank you very much.

We're going to take one question each, one from an American journalist and one from an Indian journalist. And I'm going to call on Mark Knoller. Where's Mark? There you are. Good to see you, Mark.

Q: Good to see you, sir. Mr. President, I suspect you don't want my colleagues and I to rely on leaks until next week, so I'd like to ask you about --

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Why stop now? (Laughter.)

Q: Well, perhaps you'd like to help us set a new stage in our relationship by telling us where you stand on your decision on Afghanistan. You had your -- what we were told was your final meeting last evening. Can you tell us how many more troops you'll be

sending to Afghanistan, how you'll be paying for them, and whether you'll be announcing a timetable and/or exit strategy for them?

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Mark, I will be making an announcement to the American people about how we intend to move forward. I will be doing so shortly.

I think that the review that we've gone through has been comprehensive and extremely useful, and has brought together my key military advisors, but also civilian advisors. I can tell you, as I've said before, that it is in our strategic interest, in our national security interest to make sure that al Qaeda and its extremist allies cannot operate effectively in those areas. We are going to dismantle and degrade their capabilities and ultimately dismantle and destroy their networks. And Afghanistan's stability is important to that process.

I've also indicated that after eight years -- some of those years in which we did not have, I think, either the resources or the strategy to get the job done -- it is my intention to finish the job. And I feel very confident that when the American people hear a clear rationale for what we're doing there and how we intend to achieve our goals that they will be supportive.

Now, I think it's worth mentioning since I'm with the Prime Minister of India that this important not just to the United States, but it's important to the world, and that the whole world I think has a core security interest in making sure that the kind of extremism and violence that you've seen emanating from this region is tackled, confronted in a serious way.

Now, we have to do it as part of a broader international community. And so one of the things I'm going to be discussing is the obligations of our international partners in this process. It's going to be very important to recognize that the Afghan people ultimately are going to have to provide for their own security. And so we'll be discussing that process whereby Afghan security forces are properly trained and equipped to do the job. And it's going to be important to recognize that in order for us to succeed there you've got to have a comprehensive strategy that includes civilian and diplomatic efforts.

So I think that's a sufficient preview to last until after Thanksgiving, Mark.

Q: Tuesday night, sir?

PRESIDENT OBAMA: After Thanksgiving. (Laughter.) And I'm sure that at that point, if there are further questions, that we'll be answering them to the satisfaction not just of you, but to the satisfaction of the American people.

PRIME MINISTER SINGH: Ms. Smita Prakash.

Q: My question to you: Would you call India and the U.S. as natural allies, especially in the sphere of combating the terrorism in our region? Because there is a perception in India that the military aid that you give Pakistan is misused against India, and it is really the epicenter of terrorism. Did this issue come up in your discussions with the Prime Minister, and would you be pressurizing Pakistan to get its act in order? And to the Prime Minister, I'd like to ask when is the nuclear deal really going to go on the road?

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Well, first of all, I think that the United States and India are natural allies not just around counterterrorism issues, but on a whole host of issues. As we discussed earlier, we're the world's two largest democracies. We have a range of shared values and ideals. We're both entrepreneurial societies. We're both multiethnic societies. We are societies that believe in human rights and core freedoms that are enshrined in our founding documents.

And one of the things that I think makes us such strong allies is the people-to-people contact. It's one thing for leaders to have exchanges like this one, and that's very important, obviously. But the incredible contributions that Indian Americans have made to the growth of our country and the degree to which they are woven into the very fabric of our society, the fact that very few Indians don't have some family member somewhere who has a connection to the United States -- that kind of exchange strengthens and deepens the bonds between our two countries in a profound way.

Now, with respect to security issues in the region, the Prime Minister and I -- Prime Minister Singh and I had extensive discussions about that. I think we both recognize that our core goal is to achieve peace and security for all peoples in the region, not just one country or the other. And one of the things I admire most about Prime Minister Singh is that I think at his core he is a man of peace.

Obviously there are historic conflicts between India and Pakistan. It is not the place of the United States to try to, from the outside, resolve all those conflicts. On the other hand, we want to be encouraging of ways in which both India and Pakistan can feel secure, and focus on the development of their own countries and their own people.

With respect to the relationship between the United States and Pakistan's military, I think that there have probably been times in the past in which we were so single-mindedly focused just on military assistance in Pakistan that we didn't think more broadly about how to encourage and develop the kinds of civil society in Pakistan that would make a difference in the lives of people day to day.

And Secretary Clinton, I think, has done an excellent job in trying to move forward -- where is she? I thought she was around here somewhere -- but anyway, she's done an excellent job, I think, in helping our State Department to refocus our energies on that front as well.

And obviously Pakistan has an enormously important role in the security of the region by making sure that the extremist organizations that often operate out of its territories are dealt with effectively. And we've seen some progress. The work that the Pakistan military is doing in the Swat Valley in west -- in south Waziristan all indicates the degree to which they are beginning to recognize that extremism, even if initially directed to the outside, can ultimately also have an adverse impact on their security internally.

So my hope is, is that over time what we're going to see is further clarity and further cooperation between all the parties and all peoples of goodwill in the region to eradicate terrorist activity, to eradicate the kind of violent extremism that we've seen. I think that will benefit the peoples of Pakistan and India and the world community as well.

PRIME MINISTER SINGH: The President and myself had a very useful and productive exchange of views relating to security, peace, and counterterrorism in our regions. I'm very satisfied with the outcome of my discussion with President Obama.

As far as the nuclear deal is concerned, the President has reaffirmed that it is the common resolve of our two governments to operationalize the nuclear deal as early as possible. There are a few "i's" and "t's" which have to be crossed -- and I am confident and I have the assurance of the President that that process can be completed without much further loss of time.

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Thank you very much, everybody.

END 12:30 P.M. EST

(end transcript)

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*WPD211 11/24/2009

Transcript: Remarks by President Obama and Indian Prime Minister Singh (Obama welcomes Singh as the first official state visitor of his presidency) (1014)

(begin transcript)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
November 24, 2009

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT OBAMA
AND PRIME MINISTER SINGH OF INDIA
DURING ARRIVAL CEREMONY

East Room

9:25 A.M. EST

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Prime Minister Singh, Mrs. Gursharan Kaur, members of the Indian delegation -- on behalf of Michelle and myself, it is a great pleasure to welcome you to the White House. On behalf of the American people, it is my great honor to welcome you to the United States.

Mr. Prime Minister, yours is the first official state visit of my presidency, and it is fitting that you and India be so recognized. (Applause.) This visit reflects the high esteem in which I and the American people hold your wise leadership. It reflects the abiding bonds of respect and friendship between our people, including our friends in the Indian American community who join us here today.

But above all, your visit, at this pivotal moment in history, speaks to the opportunity before us -- to build the relationship between our nations, born in the last century, into one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century.

For while our two nations have taken different paths to reach this moment, ours is a common story. It's the story of two proud people who struggled to break free from an empire and declare their independence. Two bold experiments in democracy with constitutions that begin with the same simple words: "We the people." Two great republics dedicated to the ideals of liberty, justice, equality, and the never-ending work of perfecting their union.

It's the story of two economic marvels fueled by an ethic of hard work and innovation. And today, our nations are two global leaders, driven not to dominate other nations but to build a future of security and prosperity for all nations.

Mr. Prime Minister, as we work to build that future, India is indispensable.

As leading economies, the United States and India can strengthen the global economic recovery, promote trade that creates jobs for both our people, and pursue growth that is balanced and sustained.

As nuclear powers, we can be full partners in preventing the spread of the world's most deadly weapons, securing loose nuclear materials from terrorists, and pursuing our shared vision of a world without nuclear weapons.

As people who've known the pain and anguish of terrorism, we can stand together -- cooperating to prevent future attacks, and promote the development and prosperity that undermines violent extremism.

As India becomes an increasingly influential global power, we can partner to meet other transnational challenges: developing clean energy partnerships, confronting climate change, stopping infectious disease, reducing hunger and working to end extreme poverty in our time.

And as the world's largest democracies, we can keep faith with our common values -- speaking out and standing up for the rights and dignity to which all human beings are entitled; and showing that nations that respect the rights and aspirations of their people are ultimately more stable, more secure and more successful.

This is the India that America welcomes today -- a leader in Asia and around the world. (Applause.) These are the challenges we are summoned to meet in partnership. This is the progress that is possible -- today and in the days and years ahead.

And, Mr. Prime Minister, as we build our common future, we can draw strength from our shared past. For it was exactly 60 years ago, in a ceremony not unlike this, that an American president welcomed to the White House the first prime minister of an independent India. And while the decades that followed were not without their challenges, the spirit of that first visit is with us today -- the same sense of possibility, the same hope for the future.

So as President Truman said of President Nehru, it is my privilege to welcome "the respected leader of a great nation of free people."

And as Prime Minister Nehru said of the work before them, may our two great nations "find many ways of working together in friendly and fruitful cooperation to our mutual advantage, and for the good of humanity."

Mr. Prime Minister, Mrs. Kaur, in that spirit, I welcome you to the United States of America. (Applause.)

PRIME MINISTER SINGH: Mr. President, First Lady Mrs. Obama, thank you very much for your warm words of welcome, Mr. President. My wife and I are deeply honored to be in your great country on the first state visit of your presidency. (Applause.)

Mr. President, I bring to you and the people of the United States of America the friendly greetings of our one billion people of India. (Applause.)

India and America are separated by distance, but bound together by the values of democracy, pluralism, rule of law, and respect for fundamental human freedoms. Over the years, we have built upon these values and created a partnership that is

based upon both principle and pragmatism. Our relations have been transformed, and today they encompass cooperation in all areas of human activity.

Mr. President, I've come today to build upon these successes and to strengthen our multifaceted relationship. We seek to broaden and deepen our strategic partnership, and to work with the United States to meet these challenges of a fast-changing world in this 21st century. (Applause.)

This is a moment of great opportunity in our relationship. India and the United States can, and must, work together to harness the immense potential of our talented and enterprising people, and support each other's growth and prosperity. We should cooperate in addressing global challenges of combating terrorism, making our environment cleaner and moving towards a world free of nuclear weapons. (Applause.)

Mr. President, we deeply appreciate your strong personal commitment to our bilateral relationship. My wife and I are deeply grateful to you and the First Lady for receiving us during this Thanksgiving week.

With these words, I once again thank you, Mr. President. God bless America. God bless India. (Applause.)

END 9:35 A.M. EST

(end transcript)

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*WPD212 11/24/2009

Text: Clinton Remarks at Arrival Ceremony for Indian Prime Minister
(U.S. is committed to building a strong sustainable partnership with India) (839)

(begin text)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
November 24, 2009

REMARKS

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
At Official Arrival Ceremony for Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh
November 24, 2009

Ben Franklin Room
Washington, D.C.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Please be seated, and welcome to the State Department, to the ceremonial receiving rooms of the 8th floor. And it is a personal delight, as well as a high honor, to have so many of you gathered here, such a distinguished group, for this special occasion.

Prime Minister, Mrs. Kaur, we are so delighted and honored that you could be here and that you are the first official state visitors of the Obama Administration. And it's a special pleasure to be here with my friends, Vice President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden.

When the Vice President and I served together in the United States Senate, one of the many issues on which we shared a common view was the importance of building a strong and sustainable partnership with India. I co-founded and co-chaired the Friends of India Caucus, the first country-focused caucus in the history of the Senate. And Vice President Biden, who was then chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was absolutely central to the passage of the landmark civilian nuclear agreement between our nations. He worked for months to craft the compromise that made this agreement possible. And we have seen how it has opened vital new avenues of cooperation between India and the United States.

