

B158

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: [redacted] B6
 Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:44 PM
 To: Gordon, Philip H; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Cunningham, James B; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; [redacted] Silliman, Douglas A; Ross, Dennis B. B6
 Cc: Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura; Sullivan, Jacob J
 Subject: RE: MFA on cabinet meeting

+ Dennis Ross

[redacted] did not commit on the timetable for release of those deemed suspects by the Attorney General. The number was unknown but was estimated at lower than 55 (clearly not all of these are Turks, however). The Israelis were clear with us that those under the AG's authority would only be released subject to legal proceedings, which they hoped would go quickly, but could not promise. Based on what [redacted] reported (directly after speaking with the PM), POTUS was able to tell Erdogan that the deportation process was beginning imminently and the Israelis intended it to proceed quickly, although some political and legal issues remained in some cases. He also asked for patience.

-----Original Message-----

From: Gordon, Philip H [mailto:GordonPH@state.gov]
 Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:33 PM
 To: Feltman, Jeffrey D; Cunningham, James B; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth D.; Brink, Bridget A.; Silliman, Douglas A
 Cc: Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura; Sullivan, Jacob J; Shapiro, Daniel B.
 Subject: RE: MFA on cabinet meeting

[redacted] B5

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-----Original Message-----

From: Feltman, Jeffrey D
 Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:14 PM
 To: Gordon, Philip H; Cunningham, James B; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; [redacted] Silliman, Douglas A B6
 Cc: Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura
 Subject: RE: MFA on cabinet meeting

[redacted] just called with the following:

- There are 673 total detainees from the Gaza flotilla.
- Of those, 118 will be deported via Jordan.
- 50 are being expelled via the airport, having signed a consent form.
- 120 others will be sent out via the airport "shortly."
- Israel is "hoping to make the deadline" for releasing Turks, with the deadline being the 11 a.m. Wednesday Turkish security council meeting.
- Three Lebanese are being deported directly via Ras Naqoura.
- 55 of various nationalities are wounded. The wounded are being treated as suspects in the attacks on the IDF by the Israelis. The Attorney General needs to rule on what to do

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

with these 55. Israelis may want to bring court cases against these, which argues against a quick release. But these are in the hands of the Attorney General.

Jeffrey Feltman
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
Department of State
202-647-7209

-----Original Message-----

From: Gordon, Philip H
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:35 PM
To: Cunningham, James B; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; [redacted]; Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura
Subject: RE: MFA on cabinet meeting

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Davutolgu very clear today that they wanted all of the passengers out, unconditionally. If all not permitted to leave many others would refuse to leave. Important to get commitment on getting all out or big trouble ahead.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Cunningham, James B
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:28 PM
To: Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Gordon, Philip H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; [redacted]; Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura
Subject: Re: MFA on cabinet meeting

B6

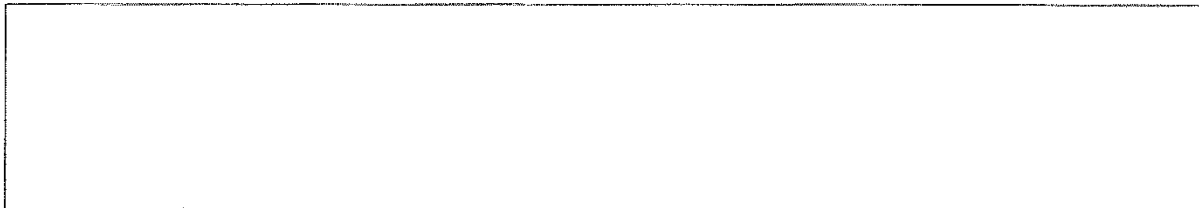
Mfa readout might not square with what [redacted] told me. I think they will try to find a way to get most of the turkish out soon, and all in the near future. [redacted] said [redacted] is tasked to get the deportations working. We'll follow to see if they can make it work. He said decision was to get the Turks back.
Sent from my BlackBerry

B6

----- Original Message -----

From: Jeffrey, James F
To: Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Gordon, Philip H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; 'elizabeth_d._sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov' <elizabeth_d._sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov>; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov' <bbrink@nsc.eop.gov>; Silliman, Douglas A
Cc: Cunningham, James B; Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura
Sent: Tue Jun 01 23:20:42 2010
Subject: Re: MFA on cabinet meeting

B5






B5

----- Original Message -----

From: Sievers, Marc J
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group
Cc: Cunningham, James B; Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura
Sent: Tue Jun 01 23:08:22 2010
Subject: MFA on cabinet meeting

 called me to update on deportation authority. Cabinet decided it has authority to expedite departure of all detainees not suspected of attacking Israeli military personnel. This apparently covers all those in detention in Beer Sheva. They will still be asked to sign release form, but oral request to leave Israel will be accepted.

B6

Cabinet decided, however, to support police request to detain for possible investigation and perhaps prosecution those who are suspected of attacking Israeli military. He said this means basically all the wounded currently in hospitals and a small number of those in Beer Sheva will be held at least for a few more days while Attorney General decides how to proceed, it's not clear yet whether they will put any of them on trial. I noted this would scuttle understanding reached with Turks about evacuating Turkish wounded. He said that was correct.

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

J73

Logg, Cristina A

From: Kim, Yuri J
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 1:37 AM
To: Ricciardone, Francis J; Ankara-EXEC
Subject: FW: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel [redacted] Syria; [redacted] NR
Turkey!

For AMB's read file pls.

This document is SECRET//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive
Classification: SECRET//NOFORN
Derived From: Derived from previous message.
Declassify On: 2036/10/18

From: Howard, Jeremiah H
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 9:05 PM
To: Baily, Jess L; Kim, Yuri J; Stafford, Edward G; Fernandes, Anthony C; Letvin, John C
Subject: Tel Aviv Cable: [redacted] Syria; [redacted] Turkey! NR

SECRET//NOFORN



MRN: 11 TEL AVIV 1221
Date/DTG: Oct 17, 2011 / 171210Z OCT 11
From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PREL, PTER, MOPS, KISL, EG, TU, IS
Captions: NOFORN
Reference: A) 11 TEL AVIV 1207
Subject: NSS Senior Director Simon Engages the GOI on Egypt, Syria, Turkey

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

1. (S) Summary: On October 4, visiting NSS Senior Director Steven Simon told senior GOI interlocutors [redacted]

[redacted]

[Redacted] NR

Syria

6. (S) [Redacted]

[Large redacted area]

Turkey

9. (S) [Redacted] 1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

1.4(D)

B1

| | |
|--|----|
| | |
| | NR |
| | |

10. (U) NSS Senior Director Simon cleared this message.

Minimize considered.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

Signature: Shapiro

Classified By: Name: Daniel Shapiro, Title: Ambassador

Reason: 1.4 (a), (b), (d)

Declassify On: 2036/10/17

Drafted By: TEL AVIV:Berns, David B

Cleared By: POL:Eussen, Matthew M
EEB/ESC/IEC/ENR:Monosson, Danielle H

POL:Levin, Jan X

POL:Silverman, Robert J

EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H

NSS:SSimon

DAO:TCyril

Approved By: EXEC:Shapiro, Daniel B (Tel Aviv)

Released By: TEL AVIV:Berns, David B

Info: WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; CAIRO, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; DAMASCUS, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE

Attachments: Metadata.dat

Action Post:

Dissemination Rule: Released Copy

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U3

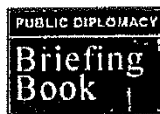
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June 22, 2011

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

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IRAQ

Iraq Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “Going forward, a transitional force of U.S. troops will remain in Iraq with a different mission: advising and assisting Iraq’s Security Forces, supporting Iraqi troops in targeted counterterrorism missions, and protecting our civilians. Consistent with our agreement with the Iraqi government, all U.S. troops will leave by the end of next year. As our military draws down, our dedicated civilians – diplomats, aid workers, and advisors – are moving into the lead to support Iraq as it strengthens its government, resolves political disputes, resettles those displaced by war, and builds ties with the region and the world.” (08/31/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “Even as we transition to an Iraqi lead and bring our troops home, our commitment to the Iraqi people endures. We will continue to advise and assist Iraqi security forces, who are already responsible for security in most of the country. And a strong American civilian presence will help Iraqis forge political and economic progress. This will not be a simple task, but this is what success looks like: an Iraq that provides no haven to terrorists; a democratic Iraq that is sovereign and stable and self-reliant.” (05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Vice President Biden** – “[This] administration is absolutely committed to a successful, stable, representative, and just Iraq. And we are committed to building an enduring partnership between Iraq and the United States... As President Obama made clear last year, we will end our combat mission of our troops this summer and draw down our forces in compliance with the U.S.-Iraqi security agreement. But even as we draw down our military... we will ramp up our political, diplomatic, and economic engagement with Iraq.” (01/23/10) ([read transcript](#))

Iraq Q&A

Have the U.S. and Iraq reached an agreement regarding the settlement of claims of U.S. victims of the Saddam Hussein regime?

- ✓ Efforts by the U.S. and Iraq to settle longstanding claims of U.S. nationals who were victims of the Saddam Hussein regime were brought to conclusion on June 21 in accordance with the U.S.-Iraq Claims Settlement Agreement that was signed on September 2, 2010. The settlement is designed to provide fair compensation for American nationals who were prisoners of war, hostages, and human shields during the first Gulf War and U.S. servicemen who were injured in the 1987 attack on the USS Stark, and to confirm Iraq’s immunity in U.S. courts in connection with such claims.
- ✓ The resolution of these claims is the product of several years of hard work and careful negotiations between the governments of the U.S. and Iraq. It represents a significant step in Iraq’s efforts to resolve outstanding claims arising from actions of the previous regime.
- ✓ The Department of State will now establish procedures through which eligible U.S. nationals will be able to apply for compensation for their claims. This may include the referral of some claims to the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission for adjudication. (State Department press statement 06/21/11)

Could you comment on U.S. efforts to promote a better business environment in Iraq?

- ✓ The U.S. government believes strongly that expanding economic opportunity is as essential as building democratic institutions. In particular, it’s very important for people going through the changes that are sweeping the region to believe and to see that democracy delivers.

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- ✓ We see too few American companies alongside our soldiers and our diplomats. Iraqis are looking to rebuild every sector of their economy, not only their oil sector but agribusiness, transportation, housing, banking, and many others.
- ✓ There are still significant security challenges, bottlenecks in infrastructure, unclear regulations, and, unfortunately, corruption. But as our Iraqi colleagues will tell you, they are working hard to make it easier to do business in Iraq for Iraqis and foreign investors alike.
- ✓ Each company will make its own decisions about the costs and benefits, but we want to go on record unequivocally in encouraging American business to begin that process, and we will do everything we can to support you in it. Our embassies and consulates will be hubs that support commercial activity in every region of Iraq. The State Department will work hard to champion American companies. USAID, Treasury, the Departments of Energy and Agriculture, OPIC, Ex-Im, and many other agencies have unique and proven experience that we can bring to the table.
- ✓ Ambassador Jeffrey is working hard to establish an American Chamber of Commerce in Iraq, which would be another powerful advocate.
- ✓ Ultimately these decisions are up to the Iraqi people: the leaders of the government, the leaders of industry, and, of course, Iraqi men and women who want that better future. (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 06/03/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Doing Business in Iraq (06/03/11)

Can you provide details on the Department's plan to hire security contractors in Iraq?

- ✓ The safety of U.S. government personnel is of primary importance. For years, our diplomats have served admirably in challenging environments.
- ✓ In Iraq, we have operated successfully in multiple areas with Diplomatic Security (DS) personnel and private security contractors (PSCs) since 2004. We have high confidence that our capable security professionals will continue to provide a safe and secure platform to support U.S. foreign policy in Iraq.
- ✓ As the military draws down, the Department is implementing its civilian increase in Iraq. As the Department of Defense has done in Iraq, the Department will rely on the use of contractors for a multitude of functions. We use contractors in contingency operations to fill a surge capacity and when it is cost-efficient, as opposed to building up permanent, U.S. direct-hire staff.
- ✓ At most of our diplomatic facilities world-wide, the guard force staff is comprised of local nationals, and our diplomats live on the local economy. As the security environment improves, we will transition to a more traditional mode of operation.
- ✓ The Department takes contract oversight responsibilities seriously, and has worked to enhance oversight of PSCs. For the DS Worldwide Protective Services contract, DS has increased staffing to more than 200 direct-hire personnel to oversee the contract and its task orders, and to ensure contract compliance by approximately 5,100 contract employees currently expected to be working in Iraq after the transition.
- ✓ We are confident that, in close coordination and cooperation with the U.S. military and the Government of Iraq, we will carry out a successful transition beyond 2011 while maintaining security for our personnel.
- ✓ The U.S. and Iraq are rebalancing the relationship while we remain committed to a comprehensive partnership – based on the Strategic Framework Agreement – that will broaden the emphasis on political, economic, environmental, technological and cultural cooperation, while also expanding on success in the realm of security that was the focus of recent years. (Press Guidance, 06/10/11)

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IRAN

Iran Message

- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “The prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran concerns us all. And to address that threat, together we have pursued a dual-track approach of engagement and pressure, aimed at encouraging Iran’s leaders to change course. The draft resolution agreed to by all of our P-5+1 partners and circulated at the Security Council sends a clear message to the Iranian leadership: Live up to your obligation, or face growing isolation and consequences. As we continue to cooperate in New York, the burden is on Iran to demonstrate through its actions that it will uphold its responsibility.” (05/21/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **National Security Advisor Jones** – “Iran’s continued defiance of its international obligations on its nuclear program and its support of terrorism represents a significant regional and global threat. A nuclear-armed Iran could transform the landscape of the Middle East, precipitating a nuclear arms race, dramatically increasing the prospect and danger of local conflicts, fatally wounding the global non-proliferation regime, and emboldening the terrorists and extremists who threaten the United States and our allies. Therefore, we are now working actively with allies and partners to increase the costs of Iran’s continued failure to live up to its international obligations. This includes a U.N. Security Council sanctions resolution.” (04/21/10) ([read transcript](#))

Iran Q&A

- ✓ **What is the U.S. reaction to Iran’s recent test of a space launch vehicle?**
Iran’s continued development of advanced missile capabilities remains a matter of acute concern, especially as Tehran continues to defy UN Security Council (UNSC) obligations to cease its proliferation-sensitive nuclear and missile activities.
- ✓ **The bulk of space launch vehicle (SLV) and ballistic missile technologies are virtually identical and interchangeable. Iran’s recent SLV launch uses technology of nuclear-capable ballistic missile systems and is a violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1929.**
- ✓ **We will continue to work closely with allies and partners to address Iran’s missile development including by promoting implementation of the requirements of relevant Security Council Resolutions. We also intend to bring this to the attention of the UNSC Iran sanctions committee. (Press Guidance, 06/16/11)**

Can you comment on reports of violence against Iranian protestors marking the second anniversary of the country’s contested election?

- ✓ We have seen reports that a heavier-than-usual number of security forces were deployed to break up protestors, and that they arrested many of them and used tear gas and batons to disperse them.
- ✓ We were also deeply saddened to learn of the death of jailed political activist and journalist Hoda Saber after a hunger-strike in protest of fellow activist Haleh Sahabi’s death on June 1. It is a stark reminder that, two years after the first large-scale crackdown on peaceful protestors in the region, the Iranian government has not changed tactics. It continues to jail, torture, and brutally repress those Iranian citizens who demand justice, accountability from their government, and their universal human rights.
- ✓ We again mourn all the victims of this repression, and express our deepest condolences to their families and friends. We call on the international community to renew our resolve to stand with citizens who yearn to be free and to exercise their universal rights. We stand join all people of

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conscience around the world in condemning the violence of these regimes. (Press Guidance, 06/13/11)

What is the U.S. response to UN Security Council's extension of the Iran Panel of Experts' mandate for another twelve months?

- ✓ The United States strongly supports the Iran Panel of Experts and we are pleased the Security Council voted to renew its mandate on June 9.
- ✓ UN sanctions panels are well-established and independent tools to improve implementation of UN sanctions. The Iran Panel of Experts has given the Council and its Iran Sanctions Committee independent, professional, seasoned advice on how to do just that.
- ✓ In light of Iran's ongoing noncompliance, and Iran's latest announcement that it intends to install centrifuges in Qom and to triple its production of nearly 20% low enriched uranium (LEU), the international community must come together urgently to strengthen enforcement of these sanctions.
- ✓ Full implementation of the provisions contained in the Council's resolutions will send a powerful signal to Iran's decision makers, as well as constrain Iran's ability to continue its proliferation sensitive activities.
- ✓ We hope the Security Council will release the Panel's final report soon so that other countries can benefit from the Panel's findings and recommendations. The Panel conducted excellent investigative work and we strongly support its findings. We commend the Panel's professionalism, methodological rigor and high standards. (Press Guidance, 06/10/11)

Could you comment on efforts to hold Iranian human rights abusers accountable?

- ✓ Nearly two-years after Iran's brave citizens took to the streets, the struggle for civil liberties and fundamental rights continues. On June 9, the U.S. sanctioned three Iranian government entities complicit in the ongoing brutal repression – the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Basij Resistance Force, and Iran's Law Enforcement Forces (LEF) – as well as LEF Commander Ismail Ahmadi Moghadam.
- ✓ While Iran's leaders hypocritically applaud protesters abroad calling for self-determination, many of Iran's own citizens – including founding members of the revolution – are being held as political prisoners merely for holding views contrary to Iran's leaders. Iranians are being executed for crimes based on dubious charges and without the due process guaranteed under Iran's constitution. Religious and ethnic minorities are intimidated and imprisoned, while women's rights activists, human rights defenders, clerics, and labor leaders are targeted for retribution for seeking human rights for themselves and other Iranian citizens. By barring many of Iran's most accomplished artists, journalists, and academics from working, and forcing many to flee their homeland, the Iranian government restricts the space where free thought and expression can flourish.
- ✓ The United States stands with all Iranians who wish for a government that respects their human rights, their dignity and their freedom, and we call on the Iranian government to end its systematic human rights abuses and political hypocrisy. (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 06/09/11)
- ✓ This action blocks, or freezes, the property and interests in property of designated persons or designated entities. U.S. persons are prohibited from engaging in transactions involving the persons or entities. All designees and members of designated entities are subject to a travel ban by.
- ✓ As we continue to collect additional information and evidence, and as new events unfold in Iran, we anticipate that additional individuals will be designated. (Press Guidance, 06/09/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Sanctions Against Iranian Human Rights Abusers (06/09/11)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**MIDDLE EAST PEACE****Israel/Palestine Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “The United States believes that negotiations should result in two states, with permanent Palestinian borders with Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and permanent Israeli borders with Palestine. We believe the borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, so that secure and recognized borders are established for both states. The Palestinian people must have the right to govern themselves, and reach their full potential, in a sovereign and contiguous state.” (05/19/11) [\(read transcript\)](#)
- ✓ **Special Envoy Mitchell** – “The best outcome is an agreement which results in two states living side by side in peace and security, and the only way that can be achieved is through direct negotiations between the parties in which the United States will be an active and sustained participant, and with the full support of our many friends and allies around the world.” (08/20/10) [\(read transcript\)](#)
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “We support a two-state solution, with Israelis and Palestinians co-existing peacefully and with mutual security. We believe that through good-faith negotiations, the parties can mutually agree on an outcome which ends the conflict and reconciles the Palestinian goal of an independent and viable state based on the 1967 lines, with agreed swaps, and the Israeli goal of a Jewish state with secure and recognized borders that reflect subsequent developments and meet Israeli security requirements. And we recognize that Jerusalem is a deeply important issue to Israelis and Palestinians, to Jews, Muslims, and Christians everywhere. We believe it is possible to reach an outcome that both realizes the aspirations of all parties for Jerusalem, and safeguards its status for the future.” (02/14/10) [\(read transcript\)](#)

Israel/Palestine Q&A**What are U.S. expectations going forward for the Israeli-Palestinian peace process?**

- ✓ Last month, the President made a significant set of remarks on the region. They included a component on the pursuit of peace between Israelis and Arabs, which he described as a cornerstone of our approach to the region. The President acknowledged that expectations have gone unmet, but he also made clear that regional developments make a peace that ends the conflict and resolves all claims more urgent than ever.
- ✓ We are working with the parties in coordination with the international community and the Quartet to continue the difficult task of closing the gaps between the parties on how we proceed in a productive way. Our goal in this effort is to – now is to work with the parties toward negotiations on the basis of the President’s remarks. We are consulting the parties, the Quartet, Arab officials and other supporters on the best way to proceed.
- ✓ Our focus is on seeing how we can get over the current impasse and back to the negotiating table. This is a difficult task. The circumstances on the ground and the gaps between the parties are challenging.
- ✓ Ultimately, it is up to the Israelis and Palestinians to take action. As the President said, no peace can be imposed on them, but endless delay will not make the problem go away. The status quo is unsustainable and return to negotiations, in our view, is the only way forward. But they have to make the decisions on how to do so. (State Department press briefing, 06/21/11)

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Is the U.S. working with its allies to initiate a new effort to promote a peace plan?

- ✓ The United States and our international partners remain active with the parties, most recently continuing to consult the parties on ways to overcome the current impasse.
- ✓ The end goal has not changed: as President Obama said, we want to see a negotiated solution that resolves the core issues of the conflict and results in two states - a viable Palestine, and a secure Israel with secure and recognized borders for each state.
- ✓ We leave it to the Israeli and Palestinian governments to speak to their positions, but what is clear is that our efforts will continue. As part of those efforts, Acting Special Envoy for Middle East Peace David Hale and Special Assistant to the President Dennis Ross met in the region with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli negotiator Yitzhak Molho, and Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. Special Envoy Hale also met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.
- ✓ Special Envoy Hale also met with Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh in Cyprus. Early this week he will meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil Elaraby and the Head of Egyptian Intelligence Murad Muwafi in Cairo. The Quartet Envoys are also scheduled to meet in Brussels later this week.
- ✓ We appreciate High Representative Ashton's letter to Secretary Clinton. It is another illustration of the resolve of the U.S. and our partners to assist the parties in returning to the negotiating table and ultimately reaching a final agreement. (Press Guidance, 06/17/11)

What is the U.S. doing to prevent renewed clashes between flotillas headed for Gaza and Israeli security forces?