The Vice President understood early what is now a core tenet of foreign policy in the Obama Administration, that the ability and the commitment of India and the United States to work together will be critical to our successes in both nations in addressing common challenges and achieving shared goals in the 21st century.

As the world's largest democracy and the world's oldest democracy, we are poised to collaborate on a number of fronts, from strengthening our security and confronting the threat of violent extremism, to fostering breakthroughs in science and technology, to increasing political, economic, and social opportunities for the world's women.

India's emergence as a political and economic leader gives us the chance to widen opportunity in places that have been left out of global progress for so long. And the many ties that connect us, many evidenced here in this room, between families and businesses, universities, cultural institutions, and civil society groups, create so much potential for us to work together to improve the lives of citizens in both our countries.

I am particularly impressed by Prime Minister Singh's absolute determination to raise the standard of living and provide greater opportunity for the people that he represents. You cannot talk with him for more than 30 seconds without feeling that passion and that commitment. (Applause.)

And I have been privileged to have worked with and followed the affairs of India over a number of years, going back to my time as First Lady, and certainly as senator. But I was especially pleased to return to India this summer as Secretary of State, where Minister Krishna and I announced a new Strategic Dialogue between our countries covering a range of issues, including nonproliferation and counterterrorism, education and development, trade, and agriculture, science and technology, clean energy, and climate, and so much else.

And while I was in India, I had the chance to meet with people from across the spectrum, from university students to agricultural scientists, to women entrepreneurs from rural areas who are transforming their lives. And I was reminded of the extraordinary diversity and energy of India, not unlike that of the United States, another pluralistic, diverse, occasionally raucous democracy that invites the free expression of ideas, elects leaders peacefully through free and open elections, and continues to move forward into the future with momentum.

So we live in exciting times. And President Obama, Vice President Biden, and I are committed to making the most of this promising moment by deepening the areas of cooperation that exist between India and the United States. We will work together to help shape a future that really fulfills the dreams of our people. Both Indians and Americans want a better life. That's why our people are such hard workers and so committed to a better future for their children. And the Indian American community represented here today has been an absolute engine of progress and change here in our country.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, this is a very auspicious occasion for us. And we work with you to achieve the goals that you have stood for throughout your entire public career. We are grateful for the history and friendship that already unites us, and we are committed to building on that in the years to come. And one of the people who will be leading the way is my friend and colleague, Vice President Joe Biden.
(Applause.)

(end text)

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*WPD213 11/24/2009

Fact Sheet: Fact Sheet on U.S.-India Actions on Security, Terrorism
(U.S.-India renew commitment to expand cooperation on strategic issues) (656)

(begin fact sheet)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
November 24, 2009

FACT SHEET

Advancing Global Security and Countering Terrorism

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama renewed their commitment to expand cooperation on strategic issues facing both countries and the world. They acknowledged the common threat that international terrorism poses to their homelands and to regional and global security. The numerous bilateral dialogues conducted over the last several months, the two leaders' discussions today, and the continuing actions that both countries will be taking as a result of these comprehensive meetings reflect the extensive and growing strategic partnership between the United States and India.

- In their meeting today, Prime Minister Singh and President Obama noted that the U.S.-India counterterrorism relationship has advanced in a short time to unprecedented levels of cooperation. As part of the Counterterrorism Cooperation Initiative, they committed to redouble their collective efforts to deal effectively with terrorism, while protecting their countries' common ideals and shared values, and committed themselves to strengthening global consensus and legal regimes against terrorism.
- India reaffirmed its unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. The United States reaffirmed its testing moratorium and its commitment to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and bring it into force at an early date. The two leaders agreed to consult each other regularly, as well as seek the early start of negotiations on a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty. Prime Minister Singh and President Obama looked forward to the April 2010 Nuclear Security Summit and will work together on nuclear security to ensure its success. They affirmed their commitment to work together to prevent the spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction- and missile-related technology and to realize their shared vision of a world free of nuclear weapons.
- The two leaders also discussed shared interests in enhanced regional security and stability, particularly in the context of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Both the United States and India have made significant investments in development assistance to the Afghan people since late 2001, and President Obama and Prime Minister Singh agreed on the importance of close coordination among the international donor community in order to maximize the impact of assistance. As Prime Minister Singh had visited Southeast Asia in October and President Obama recently returned from a trip to East and Southeast Asia, the two leaders shared impressions of the Asia-Pacific region that represents an increasingly large share of global economic growth.

- The U.S.-India bilateral defense relationship has been on an accelerated upward trajectory in recent years. The United States is India's largest bilateral military exercise partner, and the two countries just concluded the largest-ever bilateral exercise, "Yudh Abhyas," with the Indian Army. As India modernizes its military, President Obama hopes that U.S. equipment and technology will continue to be a part of that modernization. The recent conclusion of End-Use Monitoring language provided important momentum to enhance Indian military modernization programs. During the Defense Policy Group meetings held in New Delhi three weeks ago, the two countries committed to pursue mutually beneficial defense cooperation, including collaborating on humanitarian, maritime security and intelligence sharing efforts.

- Noting that global security encompasses a wide range of common interests, the two leaders also affirmed their nations' commitment to work together on global challenges, as illustrated in the Global Issues Forum, held in New Delhi on November 5. The Global Issues Forum focused on how the world's two largest democracies can form a truly global partnership by working together to meet transnational challenges through regional, international and multilateral cooperation. In the Forum, the two governments addressed concrete ways to strengthen Indian and U.S. cooperation in improving global health, food security, access to shelter and education, water management, support for the rule of law and human rights, environmental conservation and disaster management.

(end fact sheet)

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

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*WPD214 11/24/2009

Fact Sheet: Fact Sheet on U.S.-India Actions to Stimulate Economic Revival
(White House outlines collaborative actions the two nations are taking) (806)

(begin fact sheet)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
November 24, 2009

FACT SHEET: Stimulating Global Economic Revival

U.S. – India Cooperation in Economics, Trade, and Agriculture

The United States, the world's largest economy, and India, one of the world's fastest growing economies, are committed to working together to stimulate a global

economic revival, to strengthen global economic and financial institutions, to work toward a balanced and ambitious outcome in the Doha Round negotiations, and to promote global food security. The following activities under the Economics, Trade, and Agriculture Pillar of the United States – India Strategic Dialogue are designed to make these shared goals a reality:

- The United States – India CEO Forum brought together leaders of the U.S. and Indian business communities — approximately ten from each side across various industry sectors — with senior government officials on November 23. Forum members conveyed their interest in working on recommendations on how the public and private sectors can work together to strengthen economic and commercial ties between the two countries, stimulate innovation, spur job creation, and promote sustainable inclusive growth.
- U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk and Indian Minister of Industry and Commerce Anand Sharma opened discussions on a “United States – India Framework for Cooperation on Trade and Investment” during the Trade Policy Forum on October 26 in New Delhi. Work under this Framework would encourage the expansion of bilateral trade and investment opportunities, including for small and medium sized businesses. To support these efforts, the Department of Commerce has scheduled two trade missions focused on small and medium-sized enterprises in early 2010, one focused on solar power technologies and one on healthcare and medical equipment. The two leaders also agreed to re-launch the Private Sector Advisory Group, a group of U.S. and Indian international trade experts who will provide recommendations and insights to the Trade Policy Forum.
- U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack and Indian Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia met to discuss cooperation on agriculture and food security. They renewed their commitment to work together bilaterally, and in cooperation with other countries, using the principles and objectives agreed at the L’Aquila G-8 Summit. They also agreed to launch a new Agriculture Dialogue and agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding on Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security that will set a pathway to robust cooperation between the governments in crop forecasting, management and market information; regional and global food security through the L’Aquila Food Security Initiative; science, technology, and education; nutrition; and expanding private sector investment in agriculture. The United States and India expect cooperation under the agreement to expand access to knowledge to improve productivity, safety, and nutritional quality of food crops; to strengthen market institutions and foster growth of agribusiness investment and improve food security and access to adequate quantities and quality of food, particularly for women and young children.
- In August, the United States and India launched negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty. This treaty would ensure protection for investors and would facilitate robust investment flows both from the United States to India and from

India to the United States. Both sides committed to the active continuation of negotiations.

- The U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Administration "Invest in America" program and "Invest India," a Joint Venture of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, signed a Memorandum of Intent to facilitate foreign direct investment in their respective countries by investors of the other country.
- U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Geithner and Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee will establish a new U.S.-India Economic and Financial Partnership to strengthen bilateral engagement on macroeconomic, financial sector, development, and infrastructure related issues. Treasury Secretary Geithner will visit India in early 2010 for the launch of this new Partnership with Finance Minister Mukherjee and other economic and regulatory counterparts. The financial sector working team under this Partnership, which brings together financial regulators from the U.S. and India to discuss the rapidly-changing regulatory landscape and share best practices, will hold its next meeting in early December 2009 in New Delhi.
- The United States Patent and Trademark Office of the Department of Commerce and Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry signed a Memorandum of Understanding renewing bilateral cooperation in the field of intellectual property. The memorandum will focus on human resource development, capacity building and public awareness programs in intellectual property protection and enforcement. The parties also signed an Action Plan to implement the objectives of the memorandum. In addition, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and Indian Council of Scientific and Technical Research signed a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library Access Agreement. The agreement will help to prevent the improper patenting of Indian traditional knowledge by providing a new search tool to USPTO Patent Examiners.

(end fact sheet)

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

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*WPD215 11/24/2009

Fact Sheet: U.S., India to Address Energy and Food Security, Climate Change (Obama, India's Singh launch partnership to boost U.S.-India cooperation) (820)

(begin fact sheet)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
November 24, 2009

FACT SHEET

U.S.-India Green Partnership to Address Energy Security, Climate Change, and Food Security

President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh launched a Green Partnership, reaffirming their countries' strong commitment to taking vigorous action to combat climate change, ensuring their mutual energy security, working towards global food security, and building a clean energy economy that will drive investment, job creation, and economic growth throughout the 21st century. Toward that end, Prime Minister Singh and President Obama agreed to strengthen U.S.-India cooperation on clean energy, climate change, and food security by launching the following initiatives:

- The two countries agreed on a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding to enhance cooperation on Energy Security, Energy Efficiency, Clean Energy, and Climate Change. Through this Memorandum, both countries will work jointly to accelerate development and deployment of clean energy technologies and to strengthen cooperation on adaptation to climate change, climate science, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from forests and land use.
- Prime Minister Singh and President Obama agreed to encourage the mobilization of public and private resources to support a fund or funds that would invest in clean energy projects in India. This represents a major step forward in U.S. – India partnerships to strengthen their economic growth and energy security, while also addressing the threat of global climate change.
- Prime Minister Singh and President Obama affirmed that the Copenhagen outcome must be comprehensive and cover mitigation, adaptation, finance, and technology. Moreover, it should reflect emission reduction targets for developed countries and nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries. There should be scaled-up finance, technology, and capacity-building support. There should be full transparency as to the implementation of their mitigation commitments and appropriate processes for review. Both leaders resolved to take significant mitigation actions and to stand by these commitments.
- In addition, the two leaders launched an Indo-U.S. Clean Energy Research and Deployment Initiative, supported by U.S. and Indian government funding and private sector contributions. This new Initiative will include a Joint Research Center operating in both the United States and India to foster innovation and joint efforts to accelerate deployment of clean energy technologies. Priority areas of focus for this Initiative may include: energy efficiency, smart grid, second-generation biofuels, and clean coal technologies including carbon capture and storage; solar energy and energy efficient building and advanced battery technologies; and sustainable transportation, wind energy, and micro-hydro power. The Initiative will allow the

two governments to leverage expertise from both countries including government, private industry, and higher education to accelerate the development and deployment of new clean energy technologies. The Initiative will facilitate joint research, scientific exchanges, and sharing of proven innovation and deployment policies.