- ✓ Since the tragic events of last year's flotilla, we have consistently engaged with a broad range of governments, including Turkish, Israeli, and other governments.
- ✓ For the past year we have made clear that groups and individuals that seek to enter Gaza by sea are taking irresponsible and provocative actions that entail a risk to their safety. The U.S. Coast Guard issued a warning earlier this month informing mariners that "Previous attempts to enter Gaza by sea have resulted in violent incidents and the detention and deportation of those involved."
- ✓ Mechanisms are in place to transfer humanitarian assistance to Gaza, and they should be used by those seeking to provide assistance for the benefit of ordinary Gazans. We urge all those wishing to deliver goods to do so through established channels so their cargo can be inspected and transferred via land crossings into Gaza - to ensure that Israel's legitimate security needs are addressed even as the Palestinians' humanitarian needs are met.
- ✓ We will continue to make clear both publicly and in private meetings with states, NGOs, and others our concerns about the risks of attempting to sail directly to Gaza.
- ✓ We remain concerned for the people of Gaza and understand while many difficulties remain, life is much improved in Gaza. However, we recognize that more needs to be done to improve the access of goods and people going into and out of Gaza; we are working with the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to this end. (Press Guidance, 06/17/11)

What is the U.S. position on Palestinian efforts to secure UN recognition as a state?

- ✓ We vehemently reject attempts to de-legitimize the state of Israel. As the President stated at the UN General Assembly, Israel's existence must not be a subject for debate, and efforts to chip away at Israel's legitimacy will only be met by the unshakeable opposition of the United States.
- ✓ The President has been clear that he supports two states for two peoples, and that it would be a mistake for the Palestinians to pursue a path for statehood at the UN rather than at the negotiating

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table with Israel. We have been frank that we reject counterproductive attempts to resolve permanent status issues at the UN.

- ✓ As the President said on May 19, "For Palestinians, efforts to delegitimize Israel will end in failure. Symbolic actions to isolate Israel at the United Nations in September won't create an independent state." That is why we are focused on a negotiated outcome that will lead to the establishment of an independent, viable state of Palestine alongside a secure state of Israel.
- ✓ We have been steadfast in our determination to ensure that Israel is treated fairly, that its security is never in doubt, and that Israel has the same rights and responsibilities as all UN member states.
- ✓ We have opposed unbalanced, one-sided resolutions, at the UN General Assembly, the Security Council, the UN Human Rights Council, UNESCO, and elsewhere. We have opposed the deeply flawed and biased Goldstone Report, and voted against multiple resolutions on last year's flotilla incident at the Human Rights Council. On the Goldstone Report, we have been clear that we want to see UN action end in relation to the report. Regarding the flotilla issue, we have joined the Secretary-General in his call on Governments to use their respective influence to discourage future flotillas, and avoid unnecessary and unhelpful provocative actions that seek to bypass the effective mechanisms that exist to deliver goods and services to Gaza.
- ✓ Much work still needs to be done at the Human Rights Council. We continue to protest the egregious permanent agenda item on Israel. But we have managed to use every opportunity to shift the focus of the debate at the Council addressing the most serious human rights abusers, rather than unfairly singling out Israel.
- ✓ All these efforts demonstrate that our commitment to defend Israel throughout the UN system, both in countering biased anti-Israeli actions and in opposing those who seek platforms to expand anti-Israel efforts at the UN, remains strong.
- ✓ Israel wants to play a larger role globally, multilaterally and at the UN. It does not want to be viewed solely through the prism of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israelis understand that they not only have rights within the international system; they also have responsibilities, and they want to meet them. To that end, the United States is working with Israel to advance its positive multilateral engagement agenda, and move beyond the focus on contentious political and security issues, with the aim of addressing the issue of delegitimization and Israel's treatment at the UN.
- ✓ Looking ahead, we are committed to building on our efforts with Israel at the UN, including working with Israel to advance its positive global agenda, and continuing to oppose attempts to isolate and delegitimize Israel. (Remarks by Assistant Secretary Brimmer, 06/15/11)

What is U.S. policy on Middle East peace as outlined by President Obama?

- ✓ A lasting peace will involve two states for two peoples: Israel as a Jewish state and the homeland for the Jewish people, and the state of Palestine as the homeland for the Palestinian people, each state enjoying self-determination, mutual recognition, and peace.
- ✓ The United States believes that negotiations should result in two states, with permanent Palestinian borders with Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and permanent Israeli borders with Palestine. We believe the borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, so that secure and recognized borders are established for both states. The Palestinian people must have the right to govern themselves, and reach their full potential, in a sovereign and contiguous state.
- ✓ Every state has the right to self-defense, and Israel must be able to defend itself – by itself – against any threat. Provisions must also be robust enough to prevent a resurgence of terrorism, to stop the infiltration of weapons, and to provide effective border security. The full and phased withdrawal of

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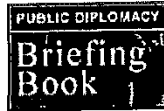
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Israeli military forces should be coordinated with the assumption of Palestinian security responsibility in a sovereign, non-militarized state.

- ✓ These steps alone will not resolve the conflict, because two wrenching and emotional issues will remain: the future of Jerusalem, and the fate of Palestinian refugees. But moving forward now on the basis of territory and security provides a foundation to resolve those two issues in a way that is just and fair, and that respects the rights and aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians.
- ✓ For the Palestinians, efforts to delegitimize Israel will end in failure. Symbolic actions to isolate Israel at the United Nations will not create an independent state. Palestinian leaders will not achieve peace or prosperity if Hamas insists on a path of terror and rejection. And Palestinians will never realize their independence by denying the right of Israel to exist.
- ✓ As for Israel, our friendship is rooted deeply in a shared history and shared values. Our commitment to Israel's security is unshakeable. But precisely because of our friendship, it's important that we tell the truth: the status quo is unsustainable, and Israel too must act boldly to advance a lasting peace. (Remarks by President Obama, 05/19/11)

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MENA TRANSITION AND REFORM

MENA Transition and Reform Message

- ✓ **Assistant Secretary Posner** – “Our response to the upheaval in the Middle East has been rooted in a consistent set of principles: We have opposed the use of violence against peaceful protesters and supported the universal rights of free expression, assembly, and association and the right to participate in the affairs of the state. We have strongly condemned, including in multilateral fora, the killing, torture, and abuse of peaceful protestors. We have made clear our view that people’s legitimate demands and aspirations must be met by positive engagement from governments, in the form of meaningful political and economic reforms.” (05/05/11) (read transcript)
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “Uprisings across the region have exposed myths that for too long were used to justify a stagnant status quo. You know the myth that governments can hold on to power without responding to their people’s aspirations or respecting their rights; the myth that the only way to produce change in the region is through violence and conflict; and, most pernicious of all, the myth that Arabs do not share universal human aspirations for freedom, dignity, and opportunity.” (04/13/11) (read transcript)
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “Democratic change must grow from within. It cannot be implanted from the outside. And let me be among the first of many to say the West certainly does not have all of the answers. The first steps of change have come quickly and dramatically. It is, however, proving tragically difficult in Libya. In other nations, change is likely to be more deliberate and methodical. In all cases, the United States will support citizens and governments as they work for progress.” (02/28/11) (read transcript)

MENA Transition and Reform Q&A

Could you provide an update on the situation in Syria?

- ✓ Throughout the continuing violent crackdowns in Syria, President Assad has shown that he cares more about maintaining his own power than he does about his people.
- ✓ Approximately thirteen hundred Syrians have been killed since protests began with many thousands more detained and tortured. There must be an immediate end to violence by Syrian security forces, the immediate release of all political prisoners, and an end to the torture and abuse of those who remain in detention. The Assad regime must allow immediate unfettered access for international humanitarian agencies and international media.
- ✓ President Assad's regime and its repression of the Syrian people are the sources of the instability we are currently witnessing in Syria. Assad's actions are causing instability and putting Syria on a clear path to becoming a pariah state.
- ✓ The Syrian people are calling for a change on the ground and they will be the ones to judge whether President Assad is meeting their needs and expectations. As we have stressed, he can lead the transition already under way in Syria or he can get out of the way.
- ✓ The fact that the Syrian people continue to protest every week indicate that President Assad's words are not enough and that they are losing patience with the mixed messages of the Syrian government. Mere announcements from President Assad on dialogue and timetables are not enough. There needs to be actual dialogue and it must be inclusive, credible, and comprehensive. Genuine reforms speedily implemented are the only way to achieve stability in Syria.
- ✓ We continue to work unilaterally, regionally, and internationally to try to build a broad-based approach increase pressure on Assad's regime.

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- ✓ Bilaterally, the President has signed two new Executive Orders. He's designated President Assad under this authority as well as other regime officials. We're looking at how we can broaden these sanctions to increase the pressure.
- ✓ Regionally we are in contact with Arab League officials and bilateral partners in the region, including the Turkish government, to build on the pressure for Assad to lead the transition under way or get out of the way.
- ✓ On the international forum, we continue to take steps to pressure and isolate the Assad regime. Last week in Geneva, the United States joined over fifty UN members to deliver a forceful joint statement addressing the deteriorating human rights situation in Syria, calling for an end to the ongoing human rights violations committed by the Syrian authorities, and urging the Government of Syria to allow the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Office access to Syria to conduct their fact-finding mission. This fact finding mission was established during a special session of the HRC on Syria that the U.S. successfully lobbied for in April. We also successfully worked to lobby other delegations against Syria's hypocritical bid to join the Human Rights Council in May.
- ✓ We continue our efforts to use a broad-based international approach to support what the Syrian people are demanding. The Syrian people are in the lead and we are making every effort to support the Syrian people's demands.
- ✓ We are also looking into whether there are grounds for charges related to war crimes and whether referrals on that issue are appropriate. And we continue to evaluate possible additional economic sanctions, including with the oil and gas sector in Syria. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)
- ✓ Ambassador Ford traveled to northern Syria with a large group of other foreign ambassadors to personally witness the aftermath of the recent situation in Jisr Shughur. The group received briefings from senior Syrian military intelligence officers on the ground.
- ✓ Ambassador Ford's purpose was to gather information for U.S. policymakers, not to deliver a particular message.
- ✓ Ambassador Ford is not restricted to Damascus. Decisions regarding his movements outside Damascus are made based on U.S. security determinations. (Press Guidance, 06/21/11)

- What is the U.S. response to reports of Syrian citizens fleeing to Turkey due to violence?**
- ✓ We condemn the government's use of violence on its people, and call on it to immediately cease all brutality and begin a transition to democracy. The Syrian government must respect the universal human rights and dignity of the Syrian people.
 - ✓ Press reports indicate that approximately 10,500 Syrians are sheltered in Turkish Red Crescent Society camps.
 - ✓ The Turkish government has stated that the border will remain open, and that Turkey will continue to allow individuals seeking protection to enter.
 - ✓ We commend the Government of Turkey's response in coordination with the Turkish Red Crescent Society to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced Syrians in Turkey.
 - ✓ The U.S. provides humanitarian assistance to refugees and asylum seekers worldwide through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), including in Turkey. Should there be a request to assist in the humanitarian needs of displaced Syrians, the U.S. stands ready to help.
 - ✓ The Turkish government has not requested any support and notes that the Turkish Red Crescent Society is capable of assisting a large number of displaced Syrians, up to 30,000 people according to the Director of the Turkish Red Crescent Society.
 - ✓ We have not seen an uptick in the number of Syrian nationals seeking access to the U.S. refugee resettlement program. UNHCR/Turkey submitted for U.S. refugee resettlement consideration only five Syrians in 2010 and five in 2011. UNHCR views the current situation as one in which those

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crossing the border require only temporary protection and is not currently looking at resettlement as a protection option.

✓ We have no information regarding reports that Turkey is considering the creation of a border security zone on the Syrian side of the border to provide assistance to those fleeing violence. We refer you to the Government of Turkey for this information. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)

Could you provide an update on the situation in Yemen?

✓ Our position has not changed. An immediate, peaceful, and orderly transition is in the best interest of the Yemeni people. We urge all sides to engage in dialogue that peacefully moves Yemen forward.

✓ Ambassador Feierstein and embassy personnel in Sana'a continue to meet with a broad cross-section of Yemenis, including Acting President Al-Hadi and senior government officials, as well as members of the opposition.

✓ We continue to call for an immediate, nonviolent, and orderly transition that allows the democratic aspirations of the Yemeni people to be realized. Ultimately, the Yemeni people must decide the path Yemen takes toward a peaceful, unified, and stable future.

✓ The U.S. Embassy in Sana'a announced on June 19 the arrival of \$10 million worth of food aid in Yemen, provided by the American people through USAID to the World Food Program. The food items, including flour, beans, and vegetable oil, will contribute to the support of 416,000 people in Sa'adah and Harad in the Hajjah governorate.

✓ The 6,300 metric tons of food commodities will contribute to the World Food Program's "Emergency Food Assistance to Conflict-Affected Persons in Northern Yemen" operation -- a program intended to address the food security needs of some 300,000 internally displaced and over 100,000 war-affected persons in Yemen's northern governorates.

✓ So far this year, the U.S. Embassy has overseen the allocation of approximately \$35 million dollars to Yemen for emergency and humanitarian projects. In addition to food assistance, the United States is providing emergency medical support, shelter, and water and sanitation supplies to recipients throughout the country, including those recently displaced from Zinjibar, capital of the southern Abyan governorate, in partnership with local and international organizations. U.S. Embassy staff in Yemen is providing additional support as needed.

✓ We understand President Saleh remains in Saudi Arabia receiving medical treatment. We will not speculate on President Saleh's actions or condition or attempt to speak for the Yemeni people. We refer you to the Yemeni and Saudi governments for more details. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)

Can you confirm that the U.S. has sent a second shipment of non-lethal assistance to Libya?

✓ We have delivered a second shipment of non-lethal aid to Benghazi, Libya, which was requested by the Transitional National Council (TNC). These items are being provided to support the TNC's efforts to protect civilians and civilian-populated areas under threat of attack.

✓ The shipment consisted of uniforms, body armor, first-aid kits, tents, and related materials transferred from existing Department of Defense stocks.

✓ We are working closely with the TNC on a daily basis to assess additional assistance requirements. No decision to date has been made on future shipments. (Press Guidance, 06/17/11)

Can you provide an update on the situation in Libya?

✓ We note NATO's acknowledgement that a military missile site was the intended target of air strikes in Tripoli on June 19. However, as NATO reported, it appears that one weapon did not

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- strike the intended target and that there may have been a weapons system failure which may have caused a number of civilian casualties.
- ✓ As noted by the Transitional National Council (TNC) to partners and discussed at the Contact Group meetings in Doha, Rome, and Abu Dhabi, the TNC is facing serious financial difficulties. To support the TNC, the Contact Group agreed to fully establish a Temporary Financial Mechanism (TFM) at the June 9 meeting in Abu Dhabi.
 - ✓ We support the efforts of the Libya Contact Group to establish a TFM and a Libyan Information Exchange Mechanism (LIEM) that would facilitate much-needed financial contributions and other in-kind assistance to the TNC. We are strongly encouraging our international partners to assist the TNC directly or through one or both of these mechanisms.
 - ✓ Additionally, the United States is assessing and reviewing options for the types of assistance we could provide to the Libyan people. We are consulting directly with the opposition and our international partners about these matters.
 - ✓ The President has directed up to \$25 million in transfers of non-lethal items from U.S. government stocks to key partners in Libya such as the TNC, and the transportation of these items.
 - ✓ Again, we welcome the U.S. Senate Banking Committee announcement that it will advance a bill soon to allow President Obama to use some of the frozen assets of Muammar Qaddafi's government to be used to provide humanitarian relief to the Libyan people.
 - ✓ Under proposed legislation, this assistance could cover the costs of commodities and subsidies needed to maintain basic living conditions among the population – for example, access to water, sanitation, food, shelter, and health care. Frozen assets would not be used to offset the cost of our military action in Libya.
 - ✓ The question of recognition is one of many policy issues still under review and our envoy Chris Stevens and his team in Benghazi continue to cultivate relationships with TNC leadership as well as our efforts to more fully assess the capacity and needs of the TNC.
 - ✓ As Secretary Clinton said at the most recent Contact Group meeting in Abu Dhabi, the TNC is the legitimate and credible interlocutor for the Libyan people during this interim period. At the same time, it is clear that the Qadhafi regime has lost all legitimacy.
 - ✓ We have taken consistent steps to bolster the legitimacy of the TNC, including meetings of senior TNC officials with the Secretary and at the White House, allowing the TNC to open an office in Washington, and suspending the operations of the Qadhafi regime's embassy here. We have urged other countries to do the same.
 - ✓ We remain committed to working with those who are striving to meet the aspirations of the Libyan people and create a better future for Libya. It will be up to the people of Libya, to choose their new constitution, elect their new leaders, and write the next chapter in their history. (Press Guidance 06/20/11)

- Does the U.S. believe that reforms announced by the King of Morocco are sufficient?
- ✓ The U.S. welcomes the proposals outlined on June 17 by King Mohammed VI to transform Morocco's democratic development through constitutional, judicial and political reforms.
 - ✓ We fully support the aspirations of the Moroccan people and their efforts to further consolidate the rule of law, raise human rights standards, promote good governance, and work toward long-term constitutional reform that incorporates checks and balances. The people of Morocco are calling for the same basic changes others in the region have called for: a larger voice in how they are governed.
 - ✓ The United States values Morocco as a key strategic partner and we stand ready to work with the people and the government of Morocco as the government moves forward to fully implement key

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reforms and satisfy the legitimate democratic aspirations and rights of all Moroccans. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)

- Does the U.S. believe that Bahrain has made progress in addressing demands of protestors? Bahrain is an important partner of the United States. We have a long-standing alliance based on shared political, economic and security interests. Both countries benefit from stability and prosperity in Bahrain, and from a society where all people are able to express their views peacefully and contribute to the political process.
- We welcome the announcement of the government's intention to begin a national dialogue on reform in Bahrain in July. The challenge will be to initiate a dialogue that involves representative leaders on all sides and to ensure that the dialogue addresses and begins to resolve divisive issues.
- We are mindful of the pressing need in Bahrain for everyone to begin an engagement that will start to rebuild tolerance, mutual respect and a process for navigating divisions. We understand the difficulty of this task, and we also know that no outsider can make it happen. It is for the Bahraini people to forge their own future.
- The U.S. and Bahrain face constantly evolving security challenges. President Obama and Secretary Clinton have made clear time and again that respect for human rights and pursuit of national security interests are not in conflict; to the contrary, they are best advanced in tandem.
- In recent months we have seen a clear link in this region between national stability and security and the ability of governments to meet the legitimate aspirations of their people, including the desire of people everywhere for dignity, justice, economic opportunity, universal human rights, and a voice in shaping their own future.
- We welcome the release of some detainees who were not charged, the restoration of some scholarships, and the reinstatement of a number of employees who were wrongfully dismissed from their jobs. We also welcome the announcement by the government that it will investigate deaths of people in custody, including one case where five prison guards are under investigation. The Government of Bahrain also has promised to investigate allegations of mistreatment of detainees in custody.
- On the other hand, we continue to receive reports about some students being expelled from universities and some workers being dismissed merely because they have exercised their political rights. We remain concerned about the continued detention of a number of Bahrainis who have neither been charged nor tried, about the treatment of those people in detention, and about reports that some have been subjected to physical abuse during interrogations. We urge Bahrain to abide by its commitments to transparent judicial proceedings conducted in full accordance with both local law and Bahrain's international legal obligations.
- Meaningful dialogue can only take place in a climate of respect for the freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly – principles articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a number of treaties that Bahrain has ratified. In the coming weeks, all parties here will need to create an appropriate environment for national dialogue, and all parties must participate to forge a just future for this country.
- Throughout the world, we have seen how media freedom raises public awareness, identifies problems, opens discussion, and brings problems to light so that corrective action can be taken. We note with concern the arrest and in some cases continued detention of some journalists. Mindful of the peril of misinformation and misuse of media that can exacerbate divisions within society, we urge all responsible parties in Bahrain to refrain from and denounce hateful speech, which can and often does lead to violence. In order to create positive conditions for national dialogue in Bahrain

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local media and social media must play a constructive role in reconciliation and cease from actions that are divisive or inciting. (Remarks by Assistant Secretary Posner, 06/15/11)

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NORTH KOREA

North Korea Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “We will work with allies and partners to hold North Korea accountable, including at the United Nations Security Council, making it clear that security and respect for North Korea will never come through aggression, but only by upholding its obligations.” (06/02/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “The path that will lead North Korea to security and prosperity is to stop its provocative behavior, halt its policy of threats and belligerence toward its neighbors, and take irreversible steps to fulfill its denuclearization commitments, and comply with international law.” (05/24/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “North Korea can still choose another path. Instead of isolation, poverty, conflict, and condemnation, North Korea could enjoy integration, prosperity, peace, and respect. Its people could finally experience a better life... North Korea’s future depends on the choices that its leaders make today.” (05/26/10) ([read transcript](#))

North Korea Q&A

What is the Administration’s response to the amendment to the FY 2012 agriculture spending bill that would prevent sending food aid to North Korea?

- ✓ It has been the United States’ longstanding position, through multiple administrations that the provision of humanitarian assistance is separate from political and security concerns.
- ✓ We have made no decision on providing food aid to North Korea.
- ✓ Any decision will be based on legitimate humanitarian needs, competing needs elsewhere, and our ability to ensure that aid is reliably reaching the people in need.
- ✓ We are analyzing the results of the field team’s assessment and are closely monitoring the food situation. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)

Can you provide any details regarding the recently blocked shipment from North Korea to Burma?

- ✓ There was a vessel that was suspected of carrying materials prohibited by the UN Security Council resolutions. North Korea bears responsibility to be fully transparent about shipments that may provide grounds for concern and to demonstrate that it is not transferring items prohibited by UN Security Council Resolution 1718 and 1874.
- ✓ In this case, the U.S. did receive authorization from the flag state of a North Korean ship to inspect the ship’s cargo and requested that the ship permit such an inspection. The ship’s master denied permission for a consensual boarding and inspection of the ship’s cargo. We consulted closely with states in the region on our shared responsibilities to prevent this shipment. We talked directly with the North Koreans to stress the importance of not engaging in proliferation-related transfers. And we learned that the vessel changed course at sea, and we believe it returned to North Korea. (State Department [press briefing](#), 06/13/11)
- ✓ We have consistently raised our concerns and urged the international community to be vigilant about North Korea’s continued defiance of UN resolutions and to fully and transparently implement UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874.
- ✓ We call on all states to be vigilant and transparent in their dealings with North Korea and to implement their obligations under UNSCRs 1718 and 1874. (Press Guidance, 06/13/11)

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Do the special economic zones established between China and North Korea violate sanctions?

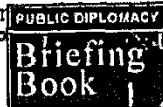
- ✓ We urge all United Nations member states to fully implement UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874, which target North Korea's continued involvement in proliferation, nuclear weapons development, and luxury goods procurement.
- ✓ We urge transparency, extreme caution and vigilance in any business dealings with North Korea.
- ✓ The United States remains concerned about the welfare of the North Korean people.
- ✓ We encourage North Korea to take real steps to reform its economy for the benefit the North Korean people. (Press Guidance, 06/09/11)

Could you comment on the implementation of the North Korean Human Rights Act?