- The Initiative's work will be complemented by two Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) on Solar Energy and Wind Energy. Through the MOU on Solar Energy, the U.S. National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) will partner with India's Solar Energy Centre to develop a comprehensive nation-wide map of solar energy potential. More than two dozen U.S. and Indian cities will partner to jointly advance solar energy deployment. The MOU on Wind Energy between NREL and India's Centre for Wind Energy Technology will focus in particular on supporting efforts to develop a low-wind speed turbine technology program.
- The U.S. and India will increase cooperation on unconventional natural gas including on coal bed methane, natural gas hydrates, and shale gas. The two countries will also work to reduce emissions from land use, including deforestation, forest degradation, enhanced sequestration, and sustainable management of forests.
- Working with India's Ministry of Environment and Forests, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will provide technical support for Indian efforts to establish a National Environmental Protection Authority focused on creating a more effective system of environmental governance, regulation and enforcement.
- They agreed to launch a new Agriculture Dialogue and agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding on Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security that will set a pathway to robust cooperation between the governments in crop forecasting, management and market information; regional and global food security; science, technology, and education; nutrition; and expanding private sector investment in agriculture.
- In support of food security and climate change objectives, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will work with India's Ministry of Earth Sciences to more accurately forecast monsoons, and thereby reduce risks associated with climate change and to develop early warning systems to protect people and crops from the adverse effects of extreme weather.
- In support of these and other initiatives, including continuing cooperation on nuclear power, Prime Minister Singh and President Obama agreed the Governments of India and the United States will continue to engage regularly through the new U.S.-India Agriculture Dialogue, the U.S.-India Energy Dialogue and the U.S.-India Global Climate Change Dialogue.

(end fact sheet)

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

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*WPD216 11/24/2009

Fact Sheet: Enhancing U.S.-India Cooperation on Education and Development (Obama, India's Singh launch initiatives to boost U.S.-India cooperation) (515)

(begin fact sheet)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

November 24, 2009

FACT SHEET

Enhancing U.S.-India Cooperation on Education and Development

In meeting the demands of a changing world economy, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh joined this week to recommit to cooperation on education and development. President Obama and Prime Minister Singh have both put education at the top of their national agendas. Today, they reaffirm that it is through cooperation on education and development that global challenges are met — from food security to public health, from climate change to workforce development and women's empowerment.

Toward that end, Prime Minister Singh and President Obama agreed to strengthen U.S.-India cooperation on education and development by launching the following initiatives:

- The 21st Century demands a new brand of cooperation on Education. The two leaders committed to building an enhanced India-U.S. strategic partnership in education that seeks to advance solutions to the defining global challenges that their countries face. Expanding higher education cooperation through increased exchanges and greater academic collaboration, as well as enhancing the role of the private sector, are important elements to this strategic approach.
- Fulbright-Nehru Expansion: The United States and India enjoy a long tradition of educational exchanges, and are substantially increasing it. Since 1950, the bilateral U.S.-India Education Foundation established by the two governments has awarded more than 8,200 Fulbright, Fulbright-Nehru, and other scholarships to U.S. and Indian students in every field of human endeavor. The binational Fulbright-Nehru Scholarship Program will be expanded through a 45% increase in funding by each

government to support increased exchanges of students and scholars in priority fields, bringing total support for these scholarships to \$6.7 million this year.

- **Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative Launched:** To meet the serious demands of the 21st Century, the newly announced Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative will provide \$10 million in combined funding to increase university linkages and support junior faculty development between U.S. and Indian universities.
- **Women's Empowerment Dialogue (WED):** President Obama and Prime Minister Singh have underscored the need for the full participation of women in all aspects of society in order for the global community to address the complex challenges we face in this new century. During the initial meeting of the Women's Empowerment Dialogue in New Delhi, in addition to discussing areas of mutual collaboration and support, both sides agreed to explore the creation of a "Women's Empowerment Fund," that could potentially serve as a catalyst for foundations and civil society actors to advance WED priorities including women's social and economic empowerment, capacity building for self-help groups, support for micro-credit, female literacy, political participation of women, education, violence against women, nutrition, healthcare, climate change, and gender budgeting.
- In support of these and other initiatives, Prime Minister Singh and President Obama agreed that the Governments of India and the United States will continue the U.S.-India Education Dialogue and the U.S.-India Women's Empowerment Dialogue at the earliest opportunity in 2010.

(end fact sheet)

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*WPD217 11/24/2009

Fact Sheet: Fact Sheet on U.S.-India Cooperation to Protect Health
(Obama, India's Singh pledge collaboration on health care issues) (506)

(begin fact sheet)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
November 24, 2009

FACT SHEET

U.S.-India Cooperation to Protect the Health of their People

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama reaffirmed their countries' strong commitment to advancing public health and biomedical research and programming collaborations between the United States and India.

In addition to extensive ongoing India-U.S. collaboration in the health sector, and building on existing ties across academia, public health and scientific communities, new developments include:

- **Global Disease Detection Program:** The leaders announced India as the seventh Regional Center in the Global Disease Detection (GDD) network. This GDD collaboration will include a range of activities, such as emerging disease detection and response, pandemic influenza preparedness and response, laboratory systems and biosafety, field epidemiology training, health communications, and zoonotic disease investigation and control. Other Regional Centers include Kenya, Thailand, Guatemala, Egypt, China, and Kazakhstan.
- **Polio Eradication:** India recently developed a bivalent polio vaccine which has potential application in all polio-infected countries. The United States continues to support India's political and financial commitment to the final stages of polio eradication, and looks forward to successful introduction of the new bivalent vaccine. Since 1999, CDC has provided over \$111 million to India for polio eradication and other activities with USAID providing an additional \$65 million since 1996.
- **Medical Research:** Noting a fifty-year history of bi-lateral innovation and discovery in the medical research field, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh agreed to enhance collaborative biomedical, public health and translational research focused on infectious and aging-related chronic diseases, maternal and child health, and family planning, while also strengthening health research capacity and the translation of scientific discoveries into life-saving practices of global benefit.
- **Cooperation on Urban Health:** The U.S. Agency for International Development will soon launch its new Health of the Urban Poor Program, which aims to improve reproductive and child health in urban poor populations, especially for those dwelling in slums, by building the local capacity, improving program implementation and increasing resource allocation for urban health through policy analysis. The program will work in close collaboration with urban local bodies and Indian national and state governments.
- **Health Services and Regulatory Harmonization:** The United States and India will continue to collaborate on activities that enhance healthcare for our people, including concrete programs for biomedical technical exchanges, fostering regulatory harmonization, and sharing best practices in technology transfer. The U.S.-India High-Technology Cooperation Group's Working Group on Biotechnology and Life Sciences anticipates expanded work on these topics and promotion of institutional

linkages, including a workshop on medical technology regulations in India during early 2010 and at the Biotechnology Industry Organization's 2010 international convention.

- Status of Health Dialogue: The first meeting of the U.S.-India Health Dialogue is planned for early 2010 in Washington. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sebelius is the U.S. lead and Minister of Health and Family Welfare Azad will lead for India.

(end fact sheet)

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*WPD218 11/24/2009

Transcript: Remarks by Obama at Kennedy Human Rights Award Ceremony (U.S. honors Zimbabwean Magodonga Mahlangu and WOZA, Women of Zimbabwe Arise) (1633)

(begin transcript)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
November 23, 2009

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE ROBERT F. KENNEDY HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

East Room

6:01 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. Thank you. Please, everybody have a seat. Everybody have a seat.

What a wonderful evening. Before I begin, let me just acknowledge some folks here in the crowd. First of all, Ms. Kerry Kennedy, for the great work that she's doing day in and day out. Mr. Philip Johnston, thank you to both of you for helping to organize this tonight. Obviously I've got to say thanks to my favorite people -- Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy, also known as Ethel Kennedy. (Applause.) To Representative Donald Payne, Representative Gregory Meeks, and Representative Edward Markey, who are all here -- thank you for your attendance and your support of this important award.

You know, every year for 24 years, starting the year this award was established, my friend, Senator Edward -- Ted -- Kennedy, spoke at this event. And I'm told that he looked forward to it all year -- that he relished the chance to shine a bright light on an injustice and on those fighting it, and to support them in that fight. He also enjoyed a family reunion. He relished the chance to pay tribute to those carrying on the unfinished work of his brother's life -- work that for nearly half a century in the U.S. Senate he made his own.

He was pleased that this award honored men and women across the globe doing a wide range of urgent work -- fighting to end apartheid, advance democracy, empower minorities and indigenous peoples, promote free speech and elections and more. Because Ted understood that Bobby's legacy wasn't a devotion to one particular cause, or a faith in a certain ideology -- but rather, it was a sensibility. A belief that in this world, there is right and there is wrong, and it is our job to build our laws and our lives around recognizing the difference.

A sensitivity to injustice so acute that it can't be relieved by the rationalizations that make life comfortable for the rest of us -- that others' suffering is not our problem, that the ills of the world are somehow not our concern.

A moral orientation that renders certain people constitutionally incapable of remaining a bystander in the face of evil -- a sensibility that recognizes the power of all people, however humble their circumstances, to change the course of history.

Those are the traits of Bobby Kennedy that this award recognizes -- the very traits that define the character and guide the life of this year's recipient. And while we feel a certain sadness that Senator Kennedy is not with us to honor her, let us also take pleasure tonight in knowing just how much he would have loved and admired Magodonga Mahlangu and the organization that she helps lead -- WOZA, which stands for Women of Zimbabwe Arise, and is represented tonight by one of its founders, Jenni Williams.

As a young girl raised in Matabeleland -- in the Matabeleland region of Zimbabwe in the early 1980s, Magodonga witnessed the -- I've got to make sure I get this right -- Gukurahundi massacres -- the systematic murder of many thousands of people, including her uncle and several cousins -- many of whom were buried in mass graves that they'd been forced to dig themselves.

She witnessed the fearful silence that followed, as talking about these events was forbidden. Magodonga found this to be intolerable. She wanted to speak out -- she wanted people to know the truth about what was happening in her country.

So it was a revelation when, years later, she discovered a group called WOZA whose mission is the very opposite of silence. WOZA was started back in 2003 to empower women to speak out about the issues affecting their families and their country -- desperate hunger; crumbling health and education systems; domestic violence and

rape; and government repression ranging from restrictions on free expression to abduction and murder of dissidents.

WOZA's guiding principle is "tough love" -- the idea that political leaders in Zimbabwe could use a little discipline. And who better to provide that than the nation's mothers? Since its founding, the organization has grown from a handful of activists to a movement of 75,000 strong. There's even a men's branch, I understand -- WOZA. And over the past seven years, they have conducted more than a hundred protests -- maids and hairdressers, vegetable sellers and seamstresses, taking to the streets; singing and dancing; banging on pots empty of food and brandishing brooms to express their wish to sweep the government clean.

They often don't get far before being confronted by President Mugabe's riot police. They have been gassed, abducted, threatened with guns, and badly beaten -- forced to count out loud as each blow was administered. Three thousand WOZA members have spent time in custody or in prison, sometimes dragged with their babies into cells. Magodonga and Jenni are due back in court on December 7th, charged with "conduct likely to cause a breach of [the] peace." They face a five year sentence if convicted.

That so many women have decided to risk and endure so much is in many ways a testament to the extraordinary example of tonight's honoree.

Each time they see Magodonga beaten back -- beaten black and blue during one protest, only to get right back up and lead another -- singing freedom songs at the top of her lungs in full view of security forces -- the threat of a policeman's baton loses some of its power.

Each time her house is searched, or her life is threatened, or she's once again arrested -- more than 30 times so far -- she continues to stand in public and inspire the people of Zimbabwe -- the power of the state then seems a little less absolute.

Each time she has emerged from incarceration after enduring deplorable conditions and brutal abuse -- and gone right back to work -- the prospect of prison loses some of its capacity to deter.

By her example, Magodonga has shown the women of WOZA and the people of Zimbabwe that they can undermine their oppressors' power with their own power -- that they can sap a dictator's strength with their own. Her courage has inspired others to summon theirs. And the organization's name, WOZA -- which means "come forward" -- has become its impact -- its impact has been even more as people know of the violence that they face, and more people have come forward to join them.

More people have come to realize what Magodonga and the women of WOZA have known all along: that the only real way to teach love and non-violence is by example. Even when that means sitting down while being arrested, both as a sign that they

refuse to retaliate, absorbing each blow without striking back -- and a warning that, come what may, they're not going anywhere.

They even manage to show love to those who imprison them. As Jenni put it, "Many a time we have in effect conducted a 'workshop' for our jailers, acting out the role of a mother and teaching how the country can be rebuilt if we have love in our hearts."

When asked how they can endure so much violence -- and what keeps them going in the face of such overwhelming odds -- the women of WOZA reply, simply: "each other."

And that may be Magadonga's greatest achievement -- that she has given the women of Zimbabwe each other. That she has given people who long for peace and justice each other. That she has given them a voice they can only have collectively -- and a strength that they can only have together.

They are a force to be reckoned with. Because history tells us, truth has a life of its own once it's told. Love can transform a nation once it's taught. Courage can be contagious; righteousness can spread; and there is much wisdom in the old proverb: that God could not be everywhere, so he created mothers.

In the end, history has a clear direction -- and it is not the way of those who arrest women and babies for singing in the streets. It's not the way of those who starve and silence their own people, and cling to power by threat of force.

It is the way of the maid walking home in Montgomery; the young woman marching silently in the streets of Tehran; the leader imprisoned in her own home for her commitment to democracy.

It is the way of young people in Cape Town who braved the wrath of their government to hear a young senator from New York speak about the ripples of hope one righteous act can create.

And it is the way that Magadonga Mahlangu and Jenni Williams and the women and men who take to the streets of Harare and Bulawayo and Victoria Falls because they love their country and love their children and know that something better is possible.

Bobby Kennedy once said, "All great questions must be raised by great voices, and the greatest voice is the voice of the people -- speaking out -- in prose, or painting or poetry or music; speaking out -- in homes and halls, streets and farms, courts and cafes -- let that voice speak and the stillness you hear will be the gratitude of mankind."

Magadongo and WOZA have given so many of their fellow citizens of Zimbabwe that voice -- and tonight, we express our gratitude for their work.

It is now my pleasure to join with Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy to present the 2009 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award to Magodonga Mahlangu and WOZA. (Applause.)

END 6:12 P.M. EST

(end transcript)

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*WPD219 11/24/2009

Transcript: Interview with PEW Center's Manik Roy, Part 2: Energy Politics (Podcast on regional energy issues and climate change) (2081)

(begin transcript)

This is an America.gov podcast (http://stream.state.gov/streamvol/libmedia/usinfo/4770/eng/ia_eng_112709_cop_royuspol.mp3).

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Narrator:

How are various interest groups and the public in the United States reacting to new energy and climate policies? Today, we're joined once again by Manik Roy, vice president of federal government outreach for the Pew Center on Global Climate Change in Washington, D.C. We'll discuss regional energy issues, public opinion and the role of interest groups as America moves to a clean energy future.

Energy policy has long been a contentious issue in America. Now, new legislation making its way through the U.S. Congress has for the first time established a direct link between energy and climate change. A large question for lawmakers is how much the American public really knows about these issues.

Manik Roy:

The polling is showing that finally most Americans understand that climate change is real, and I think it's useful to think of different segments of our population. There is a large group, but by no means a majority, who recognize that climate change is real and that it is urgent and we need to do something about or else we put ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren at tremendous risk. There's another group, and I

think this is somewhat larger, that considers climate change as a problem that we should solve, but is not quite as convinced about the urgency, and I think between the two of those you have a majority of Americans. And then you get to the other end, and you have people who deny climate change and all that kind of thing. Well, one thing that is just terribly unfortunate is that a few years ago, there were some large commercial interests in the United States who really funded a campaign of disinformation about climate science and the urgency of it and all that sort of thing. We're still living with that now. You find it sort of along partisan lines now. Polling shows that a much higher percentage of Democrats than Republicans recognize the urgency of climate change. Basically, there's a partisan division on this issue that's just terribly unfortunate. There is a lack of understanding of the facts of the issue, and it complicates the policy-making process. It is, frankly, why the United States is so far behind some other places in the world on this issue right now.

Narrator:

Some areas of the country have embraced the move toward clean energy more readily than others. This is due in large part to the distribution of energy resources and how they're used. As Roy helps us understand, the diversity of energy sources makes energy and climate policy a complicated issue.

Manik Roy:

I think it's generally true that most Americans — and I'd be surprised if this wasn't the case around the world — most Americans don't really know, when you flip the light switch, where that energy comes from. But actually in the West — I'm from the West also — in the West a lot of our energy is from hydropower. You go to California and the Pacific Northwest; huge amount from hydropower. In the Northeast, you would think that — the Northeast of the United States is a very pro-environmental part of the country, but we actually use a lot of nuclear power in the Northeast and I think people don't realize how much nuclear power is used in the Northeast. But whether people know it or not, there is actually tremendous regional diversity, as you say, in our electricity sources in the United States. We tend to burn a lot of coal in the Midwest and in the South, and tend to rely more on nuclear power in the East, and nuclear and hydro in the West. And a little bit of renewable energy, but that's still a very, very small share of the total.

Narrator:

Diverse energy sources also mean a diverse number of interests seeking to influence the future of American energy policy.

Manik Roy:

There are four main interests who are involved in this. There are of course those of us who are very focused on the environmental concern, those of us who want to

reduce emissions as quickly as possible. But then on the industry side, in addition to the focus on the environmental objective, there are I think three economic sectors that are most in play on this. One is coal. The sectors of the economy, the regions of the country that dig up coal out of the ground and ship it around for it to be burned and then those areas that burn the coal, providing cheap electricity, and that second category overlaps very heavily with manufacturing. It turns out that a lot of our major manufacturing in the United States is done in areas where electricity has been provided cheap for years through the combustion of coal. And so, coal, manufacturing, and then I'd say a third area is agriculture. We have a huge amount of the United States that is agricultural. I would say the agricultural industry right now is probably the one that is most anxious about this. I think it's probably because the major players have not been as engaged on this issue for as long as coal and manufacturing.

Narrator:

While sectors such as transportation and heavy industry have a large stake in the eventual form of any energy and climate legislation, agriculture also has a very important role to play. American farmers are directly affected by policies promoting the increased use of biofuels, for example. But beyond that, farmers and foresters are likely to be key players in the climate part of legislation. Their livelihoods are directly linked to the health of the environment. How is the powerful American agricultural lobby involved in energy policy?

Manik Roy:

There was always a proposal to allow a certain amount of offsets through agriculture, and that basically means plants are mostly made up of carbon and when a plant dies and it gets put into the soil, you're basically building carbon in the soil. So you're storing carbon in the soil. A tree is basically a gigantic storage device for carbon, right? So there's always been interest in agricultural and forest offsets, in making it possible for farmers and foresters to actually enter this market that I described. But there are some challenges. You have to know that, to use some of the arcane language, there's a question of additionality and the question of permanence. If you give a farmer a credit for one ton of carbon dioxide, do you know that he will actually go out and do one ton more than he did before? And then there's the question of permanence. What if next year he goes out and he plows up the field and releases all that carbon into the atmosphere? Then there's no benefit to the atmosphere. So there are challenges there. And the controversy, it's really sort of an "inside U.S. politics controversy," but it was between what agency in the U.S. government gets to run this offsets program. Is it the Environmental Protection Agency, or is it the Department of Agriculture? And the latter of course is the one that is more familiar to U.S. farmers. EPA is our environmental policeman in this country – and it's like regular police. Everybody benefits from safe streets and all that kind of thing. But when police are out there writing a ticket on your car, you don't exactly appreciate that, right? I think it's the same in industry. I think, you

know, farmers care about the environment; people who run factories care about the environment. But they invariably have had a history with the cops on the beat and that makes them anxious about that, and the agriculture department on the other hand has been an assistant to farmers, an aid to farmers for generations and so there's a very close relationship.

Narrator:

Many observers of U.S. politics have commented that the health care debate in America has claimed far too much attention of the Obama administration, and that energy and more specifically, international cooperation on climate change, has suffered as a result.

Manik Roy:

There's a potential that the health care controversy that we're in the middle of now could actually work out to the benefit of this issue. If President Obama figures out a way forward on health care that Americans will look at and say 'yeah, that's a step forward,' it could bring him more political capital. It could give people the sense that, wow – he actually solved a huge problem. He didn't do everything that he set out to do, but he actually took a step forward and we see how big a challenge that is, and I think that could potentially leave him in even better shape to take on another challenge like this climate and energy challenge.

President Obama:

The nation that leads in the creation of a clean energy economy will be the nation that leads the 21st century global economy. Now is the time for the United States of America to realize this, too. Now's the time for us to lead. This legislation will finally make clean energy the profitable kind of energy. That will lead to the creation of new businesses, and entire new industries. And that will lead to American jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced. I've often talked about the need to build a new foundation for economic growth so that we don't return to the endless cycle of bubble and bust that led us to this recession. Clean energy and the jobs it creates will be absolutely critical to this new foundation. Because this legislation is so balanced and sensible, it's already attracted a remarkable coalition of consumer and environmental groups, labor and business leaders, Democrats and Republicans. And I want to thank every member of Congress who put politics aside to support this bill on Friday. Now my call to every Senator as well as to every American is this: we cannot be afraid of the future. And we must not be prisoners of the past. Don't believe the misinformation out there that suggests that there's somehow a contradiction between investing in clean energy and economic growth. It's just not true. We've been talking about energy for decades, but there's no longer a disagreement over whether our dependency on foreign oil is endangering our security. It is. There's no longer a debate about whether carbon pollution is placing our planet in jeopardy. It's happening. And there's no longer a question about

whether the jobs and industries of the 21st century will be centered around clean, renewable energy. The question is which country will create these jobs and these industries? I want that answer to be the United States of America.

Narrator:

President Obama spoke to the American people on June 27th, one day after the passage of the American Clean Energy and Security Act in the House of Representatives. Regardless of the fate of the proposed energy and climate legislation, one thing is clear: the level of awareness and engagement on the energy and climate issues in America has never been higher. From across the political spectrum – from NGOs, industry, agriculture, and even major players in the oil, gas and coal industries – comes the realization that changes in how America accesses and uses energy are coming. For example, the argument that environmental sacrifices must be made to ensure economic growth are increasingly seen as out of touch with reality.

Manik Roy:

I think everybody involved in this wants to protect the environment and grow the economy, right? I don't think those are mutually exclusive, and I don't think anybody cares so much more for one that they don't care about the other. It's just nonsense – it's a false choice. In fact, you can't have a healthy economy if your environment is ruined and you can't really afford to provide for the innovation that makes clean technology if your economy is ruined, so the two go hand-in-hand and that's really the way you have to look at it.

Narrator:

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(end transcript)

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*WPD220 11/24/2009

Transcript: Briefing by State Department Spokesman Ian Kelly
(Answers questions on Iran's nuclear program, Mideast, Russia) (1892)

(begin transcript)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
November 23, 2009

ON-THE-RECORD BRIEFING

Remarks to the Press by Department of State Spokesman Ian Kelly

November 23, 2009
Washington, D.C.