- ✓ Advancing human rights is a top U.S. priority in our North Korea policy and is among the primary factors that will determine if any long-term improvement between the U.S. and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will be possible.
- ✓ The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 and its reauthorization in 2008 demonstrates Congress' commitment to ensuring that the well-being of the North Korean people remains an important foreign policy priority. This legislation created the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues.
- ✓ Engaging with DPRK officials is a key requirement of the position of the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights. Ambassador King's recent trip was the first time the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues was granted entry to the DPRK and the first time we were able to engage in a direct dialogue about ways North Korea can improve its human rights record.
- ✓ We have also encouraged our partners to include human rights in their North Korea policy. In addition to consulting with other governments, we met with organizations that deal with North Korea human rights issues – think tanks and academic institutions that analyze human rights issues; advocacy organizations that call attention to human right abuses; humanitarian assistance organizations that provide food, medical aid, and other assistance to the DPRK; educational, cultural, and scientific organizations that seek to engage the DPRK; churches and religious organizations; and Korean-American organizations that are interested in family reunions with relatives living in the DPRK.
- ✓ Between FY 2008-2011, the Department received \$9.5 million from the Economic Support Fund to promote rule of law and human rights, increase media freedom, and build civil society in North Korea. These funds also support efforts to build the capacity of the defector and NGO community in the South Korea to better advocate for improved conditions inside the DPRK.
- ✓ Since 2004, the U.S. has resettled 120 North Korean refugees and their families. We remain actively committed to ensuring that each North Korean refugee who is interested and eligible gains access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. The U.S. remains deeply concerned about the plight of North Korean refugees and asylum seekers. Reports of the involuntary return of North Koreans from China to the DPRK, including victims of human trafficking, remain deeply disturbing, as these returnees often face serious consequences. We continue to urge China to adhere to its obligations as a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, including by not expelling or forcibly returning North Koreans who should be protected under those treaties.
- ✓ To increase the flow of independent information into, out of, and within the country, the U.S. government funds Korean-language broadcasting into North Korea by the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) and supports independent and defector-run broadcasts through the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. (Remarks by Ambassador King, 06/02/11)

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AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

Afghanistan and Pakistan Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “In Afghanistan, we remain focused on the three areas of our strategy: our military effort to break the Taliban’s momentum and train Afghan forces so they can take the lead; our civilian effort to promote effective governance and development; and regional cooperation, especially with Pakistan, because our strategy has to succeed on both sides of the border.”
(12/16/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ **President Obama** – “This war has changed over the last nine years, but it’s no less important than it was in those days after 9/11. We toppled the Taliban regime – now we must break the momentum of a Taliban insurgency and train Afghan security forces. We have supported the election of a sovereign government – now we must strengthen its capacities. We’ve brought hope to the Afghan people – now we must see that their country does not fall prey to our common enemies... There will be difficult days ahead. We will adapt, we will persist, and I have no doubt that together with our Afghan and international partners, we will succeed in Afghanistan.”
(05/22/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ **President Obama** – “I want to send a strong message that the partnership between the United States and Afghanistan is going to continue. We have seen already progress with respect to the military campaign against extremism in the region. But we also want to continue to make progress on the civilian process of ensuring that agricultural production, energy production, good governance, rule of law, anticorruption efforts – all these things end up resulting in a Afghanistan that is more prosperous, more secure, independent; is not subject to meddling by its neighbors; a transition will be able to occur so that more and more security efforts are made by the Afghans.”
(03/28/10) (read transcript)

Afghanistan and Pakistan Q&A

What is the U.S. response to Afghan President Karzai's recent criticism of the U.S.?

- ✓ We have seen the comments over the weekend. We stand by the contributions the U.S. is making both on the civilian and military sides. There is no question of the progress we are making in Afghanistan.
- ✓ This progress would not be possible without the hard work, done in terribly insecure environments by brave Americans in conjunction with their Afghan and international partners.
- ✓ A long-term commitment to a stable, secure and prosperous Afghanistan is the only way to ensure that military gains are not lost, and that Afghanistan does not once again become a safe haven for terrorists to plot attacks. We will continue to support the people of Afghanistan as they take leadership and ownership of their country's security, development, good governance, regional issues, and reconciliation and reintegration.
- ✓ Discussions about a Strategic Partnership Agreement are ongoing. Our policy is not to comment on private conversations or diplomatic deliberations.
- ✓ The situation in Afghanistan is complex, but we are working hard with our Afghan partners to overcome the challenges.
- ✓ President Karzai remains an important partner for the U.S. (Press Guidance, 06/21/11)

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What is the Administration's response to a letter from 27 senators supporting an accelerated drawdown in Afghanistan?

- ✓ Our strategic objective in Afghanistan remains to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al Qaeda. The successful operation against Osama bin Laden was a vital step towards achieving that strategic objective. But there is more work to be done to ensure that Afghanistan does not again become a safe haven for terrorists to launch attacks against the United States.
- ✓ As the President has stated, we are committed to begin a drawdown of our forces in Afghanistan in July, but the scope and pace of that drawdown has not yet been determined. The military surge secured significant gains in Afghanistan, but these gains are fragile and reversible.
- ✓ Transition, reconciliation, and reintegration are mutually reinforcing processes, all led by the Afghans. Our aim is to assist in achieving a responsible and irreversible transition of full Afghan responsibility by 2014. Sufficient governance and development must underpin sustainable transition, and the U.S. civilian mission in Afghanistan is shifting away from direct service delivery to focus more on capacity building.
- ✓ It is critical that we maintain our current momentum to ensure security gains are permanent; the transition of security responsibility to the Afghans is irreversible, and conditions for reconciliation progress. We will continue to work with our partners in pursuit of these goals. (Press Guidance, 06/16/11)

Can you explain the recent revision to the UN sanctions regime against terrorists in Afghanistan?

- ✓ The United States welcomes and strongly supports the UN Security Council action to strengthen the 1267 regime of international sanctions against terrorists. The updated 1267 sanctions regime reflects the current political circumstances in Afghanistan, which have changed considerably since the regime was originally initiated.
- ✓ The updated sanctions regime will split the 1267 regime into two, one focused on combating those associated with al Qaeda and another focused on Afghanistan. This will not change the fact that those designated for sanctions as Taliban or al Qaeda will continue to be designated. No individuals will be removed from the 1267 sanctions regime by this action.
- ✓ The resolution stresses the importance of a comprehensive political process to support reconciliation among all Afghans, and a political resolution of the conflict that splits the Taliban from al Qaeda. Specifically, the sanctions regime recognizes the need for insurgents to cut ties to international terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda, renounce violence, and respect Afghanistan's constitution, including its protections for women and persons belonging to minorities.
- ✓ We welcome the strong regional support for this resolution, from countries such as Russia, China, and India, which all have voiced support for Afghan-led reconciliation. We will also continue to push for more robust implementation of existing sanctions by all member states to make global sanctions more effective. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)

What is the U.S. policy on the reconciliation of Taliban?

- ✓ We have consistently said that we support an Afghan-led reconciliation process, and that we would participate in that process.
- ✓ Over the past two years, we have laid out our red lines for the Taliban: They must renounce violence; they must abandon their alliance with al Qaeda; and they must abide by the constitution of Afghanistan. Those are necessary outcomes of any negotiation. This is the price for reaching a

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political resolution and bringing an end to the military actions that are targeting their leadership and decimating their ranks.

- ✓ We have taken tangible steps to advance Afghan government-led reconciliation and reintegration initiatives, such as the Afghan High Peace Council and provincial peace and reintegration councils.
- ✓ We also have a broad range of contacts across Afghanistan and the region, and at many levels, to support that effort. There has been outreach on the part of a number of countries, including the United States. These contacts are preliminary in nature. I'm not going to get into the details of those contacts. (Press Guidance, 06/21/11)

What is the current U.S. strategy concerning Afghanistan and Pakistan?

- ✓ President set out a clear goal: to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda, and prevent it from threatening America and our allies in the future.
- ✓ Al Qaeda and the Taliban, along with various associated groups, still maintain an alliance, based largely in the border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Taliban and al Qaeda are distinct groups with distinct aims, but they are both our adversaries and part of a syndicate of terror that must be broken.
- ✓ U.S. and international troops are focused on: (1) reversing the Taliban's momentum; (2) providing security for the Afghan people, and (3) partnering with Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) so that the Afghans can increasingly assume responsibility for Afghanistan's security. This will allow us to deny al Qaeda a safe-haven.
- ✓ We are following a strategy with three mutually reinforcing tracks: a military offensive against al Qaeda terrorists and Taliban insurgents; a civilian campaign to bolster the governments, economies, and civil societies of Afghanistan and Pakistan to undercut the pull of the insurgency; and an intensified diplomatic push to bring the Afghan conflict to an end and chart a new and more secure future for the region.
- ✓ We have laid out unambiguous red lines for reconciliation with insurgents. They must renounce violence, abandon their alliance with al Qaeda, and abide by the constitution of Afghanistan.
- ✓ This summer, ISAF will begin a gradual, responsible transition of security responsibilities to Afghan forces with the goal of removing all international combat troops by the end of 2014. As this transition moves forward, the Afghan people should remember that while the U.S. and our coalition partners may draw down our military forces over time, we are committed to a long-term strategic partnership with Afghanistan. We will continue to train, equip, and support Afghan security forces and do what we can to help the government improve the lives of its citizens.
- ✓ The shift in military momentum provides the Afghan government an opportunity to strengthen the competence of its people through economic development, fair enforcement of the rule of law, attacking corruption and the provision of basic services.
- ✓ From the beginning, we have recognized the fundamental connection between our war effort in Afghanistan and the extremists' safe havens and enablers in Pakistan. As a result of growing cooperation between our governments, militaries, and law enforcement agencies, and determined action by the Pakistani army, we have been able to dramatically expand our counterterrorism and intelligence efforts.
- ✓ The Afghan government needs to safeguard the rights of all Afghans, especially women and minorities. (Overview of the Afghanistan and Pakistan Annual Review, 12/16/10) and (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 02/18/11) and (Remarks by Secretary Gates, 06/05/11)
- ✓ **President Obama** – "I've been very clear about our core goal. It's not to defeat every last threat to the security of Afghanistan, because, ultimately, it is Afghans who must secure their country. And it's not nation-building, because it is Afghans who must build their nation. Rather, we are focused

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on disrupting, dismantling and defeating al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and preventing its capacity to threaten America and our allies in the future." (12/16/10) ([read transcript](#))

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RUSSIA**Russia Message**

- ✓ **Defense Secretary Gates** – “This last year has seen remarkable progress in the U.S.-Russia relationship, a relationship that has evolved from focusing nearly exclusively on traditional global issues, primarily arms control, to our present collaboration at a working level on a range of matters affecting our defense ministries.” (03/22/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “We’ll continue to advance our relationship with Russia, which is essential to making progress on a host of challenges – from enforcing strong sanctions on Iran to preventing nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists.” (12/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Deputy Secretary Steinberg** – “We have, I think, been successful in building a degree of civility and conversation between the two countries that we can have our honest disagreements where we have them, to sustain our principled positions where they exist, but not for that to be a barrier to working together. And whether it’s transit through Russia to Afghanistan, whether it’s START, whether it’s working on both North Korea and Iran, the tangible benefits are there.” (05/19/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Press Secretary Gibbs** – “The Obama administration stands in solidarity with the many people in the Russian government, in the legal system, and in civil society who are committed to strengthening the rule of law and deepening the commitment to universal values enshrined in the Russian constitution. Russia’s failure to keep this commitment to universal values, including the rule of law, impedes its own modernization and ability to deepen its ties with the United States.” (12/27/10) ([read transcript](#))

Russia Q&A**How does the U.S. respond to Russia’s statement of displeasure regarding joint U.S.-Ukrainian naval exercises in the Black Sea?**

- ✓ Exercise Sea Breeze is an U.S.-Ukraine naval exercise that has taken place annually since 1997. The purpose of Exercise Sea Breeze is to strengthen maritime partnerships in the spirit of multinational cooperation.
- ✓ This year’s training exercise focuses on anti-piracy operations, including counter piracy training operations, non-combatant evacuation operations and search and seizure training. In addition, ground forces will conduct non-lethal weapons training designed to combat unlawful fishing, piracy, trafficking in persons, drugs and illegal weapons.
- ✓ Thirteen countries are participating in this year’s exercise. They include: Ukraine (co-host), the United States (co-host), Azerbaijan, Algeria, Belgium, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Macedonia, Moldova, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- ✓ We refer you to the Pentagon for further details about Sea Breeze. (Press Guidance, 06/15/11)

Why did NATO reject Russia’s proposal to participate in a European missile defense system?

- ✓ NATO Secretary General Rasmussen said that “NATO cannot outsource to non-members collective defense obligations which bind its members.”
- ✓ The U.S. and NATO have made clear that irrespective of how cooperation with Russia develops, the Alliance alone bears responsibility for defending NATO’s members.
- ✓ The U.S. is committed to discussing with Russia ways to strengthen security, confidence and predictability in the region and will continue with our dialogue in this pursuit.

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- ✓ When President Obama announced the European Phased and Adaptive Approach (EPAA) in September 2009, he welcomed Russian cooperation on missile defense, so that each country could develop a stronger defense of our common strategic interests.
- ✓ The goal is for NATO and Russia to jointly develop ways to collaborate on a system that will be better able to defend against the increasing threat posed by ballistic missiles. The U.S. and NATO vision for NATO-Russia ballistic missile defense cooperation comprises two independent, but coordinated, missile defense systems that would augment and enhance each other's system's performance.
- ✓ U.S. officials have consulted with Russian counterparts to provide policy and technical explanations for our vision of cooperation. These consultations illustrate that the EPAA missile defense system is not directed at Russia and will not pose a threat to Russia's strategic nuclear deterrent.
- ✓ Since the Lisbon Summit, the U.S. has maintained an active dialogue with Russia on ballistic missile defense (BMD) cooperation, both bilaterally and in the NATO-Russia Council context.
- ✓ While we believe BMD cooperation will be mutually beneficial, the President, Secretary Gates, and Secretary Clinton have made clear that we will not agree to any constraints or negotiated limitations on U.S. or NATO BMD systems or deployments.
- ✓ The U.S. and NATO have also offered to engage in transparency and confidence-building activities that would demonstrate U.S. and NATO missile defense programs are not directed against Russia.
- ✓ Following their May 26 meeting in Deauville, Presidents Obama and Medvedev committed to continue working together to lay the foundation for future cooperation in missile defense. The U.S. and NATO intend to continue working with Russia on proposals for missile defense cooperation. (Press Guidance, 06/10/11)

What is the U.S. assessment of the human rights situation in Russia?

- ✓ President Medvedev has set forth his vision of a democratic, modern and successful Russia governed by the rule of law. President Obama, Vice President Biden, and Secretary Clinton have expressed their strong support for that same vision. The ability of Russian citizens to exercise their basic civil and political rights and access justice and due process will be key to realizing the Russia we all want to see.
- ✓ Despite these aspects of progress, we believe that continued limits and restrictions on the fundamental freedoms of the Russian people – rights guaranteed in international and Russian domestic law – are a larger problem for Russian citizens, businesses, and the government itself. We frequently raise these areas of concern with our Russian counterparts, both in public and in private.
- ✓ Progress has been more limited in the area of freedom of the press. We share the deep concerns expressed within Russia and across the international community over the murders of journalists known for their courageous work defending human rights and fighting corruption.
- ✓ There are still too many unsolved cases, and we continue to call for a full investigation into the unsolved murders of the journalist Anna Politkovskaya, among others. We have also expressed our concern that the only judicial action to date in the murder of Natalia Estemirova has been the prosecution of Oleg Orlov for saying out loud what many people suspected to be the case. We welcome the convictions in the murder case of the human rights defenders Stanislav Markelov and Anastasia Baburova.
- ✓ In addition to effective prosecutions by the government, we hope the Russian media and independent Russian organizations and institutions will continue to scrutinize the Russian justice system, to support improvements and address challenges. For example, a representative from the Presidential Council on Human Rights recently indicated that the Council would find that the

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charges against Sergei Magnitsky had been fabricated, so it has now been established that he was unjustly imprisoned. Similarly, the court decision to deny the appeals of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev also reminds us of large issues regarding impartiality, due process and selective prosecution.

- ✓ Outside scrutiny of government actions and the follow-on dialogue with government are key to progress in many areas beyond criminal justice. We remain gravely concerned, about the extrajudicial killings, torture, and disappearances committed with impunity by the forces of Chechen President Kadyrov and others. We have urged Russia authorities to act upon the many decisions of the European Court of Human Rights addressing human rights abuses in the North Caucasus as a step towards restoring rule of law in the region.
- ✓ Finally, freedom of assembly – to gather together and share ideas and urge change – is another essential element to a stronger Russia that taps into the talent and creativity of the Russia people. Most recently, we were concerned about reports of intimidation and attacks by private security guards, police, and other parties on activists associated with the Khimki Forest campaign. In another concerning move, this month, for the sixth year in a row, Moscow authorities refused permission for an NGO to hold an LGBT parade/rally. (Remarks by Assistant Secretary Posner, 05/27/11)

What are the next areas of emphasis for the continued reset of the U.S. relationship with Russia?

- ✓ The President Obama made it a priority to reset our relationship with Russia. We focused the reset on concrete outcomes that serve both countries' interests.
- ✓ Two years later, the benefits to both our countries – and to international security – are clear, including: the new Start Treaty that further limits strategic nuclear weapons, cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, collaboration on Afghanistan that facilitates the flow of soldiers and supplies, and the most stringent sanctions ever on Iran and North Korea for their pursuit of nuclear weapons.
- ✓ The next frontier in our relationship will be building stronger ties of trade and commerce that match the security cooperation we have achieved. Our trade and investment relationship is nowhere near where it could or should be. One way to realize the potential of that relationship is to bring Russia more fully into the international trading system. That is why we strongly support Russia's effort to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- ✓ WTO accession will enable Russia to deepen its trade relations with the U.S. and the world. It will give American companies greater and more predictable access to Russia's growing markets, expanding both U.S. exports and employment. Being a part of the WTO means that Russia will have to play by the rules or face enforcement actions.
- ✓ Once Russia does what is required to join the WTO, we will also work with Congress to terminate the application to Russia of the Jackson-Vanik amendment – a Cold War-era law that tied trade relations with Russia to Jewish emigration, but remains on the books.
- ✓ Russia's business and legal climate and backsliding on democracy will present serious obstacles. At the same time as we have increased our cooperation with the Russian government, our administration has spoken out on allegations of misconduct in the trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and of the beating and detention of "Strategy 31" demonstrators – and we will continue to do so in defense of universal values. But real opposition parties, independent media, and impartial courts are also the best tools for fighting corruption – the biggest barrier to economic growth in Russia. (Op-Ed by Vice President Biden, 03/14/11)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**SUDAN/DARFUR****Sudan Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “After decades of conflict, the images of millions of southern Sudanese voters deciding their own future was an inspiration to the world and another step forward in Africa’s long journey toward justice and democracy. Now, all parties have a responsibility to ensure that this historic moment of promise becomes a moment of lasting progress. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement must be fully implemented and outstanding disputes must be resolved peacefully. At the same time, there must be an end to attacks on civilians in Darfur and a definitive end to that conflict.” (02/07/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Special Envoy Gration** – “While much of the international attention has been focused on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement recently, and certainly the upcoming referendum in Southern Sudan, we cannot and we must not forget about the people of Darfur. These people have suffered too long. And they continue to live with daily reminders of conflict, insecurity, displacement, banditry. Most of the Darfuris have seen little change in their living conditions over the past seven years. They currently see little hope for a brighter future. Internally displaced people continue to live in temporary housing. They depend on emergency assistance. And they don’t even know when or if they’ll be able to return to their historical homelands in safety and dignity, should they choose to do so.” (12/13/10) ([read transcript](#))

Sudan Q&A**Could you comment on the recent agreement to withdraw troops from Abyei?**

- ✓ On June 20, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement signed an agreement in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which will reduce tensions in Abyei and improve the security and humanitarian situation on the ground. These negotiations have not been easy. We commend both parties for resolving their differences peacefully after the outbreak of violence.
- ✓ We also thank the AU High-Level Implementation Panel and its chairman Thabo Mbeki, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles, and UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan Haile Menkerios for the important role each played in facilitating dialogue between the parties.
- ✓ The agreement is an important first step – but the real test of the parties’ commitment will be the full implementation of its provisions in the coming days. We will work within the UN Security Council to seek a resolution authorizing the agreed-upon interim security force to support the swift deployment of the Ethiopian peacekeepers. At the same time, we urge all parties to follow through on their commitment to withdraw their military forces and take steps to facilitate the return of the tens of thousands of people displaced by recent fighting.
- ✓ The United States is still concerned about on-going violence in Southern Kordofan and the resulting humanitarian crisis. We call on both sides to allow unfettered access for aid workers to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need. We also urge Sudanese leaders in Addis Ababa to agree on an immediate cessation of hostilities. (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 06/20/11)

Could you provide an update on the situation in the Southern Kordofan state of Sudan?

- ✓ The situation in Southern Kordofan is dire, with deeply disturbing reports of attacks based on ethnicity.
- ✓ The United States condemns all acts of violence, in particular the Sudanese Armed Forces’ aerial bombardment of civilians and harassment and intimidation of UN peacekeepers.

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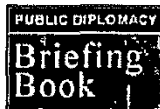
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- ✓ With a ceasefire in Southern Kordofan, alongside the agreement to deploy peacekeepers to Abyei, we can get the peace process back on track. But without these actions, the roadmap for better relations with the Government of Sudan cannot be carried forward, which will only deepen Sudan's isolation in the international community.
- ✓ Without a cease-fire and political negotiations, the people of Southern Kordofan cannot enjoy the right to have their political grievances addressed. The negotiations now under way in Addis Ababa demand the urgent commitment from both sides to peace and to the agreement for immediate help to those civilians caught up in this conflict. (Remarks by President Obama, 06/22/11)
- ✓ President Obama – “The Sudanese people have come too far, and sacrificed too much, to see their dreams of a better future slip from their grasp. Now is the time for Sudanese leaders to show the courage and vision that true leadership demands. Now is the time for Sudanese leaders, north and south, to choose peace.” (06/14/11) (read transcript)

Can you provide a readout from the President's meeting with Special Envoy for Sudan Lyman?