MR. KELLY: Okay. What can I do you for?

QUESTION: No questions. (Laughter.)

MR. KELLY: Okay. (Laughter.) It's great to see you all, though, I must say. It's been a few days. Who wants to start?

QUESTION: Does anyone want to start with Iran?

MR. KELLY: Mr. Dombey, you want to start?

QUESTION: I have a question.

MR. KELLY: All right. Mr. Wood.

QUESTION: Well, could we get an update on the P-5+1?

MR. KELLY: You guys are all so shy. Oh, update on the P-5+1.

QUESTION: And how the latest talks went and what's going on with Iran nukes?

MR. KELLY: Yeah. Oh, I think – didn't Robert give you a readout on Friday?

QUESTION: I just – I flew back from Kabul on Friday --

MR. KELLY: Oh, you did. Okay.

QUESTION: -- so --

MR. KELLY: Well, let me just kind of reiterate --

QUESTION: That complicates --

MR. KELLY: -- reiterate where we are then.

QUESTION: So if there's anything new as of today or the weekend.

MR. KELLY: Yeah. Well, there's actually not a whole lot that's new. They – of course, they met in Brussels and issued a statement where they expressed their disappointment that Iran has not been able to follow up, not been able to provide a positive answer to the proposal on the table from the IAEA to send out their low-enriched uranium for reprocessing outside the country. And we continue to urge Iran to seize this opportunity. It's an important opportunity for them to show that they're ready to address the concerns of the international community and, at the same time, meet the humanitarian needs of their people. But it's a fleeting opportunity and they need to take advantage of it.

The political directors also agreed that they would have another meeting shortly, exact time to be determined, to complete their assessment of the situation and decide on next steps in the context of their dual-track approach.

Meanwhile, there's another important date coming up with the meeting of the Board of Governors on Thursday, and they will discuss there the Director General's assessment that Iran should have declared its facility in Qom and, therefore, has not complied with its safeguard obligations, and that the construction of a new enrichment facility would be in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions. So this meeting on Thursday of the Board of Governors will be an opportunity to discuss these issues and for the board to make recommendations in light of these developments.

QUESTION: Ian, just for clarification down here. This is Friday's guidance, right? I mean, what you just --

MR. KELLY: This is nothing new, no.

QUESTION: Nothing new, okay. I just wanted to make --

MR. KELLY: This is Friday's guidance, yeah.

QUESTION: I think the word fleeting --

MR. KELLY: Sorry?

QUESTION: Yeah. I think the word fleeting --

QUESTION: Yeah, fleeting is new. Fleeting opportunity – very important. (Laughter.)

QUESTION: Ian, on the peace process, we're not hearing anything from the Administration regarding the peace process. What are you planning to do? Any plan for Senator Mitchell to go back to the Middle East?

MR. KELLY: Well, Senator Mitchell's in Washington and, of course, has had an opportunity to debrief the Secretary on his recent round of talks with Israeli negotiators. And he, of course, remains in contact with both sides, with his contacts on the Israeli side and his contacts on the Palestinian side. I don't think he has any plans right now to go back. Of course, we have our national holiday on Thursday, so I would not anticipate anything before then, certainly.

QUESTION: Ian, may I ask on a different subject, on START?

MR. KELLY: START.

QUESTION: Anything new for potential day of signing, because December 5th is approaching?

MR. KELLY: Sure is. Yeah.

QUESTION: There are talks that the two presidents will be meeting somewhere in Europe. Is it true?

MR. KELLY: Well, I have nothing to announce in that regard – regarding a meeting of the two presidents in Europe. You know that the negotiating teams continue to work very hard in Geneva. They have agreement on a number of issues, but they're also trying to work out some of the areas where they need to come together. You know that when the two presidents met in Singapore, they reiterated their commitment to signing a draft treaty by the expiration date, or signing a new treaty in December anyway.

But as you know, because the treaty has to be ratified by the respective legislators, we, of course, know that we are not going to have a ratified treaty that can enter into force, so we are having discussions with Russia to see how we can continue some of the transparency and verification measures, so that these measures can continue until the treaty is ratified.

And so we're working on kind of two tracks. One is to get that text done by early December. And then since we recognize we're not going to have a fully ratified treaty in both capitals, we're looking at ways that a number of provisions can remain in effect in this period between December 5th and whenever the new treaty is ratified.

QUESTION: Right. Do you think it's realistic that the negotiations will be completed by early December?

MR. KELLY: Well, we're certainly hopeful about it – that we'll be able to have a draft agreement that both sides are comfortable with.

QUESTION: So you mean that since you won't get a ratified treaty by December 5th, you will have monitors in place – the monitors who are in Russia and the U.S. – the Russians who are in the U.S., they will stay in place? There's no worry about that?

MR. KELLY: Well, we're working on various mechanisms to ensure that we can continue these monitoring activities that promote transparency, which is a really important part of these agreements.

QUESTION: And would – I mean, is there a risk – don't you have a draft already available that you just sign the – once December 5th –

MR. KELLY: But it wouldn't – it won't enter into force, though, until it's ratified. So you need to have some kind of mechanism to keep these means of monitoring in place and ongoing.

QUESTION: Ian, any idea who might be signing those? On the Secretary's level or on presidential level?

MR. KELLY: Peter, I really have nothing to announce on that.

QUESTION: I'm sorry. Ian, did you say there's anything new as far as, like, a bridging mechanism for – until the treaty is ratified?

MR. KELLY: It's something that's being worked out that we're still working with our Russian colleagues in Geneva.

QUESTION: So nothing to announce?

MR. KELLY: Nothing to announce, no.

QUESTION: And the fact that Lugar, you know, introduced legislation that was voted out of committee the other day?

MR. KELLY: Well, I think that's part of it.

QUESTION: Oh.

MR. KELLY: Yeah. But it has to be done on both sides.

QUESTION: So is that – is there time to get it done by December 5th?

MR. KELLY: Well, we certainly hope so. We think these monitoring mechanisms are important. And so we're working on it.

QUESTION: Any update for Bosworth's trip to North Korea?

MR. KELLY: I do not have anything to add to what we said on Friday and the day before that and the day before that.

QUESTION: I heard that his schedule will be extended to stay in the North Korea. Do – you said –

MR. KELLY: Oh, I haven't heard that. I don't think we have a set schedule in North Korea yet.

QUESTION: But you said they want to have – that he will stay. There are some reports saying that it's a little more extended.

MR. KELLY: Well, like I say, we're still working with officials in Pyongyang to develop an appropriate schedule.

QUESTION: And you don't know what – in what order he's visiting other countries after?

MR. KELLY: Well, we're just – we're not prepared to announce the details of his trip, but he does anticipate going to all five capitals: Seoul, Pyongyang, Tokyo, Beijing and Moscow. But I don't think we've had all – the order put in place yet.

QUESTION: They're still considering who will go with him?

MR. KELLY: I think we know. It's going to be a small delegation – interagency delegation, but we're just – we're not prepared to announce it yet. We will be able to soon, though.

QUESTION: Yesterday –

MR. KELLY: Okay? No? Yeah.

QUESTION: – North Korea urging to replace armistice agreement with peace treaty. Do you have that (inaudible)?

MR. KELLY: I'm not sure I understand the question.

QUESTION: North Korea official newspapers urge you to replace armistice agreement with peace treaty.

QUESTION: Yeah, urging the replacement of –

QUESTION: Yeah, yeah.

QUESTION: He's saying that the North Korean media has said is urging the replacement of the armistice with a peace treaty, which is something –

MR. KELLY: Well, we are focused on resuming the Six-Party Talks. That's really what all our energies and all of our attention is devoted to now. That's the purpose of Ambassador Bosworth's trip. We don't anticipate discussing these kinds of issues within the context of his visit. I think you know, though, as part of the Six-Party Talks, there is a provision for having bilateral working groups, but we're not at that point, obviously. We first want to get the Six-Party Talks resumed.

QUESTION: And do you know if the Secretary is going to be in upstate New York for Thanksgiving and –

MR. KELLY: (Laughter.)

QUESTION: And I mean, is that – are people taking off for a couple (inaudible)?

MR. KELLY: She does plan to spend Thanksgiving with her family, but we don't have anything – I have no announcements about where she's spending it.

QUESTION: And what's Steinberg up to – Steinberg?

MR. KELLY: I honestly do not know.

QUESTION: He's probably working.

MR. KELLY: He's probably working, yeah.

QUESTION: Yeah.

MR. KELLY: I'll be working.

QUESTION: He's writing your statements.

MR. KELLY: He's writing my statements. (Laughter.)

QUESTION: Probably so.

QUESTION: Ian?

MR. KELLY: Yeah.

QUESTION: Somalia announced that it's going to join the Convention on the Rights of the Child. And if they do so, the United States is going to be the only country that hasn't ratified the treaty. So I'm wondering what's the position of this Administration on that treaty?

MR. KELLY: I'll have to find out.

QUESTION: Could you take –

MR. KELLY: That's a taken question.

QUESTION: Yeah. Can you do a similar on the landmine treaty? There's going to be the conference in Cartagena next week.

MR. KELLY: Yeah, that's right.

QUESTION: And what's the U.S. –

MR. KELLY: We actually have some guidance on that. I can't recall it off the top of my head.

QUESTION: You don't have it with you?

MR. KELLY: No, I'm afraid not. But we do have guidance on that that we can send out to you, yeah.

QUESTION: If you can take that and whether you're going to join – okay.

MR. KELLY: Yeah.

QUESTION: Okay.

MR. KELLY: Okay?

QUESTION: Thanks.

MR. KELLY: All right. Thank you.

(end transcript)

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Transcript: U.S. Envoy Holbrooke Briefs on Afghanistan, Pakistan
(Special representative takes questions on recent trip by Secretary Clinton) (6875)

(begin transcript)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesman
November 23, 2009

ON-THE-RECORD BRIEFING

Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Ambassador Richard C.
Holbrooke

November 23, 2009
Washington, D.C.

MR. CROWLEY: Good afternoon and welcome to the Department of State. Last week, Secretary Clinton, on the tail end of her trip to Asia, was in Kabul to observe the inauguration of President Karzai for a second term of office. Some of you were along on that leg of the trip. With her, of course, was our Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke.

But we thought it was important, now that there is a government in place in Afghanistan, for Richard to come back down to kind of put her trip in context and chart the way forward on the civilian side of the strategy as we await the decision by the president on the military component.

So with that, Richard.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Thanks, P.J. I'm here to report on Secretary Clinton's trip to Afghanistan, and also, since I haven't been here since Pakistan, happy to talk about that too.

And before I go into any of the trip, I want to explain this – these members of our team from our office. This is not our whole team. These are just some of the people. But I'd like each one of them just to stand, identify who they are, and what they do because we're here today to talk about the civilian effort, but most of the focus is understandably on the troop issue. But that's not what we're here to talk about. And this is the whole-of-government approach. Some of the people you know, some of the people you don't know.

I'd just like to start here with Dereck and just let each person stand, say who they are, and what agency they're with and what they do, and then we'll get into the discussion.

MR. HOGAN: Good afternoon. My name is Dereck Hogan. I'm a State Department Foreign Service officer and I focus on governance and (inaudible).

MS. WHITE: I'm Maureen White and I'm the (inaudible) and I focus on refugee and (inaudible).

MR. SHY: My name is Rami Shy. I'm with the Department of Treasury, working for (inaudible).

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Some of you know Rami. It's not for today's – necessary, but it's a very important issue, and we have these big State-Treasury task forces on illicit finance.