- ✓ On June 16, President Obama met with Ambassador Princeton Lyman, his Special Envoy for Sudan, to discuss the status of mediation efforts to end the political and humanitarian crisis in Abyei and the humanitarian crisis and violence in Southern Kordofan.
- ✓ The President expressed deep concern over the violence and the lack of humanitarian access, and he underscored the urgent need to get back to cooperative negotiations to enable full and timely implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including peaceful resolution of the future status of Abyei and the two areas.
- ✓ Ambassador Lyman updated the President on the recent meetings Secretary of State Clinton had with the parties during her trip to Africa. President Obama told Ambassador Lyman he is following the situation closely and gave his full support to Ambassador Lyman's work to press for a successful conclusion of the negotiations to achieve a withdrawal from Abyei and a cessation of hostilities across the region and to support the emergence of two viable states at peace.
- ✓ President Obama noted the important contributions towards peace made by Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and African Union Panel leader Thabo Mbeki.
- ✓ Special Envoy Lyman plans to return to the region this month to help translate political agreements into lasting and credible security arrangements. In a message to Sudan's leaders, the President said they must not throw away the opportunity to move toward the promise of greater peace and prosperity. (White House press statement, 06/16/11)

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TERRORISM**Terrorism Q&A****What is the U.S. response to the passage of two new Security Council resolutions on sanctions?**

✓ The United States welcomes the passage on June 17 of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1988 and 1989. The resolutions mark a major step forward in the strengthening of the international sanctions regime against terrorists.

✓ Passage of UNSC Resolution 1988, which establishes the Afghanistan sanctions regime, is a tangible sign of support by the international community for Afghan reconciliation efforts. At the same time, the resolution contributes to ongoing efforts to combat the insurgency. The new regime will be an important tool to support the Government of Afghanistan's efforts to reconcile with insurgents who are willing cut ties to international terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda, renounce violence, and respect Afghanistan's constitution, including its protections for all Afghan women and men.

✓ Passage of UNSC Resolution 1989 represents the international community's continued commitment to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda, on the heels of recent gains against al Qaeda's core leadership. We are pleased by the significant reforms the Council has made to further enhance the fairness and transparency of the 1267 Committee's listing and delisting processes. We hope that these enhancements to the regime will allow the Council, and the 1267 Committee, to turn its attention back to the business of ensuring that these sanctions are fully implemented.

✓ We welcome the strong international support for these resolutions from a diverse array of members of the Security Council – and especially the support of Afghanistan's neighbors and near neighbors. All countries in the region stand to benefit from a responsible political settlement of the Afghan conflict, and also an end to al Qaeda's safe havens and the exporting of extremism into their countries. These resolutions are another important step towards achieving these objectives.

✓ We will also continue to push for more robust implementation of existing sanctions by all member states to make global sanctions more effective. (State Department press statement, 06/17/11)

What are the State Department's counterterrorism priorities?

- ✓ **Reducing Recruitment.** The Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) work of the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism (S/CT) focuses on three main lines of effort that will reduce terrorist recruitment: delegitimizing the violent extremist narrative in order to diminish its "pull"; developing positive alternatives for youth vulnerable to radicalization to diminish the "push" effect of grievances and unmet expectations; and building partner capacity to carry out these activities. Key intents of CVE programming are to diminish the drivers of radicalization and demonstrably reduce the effectiveness of terrorist propaganda, thus leading to lowered numbers in recruitment.
- ✓ Successful CVE involves more than messaging, however, and we are working with the interagency to develop programs that address the upstream factors of radicalization in communities particularly susceptible to terrorist recruitment overseas.
- ✓ To be effective, CVE work needs to be driven by local needs, informed by local knowledge, and responsive to the immediate concerns of the community. CVE interventions will be highly focused and short-term and will be developed in cooperation with USAID and others in the interagency as well as with international partners. Ultimately, host governments are best positioned to execute truly sustainable CVE efforts.
- ✓ **Capacity Building.** One of the central challenges to our security is that weak states serve as breeding grounds for terrorism and instability. We need to build effective law enforcement capacity, fair and impartial justice and the rule of law, good governance in many places that have

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- never known this. Multiple U.S. Government agencies are mobilized in this effort: Justice, FBI, Treasury, USAID, and the Department of Homeland Security.
- ✓ One of our most effective capacity building programs is the Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) Program, the primary provider of U.S. Government antiterrorism training and equipment to law enforcement agencies of partner nations.
 - ✓ The number of active partner countries is decreasing to about 55 in an effort to ensure we are strategically focusing our resources on building partner CT capacity in the right places. The ATA program is most effective where countries have a combination of political will and basic law enforcement skills to be most receptive to the advanced training ATA provides. Through an emphasis on train-the-trainer courses, we are working with partner nations toward the goal of institutionalization and self-sustainment of capacities.
 - ✓ **Multilateral Engagement.** Building new and strengthening existing partnerships is a cornerstone of this Administration's counterterrorism policy. The U.S. cannot address the threat alone and the UN and other multilateral bodies have resources and expertise that we need to do a better job of leveraging. With our funding support and guidance, we are getting the UN and regional bodies to focus on practical projects that target critical issues and countries.
 - ✓ S/CT has been working to develop a new multilateral counterterrorism initiative, which we believe would not only be an important step forward but would address a significant gap in the international counterterrorism architecture: the lack of a central, reliable inter-governmental platform that allows policymakers and practitioners from different regions to engage on a sustained basis on various counterterrorism issues.
 - ✓ All of this work goes on in the context of vigorous diplomatic engagement. We have formal bilateral counterterrorism consultations with numerous countries. Among them are Australia, Canada, China, Israel, Egypt, Japan, Pakistan, Algeria, Russia, and India; these consultations have strengthened our counterterrorism partnerships so we can complement one another's efforts in pursuit of a comprehensive approach to our common challenges.
 - ✓ In conclusion, the threat is formidable but we are making some progress. Countering violent extremism, multilateral engagement, and building local capacity – through our various programs and with our Department and interagency partners – provide us with the tools to make lasting progress in our fight against terrorism. (Remarks by Coordinator Benjamin, 04/14/11)

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DETAINEES

Detainees Q&A

What is the Administration's position on the detention center at Guantanamo Bay?

- ✓ On March 7, the Secretary of Defense issued an order rescinding his prior suspension on the swearing and referring of new charges in the military commissions. New charges in military commissions had been suspended since the President announced his review of detainee policy.
- ✓ The Administration has successfully enacted key reforms, such as a ban on the use of statements taken as a result of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, and a better system for handling classified information.
- ✓ There are certain Guantanamo detainees who have not been charged, convicted, or designated for transfer, but must continue to be detained because they in effect, remain at war with the U.S. On March 7, the President issued an Executive Order establishing a thorough process of periodic review for these detainees, so that any prolonged detention is carefully evaluated and justified.
- ✓ The periodic review established by this order will help to ensure that individuals who we have determined will be subject to long-term detention continue to be detained only when lawful and necessary to protect against a significant threat to the security of the U.S. If a final determination is made that a detainee no longer constitutes a significant threat to our security, the Secretaries of State and Defense are to identify a suitable transfer location outside the U.S., consistent with the national security and foreign policy interests of the U.S. and applicable law. No Guantanamo detainee will be released into the U.S.
- ✓ We are grateful to all of our allies and partners who have worked with the Administration to implement the transfers undertaken thus far in a secure and humane manner, especially those who have resettled detainees from third countries.
- ✓ In December, Congress enacted restrictions on the prosecution of Guantanamo detainees in Federal courts. The Administration opposes these restrictions as a dangerous and unprecedented challenge to Executive authority to select the most effective means available to bring terrorists to justice and safeguard our security.
- ✓ We will seek repeal of the restrictions imposed by Congress, so that we can move forward in the forum that is, in our judgment, most in line with our national security interests and the interests of justice.
- ✓ Because of the vital importance of the rule of law to the effectiveness and legitimacy of our national security policy, the Administration is announcing our support for two important components of the international legal framework that covers armed conflicts: Additional Protocol II and Article 75 of Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.
- ✓ Additional Protocol II, which contains detailed humane treatment standards and fair trial guarantees that apply in the context of non-international armed conflicts, was originally submitted to the Senate for approval by President Reagan in 1987. The Administration urges the Senate to act as soon as practicable on this Protocol. An extensive interagency review concluded that U.S. military practice is already consistent with the Protocol's provisions.
- ✓ Article 75 of Additional Protocol I, which sets forth fundamental guarantees for persons in the hands of opposing forces in an international armed conflict, is similarly important to the international legal framework. Although the Administration continues to have significant concerns with Additional Protocol I, Article 75 is a provision of the treaty that is consistent with our current policies and practice and is one that the United States has historically supported.

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- ✓ Our adherence to these principles is also an important safeguard against the mistreatment of captured U.S. military personnel. (Fact Sheet on New Actions on Guantánamo and Detainee Policy, 03/07/11)
- ✓ Since the beginning of this Administration, we have transferred 67 detainees to 24 different destinations, including the transfer of 40 detainees to third countries.
- ✓ Pursuant to our effort to close Guantanamo, we are in ongoing discussions with a number of foreign partners regarding transfer options for the remaining detainees so approved, as well as those ordered released by our courts.
- ✓ Today, 172 detainees remain at Guantanamo. There were 242 at the facility on January 21, 2009. Since 2002, around 600 detainees have departed Guantanamo, including more than 500 during the prior administration. (Press Guidance, 03/21/11)

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June 08, 2011

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

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IRAQ

Iraq Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “Going forward, a transitional force of U.S. troops will remain in Iraq with a different mission: advising and assisting Iraq’s Security Forces, supporting Iraqi troops in targeted counterterrorism missions, and protecting our civilians. Consistent with our agreement with the Iraqi government, all U.S. troops will leave by the end of next year. As our military draws down, our dedicated civilians – diplomats, aid workers, and advisors – are moving into the lead to support Iraq as it strengthens its government, resolves political disputes, resettles those displaced by war, and builds ties with the region and the world.” (08/31/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “Even as we transition to an Iraqi lead and bring our troops home, our commitment to the Iraqi people endures. We will continue to advise and assist Iraqi security forces, who are already responsible for security in most of the country. And a strong American civilian presence will help Iraqis forge political and economic progress. This will not be a simple task, but this is what success looks like: an Iraq that provides no haven to terrorists; a democratic Iraq that is sovereign and stable and self-reliant.” (05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Vice President Biden** – “[This] administration is absolutely committed to a successful, stable, representative, and just Iraq. And we are committed to building an enduring partnership between Iraq and the United States... As President Obama made clear last year, we will end our combat mission of our troops this summer and draw down our forces in compliance with the U.S.-Iraqi security agreement. But even as we draw down our military... we will ramp up our political, diplomatic, and economic engagement with Iraq.” (01/23/10) ([read transcript](#))

Iraq Q&A

- ✓ **Could you comment on U.S. efforts to promote a better business environment in Iraq?**
- ✓ The U.S. government believes strongly that expanding economic opportunity is as essential as building democratic institutions. In particular, it’s very important for people going through the changes that are sweeping the region to believe and to see that democracy delivers.
- ✓ We see too few American companies alongside our soldiers and our diplomats. Iraqis are looking to rebuild every sector of their economy, not only their oil sector but agribusiness, transportation, housing, banking, and many others.
- ✓ There are still significant security challenges, bottlenecks in infrastructure, unclear regulations, and, unfortunately, corruption. But as our Iraqi colleagues will tell you, they are working hard to make it easier to do business in Iraq for Iraqis and foreign investors alike.
- ✓ Each company will make its own decisions about the costs and benefits, but we want to go on record unequivocally in encouraging American business to begin that process, and we will do everything we can to support you in it. Our embassies and consulates will be hubs that support commercial activity in every region of Iraq. The State Department will work hard to champion American companies. USAID, Treasury, the Departments of Energy and Agriculture, OPIC, Ex-Im, and many other agencies have unique and proven experience that we can bring to the table.
- ✓ Ambassador Jeffrey is working hard to establish an American Chamber of Commerce in Iraq, which would be another powerful advocate.
- ✓ Ultimately these decisions are up to the Iraqi people: the leaders of the government, the leaders of industry, and, of course, Iraqi men and women who want that better future. (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 06/03/11)
- ✓ **Fact Sheet: Doing Business in Iraq (06/03/11)**

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What is the status of the transition in Iraq?

- ✓ The safety of U.S. government personnel is of primary importance, and we are balancing risk with the value of the mission.
- ✓ For years, our diplomats have served effectively in inhospitable environments. In Iraq, we have operated successfully in multiple areas with only Diplomatic Security since 2004. We have high confidence that our capable civilians will continue to meet the diplomatic and security challenges. This is true now and it will be true after the military completes its draw down.
- ✓ The Department of State is well aware of the challenges that still exist in Iraq. Our coordinated transition plan, developed with the military, is being implemented with these challenges in mind and is realistic in its approach.
- ✓ We are confident that, in close coordination and cooperation with the U.S. military and the Government of Iraq, we will carry out a successful transition beyond 2011 while maintaining security for our personnel.
- ✓ In addition, we continue to see progress in the capacity of the Iraqi Security Forces, which are already in the lead on security, and judge that this progress will continue.
- ✓ The United States and Iraq are rebalancing the relationship while we remain committed to a comprehensive partnership – based on the Strategic Framework Agreement signed between our two countries – that will broaden the emphasis on political, economic, environmental, technological and cultural cooperation, while also expanding on success in the realm of security that was the focus of recent years. (Press Guidance, 05/17/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Strengthening Iraq (05/19/11)

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IRAN

Iran Message

- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “The prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran concerns us all. And to address that threat, together we have pursued a dual-track approach of engagement and pressure, aimed at encouraging Iran's leaders to change course. The draft resolution agreed to by all of our P-5+1 partners and circulated at the Security Council sends a clear message to the Iranian leadership: Live up to your obligation, or face growing isolation and consequences. As we continue to cooperate in New York, the burden is on Iran to demonstrate through its actions that it will uphold its responsibility.” (05/21/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **National Security Advisor Jones** – “Iran's continued defiance of its international obligations on its nuclear program and its support of terrorism represents a significant regional and global threat. A nuclear-armed Iran could transform the landscape of the Middle East, precipitating a nuclear arms race, dramatically increasing the prospect and danger of local conflicts, fatally wounding the global non-proliferation regime, and emboldening the terrorists and extremists who threaten the United States and our allies. Therefore, we are now working actively with allies and partners to increase the costs of Iran's continued failure to live up to its international obligations. This includes a U.N. Security Council sanctions resolution.” (04/21/10) ([read transcript](#))

Iran Q&A

How does the U.S. respond to Iranian President Ahmadinejad's assertion that no incentives would persuade Iran to stop enrichment activities?

- ✓ We have asked Iran to enter into negotiations on its nuclear program with the international community, represented by the P5+1, in good faith and with sincerity. President Ahmadinejad's response is therefore disappointing but not surprising.
- ✓ Pursuant to four Chapter VII UN Security Council resolutions, Iran is under an obligation, without delay, to suspend all of its enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development.
- ✓ Iran must also cooperate with the IAEA's investigation into its nuclear program and show transparency to the international community in order to resolve international concerns about the nature of Iran's nuclear program.
- ✓ We call on Iran to fully comply with its international nuclear obligations, including those to suspend its uranium enrichment activities. (Press Guidance, 06/07/11)

What is the U.S. reaction to the IAEA Director General's statement regarding the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program?

- ✓ The IAEA Director General's statement and latest report underscores Iran's continued refusal to comply with its international nuclear obligations and its sustained lack of cooperation with the IAEA on numerous issues, including the possible military dimensions to its nuclear program.
- ✓ Iran's continuing non-response to the critical questions that surround a possible military dimension to Iran's nuclear program is deeply troubling and reinforces the urgent need for Iran to cooperate fully with the IAEA.
- ✓ The international community will continue to hold Iran accountable to its international nuclear obligations, including by increasing the international pressure on Iran.
- ✓ We call on Iran to comply fully with its international obligations and cooperate fully with the IAEA. (Press Guidance, 06/06/11)

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Could you comment on the killing of Iranian activist Haleh Sahabi at her father's funeral?

✓ We condemn the killing of Iranian activist Haleh Sahabi in the strongest possible terms. Eye witness and reliable accounts of Ms. Sahabi's death on June 1 at her father's funeral in Iran are making it clear that Ms. Sahabi died as a result of reprehensible actions by Iranian security forces. Iranian government explanations have so far been unsatisfactory, and it shut down commemoration of her death on June 2, with additional reports that Iranian security forces beat members of Women for Peace and the Mourning Mothers to prevent participation in her memorial.

✓ It is unfathomable that a government would be so terrified of its citizens that it would order the use of force against a daughter mourning at her father's funeral. Indeed, this is a government that regularly brutalizes its citizens, imprisoning them under questionable charges, torturing them, cutting them off from the rest of the world, and denying their fundamental human rights.

✓ It is for this reason that the international community voted overwhelmingly to establish a Special Rapporteur for Iran at the Human Rights Council. We will recommend that the Rapporteur fully investigate this incident at the earliest possible opportunity.

✓ We again express our condolences to the Sahabi family, friends, and supporters all over the world. (State Department press statement, 06/02/11)

What is the current status of international sanctions on Iran?

- ✓ Sanctions imposed by the Obama Administration are part of our dual-track strategy of engagement and pressure to address the challenges posed by Iran. Iran has so far not demonstrated a willingness to meet its international obligations or negotiate seriously on its nuclear program, and so we and our international partners have had no choice but to step up pressures in the hope that Iran will reconsider what's in its own best interest.
- ✓ The Administration's sanctions policies have already had a significant impact on Iran's energy sector. Five major oil companies have committed to terminate their involvement in Iran. Major suppliers of refined petroleum and energy traders have stopped sales of refined product to Iran. Jet fuel suppliers are now refusing to supply jet fuel to Iran Air at most destinations in Europe and Asia where Iran Air flies. And now the imposition of sanctions against seven companies under the amended Iran Sanctions Act will send a strong signal to companies around the world about the risks of doing business with Iran. (White House press briefing, 05/24/11)
- ✓ We have emphasized from the start that what is at issue between Iran and the rest of the world is not its right to a peaceful nuclear program, but rather its decades-long failure to live up to the responsibilities that come with that right.
- ✓ We sought to create early opportunities for Iran to pursue a different path and to build confidence in its intentions. This was a serious demonstration of good faith and an investment in partnership with a growing coalition of countries profoundly concerned about Iran's nuclear ambitions.
- ✓ We will intensify the costs of continued non-compliance and show Iran that pursuit of a nuclear weapons program will make it less secure. In the meantime we will continue to reassure our friends and partners in the Gulf of our long-term commitment to their security.
- ✓ Sanctions and pressure are not an end in themselves. They are a complement, not a substitute, for the diplomatic solution to which we and our partners are still firmly committed. There is still time for diplomacy if Iran is prepared to engage in serious discussions. There is still room for a renewed effort to break down mistrust, and begin a careful, phased process of building confidence between Iran and the international community. (Statement by Undersecretary Burns, 12/01/10)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Holding Iran Accountable (05/19/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Companies Reducing Energy-Related Business with Iran (05/24/11)

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- ✓ Fact Sheet: Seven Companies Sanctioned Under the Amended Iran Sanctions Act (05/24/11)

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MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel/Palestine Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “The United States believes that negotiations should result in two states, with permanent Palestinian borders with Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and permanent Israeli borders with Palestine. We believe the borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, so that secure and recognized borders are established for both states. The Palestinian people must have the right to govern themselves, and reach their full potential, in a sovereign and contiguous state.” (05/19/11)(read transcript)
- ✓ **Special Envoy Mitchell** – “The best outcome is an agreement which results in two states living side by side in peace and security, and the only way that can be achieved is through direct negotiations between the parties in which the United States will be an active and sustained participant, and with the full support of our many friends and allies around the world.” (08/20/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “We support a two-state solution, with Israelis and Palestinians co-existing peacefully and with mutual security. We believe that through good-faith negotiations, the parties can mutually agree on an outcome which ends the conflict and reconciles the Palestinian goal of an independent and viable state based on the 1967 lines, with agreed swaps, and the Israeli goal of a Jewish state with secure and recognized borders that reflect subsequent developments and meet Israeli security requirements. And we recognize that Jerusalem is a deeply important issue to Israelis and Palestinians, to Jews, Muslims, and Christians everywhere. We believe it is possible to reach an outcome that both realizes the aspirations of all parties for Jerusalem, and safeguards its status for the future.” (02/14/10) (read transcript)

Israel/Palestine Q&A

What is the U.S. response to the burning of a mosque in the West Bank on June 7?

- ✓ The United States condemns the burning and vandalizing of a mosque in the West Bank village of Al-Mughayyir on June 7.
- ✓ This attack is the latest of several such acts of violence against West Bank mosques. These incidents have served to undermine efforts to promote a comprehensive peace in the region.
- ✓ We call on the Israeli government to investigate this attack and bring the perpetrators to justice and for calm from all parties. (State Department press statement, 06/07/11)

What is the U.S. response to the June 5 shootings on the Israeli-Syrian border?

- ✓ We are deeply troubled by attempts to cross the disengagement line on June 5 in the Golan Heights, resulting in injuries and the loss of life, and condemn the Syrian government's involvement in inciting these events.
- ✓ It is clear that such behavior will not distract attention from the Syrian government's ongoing repression of demonstrators.
- ✓ As we have said, Israel, like any sovereign nation, has a right to defend itself. We call for an end to the violence and for all sides to exercise restraint. (Press Guidance, 06/06/11)

Is the U.S. working to prevent another incident between a flotilla to Gaza and Israeli forces?

- ✓ For the past year we have made clear that groups and individuals that seek to break Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza are taking irresponsible and provocative actions that entail a risk to their safety.

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✓ The U.S. Coast Guard this week issued a warning informing mariners that "previous attempts to enter Gaza by sea have resulted in violent incidents and the detention and deportation of those involved."

✓ We again stress that established and efficient mechanisms exist to transfer humanitarian assistance to Gaza. All those seeking to provide such assistance to the people of Gaza should use these mechanisms rather than participate in provocative actions like a flotilla. We will continue to make clear both publicly and in private meetings with NGOs and others our concerns about the risks of attempting to break the blockade and sail directly to Gaza. (Press Guidance, 06/01/11)

What is U.S. policy on Middle East peace as outlined by President Obama?

- ✓ A lasting peace will involve two states for two peoples: Israel as a Jewish state and the homeland for the Jewish people, and the state of Palestine as the homeland for the Palestinian people, each state enjoying self-determination, mutual recognition, and peace.
- ✓ The United States believes that negotiations should result in two states, with permanent Palestinian borders with Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and permanent Israeli borders with Palestine. We believe the borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, so that secure and recognized borders are established for both states. The Palestinian people must have the right to govern themselves, and reach their full potential, in a sovereign and contiguous state.
- ✓ Every state has the right to self-defense, and Israel must be able to defend itself – by itself – against any threat. Provisions must also be robust enough to prevent a resurgence of terrorism, to stop the infiltration of weapons, and to provide effective border security. The full and phased withdrawal of Israeli military forces should be coordinated with the assumption of Palestinian security responsibility in a sovereign, non-militarized state.
- ✓ These steps alone will not resolve the conflict, because two wrenching and emotional issues will remain: the future of Jerusalem, and the fate of Palestinian refugees. But moving forward now on the basis of territory and security provides a foundation to resolve those two issues in a way that is just and fair, and that respects the rights and aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians.
- ✓ For the Palestinians, efforts to delegitimize Israel will end in failure. Symbolic actions to isolate Israel at the United Nations will not create an independent state. Palestinian leaders will not achieve peace or prosperity if Hamas insists on a path of terror and rejection. And Palestinians will never realize their independence by denying the right of Israel to exist.
- ✓ As for Israel, our friendship is rooted deeply in a shared history and shared values. Our commitment to Israel's security is unshakable. But precisely because of our friendship, it's important that we tell the truth: the status quo is unsustainable, and Israel too must act boldly to advance a lasting peace. (Remarks by President Obama, 05/19/11)

Can you confirm that the Palestinian Authority and Hamas have completed a reconciliation agreement?