MS. GOODMAN: Hi, I'm Mary Beth Goodman. I'm a Foreign Service officer focusing on energy and economics.

MS. KOENEN: Good afternoon. Julie Koenen, working on development issues in Pakistan.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: And from AID.

MS. KOENEN: From USAID, yeah.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Sepideh.

MS. KEYVANSHAD: Hi, I'm Sepideh Keyvanshad, also from USAID on detail working on development of foreign assistance.

MR. STIGLITZ: Hello, Matt Stiglitz. I'm on detail from the Department of Justice working on rule of law and other related issues.

MR. REIMANN: Hello. Chris Riemann, detail from the FBI working on police training and capacity building.

MS. ARZT: Good afternoon, JoAnne Arzt from the State Department. I focus on civilian staffing.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: She – JoAnne has overseen this enormous increase in our civilian personnel.

MS. MARRIOTT: Hello, my name is Jane Marriott. You can tell from the accent I'm a British Foreign Service officer and (inaudible) seconded to work for Ambassador Holbrooke, and I focus on Afghanistan political issues, including elections and reintegration issues.

MS. AMIRI: Good afternoon. My name is Rina Amiri. I'm the Senior Advisor on Afghanistan to Ambassador Holbrooke and I work on election-related issues and political issues.

MR. LIST: Tim List from the Department of Homeland Security. I work mainly on cross-border and border management issues.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: And the Coast Guard, right, Tim?

MR. LIST: Yes, sir.

MS. SIMON: I'm Jessica Simon, Foreign Service officer – some of you know me – working on capacity (inaudible).

MR. GONZALEZ: Hi, I'm Otto Gonzalez. I'm on assignment from the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the agricultural advisor.

MS. FAILLACE: Karlygash Faillace. I'm the press officer in SCA (inaudible).

MS. BOMMER: Ashley Bommer, special advisor to Ambassador Holbrooke, also working on communication and (inaudible) propaganda (inaudible).

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Now, a lot of people are missing – my two deputies, Vikram Singh – some are in the field, some are traveling – Vali Nasr and Barney Rubin are both off working on projects right now. But I do want to just emphasize that this is the whole-of-government process which Secretary Clinton and President Obama committed themselves to when they announced this office two days after the inauguration. I've never brought this team down here before. We did one joint appearance at the CAP earlier in the summer, but it was a smaller group then.

And our purpose here today is to make clear that there's a major civilian component to our efforts, and I do want to say one thing about Jane Marriott. This is her last two or three days here. She was on loan from the British Government, fully integrated into our staff. She will be going – am I allowed to say your next assignment? Or is it a top secret?

MS. MARRIOTT: It's not official yet.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Unofficially --

MS. MARRIOTT: (Inaudible.) (Laughter.)

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Unofficially, the – Her Majesty's government is sending her to Tehran as the deputy chief of mission. So we're really – she will be replaced – she will be succeeded, but she can't be replaced. It's really – quite seriously, she's done an unbelievable job. And I've worked with a lot of people who were on loan at the Department. I've never seen anyone who did a job as good as Jane, and we will sorely miss her.

Let me see, what else do I want to say about this team? We are also reorganizing our international outreach. And the counterparts – there are about 25 or 26 counterparts to my job now, established since this job was set up. And the Germans have been coordinating that effort. And with the elections now behind us, we're

going to be intensifying our efforts on coordinating the international effort. The Germans are appointing a new counterpart as part of the agreement between the CDU and the FDP. We don't know who that will be yet, unless it was announced today. And they will remain the coordinator, but we have agreed to set up an international cell here in the building which will do a lot of the work. So we are going to accelerate our international process.

Now, to report on the Secretary's trip. I know some of you I see here were on the trip with us, some were not, so let me just start at the beginning. This was her first trip to Afghanistan as Secretary of State, her fourth trip in her life, and it was a very important trip. She timed it to coincide with the inauguration, precisely because we felt that the inauguration marked the end of a long, complicated process – the president used the word “messy” at one point – and produced a new government.

We have been waiting a long time to work with a government that had been – that was a result of the elections. And whatever one thinks of the elections, they were not perfect. And we said from the beginning they wouldn't be perfect. We – all of us said this publicly well before the elections. They produced a winner and a legitimate government with which we intend to work as closely as possible.

As the Secretary said, we are encouraged by what we saw during this trip. Secretary Clinton described the moment that we saw a few days ago as a window of opportunity.

On the night we arrived, she and I and Ambassador Eikenberry and General McChrystal had dinner with President Karzai at the palace. A very warm, very cordial meeting, substantially different in tone from meetings during the election period. The election was behind us, and he brought with him his senior ministers in key areas. And the first part of the evening was devoted to very detailed discussions with the minister of agriculture, the minister of finance, the minister of education, and the chief of intelligence. The minister of interior was supposed to be there, but he was out in the city making sure that there would be no attacks during the ceremonies the next day, so we missed him.

The conversation was detailed and engaged. Those of you who knew Hillary Clinton as a senator and followed her closely may or may not know this, but she had been all over the agriculture issue as a senator. She had worked with the State University of New York – I think it's Stony Brook, but I'm not positive – to get a big tree planting program. She had followed it very closely. She was fascinated to hear details, which normally don't interest all of you but interested her greatly, about 12 tons of apples that were airlifted to India a few days before we arrived. This was a very big story in the Afghan press. It opened up a new opportunity for Afghan agriculture.

As I think you all know, after the security issue, we believe agriculture is our highest immediate priority in the civilian area, for the simplest reason: it's 80 percent of the people. They're great farmers. They had mass – they had big export markets until

1978. They exported pomegranates and raisins, they dominated the world raisin export market – almonds, pistachios, saffron, wheat. And they want to get back to that, but they need help. We inherited a situation where we were – the United States was putting less money into agriculture than were in poppy crop destruction. That didn't make a lot of sense to us. So as I mentioned the last time I was here, we phased out supporting poppy crop eradication. Some may still go on, but that's Afghan-run now. The U.S. is not involved. The military is focusing on interdiction. They're working closely with the DEA and the FBI and other parts of the U.S. Government, and they have had very substantial success in interdiction.

And meanwhile, we're putting a lot of money into agriculture. Otto Gonzalez, who introduced himself a moment ago, is our liaison with the Agriculture Department. Secretary Vilsack will be going to Afghanistan soon. Date is not yet clear. We've had to reschedule it because he's involved in some high domestic priorities. But he will be going early next year, and that will be a very important trip for us. So she engaged in a very detailed discussion of agriculture with Minister Rahimi.

Then the finance minister discussed both economic issues, the ongoing negotiations on the transit agreement, which President Obama had mentioned specifically in the May 6th and 7th trilateral summit. Mary Beth Goodman is our point person on that, both here and in Islamabad and Kabul. We talked about anti-corruption efforts and the general financial state of Afghanistan. Then the minister of education gave a very encouraging report on the extraordinary progress that has been made despite the Taliban in that field – and this was an impressive performance in these fields, and then the intelligence chief talked about the Taliban. And then – and she talked about that in her public comments in Afghanistan which have been issued by P.J. and the Department.

On the personnel side, we are dramatically increasing our personnel, and JoAnne Arzt is in charge of that effort. When we came into office, there were about 300 American civilians in all of Afghanistan, and most of them were on six-month tours and they had very substantial leave arrangements to go to Dubai or Abu Dhabi or somewhere else regularly. And there was no real continuity. There are no more six-month tours. Spouses are allowed to come, indeed encouraged to come, if they take jobs. And the school-aged children issue is a big problem, but there are plenty of spouses there now. And that, of course, has multiple payoffs. Leaves have been changed, and more and more people are signing up for lengthier tours. And some of the people here have had tours in Afghanistan and will rotate back.

And so we are going to be at about 900 people. I think Jack gave you the figures in his lengthy press conference the other day. And some of you went to Camp Atterbury with Jack Lew on Thursday, the same day we were in Kabul, and you saw the training process out there, which Dereck Hogan has been responsible for setting up.

The – so the civilian effort is going quite well, and I must say a tripling while we eliminate six-month tours – is really more than a tripling in terms of person days in the field. It's far more. So it's – this is an extraordinary increase. And if you consider that each one of the Americans has a footprint of nine or 10 support people – Afghans, third-country nationals, NGOs – it's a very large increase, proportionally larger than the military.

We will have 900, about 900 by the --

PARTICIPANT: One thousand.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Say again?

PARTICIPANT: About 974 by the end of the year.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Yeah, 974 by the end of the year is the current target. Actually, to be even more precise, 974 by the early weeks of next year. We're going to run a couple of weeks behind the original buildup schedule, not because we don't have the people, but simply because of the vetting and personnel process. It's as simple as that. I don't want to go into all these figures because that's not why you're here and you've already heard from Jack on that, but it is very important. And more American civilians will be on their way next year. We're in advance talks with Ambassador Eikenberry, Jack Lew, AID and elsewhere on that.

On Thursday of last week – the dinner was Wednesday night – on Thursday of last week, after the inauguration ceremonies, Secretary Clinton and I, General McChrystal and Ambassador Eikenberry met with an extraordinary and impressive group of American civilians and military who had come in from the field. All of the seniors except the Secretary of State sat off the table. The table was only the people from the provinces run by Ambassador Tony Wayne.

And for a very long time, I would say an hour and a half or more, and she – and this actually delayed our departure from Kabul, and this is the reason, for those of you who remember, why we didn't land till after 4:00 in the morning. It was this meeting because she was enjoying it so much. She really drilled down on rule of law, on agriculture, on civilian-military integration. And I know that she has already described this to her colleagues on the principals committee, and I'm sure she will do so again in the meetings that are coming up. It was a terrific meeting, and she was enormously proud of this integrated civilian-military process. We all talk about civ-mil integration, and the bottom line on it is the closer you get to the battlefield, the closer the integration. And at the province level and the district level, it is really remarkable.

Now, on Pakistan – we haven't met in this room on Pakistan since she returned – I have traveled with and watched many secretaries of state. I have never seen a Secretary of State have a trip in which the public diplomacy part of it was more

extraordinary than this trip. Everywhere that she went, she was greeted as an iconic person, but then hit very aggressively on issues. And she just kept taking the questions and making an extraordinary impact on the Pakistani people.

As many of you in this room know firsthand, everything she did was covered live. Her visit to the shrine was particularly successful and got huge approval. She met with women's groups – hundreds of women – students in Lahore, businessmen and women in Lahore, parliamentarians, tribal leaders from FATA and elsewhere. And she gave interviews to the radio journalists of Afghanistan – of Pakistan. And as it evolved, it was a conversation. She seemed to be saying – and this is me, this is in my words, not hers – she seemed to be saying we are friends with a disagreement and this is the way friends talk about things. And you could see the impact.

She also had very important private meetings with President Zardari, Prime Minister Gilani, Foreign Minister Qureshi, General Kiyani and General Pasha, and Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Sharif in Lahore. So she had one of those trips that those of you who accompanied know how intense it was. I was very proud to be part of that trip, and I think it marked a – the beginning of a turn in our relations with Pakistan. You're not going to see it show up immediately in public opinion polls, but the goal here was to lay the foundations for a partnership, a deeper, more productive, genuine partnership among two sovereign nations.

She also agreed to a new strategic dialogue. In the previous administration, the strategic dialogue was conducted by the Deputy Secretary of State on the American side. She will personally lead the strategic dialogue. Now, there's been a lot of talk about trilateral and bilateral and not coupling Afghanistan and Pakistan. The truth is we have bilateral relations with each country. But they are interrelated, and this addresses it directly. She's elevated the strategic dialogue with Pakistan to the ministerial level and will personally lead it, and we will tee that up for early next year – not too early. It takes – we don't want to just have a meeting for a photo op. And meanwhile, we will continue the trilateral process. So we will parallel track here.

We are completing a new civilian assistance program which will broaden the scope of our relations with Pakistan and help Pakistan address its long-term development needs. The reason we were late to this meeting is we were meeting with Ambassador Raphel. She's back from Islamabad. She is essentially our chief of operations in Pakistan now. And she and Vali Nasr – is Vali here? No, Vali is – Vali and she are working right now on this.

We are working out the operationalizing of the general agreements as we speak, and we're talking about how to improve our economic assistance and to help the overall – the people of Pakistan in their major needs like energy and water. Water came up more than any other issue on the trip, even more than energy, and we took that very seriously. And our NGO officer, Ronan Farrow, who is not here right now, is – was working on the water NGO issue, because expertise on water is much greater in the private sector. All of this is going to complement our new public diplomacy effort,

which Judith McHale and Ashley Bommer are jointly spearheading. And we hope that the Pakistani people will recognize our deep respect for their sovereignty and our deep commitment to help them deal with the pressing problems they face.

We – so that’s a brief report on the two trips. I think with that, I’ll be happy to take your questions, and if it’s too technical, I would defer to one of my colleagues.

QUESTION: Ambassador Holbrooke, one on Afghanistan and one on Pakistan, if I might. There has been a lot of talk about whether the Afghan military force is kind of a reliable partner. But I’m wondering in terms of the civilian, from what you’ve seen on the ground as you ramp up your civilian presence, do you think you have enough of a well-trained kind of Afghan civilian reliable partner to do what you need to do? Or do you think that there will be as much need for training of the Afghans and --

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: As – sorry, go ahead.

QUESTION: And then on – if I might, on Pakistan, there’s a lot of uncertainty about the future stability of the Zardari government, given that – some rulings that are going to be coming up. I was wondering how much of that – of a concern is that that there could be a vacuum on the --

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: I’m not going to comment on the internal affairs of Pakistan. I just want to make that clear right now. We’re well aware of it. We’re following it very carefully. But if it’s an internal political issue, it needs to be dealt with by the Pakistani people. It’s – and that’s all I think I should say on that.

On your first question, like any government, there are ministers that are better than other ministers. There are some ministers who are put up to extraordinary records. I go back again, for example – well, I’m afraid if I single one out, it won’t be good for his health, but – so I won’t single any out. But we want to work with the strong ministries, and we also recognize that the leadership in Afghanistan is thin because of the high illiteracy rate, the horrific consequences of 30 years of continuous war, the enormous set of refugees, the diaspora people who left the country, and very few of whom have returned, and the conditions in Afghanistan.

This is one of the main reasons we’re increasing our civilian role. And it’s extremely delicate to get the mix right. We want to help the Afghans help themselves. We do not want to replace a sovereign government with internationals. And by the way, many other countries are increasing, too. So if you go into a ministry now, you may run into people from the UN, from EU countries, Japan. It’s quite complicated. And one of our major goals is to coordinate this better, and that’s what I meant when I alluded earlier to our new efforts to coordinate international.

So what is our belief in the capacity here? Well, that’s – it’s very hard to answer this question. We know how important it is. Building the Afghan Government’s capacity to run their own affairs is one of the three or four sine qua non of a process by which

eventually, on a timetable I can't give you, the international combat troops, including the U.S., can be replaced by local security and the international civilian advisors can phase down over time. But international economic assistance from – to Afghanistan will continue for a long, long time, as Secretary Clinton has said publicly during her trip. And I want to stress that point.

QUESTION: Thank you very much. I'm (inaudible) Dawn newspaper. Two things. There was – there's a statement by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who said that he believed that the Pakistanis do not necessarily share the U.S. commitment or U.S. intention for Afghanistan and they have their own intentions and they may be pursuing that. Your comment on that?

And also, he said that he is not sure whether the – who is running the Pakistan army, the (inaudible) government or not. And there was also a report in the Pakistani media today that probably U.S. Government representatives in Afghan and the Pakistani Government representatives had a meeting with the Taliban somewhere.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: The first two questions, I'm not going to answer because I haven't seen the statement. And what was your third?

QUESTION: And a meeting between the U.S. and Afghan and Pakistani Government representatives and the Taliban.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: To my knowledge, and I believe – and this is absolutely true – there has been no direct meetings between American officials and Taliban officials. There was one accidental engagement about a year ago, actually before the inauguration of President Obama. It was inadvertent and it wasn't a real Taliban, and that was – that became public and we cleared that up. There are no – we are not having direct contacts with the Taliban. Secretary Clinton in her speech to the Council on Foreign Relations in – what was it, June or July –

STAFF: July.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: July 15th, she made a speech which – in which only a few of you noticed the paragraph on Afghanistan. One or two of you reported it. But that was very important. She laid out the conditions by which the U.S. believes people fighting with the Taliban can rejoin, reintegrate into Afghan society. And the first point she mentioned was renounce al-Qaida. Remember and never forget, we are in Afghanistan because of 9/11. And the other thing was to renounce violence and to lay down their arms and participate in life peacefully. In fact, many, many Taliban have done that since 2002 – people who were senior officials. And but – and some of them are in the National Assembly. You have former Taliban in the National Assembly. And there's regular contact between them and internationals, including Americans. But what you're talking about, no, sir.

Yes, sir.

QUESTION: And – how reassured –

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Can you identify yourself? If you could identify yourself.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) from the BBC. How reassured were you by what you were hearing about the fight against corruption? And can I ask you what is it that concerns you? I mean, corruption can cover a whole host of different activities?

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Corruption is an enormously complicated issue. It's easy just to put the word in a headline. But when you really get down to it, what does it mean what – when – what's the difference between traditional bakshish and big corruption – these are very complicated issues. Let me be very, very clear on this: We are deeply concerned about corruption. And Secretary Clinton did not hesitate to discuss this.

The – a lot of – we have – because the international community, led by the United States, has such a large footprint in Afghanistan, and a lot of the targets of opportunity for corruption come from the international community. And so we have a legitimate concern on that score, and that's what the GAO and SIGAR, the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction, focus on, and because we have American troops and our allies on the line risking their lives, we have a legitimate reason to ask for better performance on corruption. President Karzai in his speech, in his inaugural speech, addressed this problem, saying he would set up a commission, he would – excuse me – he would strengthen the existing Commission on Corruption and he would hold some special conferences on it, I believe was his word. I don't have the speech in front of me. But we discussed this subject at considerable length with him.

Yes, sir.

QUESTION: Ambassador Holbrooke, John Terrett from Al Jazeera, English Television. This is a question about the visit of Manmohan Singh and it straddles both your two key areas of responsibility. India wants more influence in Afghanistan, as you know, and has already pumped in \$1.2 billion into the country. You talked about the apples – the 12 tons coming back the other way.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: That's just trade and balances. (Laughter.)

QUESTION: Pakistan on the other hand, remains suspicious of Indian kind of hegemony – they talk about putting, you know, the Afghan – the Indian reach. How can the U.S. balance the interests of these two key partners, one of which is the key ally in the war on terror?

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Well, first of all, all Americans and certainly everyone in this Administration are just delighted that the first state visit of this Administration is for India. I think this is very appropriate. And no one in Pakistan, and no one in any other country, should read this in any way as a diminution of the importance we attach to them. It's entirely appropriate that someone has to have the first trip. And it – it usually used to be in the past, a European ally, but they come over in informal trips. A state dinner, a state visit is a big deal, different level of intensity. And President Obama thought this was the right way to go, and we're thrilled. It in no way should be read as a diminution.

We seek to improve our relations with Pakistan. We seek to improve our relations with China. We seek to improve our relations with India. This is not a zero-sum gain. Every country benefits from improvement in the area. I'm not going to go into the specifics of it. First of all, it's not part of my formal responsibilities, although I look forward to participating on some of the meetings, and seeing some of my old friends from New Delhi.

But I do just want to say that I read the press, I understand what New Delhi and Islamabad, Lahore say about each other. But it's really – it really is not justified by the facts in many cases. These two countries live side by side and have to live together. And our role is to assist both of them in different ways, according to their own desires and their own view of their own sovereignty.

Indira.

QUESTION: Thanks, Ambassador. Before we met up with you in Kabul, you had been in Moscow, and we never got a readout of that leg of your trip in between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Could you tell us what did you accomplish in Russia? Did you get any specific commitments with regard to Afghanistan?

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Actually, I was in Berlin and Paris, then Moscow.

QUESTION: Right.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: And I also met with the British along the way. And then, I would add, since I'll do the whole international , that in Kabul, as you saw, we had foreign ministers from France, the Netherlands, deputy foreign minister of Japan. And I would draw your attention to the fact that the Japanese quadrupled their aid last week and went up to \$5 billion commitments – a tremendously important decision by the new government. Canada, their foreign ministers there, the Indian foreign minister was there, and the senior officials from many other countries.

Specifically to Russia, as you know, I've been trying to go to all the concerned countries, but I haven't been able to get to all of them up to now. I still haven't gotten to all of them, simply because of two things: the need to make – in the early

part of my job, I had to go to Afghanistan and Pakistan a lot, because there were so many issues to straighten out. We were in a period of transition in our leadership in Afghanistan, and we had to put a whole new team in place, and we had to rethink our Pakistan policy in conjunction with Anne Patterson and – our ambassador there, who was – who has been kept on, because of the high confidence we all have in her.

Now, I was unable to get to Moscow earlier for logistical reasons, and just scheduling. And in that talk, we outlined to the Russians our strategic view and put forward the simple proposition that Russia and the United States, like all the countries in the neighborhood, have a common strategic symmetry, that stability is something that's important to all the neighbors and near neighbors.

The Russians pointed out to us that they had legitimate strategic concerns in the area, which we agree with. And they have one overriding issue, which is mentioned prominently in the joint communiqué of President Obama and President Medvedev, dated July 2nd or June 2nd – I can't remember which, but one of those two dates – and that is narcotics. That is a big, big issue for the Russians. And we talked a lot about how we could work together on that issue, and we explained our policies.

I met with the deputy national security advisor, the national security advisor being out of the country in Singapore. I met with Sergey Lavrov, the foreign minister, my old counterpart at the United Nations and a close friend. I met with members of the ministry of defense and reassured them that the United States does not seek a permanent NATO presence in Afghanistan. I met with the drug czar, with the Russian equivalent of FEMA, and with many other officials on the trip. It was a very productive opening meeting, and we agreed we will continue the dialogue. I took an interagency team with me from various agencies. And we will continue the dialogue in the near future. We also had a team in China before the President's trip. And we have had consultations with Turkey and – which we are going to continue. So there's a lot of activity going on.

QUESTION: Did the Russians make any specific pledge or promise or agree to give any particular kind of assistance or –

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: No, no, no.

QUESTION: -- routes, land routes for the –

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: They – well, I leave to General Petraeus the logistical issue, and you know about that. They didn't give any promises, but they showed considerable interest and readiness to do more to help repair some of the damage that has been brought over the last 30 years. It's a complicated issue for reasons you all understand. But in the non – but we are – but we were very pleased with these initial talks.

MR. TONER*: We have time for just a couple more questions.

QUESTION: Yes. Ambassador Holbrooke, Charlie Wolfson with CBS. Given that you're here to talk about the civilian side, but recognizing that a lot of the civilians who will be in the field depend on the increased military, and given that the President's announced a meeting tonight at the White House, he's had eight – and I believe this is the ninth – where does thoroughness and decision making stop and indecisiveness start, since he's been accused of that?