- ✓ We understand Fatah and Hamas have reached a reconciliation agreement. What is important now is that the Palestinians ensure that implementation of the agreement advances the prospects of peace rather than undermines them.
- ✓ We understand the concerns of some members of Congress. As a new Palestinian government is formed, we will assess it based on its policies and will determine the implications for our assistance based on U.S. law.
- ✓ We are confident President Abbas remains committed to the principles of nonviolence, recognition of the state of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations between the parties.

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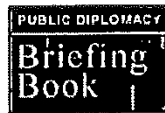
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- ✓ To play a constructive role in achieving peace, any interim Palestinian government formed in the period before elections must ensure its actions fully implement these principles. The U.S. stance toward such a government will be fully consistent with U.S. law.
- ✓ Hamas is well aware of what is at stake and our position is clear and unequivocal: to play a constructive role in achieving peace and building an independent Palestinian state, any Palestinian government must commit to the principles of nonviolence, recognition of the state of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations between the parties. Our position on Hamas has not changed; Hamas is a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization.
- ✓ We are speaking with President Abbas and his government as part of our ongoing consultations on these issues. We will continue to seek information on the details of the agreement and to consult with the parties about these issues. We refer you to the Palestinians for the details of the agreement. (Press Guidance, 05/09/11)
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “We’ve made it very clear that we cannot support any government that consists of Hamas unless and until Hamas adopts the Quartet principles.” ([read transcript](#)) (05/05/11)

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MENA TRANSITION AND REFORM**MENA Transition and Reform Message**

- ✓ **Assistant Secretary Posner** – “Our response to the upheaval in the Middle East has been rooted in a consistent set of principles: We have opposed the use of violence against peaceful protesters and supported the universal rights of free expression, assembly, and association and the right to participate in the affairs of the state. We have strongly condemned, including in multilateral fora, the killing, torture, and abuse of peaceful protesters. We have made clear our view that people’s legitimate demands and aspirations must be met by positive engagement from governments, in the form of meaningful political and economic reforms.” (05/05/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “Uprisings across the region have exposed myths that for too long were used to justify a stagnant status quo. You know the myth that governments can hold on to power without responding to their people’s aspirations or respecting their rights; the myth that the only way to produce change in the region is through violence and conflict; and, most pernicious of all, the myth that Arabs do not share universal human aspirations for freedom, dignity, and opportunity.” (04/13/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “Democratic change must grow from within. It cannot be implanted from the outside. And let me be among the first of many to say the West certainly does not have all of the answers. The first steps of change have come quickly and dramatically. It is, however, proving tragically difficult in Libya. In other nations, change is likely to be more deliberate and methodical. In all cases, the United States will support citizens and governments as they work for progress.” (02/28/11) ([read transcript](#))

MENA Transition and Reform Q&A**Could you provide an update on the situation in Yemen?**

- ✓ We are aware that President Saleh is currently in Saudi Arabia receiving medical treatment. The civilian government remains in power in Yemen with the Vice President currently serving as the acting President in accordance with Yemen’s constitution.
- ✓ We will not speculate on President Saleh’s actions or condition. The situation remains volatile and we refer you to the Yemen and Saudi governments for more details.
- ✓ Ambassador Feirstein and other Embassy personnel continue to meet with a broad cross section of the Yemeni population, including Vice President Hadi, to better assess the current situation and steps moving forward.
- ✓ The United States continues to call for a peaceful and orderly transition immediately, consistent with Yemen’s constitutional processes. Our position has not changed and we continue to believe an immediate transition is in the best interest of the Yemeni people.
- ✓ The instability and lack of security in Yemen cannot be fully addressed until the aspirations of the Yemeni people are realized. We will continue to consult and coordinate with our friends and partners on Yemen, including the Gulf Cooperation Council member states.
- ✓ Sana’a has been relatively quiet since June 4, with clashes taking place in other cities throughout Yemen. We understand the airport is open and functioning with respect to scheduled flights. We continue to monitor the volatile situation in Yemen.
- ✓ The violence on June 5 further adds to the instability and lack of security in Yemen. We condemn this violence in the strongest terms and call on all sides to cease violence and exercise maximum restraint moving forward.

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- ✓ The U.S. Embassy in Sana'a remains open for emergency services. Routine consular services have been suspended. We remain on ordered departure.
- ✓ We have seen reports of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's (AQAP) activities in south Yemen and we continue to gather facts to paint a clearer picture of the situation on the ground in Yemen. It is clear that AQAP remains a major threat to the U.S. homeland, as well as to Yemen's stability and that of the region. We continue to do everything in our power to ensure we address that threat.
- ✓ AQAP takes advantage of the lack of security and poor governance in regions of Yemen that suffer from ongoing internal conflicts, resource challenges, insufficient delivery of services, and ineffective security architecture.
- ✓ Counterterrorism cooperation is in Yemen's interest as well as the interest of the U.S. While the current situation in Yemen is volatile, our shared interest with the Yemeni government in fighting terrorism, particularly defeating AQAP, does not rely solely on one individual; we expect that any Yemeni successor government will be a solid counterterrorism partner. (Press Guidance, 06/06/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Transition and Reform in Yemen (05/19/11)

What is the U.S. response to the shutdown of Internet service in Syria?

- ✓ The U.S. is deeply concerned by reports that Internet service has been shut down across Syria.
- ✓ We condemn in the strongest terms any effort to suppress the Syrian people's exercise of their rights to free expression, assembly, and association. This includes intimidation or violence against peaceful protestors and restrictions on the Internet and connection technologies.
- ✓ Even in the face of significant obstacles, the Syrian people will find a way to make their voices heard.
- ✓ The United States stands for universal rights and believes that all governments, including the Syrian government, must respect them. (Press Guidance 06/06/11)
- ✓ On May 16, the White House released the International Strategy for Cyberspace, which noted that "states should not arbitrarily deprive or disrupt individuals' access to the Internet or other networked technologies." We condemn such shutdowns in the strongest terms. (Statement by Secretary Clinton, 06/04/11)

Can you provide an update on the situation in Syria?

- ✓ As Secretary Clinton said, the torture and murder of Hamza Ali al-Khateeb – a 13 year-old boy – symbolizes the total collapse of any effort by the Syrian government to work with and listen to their own people. We condemn this barbaric violence to a child and call on the Syrian government to immediately cease all brutality and begin a transition to real democracy.
- ✓ It is increasingly clear that empowered publics throughout the region are making clear their demand to see an end to the kind of government brutality that leads to the torture and death of a child, as well as an overall end to governance by coercion and not consent.
- ✓ The Syrian government must respect the human rights and dignity of the Syrian people. As we have said, President Assad can either lead the transition currently underway in Syria or get out of the way. Secretary Clinton recently said that the legitimacy that is necessary for anyone to expect change to occur under this current government is, if not gone, nearly run out.
- ✓ Although Ambassador Ford has regularly met with Syrian government officials throughout his tenure in Damascus, the Syrian government has refused his most recent requests for meetings with Syrian officials. Ambassador Ford continues to meet with a variety of Syrians to explain our views and to urge that they develop and work for a vision for Syria that allows freedom of expression, the right to be free from fear of arrest or torture, and the right for peaceful marches, and a real political transition process.

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✓ The Ambassador's presence in Syria is useful to explain U.S. thinking to a variety of Syrians, to help the American citizen community in Syria and to guide officials in Washington develop U.S. policies on Syria. The Ambassador is able to present to Washington a clear and detailed picture of what is happening in Syria, which is important given that international media and human rights monitors are still disallowed access. (Press Guidance, 06/02/11)

✓ Fact Sheet: The Situation in Syria (05/19/11)

Can you provide an update on the situation in Libya?

- ✓ We welcome the decision by NATO allies to extend the mandate of Operation Unified Protector for 90 days beyond June 27. This decision sends a clear message that NATO, and the entire international community, stands with the people of Libya. (Press Guidance, 06/01/11)
- ✓ The President has made very clear what we want to see. The attacks on civilians must stop. President Qadhafi must stop his troops' advance, pull them back from areas they have forcibly entered, and establish water, electricity, and gas supplies to all areas. Humanitarian assistance must be allowed to reach the people of Libya. These terms are nonnegotiable.
- ✓ We also note the numerous ceasefire pledges President Qadhafi has made since the crisis began, only to flagrantly violate them each time. Any political process would have to be broad-based and inclusive and lead to a transition that reflects the will of the Libyan people and the departure of President Qadhafi from power and Libya.
- ✓ Our decision to provide non-lethal U.S. government assistance to Libya was based on our assessment of the needs of the Transitional National Council (TNC) at that time as well as international appeals and in keeping with U.S. law.
- ✓ The immediate focus of any vesting action by the President would be approximately \$200 million that is composed of cash held in the United States in the name of the Government of Libya-related entities.
- ✓ The abysmal human rights record of the Qadhafi regime means assistance to Libya is provided on the basis of a notwithstanding or other special authorities. (Press Guidance, 05/31/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Transition and Reform in Libya (05/19/11)

Is the U.S. encouraged by recent developments in Bahrain?

- ✓ Lifting the state of emergency marks the beginning of a process that will unfold in the weeks and months ahead. We will work cooperatively with the government in taking additional steps to restore confidence and restore human rights as the process moves forward.
- ✓ We welcome the King's May 31 announcement that a comprehensive and unconditional dialogue will begin in July.
- ✓ We trust that lifting the state of emergency, in conjunction with the King's announcement about the resumption of dialogue and other steps the government has taken, will help to foster an atmosphere in which dialogue can take place and respect for human rights can be fostered.
- ✓ In the coming weeks, the Bahraini government should focus on creating a positive environment for reconciliation and credible political dialogue, as well as addressing human rights concerns. Leadership is needed from all sides to make such a dialogue possible.
- ✓ We recognize that the Bahraini government has the sovereign right to ask for the deployment of Gulf Cooperation Council forces. That said, we continue to emphasize that there is no security solution to the political problems facing Bahrain; there must be a credible political process that addresses the legitimate concerns of all Bahrainis. (Press Guidance, 06/01/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: U.S. Support for Democratic Reform in Bahrain (05/19/11)

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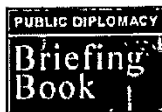
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What is the U.S. response to the recent events in the Middle East and North Africa?

- ✓ The nations of the Middle East and North Africa won their independence long ago, but in too many places their people did not. In too many countries, power has been concentrated in the hands of a few. In too many countries, a citizen has no honest judiciary to hear his case; no independent media to give him voice; no credible political party to represent his views; no free and fair election where he could choose his leader.
- ✓ The events of the past six months show us that strategies of repression and strategies of diversion will not work anymore. Through the moral force of nonviolence, the people of the region have achieved more change in six months than terrorists have accomplished in decades.
- ✓ The question before us is what role America will play as this story unfolds. For decades, the U.S. has pursued a set of core interests in the region: countering terrorism and stopping the spread of nuclear weapons; securing the free flow of commerce and safe-guarding the security of the region; standing up for Israel's security and pursuing Arab-Israeli peace.
- ✓ We will continue to do these things, with the firm belief that America's interests are not hostile to people's hopes; they're essential to them. Yet we must acknowledge that a strategy based solely upon the narrow pursuit of these interests will not fill an empty stomach or allow someone to speak their mind. Moreover, failure to speak to the broader aspirations of ordinary people will only feed the suspicion that has festered for years that the United States pursues our interests at their expense.
- ✓ We face a historic opportunity. We have the chance to show that America values the dignity of the street vendor in Tunisia more than the raw power of the dictator. There must be no doubt that the United States of America welcomes change that advances self-determination and opportunity.
- ✓ Not every country will follow our particular form of representative democracy, and there will be times when our short-term interests don't align perfectly with our long-term vision for the region. But we can, and we will, speak out for a set of core principles – principles that have guided our response to the events over the past six months: 1) the U.S. opposes the use of violence and repression against the people of the region; 2) the U.S. supports a set of universal rights, which include free speech, the freedom of peaceful assembly, the freedom of religion, equality for men and women under the rule of law, and the right to choose your own leaders; and 3) we support political and economic reform in the Middle East and North Africa that can meet the legitimate aspirations of ordinary people throughout the region.
- ✓ It will be the policy of the United States to promote reform across the region, and to support transitions to democracy. That effort begins in Egypt and Tunisia, where the stakes are high. But our support must also extend to nations where transitions have yet to take place. (Remarks by President Obama, 05/19/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: A "Moment of Opportunity" in the Middle East and North Africa (05/19/11)

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NORTH KOREA**North Korea Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “We will work with allies and partners to hold North Korea accountable, including at the United Nations Security Council, making it clear that security and respect for North Korea will never come through aggression, but only by upholding its obligations.” (06/02/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “The path that will lead North Korea to security and prosperity is to stop its provocative behavior, halt its policy of threats and belligerence toward its neighbors, and take irreversible steps to fulfill its denuclearization commitments, and comply with international law.” (05/24/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “North Korea can still choose another path. Instead of isolation, poverty, conflict, and condemnation, North Korea could enjoy integration, prosperity, peace, and respect. Its people could finally experience a better life... North Korea's future depends on the choices that its leaders make today.” (05/26/10) ([read transcript](#))

North Korea Q&A

- Could you comment on the implementation of the North Korean Human Rights Act?**
- ✓ Advancing human rights is a top U.S. priority in our North Korea policy and is among the primary factors that will determine if any long-term improvement between the U.S. and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will be possible.
 - ✓ The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 and its reauthorization in 2008 demonstrates Congress' commitment to ensuring that the well-being of the North Korean people remains an important foreign policy priority. This legislation created the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues.
 - ✓ Engaging with DPRK officials is a key requirement of the position of the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights. Ambassador King's recent trip was the first time the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues was granted entry to the DPRK and the first time we were able to engage in a direct dialogue about ways North Korea can improve its human rights record.
 - ✓ We have also encouraged our partners to include human rights in their North Korea policy. In addition to consulting with other governments, we met with organizations that deal with North Korea human rights issues – think tanks and academic institutions that analyze human rights issues; advocacy organizations that call attention to human right abuses; humanitarian assistance organizations that provide food, medical aid, and other assistance to the DPRK; educational, cultural, and scientific organizations that seek to engage the DPRK; churches and religious organizations; and Korean-American organizations that are interested in family reunions with relatives living in the DPRK.
 - ✓ Between FY 2008-2011, the Department received \$9.5 million from the Economic Support Fund to promote rule of law and human rights, increase media freedom, and build civil society in North Korea. These funds also support efforts to build the capacity of the defector and NGO community in the South Korea to better advocate for improved conditions inside the DPRK.
 - ✓ Since 2004, the U.S. has resettled 120 North Korean refugees and their families. We remain actively committed to ensuring that each North Korean refugee who is interested and eligible gains access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. The U.S. remains deeply concerned about the plight of North Korean refugees and asylum seekers. Reports of the involuntary return of North Koreans from China to the DPRK, including victims of human trafficking, remain deeply

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disturbing, as these returnees often face serious consequences. We continue to urge China to adhere to its obligations as a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, including by not expelling or forcibly returning North Koreans who should be protected under those treaties.

- ✓ To increase the flow of independent information into, out of, and within the country, the U.S. government funds Korean-language broadcasting into North Korea by the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) and supports independent and defector-run broadcasts through the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. The BBG continues to explore avenues to expand broadcast capability into North Korea, and the Department of State is exploring opportunities using new media to reach North Koreans. (Remarks by Ambassador King, 06/02/11)

Did Ambassador King discuss human rights with North Korean officials while he was there?

- ✓ Ambassador King had discussions on human rights issues with DPRK officials in North Korea.
- ✓ The United States remains deeply concerned about the human rights situation in the DPRK. Human rights are a top U.S. priority.
- ✓ This is a significant first step toward substantive discussions on human rights concerns. This was the first time the United States' Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights was granted entry to the DPRK and the first time we were able to engage in a direct discussion on how North Korea can improve its human rights record. We welcome a continued dialogue with the DPRK on human rights issues. (Press Guidance, 06/01/11)

What were the findings of the U.S. food assistance assessment team in North Korea?

- ✓ The field team of food security experts conducted assessments throughout the country and remained in North Korea until June 2. We will evaluate their findings after their mission before making any decision to provide assistance.
- ✓ Special Envoy for North Korea Human Rights Robert King and USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator Jon Brause met with First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan, Vice Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho, and Director General for North American Affairs Ri Gun in Pyongyang, North Korea.
- ✓ Ambassador King and Deputy Assistant Administrator Brause discussed monitoring terms necessary to assure that if the United States provides humanitarian aid to the DPRK, it will reach those for whom it is intended.
- ✓ The United States remains concerned about the well-being of the North Korean people. (Press Guidance, 05/31/11)
- ✓ The U.S. government's policy on the provision of food assistance is based on three factors: 1) the level of need in a given country; 2) competing needs in other countries; and 3) our ability to ensure that aid is reliably reaching the people in need. This policy is consistent with our long-standing goal of providing emergency humanitarian assistance to the people of countries around the world where there are legitimate humanitarian needs. (Remarks by Ambassador King, 06/02/11)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN****Afghanistan and Pakistan Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “In Afghanistan, we remain focused on the three areas of our strategy: our military effort to break the Taliban’s momentum and train Afghan forces so they can take the lead; our civilian effort to promote effective governance and development; and regional cooperation, especially with Pakistan, because our strategy has to succeed on both sides of the border.” (12/16/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “This war has changed over the last nine years, but it’s no less important than it was in those days after 9/11. We toppled the Taliban regime – now we must break the momentum of a Taliban insurgency and train Afghan security forces. We have supported the election of a sovereign government – now we must strengthen its capacities. We’ve brought hope to the Afghan people – now we must see that their country does not fall prey to our common enemies... There will be difficult days ahead. We will adapt, we will persist, and I have no doubt that together with our Afghan and international partners, we will succeed in Afghanistan.” (05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “I want to send a strong message that the partnership between the United States and Afghanistan is going to continue. We have seen already progress with respect to the military campaign against extremism in the region. But we also want to continue to make progress on the civilian process of ensuring that agricultural production, energy production, good governance, rule of law, anticorruption efforts – all these things end up resulting in a Afghanistan that is more prosperous, more secure, independent; is not subject to meddling by its neighbors; a transition will be able to occur so that more and more security efforts are made by the Afghans.” (03/28/10) ([read transcript](#))

Afghanistan and Pakistan Q&A**Can you provide any information on the efforts to reintegrate Afghan insurgents?**

- ✓ The Afghan government is actively reaching out to insurgents who may wish to re-enter society and are willing to renounce violence, break with al Qaeda, and abide by Afghanistan’s laws and Constitution, including provisions that protect the rights of all Afghan men and women, and we are supporting those efforts.
- ✓ The Afghan Peace and Reintegration Program (APRP) is still a relatively new program, and was unveiled as a concept in July 2010. There have been some obstacles to overcome, and some structures to support APRP are still standing up. To date, 1,267 re-integreees have enrolled in the program and additional insurgents are currently in negotiations with the government. Thirty-three Provincial Peace Councils have been established and seven more are standing up.
- ✓ The Afghan government is in the lead in this program and we are working closely with them to support their efforts.
- ✓ It is not true that the reintegration process has been hampered by a lack of funding. Foreign assistance funding for reintegration is pending a certification by the Secretary of State as required by Section 1004(d) of the FY10 Supplemental Appropriations Act.
- ✓ To date, the FY 2010 National Defense Authorization Act provided authority for a \$50 million transfer from the Department of Defense (DoD) Commanders’ Emergency Response Program (CERP) funds to support stability operations – which include reintegration activities. To make this transfer, the DoD transferred \$50 million in CERP funds to USAID.

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- ✓ USAID used its existing agreement with the World Bank to put the money toward community recovery programs via the World Bank's Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). These funds benefit local communities, as well as ex-combatants, by improving basic services, providing more technical and vocational training, and initiating other vital development projects. Community recovery is a key aspect of the APRP.
- ✓ The U.S. government, through the DoD, also has the authority to utilize up to \$50 million in Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funds to support further the Government of Afghanistan's reintegration efforts in the field. (Press Guidance, 05/20/11)

Can you confirm reports that the U.S. is considering changes to its policy on drone strikes in Pakistan?

- ✓ We cannot comment on that report, but our continued cooperation with Pakistan is the best way forward against the shared threat posed by insurgents
- ✓ Our partnership with Pakistan is about ensuring a brighter and safer future for both the Pakistani people and the American people. One way we do this by fighting the brutal extremists that threaten all of us
- ✓ We are working closely with Pakistan to the find common ground towards achieving our shared goal of defeating insurgents. And we will continue to work closely together in the face of this common threat to ensure the safety of our people today and in to the future. (Press Guidance 06/06/11)

What is the current U.S. strategy concerning Afghanistan and Pakistan?

- ✓ President set out a clear goal: to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda, and prevent it from threatening America and our allies in the future.
- ✓ Al Qaeda and the Taliban, along with various associated groups, still maintain an alliance, based largely in the border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Taliban and al Qaeda are distinct groups with distinct aims, but they are both our adversaries and part of a syndicate of terror that must be broken.
- ✓ U.S. and international troops are focused on: (1) reversing the Taliban's momentum; (2) providing security for the Afghan people, and (3) partnering with Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) so that the Afghans can increasingly assume responsibility for Afghanistan's security. This will allow us to deny al Qaeda a safe-haven.
- ✓ We are following a strategy with three mutually reinforcing tracks: a military offensive against al Qaeda terrorists and Taliban insurgents; a civilian campaign to bolster the governments, economies, and civil societies of Afghanistan and Pakistan to undercut the pull of the insurgency; and an intensified diplomatic push to bring the Afghan conflict to an end and chart a new and more secure future for the region.
- ✓ We have laid out unambiguous red lines for reconciliation with insurgents. They must renounce violence, abandon their alliance with al Qaeda, and abide by the constitution of Afghanistan.
- ✓ This summer, ISAF will begin a gradual, responsible transition of security responsibilities to Afghan forces with the goal of removing all international combat troops by the end of 2014. As this transition moves forward, the Afghan people should remember that while the U.S. and our coalition partners may draw down our military forces over time, we are committed to a long-term strategic partnership with Afghanistan. We will continue to train, equip, and support Afghan security forces and do what we can to help the government improve the lives of its citizens.

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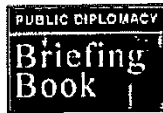
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- ✓ The shift in military momentum provides the Afghan government an opportunity to strengthen the competence of its people through economic development, fair enforcement of the rule of law, attacking corruption and the provision of basic services.
- ✓ From the beginning, we have recognized the fundamental connection between our war effort in Afghanistan and the extremists' safe havens and enablers in Pakistan. As a result of growing cooperation between our governments, militaries, and law enforcement agencies, and determined action by the Pakistani army, we have been able to dramatically expand our counterterrorism and intelligence efforts.
- ✓ The Afghan government needs to safeguard the rights of all Afghans, especially women and minorities. (Overview of the Afghanistan and Pakistan Annual Review, 12/16/10) and (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 02/18/11) and (Remarks by Secretary Gates, 06/05/11)
- ✓ **President Obama** – "I've been very clear about our core goal. It's not to defeat every last threat to the security of Afghanistan, because, ultimately, it is Afghans who must secure their country. And it's not nation-building, because it is Afghans who must build their nation. Rather, we are focused on disrupting, dismantling and defeating al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and preventing its capacity to threaten America and our allies in the future." (12/16/10) (read transcript)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**RUSSIA****Russia Message**

- ✓ **Defense Secretary Gates** – “This last year has seen remarkable progress in the U.S.-Russia relationship, a relationship that has evolved from focusing nearly exclusively on traditional global issues, primarily arms control, to our present collaboration at a working level on a range of matters affecting our defense ministries.” (03/22/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “We’ll continue to advance our relationship with Russia, which is essential to making progress on a host of challenges – from enforcing strong sanctions on Iran to preventing nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists.” (12/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Deputy Secretary Steinberg** – “We have, I think, been successful in building a degree of civility and conversation between the two countries that we can have our honest disagreements where we have them, to sustain our principled positions where they exist, but not for that to be a barrier to working together. And whether it’s transit through Russia to Afghanistan, whether it’s START, whether it’s working on both North Korea and Iran, the tangible benefits are there.” (05/19/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Press Secretary Gibbs** – “The Obama administration stands in solidarity with the many people in the Russian government, in the legal system, and in civil society who are committed to strengthening the rule of law and deepening the commitment to universal values enshrined in the Russian constitution. Russia’s failure to keep this commitment to universal values, including the rule of law, impedes its own modernization and ability to deepen its ties with the United States.” (12/27/10) ([read transcript](#))

Russia Q&A**What is the U.S. assessment of the human rights situation in Russia?**

- ✓ President Medvedev has set forth his vision of a democratic, modern and successful Russia governed by the rule of law. President Obama, Vice President Biden, and Secretary Clinton have expressed their strong support for that same vision. The ability of Russian citizens to exercise their basic civil and political rights and access justice and due process will be key to realizing the Russia we all want to see.
- ✓ Despite these aspects of progress, we believe that continued limits and restrictions on the fundamental freedoms of the Russian people – rights guaranteed in international and Russian domestic law – are a larger problem for Russian citizens, businesses, and the government itself. We frequently raise these areas of concern with our Russian counterparts, both in public and in private.
- ✓ Progress has been more limited in the area of freedom of the press. We share the deep concerns expressed within Russia and across the international community over the murders of journalists known for their courageous work defending human rights and fighting corruption.
- ✓ There are still too many unsolved cases, and we continue to call for a full investigation into the unsolved murders of the journalist Anna Politkovskaya, among others. We have also expressed our concern that the only judicial action to date in the murder of Natalia Estemirova has been the prosecution of Oleg Orlov for saying out loud what many people suspected to be the case. We welcome the convictions in the murder case of the human rights defenders Stanislav Markelov and Anastasia Baburova.
- ✓ In addition to effective prosecutions by the government, we hope the Russian media and independent Russian organizations and institutions will continue to scrutinize the Russian justice system, to support improvements and address challenges. For example, a representative from the

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Presidential Council on Human Rights recently indicated that the Council would find that the charges against Sergei Magnitsky had been fabricated, so it has now been established that he was unjustly imprisoned. Similarly, the court decision to deny the appeals of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev also reminds us of large issues regarding impartiality, due process and selective prosecution.

- ✓ Outside scrutiny of government actions and the follow-on dialogue with government are key to progress in many areas beyond criminal justice. We remain gravely concerned, about the extrajudicial killings, torture, and disappearances committed with impunity by the forces of Chechen President Kadyrov and others. We have urged Russia authorities to act upon the many decisions of the European Court of Human Rights addressing human rights abuses in the North Caucasus as a step towards restoring rule of law in the region.
- ✓ Finally, freedom of assembly – to gather together and share ideas and urge change – is another essential element to a stronger Russia that taps into the talent and creativity of the Russia people. Most recently, we were concerned about reports of intimidation and attacks by private security guards, police, and other parties on activists associated with the Khimki Forest campaign. In another concerning move, this month, for the sixth year in a row, Moscow authorities refused permission for an NGO to hold an LGBT parade/rally. (Remarks by Assistant Secretary Posner, 05/27/11)

What is the status of our negotiations with Russia on missile defense?

- ✓ Our discussions are ongoing. Under Secretary Ellen Tauscher departed for Moscow on May 18 to continue talks on missile defense cooperation with her Russian counterpart Sergey Ryabkov beginning May 19. The Under Secretary has been leading these talks with her Russian counterpart.
- ✓ Our missile defenses are not directed at Russia nor do they threaten Russia's strategic deterrent.
- ✓ We believe that cooperation is the best way for Russia to gain confidence that U.S. and NATO missile defenses are not directed at it.
- ✓ President Obama has been clear that the United States will not accept any limits or constraints on its missile defense programs, including those with NATO.
- ✓ Our vision for missile defense cooperation between NATO and Russia is two independent but coordinated systems whereby NATO is responsible for the defense of NATO and Russia is responsible for the defense of Russian. (Press Guidance, 05/18/11)

What are the next areas of emphasis for the continued reset of the U.S. relationship with Russia?

- ✓ The President Obama made it a priority to reset our relationship with Russia. We focused the reset on concrete outcomes that serve both countries' interests.
- ✓ Two years later, the benefits to both our countries – and to international security – are clear, including: the new Start Treaty that further limits strategic nuclear weapons, cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, collaboration on Afghanistan that facilitates the flow of soldiers and supplies, and the most stringent sanctions ever on Iran and North Korea for their pursuit of nuclear weapons.
- ✓ The next frontier in our relationship will be building stronger ties of trade and commerce that match the security cooperation we have achieved. Our trade and investment relationship is nowhere near where it could or should be. One way to realize the potential of that relationship is to bring Russia more fully into the international trading system. That is why we strongly support Russia's effort to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- ✓ WTO accession will enable Russia to deepen its trade relations with the U.S. and the world. It will give American companies greater and more predictable access to Russia's growing markets,

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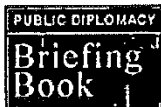
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expanding both U.S. exports and employment. Being a part of the WTO means that Russia will have to play by the rules or face enforcement actions.

- ✓ Once Russia does what is required to join the WTO, we will also work with Congress to terminate the application to Russia of the Jackson-Vanik amendment – a Cold War-era law that tied trade relations with Russia to Jewish emigration, but remains on the books.
- ✓ Russia's business and legal climate and backsliding on democracy will present serious obstacles. At the same time as we have increased our cooperation with the Russian government, our administration has spoken out on allegations of misconduct in the trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and of the beating and detention of "Strategy 31" demonstrators – and we will continue to do so in defense of universal values. But real opposition parties, independent media, and impartial courts are also the best tools for fighting corruption – the biggest barrier to economic growth in Russia.
- ✓ Russians and Americans inside and outside of government have worked hard to overcome decades of mistrust, to identify common ground, and to foster a more secure and more prosperous future for both countries. (Op-Ed by Vice President Biden, 03/14/11)

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SUDAN/DARFUR

Sudan Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “After decades of conflict, the images of millions of southern Sudanese voters deciding their own future was an inspiration to the world and another step forward in Africa’s long journey toward justice and democracy. Now, all parties have a responsibility to ensure that this historic moment of promise becomes a moment of lasting progress. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement must be fully implemented and outstanding disputes must be resolved peacefully. At the same time, there must be an end to attacks on civilians in Darfur and a definitive end to that conflict.” (02/07/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Special Envoy Gration** – “While much of the international attention has been focused on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement recently, and certainly the upcoming referendum in Southern Sudan, we cannot and we must not forget about the people of Darfur. These people have suffered too long. And they continue to live with daily reminders of conflict, insecurity, displacement, banditry. Most of the Darfuris have seen little change in their living conditions over the past seven years. They currently see little hope for a brighter future. Internally displaced people continue to live in temporary housing. They depend on emergency assistance. And they don’t even know when or if they’ll be able to return to their historical homelands in safety and dignity, should they choose to do so.” (12/13/10) ([read transcript](#))

Sudan Q&A

- ✓ **Is the U.S. concerned about escalating violence in the Southern Kordofan state of Sudan?**
The United States is deeply troubled by reports of violent clashes between military units in Southern Kordofan state in Sudan. Such violent acts not only result in the loss of innocent lives, but they further throw into jeopardy the peace that both sides had worked so hard to build.
- ✓ **We call for an immediate halt to all military actions that prejudice the outcome of negotiations on future political and security arrangements for Southern Kordofan and neighboring Blue Nile state.**
- ✓ **Both parties to the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) must maintain their commitment to the security arrangements in that agreement and work expeditiously to conclude new arrangements to govern their post-CPA relationship. The parties must make good on their commitment to the Sudanese people and the international community to stay on the path of peace.**
- ✓ **We call on Sudanese leaders from these areas to meet immediately to resolve these issues peacefully and expeditiously, and to refrain from further actions that could cause further violence and human suffering by destabilizing Southern Kordofan or Blue Nile. We also call on Sudanese leaders to provide the United Nations Mission in Sudan the full and unimpeded access required to protect civilians, ensure humanitarian access, and contribute to efforts to maintain the fragile peace between Sudan’s north and south. (State Department press statement, 06/07/11)**

What did the U.S. and the rest of the UN Security Council decide with regard to the Abyei region of Sudan?

- ✓ **The UN Security Council (UNSC) expresses grave concern about the ongoing violence and rapidly deteriorating situation in Abyei. The UNSC strongly condemns the Government of Sudan’s taking and continued maintenance of military control over the Abyei area and the resulting displacement of tens of thousands of residents of Abyei.**
- ✓ **The Council calls on the Sudanese Armed Forces to ensure an immediate halt to all looting, burning, and illegal resettlement. The Council stresses that all those responsible for violations of**

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international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, as well as those who ordered those acts, will be held accountable.

✓ The continued military operations of the Government of Sudan and militia activities in Abyei constitute a serious violation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Kadugli agreements.

✓ The Council expresses grave concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the area and praises the efforts of the humanitarian community to deliver emergency assistance, including food, health care, shelter and water, to those affected by the conflict, despite continued insecurity in the region and despite severe limitations on access.

✓ The UNSC calls on all parties to respect humanitarian principles and allow all humanitarian personnel timely and unfettered access to vulnerable individuals and communities affected by the fighting.

✓ The Security Council strongly condemns all attacks against the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), which are criminal acts against a UN mission and its personnel and which threaten to undermine the commitment of the parties to avoid a return to war.

✓ The Security Council recalls the commitments made by Vice-President Ali Osman Taha and First Vice-President Salva Kiir that both parties shall remove any unconditional claims to Abyei in their draft national constitutions, and urges the parties to avoid inflammatory rhetoric. (UN Security Council Presidential Statement on Sudan, 06/04/11)

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TERRORISM

Terrorism Q&A

What is the U.S. response to Pakistan's formation of a committee to investigate Osama bin Laden's presence there?

- ✓ Both U.S. and Pakistan officials have acknowledged that there must have been some sort of support network for bin Laden inside of Pakistan. However, both Secretary Clinton and Secretary Gates have said there is absolutely no evidence that anyone at the highest levels of the Pakistani Government knew that Osama bin Laden was living in Abbottabad.
- ✓ We share with the Government of Pakistan a profound interest in finding out what kinds of support networks bin Laden might have had. We also believe Pakistan shares the importance we place on a credible investigation.
- ✓ We refer you to the Pakistani government for any information about the committee. (Press Guidance: 06/01/11)

Could you comment on the operation that led to the death of Osama bin Laden?

- ✓ On May 1, the U.S. has conducted an operation that killed Osama bin Laden, the leader of al Qaeda, and a terrorist who is responsible for the murder of thousands of innocent men, women, and children.
- ✓ For over two decades, bin Laden has been al Qaeda's leader and symbol, and has continued to plot attacks against our country and our friends and allies. The death of bin Laden marks the most significant achievement to date in our nation's effort to defeat al Qaeda.
- ✓ Yet his death does not mark the end of our effort. There is no doubt that al Qaeda will continue to pursue attacks against us. We must – and we will – remain vigilant at home and abroad.
- ✓ As we do, we must also reaffirm that the United States is not – and never will be – at war with Islam. Bin Laden was not a Muslim leader; he was a mass murderer of Muslims.
- ✓ It is important to note that our counterterrorism cooperation with Pakistan helped lead us to bin Laden and the compound where he was hiding. Indeed, bin Laden had declared war against Pakistan as well, and ordered attacks against the Pakistani people.
- ✓ We will be relentless in defense of our citizens and our friends and allies. We will be true to the values that make us who we are. And we can say to those families who have lost loved ones to al Qaeda's terror: justice has been done. (Remarks by President Obama, 05/01/11)
- ✓ In the wake of this major counterterrorism success, the intelligence community remains squarely focused on the safety of the American people. We will sustain intense pressure on al Qaeda and other terrorist groups. Al Qaeda is damaged by bin Laden's death, but the group remains dangerous. (Department of Defense press statement, 05/07/11)
- ✓ Secretary Clinton – "All over the world we will press forward, bolstering our partnerships, strengthening our networks, investing in a positive vision of peace and progress, and relentlessly pursuing the murderers who target innocent people. The fight continues, and we will never waver." (read transcript) (05/02/11)

What are the State Department's counterterrorism priorities?

- ✓ **Reducing Recruitment.** The Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) work of the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism (S/CT) focuses on three main lines of effort that will reduce terrorist recruitment: delegitimizing the violent extremist narrative in order to diminish its "pull"; developing positive alternatives for youth vulnerable to radicalization to diminish the "push" effect of grievances and unmet expectations; and building partner capacity to carry out these activities.

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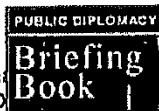
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- Key intents of CVE programming are to diminish the drivers of radicalization and demonstrably reduce the effectiveness of terrorist propaganda, thus leading to lowered numbers in recruitment.
- ✓ Successful CVE involves more than messaging, however, and we are working with the interagency to develop programs that address the upstream factors of radicalization in communities particularly susceptible to terrorist recruitment overseas.
 - ✓ To be effective, CVE work needs to be driven by local needs, informed by local knowledge, and responsive to the immediate concerns of the community. CVE interventions will be highly focused and short-term and will be developed in cooperation with USAID and others in the interagency as well as with international partners. Ultimately, host governments are best positioned to execute truly sustainable CVE efforts.
 - ✓ **Capacity Building.** One of the central challenges to our security is that weak states serve as breeding grounds for terrorism and instability. We need to build effective law enforcement capacity, fair and impartial justice and the rule of law, good governance in many places that have never known this. Multiple U.S. Government agencies are mobilized in this effort: Justice, FBI, Treasury, USAID, and the Department of Homeland Security.
 - ✓ One of our most effective capacity building programs is the Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) Program, the primary provider of U.S. Government antiterrorism training and equipment to law enforcement agencies of partner nations.
 - ✓ The number of active partner countries is decreasing to about 55 in an effort to ensure we are strategically focusing our resources on building partner CT capacity in the right places. The ATA program is most effective where countries have a combination of political will and basic law enforcement skills to be most receptive to the advanced training ATA provides. Through an emphasis on train-the-trainer courses, we are working with partner nations toward the goal of institutionalization and self-sustainment of capacities.
 - ✓ **Multilateral Engagement.** Building new and strengthening existing partnerships is a cornerstone of this Administration's counterterrorism policy. The U.S. cannot address the threat alone and the UN and other multilateral bodies have resources and expertise that we need to do a better job of leveraging. With our funding support and guidance, we are getting the UN and regional bodies to focus on practical projects that target critical issues and countries.
 - ✓ S/CT has been working to develop a new multilateral counterterrorism initiative, which we believe would not only be an important step forward but would address a significant gap in the international counterterrorism architecture: the lack of a central, reliable inter-governmental platform that allows policymakers and practitioners from different regions to engage on a sustained basis on various counterterrorism issues.
 - ✓ All of this work goes on in the context of vigorous diplomatic engagement. We have formal bilateral counterterrorism consultations with numerous countries. Among them are Australia, Canada, China, Israel, Egypt, Japan, Pakistan, Algeria, Russia, and India; these consultations have strengthened our counterterrorism partnerships so we can complement one another's efforts in pursuit of a comprehensive approach to our common challenges.
 - ✓ In conclusion, the threat is formidable but we are making some progress. Countering violent extremism, multilateral engagement, and building local capacity – through our various programs and with our Department and interagency partners – provide us with the tools to make lasting progress in our fight against terrorism. (Remarks by Coordinator Benjamin, 04/14/11)

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(back to top)**DETAINEES****Detainees Q&A****Has the U.S. lost track of Guantanamo detainees sent to the Middle East and North Africa?**

- ✓ This Administration has worked comprehensively to keep track of and mitigate the threat, if any, posed by former Guantanamo detainees, and will continue to do so. However, efforts to monitor and coordinate with other countries on post-transfer activities of former Guantanamo detainees are not a matter we discuss publicly.
- ✓ Post-transfer monitoring of detainees by receiving countries has varied. We continue to have excellent exchanges with some countries. However, this Administration suspended transfers to Yemen more than a year ago and has subsequently not transferred any detainees to Yemen unless ordered released by U.S. federal courts.
- ✓ In this Administration, every decision to transfer a detainee to a foreign country was based on unanimous approval by all agencies involved in the Task Force after a full assessment of intelligence and threat information. This includes the Departments of Defense, State, Justice, Homeland Security, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.
- ✓ The previous Administration transferred 25 detainees to countries cited in the recent *Wall Street Journal* article – Egypt (2), Tunisia (2), Libya (2), Bahrain (5), and Yemen (14), and 120 detainees to Saudi Arabia. This Administration has not transferred any detainees to Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, or Bahrain, and transferred three detainees to Saudi Arabia and eight to Yemen (including 2 ordered released by federal courts). (Press Guidance, 03/21/11)

What is the Administration's position on the detention center at Guantanamo Bay?

- ✓ On March 7, the Secretary of Defense issued an order rescinding his prior suspension on the swearing and referring of new charges in the military commissions. New charges in military commissions had been suspended since the President announced his review of detainee policy.
- ✓ The Administration has successfully enacted key reforms, such as a ban on the use of statements taken as a result of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, and a better system for handling classified information.
- ✓ There are certain Guantanamo detainees who have not been charged, convicted, or designated for transfer, but must continue to be detained because they in effect, remain at war with the U.S. On March 7, the President issued an Executive Order establishing a thorough process of periodic review for these detainees, so that any prolonged detention is carefully evaluated and justified.
- ✓ The periodic review established by this order will help to ensure that individuals who we have determined will be subject to long-term detention continue to be detained only when lawful and necessary to protect against a significant threat to the security of the U.S. If a final determination is made that a detainee no longer constitutes a significant threat to our security, the Secretaries of State and Defense are to identify a suitable transfer location outside the U.S., consistent with the national security and foreign policy interests of the U.S. and applicable law. No Guantanamo detainee will be released into the U.S.
- ✓ We are grateful to all of our allies and partners who have worked with the Administration to implement the transfers undertaken thus far in a secure and humane manner, especially those who have resettled detainees from third countries.
- ✓ In December, Congress enacted restrictions on the prosecution of Guantanamo detainees in Federal courts. The Administration opposes these restrictions as a dangerous and unprecedented challenge

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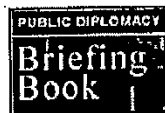
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- to Executive authority to select the most effective means available to bring terrorists to justice and safeguard our security.
- ✓ We will seek repeal of the restrictions imposed by Congress, so that we can move forward in the forum that is, in our judgment, most in line with our national security interests and the interests of justice.
 - ✓ Because of the vital importance of the rule of law to the effectiveness and legitimacy of our national security policy, the Administration is announcing our support for two important components of the international legal framework that covers armed conflicts: Additional Protocol II and Article 75 of Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.
 - ✓ Additional Protocol II, which contains detailed humane treatment standards and fair trial guarantees that apply in the context of non-international armed conflicts, was originally submitted to the Senate for approval by President Reagan in 1987. The Administration urges the Senate to act as soon as practicable on this Protocol. An extensive interagency review concluded that U.S. military practice is already consistent with the Protocol's provisions.
 - ✓ Article 75 of Additional Protocol I, which sets forth fundamental guarantees for persons in the hands of opposing forces in an international armed conflict, is similarly important to the international legal framework. Although the Administration continues to have significant concerns with Additional Protocol I, Article 75 is a provision of the treaty that is consistent with our current policies and practice and is one that the United States has historically supported.
 - ✓ Our adherence to these principles is also an important safeguard against the mistreatment of captured U.S. military personnel. (Fact Sheet on New Actions on Guantánamo and Detainee Policy, 03/07/11)
 - ✓ Since the beginning of this Administration, we have transferred 67 detainees to 24 different destinations, including the transfer of 40 detainees to third countries.
 - ✓ Pursuant to our effort to close Guantanamo, we are in ongoing discussions with a number of foreign partners regarding transfer options for the remaining detainees so approved, as well as those ordered released by our courts.
 - ✓ Today, 172 detainees remain at Guantanamo. There were 242 at the facility on January 21, 2009. Since 2002, around 600 detainees have departed Guantanamo, including more than 500 during the prior administration. (Press Guidance, 03/21/11)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**IRAQ****Iraq Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “Going forward, a transitional force of U.S. troops will remain in Iraq with a different mission: advising and assisting Iraq’s Security Forces, supporting Iraqi troops in targeted counterterrorism missions, and protecting our civilians. Consistent with our agreement with the Iraqi government, all U.S. troops will leave by the end of next year. As our military draws down, our dedicated civilians – diplomats, aid workers, and advisors – are moving into the lead to support Iraq as it strengthens its government, resolves political disputes, resettles those displaced by war, and builds ties with the region and the world.” (08/31/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “Even as we transition to an Iraqi lead and bring our troops home, our commitment to the Iraqi people endures. We will continue to advise and assist Iraqi security forces, who are already responsible for security in most of the country. And a strong American civilian presence will help Iraqis forge political and economic progress. This will not be a simple task, but this is what success looks like: an Iraq that provides no haven to terrorists; a democratic Iraq that is sovereign and stable and self-reliant.” (05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Vice President Biden** – “[This] administration is absolutely committed to a successful, stable, representative, and just Iraq. And we are committed to building an enduring partnership between Iraq and the United States... As President Obama made clear last year, we will end our combat mission of our troops this summer and draw down our forces in compliance with the U.S.-Iraqi security agreement. But even as we draw down our military... we will ramp up our political, diplomatic, and economic engagement with Iraq.” (01/23/10) ([read transcript](#))

Iraq Q&A**What is the U.S. response to continuing terrorist violence in Iraq, particularly in Karbala?**

- ✓ The United States strongly condemns the recent attacks in Anbar, Diyala, and Karbala, which targeted police recruits, pilgrims and innocent civilians, and offers condolences to the families of the victims of these terrorist attacks.
- ✓ The attacks on January 20 in Karbala were especially reprehensible as they targeted Shia pilgrims practicing their faith. No cause or grievance justifies the murder of innocent people.
- ✓ We stand in solidarity with the people of Iraq in rejecting extremist efforts to foment sectarian tensions and undermine the institutions of Iraqi democracy. The U.S. remains deeply committed to assisting the Iraqi Security Forces in countering this threat.
- ✓ The overwhelming majority of Iraqis from all communities reject violence. We have confidence that the people of Iraq will remain steadfast in their rejection of these attacks and continue to move the country forward through the political process. (Press Guidance, 01/20/11) and (State Department press statement, 01/21/11)

What is the U.S. reaction to the formation of a new Iraqi government?