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Last time I was at this podium, I said very frankly that my experience on these issues, and I – as a very junior officer, I lived through the Lyndon Johnson decision-making process in 1965, and when I was in Saigon, and in 1968 when I was assistant to a deputy secretary of state. As I've seen a lot of these things, this is the most thorough, the most sustained, most thoughtful process I have ever seen. And over the long course of it, we have seen – we have all learned a great deal from each other in a way which I think is exactly the way decisions should be made.

I'm not going to get into public debates. I'm not going to go in that direction. I just feel that what you've seen is a very serious debate, and that's really all I want to say about it. But I'm honored to have been a small part of it.

QUESTION: Sir, (inaudible) with (inaudible) MBC Television. Since you talked about corruption, and you said you were very concerned about it, and considering you had a minister who was accused – allegedly accused of taking \$30 million in a bribe, would the Administration pick the ministers in President Karzai's new government?

And on the reconciliation issue, President Karzai talked about a loya jirga type of meeting, he invited the Taliban and Abdullah Abdullah. Both declined and they've been very negative. Does this undermine the effort in terms of having a stable new government and the security efforts?

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: On the first half of your question, we're not picking the ministers in the government. But we certainly hope that the ministers are the best possible ministers. And who they are and how effective they are and the issue you just mentioned will all be factors in determining our interaction with them.

And on the loya jirga question, to be quite honest with you, I want to learn a little more about what is in – the government has in mind before I opine on it. But it's not a hundred percent clear yet how it will work or what its purpose would be. And it's part of another process where there are some international conferences. In his – in President Karzai's inaugural speech, he talked about a conference in Kabul next year, and that's also part of the process.

I think there's one or two – one more.

QUESTION: Thank you, Ambassador Holbrooke. You said that the United States can assist Pakistan and India toward peace and security (inaudible). Would you –

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Now, please be careful here. I don't think that's what I said. I said that we think that good relations between the U.S. and India, and good relations between the U.S. and Pakistan are not incompatible, and that we are not going to get involved in negotiating these kinds of things. Please, it's really important, because when we get misquoted or twisted by some of the press in these countries, we really have to spend a lot of time – poor P.J. has to spend the whole night with the time difference cleaning it up. Let's stick to the precise words I used here.

Yes, sir.

QUESTION: Would you support a resumption of talks between the two countries? Because Pakistan says that it will feel more at ease to fight terrorists on its (inaudible).

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: If the two countries decide to resume talks or have any sort of talks, of course we'll support them. But we're not their midwife. We're not their intermediaries. We're not trying to play a role that goes beyond our legitimate area of involvement.

QUESTION: Sue Fleming with Reuters. Just to follow on from my colleague's question on the talks with the Taliban, apparently the Saudis and the British are involved in those talks with the Taliban, along with the Pakistanis. Do you have any details on those discussions?

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: I can't speak about the British. You have to ask them. As far as the Saudis go, President Karzai mentioned them by name in his speech. It's well known that he asked King Abdullah to play a role here, and I will let the Saudis speak for themselves. I have talked to the Saudis. I've been to Riyadh. I talked to King Abdullah about it myself. We would be supportive of anything that the kingdom chose to do in this regard.

QUESTION: But I was talking about Pakistan there.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: I think --

QUESTION: About the talks with the – between – with Pakistan and –

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Oh, I don't know anything about that.

QUESTION: And then –

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: I mean, I read a news account. But I don't know what the facts are.

QUESTION: And then you also mentioned the trade transit agreement. What is the status of those negotiations between Afghanistan and Pakistan? It seems that they are stalled and that you won't make the deadline at the end of the year.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: I don't think that's a fair conclusion. Have any of you have ever seen a negotiation which didn't go down to the wire – international negotiations? I think we have a good shot at making the deadline. There are two or three outstanding issues.

Is that right, Mary Beth?

MS. GOODMAN: Right.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: And if you want more details on that, why don't you call our office and – I don't want to involve everyone in it. But we are hopeful it will be done. This is – let me – let's be clear for those of you who haven't followed this negotiation. This negotiation began before half of you in this room were born. It's 44 years old. It's the – really, older than you are; I can tell. (Laughter.) Not older than me, unfortunately.

This is 44 years, and President Obama asked the two leaders of their countries to try to finish it by the end of the year. It's a very ambitious goal. It's not easy to do. And we have gotten it down to two or three issues. And my hat's off to Mary Beth Goodman for the role she has played here.

So you want to do one more? Okay. Last question, I guess.

QUESTION: I'm Lachlan Carmichael from AFP. As you – as the Obama Administration conducts the review on Afghanistan, how much are you consulting with the Pakistanis? The reason I ask is Foreign Minister Qureshi said November 1st that Pakistan could offer a lot more and implied there have been almost zero consultation –

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: I don't think he implied that. The Secretary of State was in Islamabad and Lahore, the National Security Advisor was in Islamabad. Foreign Minister Qureshi has been here twice in the last – how long – five weeks, six weeks? Yeah. We are in constant contact, also through their excellent ambassador in Washington.

They're – I don't believe that anyone seriously thinks we're not having detailed consultations with Pakistan. So if that was said, I think it has to be put into context. But there's no country we're consulting more closely than Pakistan, nor is there any country that's more integrally related to this issue. Admiral Mullen is in constant

contact with the Pakistani military. I'm in constant contact with leaders of their government by phone and other means. So I just don't see that as a real issue.

Oh, well, thank you very much.

QUESTION: Thank you.

AMBASSADOR HOLBROOKE: Thanks.

(end transcript)

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*WPD222 11/24/2009

Transcript: Women Entrepreneurs: Marcela Echevarria
(Podcast with owner of Colombian design firm SuRevolution) (678)

(begin transcript)

Narrator:

Marcela Echevarria is from Colombia. Even though her education was in history and literature, she has become a successful entrepreneur and created a unique company that succeeds not only as a business enterprise, but helps preserve cultural tradition. Marcela participated as a mentor in Pathways to Prosperity, a women entrepreneurs' conference in Washington on October 9th, 2009. She told us how she started her business and why relationships are such a key part of being a successful entrepreneur.

Marcela Echevarria:

I am in the business of embracing sustainability in the luxury market through finding artisans that have beautiful traditions, ancestral traditions, and finding markets for them from a showroom that we have in New York and, through their products, expressing their culture and keeping it alive.

I call what we do archeological design which is a combination because, you know, the artisanal world is very diverse. You have indigenous artisans, rural, and urban. Of course the indigenous art pieces that are ritual, that are one-of-a-kind, very special, very culturally rich and then with the urban and rural artisans, you can have more of a conversation, design-wise. But it always starts from their tradition, their know-how, and their spirit. You know, it's not like a manufacturing relationship — no. It's a conversation.

Basically I went to school here and studied history and literature, and I wanted to write. And I went back to Colombia after graduating in '95, and I wanted to write about things that the world is losing — traditions, food — so I reached out to the main editors and publishers and I said, "I have this idea, I want to really write about the gypsy who is doing this beautiful hand-hammered piece," and they looked at me like, "Wow — that's really strange." They didn't really pay much attention because it was a moment in the '90's where everything in South America wanted to be like America.

So I did that with several groups of artisans. If I heard of something interesting I would travel to that village, live with them for a while, interview them, like really from the publishing side of things. So then I was thinking, you know, if I'm really committed to the survival of these traditions, what if I tried to bring it to market. So then I also have a lot of experience in branding, and I thought what if I create a brand?

So I wrote four emails — info@donnakaran.com, info@alphalauren.com — "Hi, my name is Marcella Echevarria and I have this idea; I think the exchange between talent, knowledge, and economic power between the North and the South should be balanced differently, and I have this idea called Su Revolution."

I actually believe very strongly in the principle of mentorship and the reason is because that's how the artisanal world operates. For example, what we have in Colombia, is we have a whole network of clusters led by master artisans who are mentoring ex-combatants of Colombia's peace process. And we have found that their relationship at the personal level — it's key. I mean, you're sharing, and you're partnering and also because it's a very lonely journey to be an entrepreneur, so I don't see it as me being a mentor. I'm actually so happy to be in a network and to share, to be able to discuss parts of the journey that just aren't possible to discuss with people who haven't tried it.

The people that I have met, the different levels of entrepreneurship that all share the same spirit — I think that is wonderful. To see that it doesn't matter if you're selling \$7 million, \$2 million, \$60,000 — there's still that same spark in your eyes that unites the whole group, so I think that's great.

Narrator:

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*WPD223 11/24/2009

Transcript: This Week from Washington, November 20
(Podcast on agricultural development, Obama's visit to China) (782)

(begin transcript)

Narrator:

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The United States will invest \$3.5 billion over three years to spur agricultural growth in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way.

Alonzo Fulgham, acting administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, addressed the World Summit on Food Security in Rome November 17th. He said that 2009 should be marked as the year in which countries reversed the decline in investment in agriculture and took up the challenge to ensure global food security for all.

The U.S. pledge is part of the \$22 billion committed by the leaders of the world's major economies at summits in July and August to alleviate world hunger and poverty, Fulgham said.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization reported that official development assistance to agriculture decreased by some 58 percent between 1980 and 2005. It now accounts for about 5 percent of all aid. Underinvestment in agriculture and rural development has worsened due to food and economic crises, according to the organization.

Fulgham said the United States welcomes a declaration adopted at the summit to alleviate world hunger and malnutrition. The declaration is the first time the entire United Nations membership has agreed to take significant action to improve food security through agricultural development, he said.

Countries agreed to reverse the decline in domestic and international funding for agricultural development and to support country-led plans. They also agreed to improve collaboration among governments, regional and international organizations, the nonprofit sector and food producers.

The declaration calls for focusing efforts on a range of agricultural activities and continuing the response to crisis situations, such as the one now threatening food security in the Horn of Africa, Fulgham said. He said particular attention should be given to small landholder farmers, fish farmers, pastoralists and women.

The Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that by 2050, global food production must increase by 70 percent.

Relations between the United States and China have greatly expanded since the establishment of formal relations in 1979. President Obama's recent visit to China comes as the international community faces challenges related to trade, energy, and climate change. Obama told Chinese students in Shanghai November 16th that in 1979, trade between the United States and China stood at roughly \$5 billion, but today it is over \$400 billion each year.

Political cooperation has also gone beyond the Cold War rivalry that both countries shared with the former Soviet Union. Today, a new partnership has opened on the key global issues of our time: economic recovery, developing clean energy; stopping the spread of nuclear weapons, addressing climate change; and promoting peace and security in Asia and around the world.

On climate change, the president said that as the world's two largest emitters of greenhouse gases, the United States and China have "the burden of leadership" to set an example at the upcoming conference on global warming in Copenhagen. Unless both countries are willing to take critical steps in dealing with this issue, we will not be able to resolve it, he said.

Obama also spoke about the free flow of information on the Internet. Speaking at a town hall meeting ahead of meetings with Chinese leaders in Beijing, Obama said he is "a big believer" in technology and openness and a "big supporter of noncensorship" even though it means that he finds himself the subject of constant criticism. In the United States, "the fact that we have free Internet or unrestricted Internet access is a source of strength," the president said, and open Internet use should be encouraged.

President Obama said there has sometimes been "disagreement and difficulty" in U.S.-China relations, but "the notion that we must be adversaries is not predestined," especially since cooperation has brought greater prosperity and security to both countries. The United States does not seek to "contain China's rise," Obama said. Given the interconnectedness of their economies and their shared

environmental and security challenges, “power in the 21st century is no longer a zero-sum game; one country’s success need not come at the expense of another.”

Chinese constitute the second highest number of foreign students in the United States, and there has been a 50 percent increase in the study of Chinese among American students. Obama announced that the United States “will dramatically expand the number of our students who study in China to 100,000.”

Narrator:

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