- ✓ We congratulate the new Iraqi government and Prime Minister Maliki on the formation of a national partnership government. This is a victory for the democratic political process, national unity, and a decisive repudiation of violence.
- ✓ Iraq’s parliament has approved a broadly inclusive government reflecting the results of the election and the will of the Iraqi people. All of Iraq’s ethnic and sectarian communities are represented in a meaningful way.

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- ✓ The National Council on Higher Policy is an important part of the agreement that was struck to bring this government together and we have supported the creation of this Council.
- ✓ The political blocs have agreed that Ayad Allawi will be the President of the Council and we expect to see action in Parliament in the near future to legally enshrine the Council as part of the new government.
- ✓ The U.S. has been playing an active but patient and supporting role. We supported the Iraqi elections, we supported the Iraqi government formation process, and we support the outcome.
- ✓ With this significant accomplishment now behind them, Iraqi political leaders should move forward expeditiously on an agenda that will meet the needs and expectations of the Iraqi people.
- ✓ We support women's rights in Iraq and believe women should be represented in the Iraqi government. Iraq has had a good record in this area. (Press Guidance, 12/22/10)
- ✓ **President Obama** – "I congratulate Iraq's political leaders, the members of the Council of Representatives, and the Iraqi people on the formation of a new government of national partnership." (12/21/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – "The formation of this government is a milestone in the emergence of the new Iraq. It constitutes a resounding rejection of the extremists who sought to derail the democratic process and sow discord among Iraqis. Iraq is a great nation with a promising future, and we will stand shoulder to shoulder with the new government to help our Iraqi friends build on what they have already achieved." (12/21/10) ([read transcript](#))

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IRAN

Iran Message

- ✓ Secretary Clinton – “The prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran concerns us all. And to address that threat, together we have pursued a dual-track approach of engagement and pressure, aimed at encouraging Iran's leaders to change course. The draft resolution agreed to by all of our P-5+1 partners and circulated at the Security Council sends a clear message to the Iranian leadership: Live up to your obligation, or face growing isolation and consequences. As we continue to cooperate in New York, the burden is on Iran to demonstrate through its actions that it will uphold its responsibility.” (05/21/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ National Security Advisor Jones – “Iran’s continued defiance of its international obligations on its nuclear program and its support of terrorism represents a significant regional and global threat. A nuclear-armed Iran could transform the landscape of the Middle East, precipitating a nuclear arms race, dramatically increasing the prospect and danger of local conflicts, fatally wounding the global non-proliferation regime, and emboldening the terrorists and extremists who threaten the United States and our allies. Therefore, we are now working actively with allies and partners to increase the costs of Iran’s continued failure to live up to its international obligations. This includes a U.N. Security Council sanctions resolution.” (04/21/10) (read transcript)

Iran Q&A

Can you comment on the reported hanging of two members of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq for broadcasting the 2009 Iranian election protests?

✓ We are aware of reports of the hanging of Jafar Kazemi and Mohammad Haj Aghaei in Iran on January 24.

✓ Secretary Clinton expressed our concern about the fate of these two men in August 2010, urging a halt to their executions for exercising their right to free expression after the June 2009 elections.

✓ We condemn their execution and continue to call on Iran to follow due process as required by its own constitution and to adhere to its obligations under the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights. (Press Guidance, 01/24/11)

Is the U.S. considering additional sanctions on Iran in light of the disappointing Istanbul talks?
✓ The Iranian nuclear issue remains an urgent challenge for all of us. Iran is going to continue to face pressure unless and until it seriously addresses the international community's concerns about its nuclear program.

✓ As Lady Ashton stressed in Istanbul, the U.S. and its P5+1 partners remain committed to pursuing a diplomatic solution. The door remains open, and the choice is Iran's to make.

✓ We will certainly continue to consult with and work closely with our P5+1 partners on next steps based on our continuing dual track approach of engagement and pressure.

✓ We are continually evaluating the effectiveness of our strategy, including our approach on the pressure track. (Press Guidance, 01/24/11)

What does the U.S. expect from the Hong Kong government following the designation of 20 entities based in Hong Kong as contributors to Iranian proliferation efforts?

✓ As part of its dual-track strategy toward Iran, the Administration encourages all governments to adopt strong measures to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1929, which imposes sanctions on Iran for non-compliance with its international nuclear obligations.

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- ✓ Hong Kong is a close partner of the U.S. on international law enforcement issues, including customs and proliferation related work. We would welcome Hong Kong's efforts to protect itself from the threat posed to the international financial system by Iran.
- ✓ An increasing number of governments – the 27 member states of the EU, Norway, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Canada, and Switzerland – have taken important steps to implement UNSCR 1929, which is aimed at influencing Iran's calculations and encouraging it to negotiate seriously on its nuclear program.
- ✓ The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) is a major international shipping line that plays a key role in Iran's illicit procurement for its proliferation activities and other sanctions evasion efforts. IRISL has transported cargos destined for entities designated for their involvement in Iran's proliferation-related activities by the UN Security Council, the U.S., and/or the EU; these include the Aerospace Industries Organization (AIO), the Defense Industries Organization (DIO), and the Shahid Bakeri Industrial Group (SBIG). (Press Guidance, 01/21/11)

What is the current status of international sanctions on Iran?

- ✓ We have emphasized from the start that what is at issue between Iran and the rest of the world is not its right to a peaceful nuclear program, but rather its decades-long failure to live up to the responsibilities that come with that right.
- ✓ We sought to create early opportunities for Iran to pursue a different path and to build confidence in its intentions. This was a serious demonstration of good faith and an investment in partnership with a growing coalition of countries profoundly concerned about Iran's nuclear ambitions.
- ✓ UN Security Council Resolution 1929 broke important new ground in curbing arms transfers to Iran; targeting the central role of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps in Iran's proliferation efforts; banning for the first time all Iranian activities related to ballistic missiles that could deliver a nuclear weapon; sharply limiting Iran's ability to use the international financial system to fund and facilitate nuclear and missile proliferation; and for the first time highlighting formally potential links between Iran's energy sector and its nuclear ambitions.
- ✓ A week after passage of 1929, the EU announced by far its most sweeping collection of measures against Iran. Canada, Australia, Norway, Japan, and South Korea have followed the EU's example.
- ✓ When the President signed into law the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act (CISADA) in early July, the Administration and Congress sent an unmistakable signal of American resolve and purpose, expanding significantly the scope of our domestic sanctions and maximizing the impact of new multilateral measures.
- ✓ Faced with new international concerns, and the choice between doing business with Iran and doing business with America, more and more foreign companies are pulling out of the Iranian market.
- ✓ We also emphasize that we take very seriously CISADA's provisions regarding human rights concerns in Iran.
- ✓ We will intensify the costs of continued non-compliance and show Iran that pursuit of a nuclear weapons program will make it less secure. In the meantime we will continue to reassure our friends and partners in the Gulf of our long-term commitment to their security.
- ✓ Sanctions and pressure are not an end in themselves. They are a complement, not a substitute, for the diplomatic solution to which we and our partners are still firmly committed. There is still time for diplomacy if Iran is prepared to engage in serious discussions. There is still room for a renewed effort to break down mistrust, and begin a careful, phased process of building confidence between Iran and the international community. (Statement by Undersecretary Burns, 12/01/10)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**MIDDLE EAST****Israel/Palestine Message**

- ✓ **Special Envoy Mitchell** – “The best outcome is an agreement which results in two states living side by side in peace and security, and the only way that can be achieved is through direct negotiations between the parties in which the United States will be an active and sustained participant, and with the full support of our many friends and allies around the world.” (08/20/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “We support a two-state solution, with Israelis and Palestinians co-existing peacefully and with mutual security. We believe that through good-faith negotiations, the parties can mutually agree on an outcome which ends the conflict and reconciles the Palestinian goal of an independent and viable state based on the 1967 lines, with agreed swaps, and the Israeli goal of a Jewish state with secure and recognized borders that reflect subsequent developments and meet Israeli security requirements. And we recognize that Jerusalem is a deeply important issue to Israelis and Palestinians, to Jews, Muslims, and Christians everywhere. We believe it is possible to reach an outcome that both realizes the aspirations of all parties for Jerusalem, and safeguards its status for the future.” (02/14/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “The United States can be a partner in solving the problem, but ultimately the parties involved are going to have to make a decision that the prosperity and security of their people is best served by negotiations and compromise, and we can’t force them to make those difficult decisions. What we can do is to provide them a framework and a forum and the support for such an outcome to be achieved.” (06/05/09) ([read transcript](#))

Israel/Palestine Q&A

What is the U.S. reaction to the Turkel Commission report, which appears to clear Israel of wrongdoing for the 2010 Gaza flotilla incident?

- ✓ This is the first part of a two-part report; it is an important step forward in the overall investigative process regarding the Mavi Marmara flotilla investigation, and as such we welcome it. We understand the second half of the report will be released in the coming months.
- ✓ The process undertaken by the UN Secretary General continues. Israel is submitting part one of its report and will later submit its full report to the UN Secretary General’s panel.
- ✓ We look forward to the process continuing at the UN, which will give the international community the opportunity to fully review the circumstances surrounding the incident. We again express our appreciation to the Secretary General for his efforts to establish the panel, and to the governments of Turkey and Israel for their constructive participation in it.
- ✓ Immediately following the May 31 incidents, we noted the importance of a credible, impartial, and transparent investigation into these events. We continue to hold that view and believe we must resist the tendency to reach conclusions without the opportunity for a full examination of the facts and perspectives from all sides. (Press Guidance, 01/25/11)

What is the U.S. reaction to Al-Jazeera’s release of alleged negotiations documents related to Middle East peace efforts?

- ✓ These are not U.S. documents. We cannot vouch for their veracity.
- ✓ We do not plan to comment on any particular document.
- ✓ None of this changes our understanding of what is at stake and what needs to be done. A framework agreement that resolves the core issues remains possible and necessary.

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- ✓ We remain committed to a two-state solution; we will continue to work with the parties to narrow existing gaps and work towards a framework agreement. We have an important meeting of the Quartet next week and will redouble of efforts in the coming days.
- ✓ We have been in touch with a variety of leaders in the region. These calls were made by Special Envoy Mitchell and Deputy Envoy David Hale to prepare for the Quartet meeting, but we have discussed the current situation as well. (Press Guidance, 01/24/11)

What is U.S. policy regarding the Middle East peace process?

- ✓ Over recent months, Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Abbas have met face to face multiple times. These were meaningful talks that yielded new clarity about the gaps that must be bridged. Significantly, both sides decided to pursue a framework agreement that would establish the fundamental compromises on all permanent status issues and pave the way for a final peace treaty.
- ✓ The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and Arab neighbors is a source of tension and an obstacle to prosperity and opportunity for all the people of the region. Continuing conflict also strengthens the hands of extremists and rejectionists across the region while sapping the support of those open to coexistence and cooperation.
- ✓ America's commitment to Israel's security and its future is rock solid and unwavering, and that will not change. The Obama Administration has reaffirmed this commitment.
- ✓ The lack of peace and the occupation that began in 1967 continue to deprive the Palestinian people of dignity and self-determination. This is unacceptable and unsustainable.
- ✓ We will deepen our strong commitment to supporting the state-building work of the Palestinian Authority and continue to urge the states of the region to develop the content of the Arab Peace Initiative and to work toward implementing its vision. The Arab states have a pivotal role to play in ending the conflict.
- ✓ The differences between the two sides are real and they are persistent. But the way to get there is by engaging, in good faith, with the full complexities of the core issues and by working to narrow the gaps between the two sides.
- ✓ On borders and security, the parties must agree to a single line drawn on a map that divides Israel from Palestine and to an outcome that implements the two-state solution with permanent Palestinian borders.
- ✓ The status of refugees is a difficult and emotional issue, but there must be a just and permanent solution that meets the needs of both sides.
- ✓ The fate of existing settlements is an issue that must be dealt with by the parties along with the other final status issues. The position of the U.S. on settlements has not changed and will not change. We do not accept the legitimacy of continued settlement activity.
- ✓ There will surely be no peace without an agreement on Jerusalem.
- ✓ Palestinians must appreciate Israel's legitimate security concerns. And Israelis must accept the legitimate territorial aspirations of the Palestinian people. Ignoring the other side's needs is, in the end, self-defeating.
- ✓ To demonstrate their commitment to peace, all parties should avoid actions that prejudice the outcome of negotiations or undermine good faith efforts to resolve final status issues.
- ✓ A just and lasting peace will transform the region. Israelis will finally be able to live in security, at peace with their neighbors, and confident in their future. Palestinians will at last have the dignity and justice they deserve with a state of their own and the freedom to chart their own destiny. Across the Middle East, moderates and advocates of peace and coexistence will be strengthened, while old arguments will be drained of their venom and the rejectionists and extremists will be exposed and marginalized. (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 12/10/10)

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- ✓ **President Obama** – “We will work with allies and partners to hold North Korea accountable, including at the United Nations Security Council, making it clear that security and respect for North Korea will never come through aggression, but only by upholding its obligations.” (06/02/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “The path that will lead North Korea to security and prosperity is to stop its provocative behavior, halt its policy of threats and belligerence toward its neighbors, and take irreversible steps to fulfill its denuclearization commitments, and comply with international law.” (05/24/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “North Korea can still choose another path. Instead of isolation, poverty, conflict, and condemnation, North Korea could enjoy integration, prosperity, peace, and respect. Its people could finally experience a better life... North Korea’s future depends on the choices that its leaders make today.” (05/26/10) ([read transcript](#))

North Korea Q&A

Has the U.S. linked the level of its military presence in Northeast Asia to China’s stance toward North Korea?

- ✓ **Following North Korea’s provocations, the United States has stood by the Republic of Korea (ROK) and supported direct talks between the North and South to address the ROK’s legitimate grievances, including the sinking of the Cheonan and the shelling of Yeonpyong Island.**
- ✓ **We have raised the importance of North-South dialogue in public and in private with the Chinese at all levels. During president Hu’s state visit, the United States and China emphasized the importance of an improvement in North-South relations and agreed that sincere, constructive inter-Korean dialogue is an essential step.**
- ✓ **We refer you to the Republic of Korea for more information on its decision to accept North Korea’s offer to hold military talks that address the Cheonan incident and the shelling of Yeonpyong Island and its proposed separate talks on denuclearization. (Press Guidance, 01/24/11)**

Does the State Department agree with Defense Secretary Gates’ assessment that North Korea will be a direct threat to the U.S. in five years?

- ✓ We share the view that North Korea continues to present one of the most enduring challenges to the Asia-Pacific region’s security and prosperity.
- ✓ We continue to employ our two-track approach of being open to engagement with North Korea on denuclearization, while calling for full and transparent implementation of UNSCRs 1718 and 1874.
- ✓ Ambassador Bosworth had consultations with senior officials in Seoul, Beijing, and Tokyo on recent developments and next steps on the Korean Peninsula.
- ✓ We will continue close coordination and consultation with our allies and partners in the Six-Party process to ensure we send a clear and unified message to North Korea that leads to concrete progress. (Press Guidance, 01/12/11)

How is the U.S. responding to the reports on North Korea’s uranium enrichment program?

- ✓ We have long suspected North Korea of having this kind of capability, and we have regularly raised it with them directly and with our partners. We will continue to consult closely with our allies and partners.

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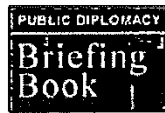
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- ✓ We regard this development with great seriousness. We believe that the North Koreans are in violation of a substantial number of international agreements that they have entered into and are in violation of UN Security Council resolutions.
- ✓ We continue our coordination of moves designed to lead eventually to the resumption of the Six-Party Talks. The situation does not, however, in our view call for a reassessment of our entire strategy toward the DPRK and its nuclear programs.
- ✓ We call on North Korea to take concrete, irreversible steps toward fulfillment of the 2005 Joint Statement; comply with international law, including UNSCRs 1718 and 1874; cease provocative behaviors; and take steps to improve relations with its neighbors. (Remarks by Ambassador Bosworth, 11/22/10 and 11/23/10) and (Press Guidance, 11/24/10 and 12/14/10)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN****Afghanistan and Pakistan Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “In Afghanistan, we remain focused on the three areas of our strategy: our military effort to break the Taliban’s momentum and train Afghan forces so they can take the lead; our civilian effort to promote effective governance and development; and regional cooperation, especially with Pakistan, because our strategy has to succeed on both sides of the border.”
(12/16/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “This war has changed over the last nine years, but it’s no less important than it was in those days after 9/11. We toppled the Taliban regime – now we must break the momentum of a Taliban insurgency and train Afghan security forces. We have supported the election of a sovereign government – now we must strengthen its capacities. We’ve brought hope to the Afghan people – now we must see that their country does not fall prey to our common enemies... There will be difficult days ahead. We will adapt, we will persist, and I have no doubt that together with our Afghan and international partners, we will succeed in Afghanistan.”
(05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “I want to send a strong message that the partnership between the United States and Afghanistan is going to continue. We have seen already progress with respect to the military campaign against extremism in the region. But we also want to continue to make progress on the civilian process of ensuring that agricultural production, energy production, good governance, rule of law, anticorruption efforts – all these things end up resulting in a Afghanistan that is more prosperous, more secure, independent; is not subject to meddling by its neighbors; a transition will be able to occur so that more and more security efforts are made by the Afghans.”
(03/28/10) ([read transcript](#))

Afghanistan and Pakistan Q&A**Can you provide an update on the seating of Afghanistan’s parliament?**

- ✓ The United States welcomes the understanding reached between the Parliament and President Karzai to inaugurate the National Assembly on January 26.
- ✓ After a healthy and constructive debate between Afghan institutions, the outcome ultimately reached demonstrates respect for democratic governance and for the separation of powers set forth in the Afghan Constitution. The outcome of these discussions also recognizes the importance of the timely seating of the nation’s parliamentarians so they can begin their vital work of serving the Afghan people.
- ✓ Ambassador Eikenberry plans to attend the opening of the National Assembly, along with other members of the international community.
- ✓ While the United States welcomes this outcome, we will continue to closely monitor this situation. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as the executive, legislative and judicial branches carry out their respective functions under Afghan law. (Press Guidance, 01/25/11)

Can you confirm that the Afghan government is planning to ban more security contractors?

- ✓ The United States fully supports effective implementation of Presidential Decree 62 to dissolve private security contractors (PSCs) and transition more control over security to the Afghan government. The U.S. Embassy in Kabul is working closely with the Ministry of Interior and other representatives from the international community to develop the way forward for implementation.

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- ✓ We have welcomed the Ministry of Interior's recent statements that PSCs will be permitted to continue providing security for diplomatic work, international organizations, and military installations. We also welcome their statements that current security for development contracts can continue until the end of their contracts.
- ✓ There are, however, a number of very complicated questions still to work through as we move towards implementation. These questions are being worked through together, with the shared goals in mind of increasing Afghan security, strengthening Afghan sovereignty and leadership, and ensuring the continued delivery of international development assistance.
- ✓ We will continue working in the weeks and months ahead to ensure that development workers are safe and project sites have adequate security. (Press Guidance, 01/24/11)

Is the U.S. concerned by a recent UN report that warns of the potential for increased poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2011?

- ✓ As the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) notes, increased opium prices in Afghanistan are affected by increased pressure on drug traffickers by the Afghan government, law enforcement, and the international forces that support their efforts, as well as a crop disease that lowered the amount of opium entering the market last year.
- ✓ We remain concerned about the possible impact of higher opium prices in Afghanistan, but remain committed to strengthening agricultural development and drug interdiction support to Afghanistan.
- ✓ Our efforts to fight Afghanistan's drug trade remain a top priority. Agricultural development and drug interdiction remain the cornerstones of U.S. counternarcotics assistance to the Afghan government.
- ✓ U.S. assistance also supports counternarcotics public information, building the capacity of key counternarcotics ministries, rule of law, and demand reduction and drug treatment activities.
- ✓ The U.S. also commends the work of the Afghan Ministry of Counternarcotics and the Counternarcotics Police of Afghanistan to introduce risk to drug traffickers, insurgents, and farmers that disobey the rule of law. This naturally drives prices up as the drug market becomes more competitive.
- ✓ We also look forward to UNODC's upcoming Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, which will help us to better understand – and respond to – likely opium poppy planting trends in 2011. The United States has funded and commissioned these studies to better inform our programs in Afghanistan. (Press Guidance, 01/20/11)

What is the current U.S. strategy concerning Afghanistan and Pakistan?

- ✓ The core goal of the U.S. strategy in the Afghanistan and Pakistan theater remains to disrupt, dismantle, and eventually defeat al Qaeda in the region and to prevent its return to either country.
- ✓ U.S. and international troops are focused on: (1) reversing the Taliban's momentum; (2) providing security for the Afghan people, and (3) partnering with Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) so that the Afghans can increasingly assume responsibility for Afghanistan's security. This will allow us to deny al Qaeda a safe-haven.
- ✓ In Afghanistan, the surge in coalition military and civilian resources, along with an expanded special operations forces targeting campaign and expanded local security measures at the village level, has reduced overall Taliban influence and arrested the momentum they had achieved in recent years in key parts of the country, although these gains remain fragile and reversible.
- ✓ In July 2011, we will begin a responsible transition to an Afghan security lead by reducing our combat troop levels. The size and pace of our troop reductions will depend upon a careful assessment of conditions on the ground, and the capacity of ANSF to sustain security gains.

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- ✓ We also remain relentlessly focused on Pakistan-based al Qaeda because of the strategic nature of the threat posed by its leadership, and in particular the group's continued pursuit of large-scale, catastrophic anti-Western attacks and its influence on global terrorism.
- ✓ In Pakistan, we are laying the foundation for a strategic partnership based on mutual respect and trust, through increased dialogue, improved cooperation, and enhanced exchange and assistance programs. We must support the Government of Pakistan's efforts to strengthen its economy, improve governance and security, and respond to the development needs of the Pakistani people.
- ✓ In 2011, we will intensify our regional diplomacy to enable a political process to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan, to include Afghan-led reconciliation, taking advantage of the momentum created by the recent security gains and the international consensus gained in Lisbon. (Press Guidance, 05/10 – 06/16/10) and (White House fact sheet, 05/27/10) and (Overview of the Afghanistan and Pakistan Annual Review, 12/16/10)
- ✓ **President Obama** – "I've been very clear about our core goal. It's not to defeat every last threat to the security of Afghanistan, because, ultimately, it is Afghans who must secure their country. And it's not nation-building, because it is Afghans who must build their nation. Rather, we are focused on disrupting, dismantling and defeating al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and preventing its capacity to threaten America and our allies in the future." (12/16/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – "President Obama has said that we will begin a responsible, conditions-based transition to Afghan security leadership in July 2011. Toward this end, the Afghan Government, working with NATO, has developed a broad framework for the process that will help create conditions for transition, province by province, district by district, so the Afghan security forces can assume full responsibility for security in the transitioned areas." (07/20/10) (read transcript)

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RUSSIA

Russia Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “We’ll continue to advance our relationship with Russia, which is essential to making progress on a host of challenges – from enforcing strong sanctions on Iran to preventing nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists.” (12/22/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ **Deputy Secretary Steinberg** – “We have, I think, been successful in building a degree of civility and conversation between the two countries that we can have our honest disagreements where we have them, to sustain our principled positions where they exist, but not for that to be a barrier to working together. And whether it’s transit through Russia to Afghanistan, whether it’s START, whether it’s working on both North Korea and Iran, the tangible benefits are there.” (05/19/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ **Press Secretary Gibbs** – “The Obama administration stands in solidarity with the many people in the Russian government, in the legal system, and in civil society who are committed to strengthening the rule of law and deepening the commitment to universal values enshrined in the Russian constitution. Russia’s failure to keep this commitment to universal values, including the rule of law, impedes its own modernization and ability to deepen its ties with the United States.” (12/27/10) (read transcript)

Russia Q&A

What is the U.S. reaction to the January 24 bombing in Moscow’s Domodedovo Airport?

- ✓ The United States stands in solidarity with Russia in the face of today’s appalling terrorist attack. We extend our condolences to the people of the Russian Federation and, especially, to those injured and to the families of the dead from today’s tragic bombing.
- ✓ The United States stands ready to support the Russian government in their investigation of the attack if so requested, and will continue to cooperate with Russia in the struggle against violent extremism around the world.
- ✓ The United States condemns terrorism and all forms of violence against the innocent, wherever it occurs. We will continue to work with the international community to combat violent extremism that threatens peace-loving people everywhere. (Press Guidance, 01/24/11)
- ✓ At this time, the Government of Russia has not requested assistance. We remain ready to help to bring to justice the perpetrators of this terrorist act. (Press Guidance, 01/25/11)

What is the U.S. response to the Russian Duma’s approval of the New START Treaty?

- ✓ We welcome the news that the Duma passed a law approving ratification of the New START Treaty on January 25.
- ✓ Russia’s upper house, the Federation Council, must also pass the law approving ratification of the Treaty. The Federation Council is expected to vote on January 26.
- ✓ We look forward to bringing the Treaty into force, delivering the benefits of New START to global security. (Press Guidance, 01/25/11)

What are the U.S. priorities for future arms control talks with Russia?

- ✓ With the New START Treaty taking each side down to 1,550 strategic warheads, we are at the point where it is hard to envisage further strategic reductions without reducing the large number of tactical nuclear weapons, which are not constrained.

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- ✓ Negotiation with the Russians on tactical weapons will include some difficult issues. First, there is a large numerical disparity between the U.S. and Russian tactical arsenals. By unclassified accounts, the Russians have anywhere from three to eight times as many tactical nuclear weapons.
- ✓ Second, over the last 10 to 15 years Russians military doctrine has placed much more weight on tactical nuclear forces, because they see these weapons as necessary to offset what they regard as conventional force disadvantages vis-à-vis NATO and China.
- ✓ Third, verification is difficult because you probably will not be talking about limiting the delivery systems, whose primary missions are conventional. So you're talking about limiting actual warheads and perhaps even designing schemes where inspectors might have to go into storage bunkers and count weapons.
- ✓ Russian President Medvedev recently said that either we come to an agreement on missile defense, or there will be a resumption of the arms race. The primary Russian concern is not the system which currently protects the U.S. from limited numbers of ballistic missile launches, but rather the European Phased Adaptive Approach policy, which is a policy to create a missile defense shield over all of Europe.
- ✓ The Obama Administration has done a lot through the presidential bilateral working group at the NATO-Russia Council to explain that these systems will not threaten Russia's ICBM force.
- ✓ There can be an agreement about joint threat assessments. There can also be a shared early warning of all ballistic missile launches. There can also potentially be cooperation on shared radars, which includes integrating some of the Russian radar capabilities in southern Russia into the U.S. phased adaptive approach missile defense system for Europe. (Remarks on U.S.-Russia Nuclear Cooperation, 01/13/11)

What is the State Department's reaction to the ratification of the New START Treaty?

- ✓ On December 22, the Senate voted 71-26 to approve the Resolution of Advice and Consent to ratification of the New START Treaty. The New START Treaty strengthens American national security and is an important step forward in President Obama's foreign policy agenda.
- ✓ Just as was the case during the recent U.S. Senate debate over the Treaty, Russia's ratification process can be expected to reflect various viewpoints both for and against the Treaty. Such debate is a natural and necessary part of the legislative process.
- ✓ We welcome the recent positive statements by Russian leaders, including President Medvedev, Prime Minister Putin, Foreign Minister Lavrov, and leading Russian lawmakers, encouraging prompt approval by the Russian legislative bodies, the Duma and the Federation Council.
- ✓ Ratification of this treaty will strengthen American leadership on nonproliferation issues, reinforce our relationship with Russia, and promises to make our country safer.
- ✓ New START is the most extensive nuclear arms control agreement in nearly two decades. It reduces by 30% the maximum limit of strategic nuclear warheads that the United States and Russia can deploy, while allowing the U.S. to maintain a credible nuclear deterrent.
- ✓ It puts into effect a verification regime to track Russia's strategic nuclear weapons, which will include placing U.S. inspectors on the ground, access we have not had since the original START treaty expired over a year ago.
- ✓ New START will include up-to-date exchanges of information on numbers, locations, and technical characteristics of weapons systems and facilities that are subject to the Treaty.
- ✓ From the beginning, this Administration has made it a priority to exercise American leadership in reducing the threats of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism. Once this Treaty enters into force we will put the world's two largest nuclear arsenals on more stable, predictable footing. (Press Guidance, 01/07/11)

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- ✓ New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)
- ✓ **President Obama** – “We’ll continue to advance our relationship with Russia, which is essential to making progress on a host of challenges -- from enforcing strong sanctions on Iran to preventing nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists. And this treaty will enhance our leadership to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and seek the peace of a world without them.” (12/22/10) ([read transcript](#))

What are U.S. expectations regarding its relationship with Russia going forward?

- ✓ We hope that the relationship between Russia and the U.S. – and between Russia and NATO and Europe – will continue to improve. These relationships are in a much better place than they were several years ago, certainly before this Administration took office.
- ✓ The NATO-Russia relationship had not been moving forward as practically and positively as the U.S.-Russia relationship until recently, but at Lisbon NATO and Russia agreed on a joint assessment of 21st century security challenges, agreed to resume theater missile defense cooperation, and agreed to cooperate more broadly on missile defense in the future.
- ✓ We have already said in many other contexts that we believe the U.S.-Russia relationship is on increasingly solid ground as we continue to find areas of cooperation, be they in nuclear nonproliferation or the economic area or Afghanistan.
- ✓ We will continue to work with this. We obviously still have some differences and we’re clear about our differences as well. At the OSCE summit we had a significant difference over the question of Georgia and other unresolved conflicts, but we are expressing them frankly, and believe that in the long run the U.S. and Russia and Russia and Europe have so many common interests that we are and should be partners. ([Briefing by Assistant Secretary Gordon, 12/07/10](#))

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[\(back to top\)](#)**SUDAN/DARFUR****Sudan Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “Two paths lay ahead: one path taken by those who flout their responsibilities and for whom there must be consequences – more pressure and deeper isolation. The other path is taken by leaders who fulfill their obligations, and which would lead to improved relations between the United States and Sudan, including supporting agricultural development for all Sudanese, expanding trade and investment, and exchanging ambassadors, and eventually, working to lift sanctions – if Sudanese leaders fulfill their obligations.” (09/24/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “The Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended the civil war must be fully implemented. The referenda on self-determination scheduled for January 9th must take place – peacefully and on time, the will of the people of South Sudan and the region of Abyei must be respected, regardless of the outcome.” (09/24/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Special Envoy Gration** – “While much of the international attention has been focused on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement recently, and certainly the upcoming referendum in Southern Sudan, we cannot and we must not forget about the people of Darfur. These people have suffered too long. And they continue to live with daily reminders of conflict, insecurity, displacement, banditry. Most of the Darfuris have seen little change in their living conditions over the past seven years. They currently see little hope for a brighter future. Internally displaced people continue to live in temporary housing. They depend on emergency assistance. And they don’t even know when or if they’ll be able to return to their historical homelands in safety and dignity, should they choose to do so.” (12/13/10) ([read transcript](#))

Sudan Q&A**Is the U.S. satisfied with how the Southern Sudanese referendum was conducted?**

- ✓ The completion of a peaceful, orderly Southern Sudan referendum marks a significant achievement for the Sudanese people and a historic step toward full implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).
- ✓ The U.S. commends the millions of Southern Sudanese people who participated in this historic process, and applauds both northern and southern leaders for creating conditions that allowed voters to cast their ballots freely and without fear, intimidation, or coercion. The successful vote was also a credit to the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau, and more than 40 countries and international organizations.
- ✓ We welcome the positive statements issued in recent days by international observer missions from the African Union, Arab League, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, European Union, and the Carter Center.
- ✓ As we await the official results of the referendum, we reaffirm our commitment to remain a steadfast partner to both parties as they continue to work toward full implementation of the CPA and to develop their post-CPA relationship. The parties have an opportunity to forge a durable peace between the North and the South, and to build positive relationships with the international community. We hope they will seize this moment, and the U.S. supports their efforts to ensure a peaceful, more prosperous future for all Sudanese. ([Statement](#) by Secretary Clinton, 01/17/10)
- ✓ **President Obama** – “The past week has given the world renewed faith in the prospect of a peaceful, prosperous future for all of the Sudanese people – a future that the American people long to see in Sudan” (01/17/11) ([read transcript](#))

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What is the U.S. assessment of Southern Sudan's capacity to govern itself should it gain independence?

- ✓ The Government of Southern Sudan has made remarkable progress since its establishment in 2005. Regardless of the outcome of the referendum, Southern Sudan requires significant capacity building to develop the legal, justice, banking, and other basic governance systems essential to the welfare of the southern Sudanese people.
- ✓ The United States has been a committed partner to southern leaders helping to build this capacity since prior to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and will continue this partnership after the referendum.
- ✓ The U.S. continues to support projects in Southern Sudan dedicated to improving access to health care, education, clean water, and sanitation; improving infrastructure; boosting agricultural productivity and trade; expanding opportunities for women and ending gender-based violence; and helping local governments improve their ability to manage resources and meet citizens' needs.
- ✓ We are examining our own posture in Southern Sudan. We are also engaging with states in the region, members of the Sudan Contact Group, and international institutions, like the UN, World Bank, and IMF, to ensure that our efforts to south are coordinated and effective.
- ✓ We call upon the leaders of the south to prepare to govern responsibly, no matter the outcome of the referendum. In particular, we urge Government of Southern Sudan leaders to proactively address any evidence of corruption at any level of government.
- ✓ We welcome recent efforts by the Government of Southern Sudan to promote political reconciliation and inclusiveness among all political parties, and we encourage continued efforts in this direction for the sake of peace. (Press Guidance, 01/07/11)

What does the U.S. believe is the way forward on Abyei given that an on-time referendum will not happen?

- ✓ Despite lengthy discussion, the parties were unable to agree on the composition of the Abyei Area Referendum Commission, which is responsible for determining criteria for Abyei referendum voter eligibility. As such, it was not possible to hold the Abyei referendum as scheduled on January 9.
- ✓ The AU High-Level Implementation Panel has put forward proposals on the political resolution of Abyei's status to the parties and elevated the issue to President Bashir and Vice President Kiir. We urge the parties to continue to engage seriously in discussions to break the impasse and reach agreement on a way forward.
- ✓ We fully expect they will resume their talks immediately after the conclusion of the Southern Sudan referendum and resolve the issue before the end of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) interim period in July.
- ✓ We believe it is possible for the parties to reach a solution for Abyei that addresses the deeply held aspirations, needs, and rights of all communities in the region, consistent with the CPA's Abyei Protocol and the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.
- ✓ We urge the parties to make a clear public statement that calls on local communities to maintain calm and refrain from any inflammatory unilateral actions, and that commits the parties to resolve the Abyei issue after the referendum. We urge both parties to do everything in their power – including by cooperating with UNMIS – to maintain peace in the area. (Press Guidance, 01/07/11)

Can you provide an update on the current situation in Darfur?

- ✓ The Obama Administration is as equally committed to resolving the Darfur conflict as it is to full and timely implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The appointment of

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Ambassador Dane Smith comes at a crucial time in Sudan's history that requires high level attention on both Darfur and North-South issues.

- ✓ The United States has long supported on-going international efforts to reach a durable peace in Darfur. Appointing a Senior Advisor expands on that work in an effort to re-energize the UN-AU-led peace process, and improve security and humanitarian access.
- ✓ We have consistently called on the Government of Sudan to cease aerial bombardments. It is essential that these kinds of attacks end, and we call on all parties to the Darfur conflict to recommit to an immediate ceasefire.
- ✓ We also call on the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to refrain from any action that may raise tensions or provoke the spread of violence.
- ✓ We continue to express concern regarding such abuses, which have included the arrests of opposition leaders, journalists, and other peaceful demonstrators. The U.S. reminds the Sudan of its obligation to respect human rights, including freedom of assembly. (Press Guidance, 12/14/10)

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TERRORISM

Terrorism Q&A

Could you explain the designation of Qari Hussain as a terrorist?

Secretary Clinton has designated Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) leader Qari Hussain under E.O. 13224, which targets terrorists and their supporters. This action will help stem the flow of finances to Mr. Hussain by blocking all property subject to U.S. jurisdiction in which Mr. Hussain has an interest and prohibiting all transactions by U.S. persons with Mr. Hussain. TTP has previously been designated by the United States under Executive Order 13224 and as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

Qari Hussain is one of TTP's top lieutenants and also serves as the trainer and organizer of the group's suicide bombers. Training camps organized by Mr. Hussain are notorious for recruiting and training men of all ages as suicide bombers, and Mr. Hussain has gained particular notoriety for his heavy recruitment of children.

Furthermore, Mr. Hussain is believed to have trained the Jordanian militant Humam Muhammad Abu Mital al-Balawi -- the double-agent whose suicide mission on December 30, 2009, in Khost, Afghanistan, killed seven Americans. (Press Guidance, 01/20/11)

What actions has the Department of State taken in the year since the 2009 December 25 bombing attempt?

- ✓ The Department has worked closely with our interagency partners to strengthen the U.S. Government's Watch Listing Guidance to make it more flexible and responsive to emerging threats.
- ✓ During 2010 the Department designated al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. Furthermore, the Department designated AQAP and its senior leaders, Nasir al-Wahishi and deputy leader Said al-Shihri, as well as operational leaders Fahd al-Quso and Qasim al-Rimi as Specially Designated Global Terrorists under Executive Order (E.O.) 13224. The U.S. government has also designated Anwar al-Aulaqi under E.O. 13224, and the U.S. spearheaded the listing of AQAP and its senior leaders in the UN Security Council 1267 (al Qaeda/Taliban) Sanctions Committee.
- ✓ The consequences of these domestic designations include prohibitions against the provision of material support or resources to AQAP; the freezing of all property and interests in property of the organization that are in the United States, or come within the United States, or the control of U.S. persons; and travel restrictions.
- ✓ Since the President's ordered security review, individuals have been added to the terrorist screening database, no fly, and selectee lists to counter the specific vulnerabilities observed on December 25, 2009. The number of visa revocations has increased substantially as a result.
- ✓ Since 2001, we have revoked over 57,000 visas for a variety of reasons, including over 2,800 for suspected links to terrorism. We use our revocation authority actively as we run our data against updated watch list information provided by our partner agencies.
- ✓ We worked closely with the Department of Homeland Security to develop a fully automated process to prevent a person with a revoked visa from boarding an aircraft, even if the visa has not been physically cancelled.
- ✓ We have strengthened our own internal watch listing process (known as "Visa Viper") to improve the manner in which names are added and the information that is provided. (Press Guidance, 12/23/10)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**DETAINEES****Detainees Q&A****What is the State Department's response to recent Congressional action barring the movement of Guantanamo Bay detainees to the U.S.?**

- ✓ We are aware of the Guantanamo provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act passed by Congress on December 26.
- ✓ We are closely looking at the Guantanamo provisions to determine how this will impact the transfer of detainees to foreign governments, but we remain determined to continue the difficult work required to close Guantanamo.
- ✓ As the President has said, "One of the most powerful tools we have to keep the American people safe is not providing al Qaeda and jihadists recruiting tools for fledgling terrorists." Closing Guantanamo will remove a major recruiting tool for al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations, while also living up to our values, ideals, and principles.
- ✓ Many friends and allies have joined our efforts to close the detention facility, and we continue to engage with additional foreign partners in pursuit of the detention facility's closure.
- ✓ Today, 173 detainees remain at Guantanamo. There were 242 at the facility on January 21, 2009. (Press Guidance, 12/27/10)

Is the U.S. still committed to closing Guantanamo Bay?

- ✓ President Obama remains committed to closing the detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay, which has served as a recruiting tool for al Qaeda.
- ✓ The Administration has instituted the most comprehensive review process ever applied to detainees at Guantanamo, with significant improvements including halting the "stove-piping" of classified intelligence and for the first time compiling in a single repository the best information available relating to Guantanamo detainees.
- ✓ The Administration has made remarkable progress working with our friends and allies to resettle many detainees in third countries. Since the beginning of this Administration, the U.S. has transferred 67 detainees to 24 different destinations, including the transfer of 40 detainees to third countries. Today, 173 detainees remain at Guantanamo.
- ✓ The list of countries resettling detainees continues to grow, and we are encouraged by the assistance of the international community who continues to support this Administration's closure effort. Pursuant to our effort to close Guantanamo, we are in ongoing discussions with a number of foreign partners regarding repatriation and resettlement options for detainees approved for transfer. (Press Guidance, 01/22/11 and 01/06/11) and (White House [fact sheet](#), 05/27/10)
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – "In one of his first acts as president, President Obama directed that the detention facility at Guantanamo be closed, recognizing that Guantanamo had become a symbol of the wrong way to make America more secure. Now, we had hoped that this task would be completed within a year. That has proven impossible. But we will close Guantanamo. And we will close it in a way that is both responsible and consistent with basic standards of justice. Our progress has been slow because this is difficult. It depends in part on the willingness of other nations to take in detainees, and we are very grateful to those nations that have already done so, and we ask others to please considering doing so, in order to help us expedite the closing of Guantanamo." (02/14/10) ([read transcript](#))

The content contained here is also available on the PD Briefing Book site.

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(back to top)

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**Climate Change Q&A****Could you explain the purpose of the ongoing Ninth Session of UN Forum on Forests?**

- ✓ Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment and Sustainable Development Daniel Reifsnyder will lead the U.S. delegation to the ninth session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF9) in New York which takes place from January 23 to February 3.
- ✓ The delegation will include officials and experts from the Department of State, U.S. Forest Service, USAID, and the National Association of State Foresters. Deputy Assistant Secretary Reifsnyder will also moderate a ministerial-level roundtable discussion on "Forests and Rio+20" during the High-Level Segment.
- ✓ The UNFF9 meetings will officially launch 2011 as the International Year of Forests, with the theme "Celebrating Forests for People." The theme for the UNFF9 meetings will be "Forests for People, Livelihoods, and Poverty Eradication." The meetings provide the opportunity for governments to discuss the cultural and social values of forests, governance, and enhanced cooperation among all stakeholders.
- ✓ The U.S. will highlight its forest-related activities and initiatives over the course of the two weeks, including a January 31 side event on "Urban Greening in America." This event will feature experts from the private sector and government to discuss city and state-level greening initiatives.
- ✓ USAID spends \$110 million annually in developing countries in support of the UNFF 9 themes of community forest management and improved livelihoods. Forest-related issues have been a priority on the international policy and political agendas since the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. The UN Forum on Forests was established in October 2000 to promote and strengthen long-term commitments to the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests. (State Department press statement, 01/25/11)

What was accomplished at the recent climate talks in Cancun?

- ✓ On November 29, the U.S. joined the nations of the world in Cancun for a new round of talks aimed at mobilizing common action to meet the shared global challenge of climate change.
- ✓ The meeting resulted in the Cancun Agreement, a set of balanced international decisions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which represent meaningful progress in our global response to climate change.
- ✓ This result was fundamentally consistent with U.S. objectives. Throughout the year, our strategic vision was to consolidate and elaborate on the progress made last year in Copenhagen and to have the outcome fully endorsed by all the nations to the Climate Treaty.
- ✓ The Cancun Agreement advances each of the core elements of the Copenhagen Accord. Specifically, it anchors the accord's mitigation pledges by both developed and developing countries in a parallel manner. It outlines a system of transparency with substantial detail and content, including international consultations and analysis; that was the negotiated phrase from the Copenhagen Accord. This will provide confidence that a country's pledges are being carried out and help the world keep track of the track that we're on in terms of reducing emissions.
- ✓ The agreement in Cancun also launches a new Green Climate Fund with a process for setting it up; creates a framework to reduce deforestation in developing countries; establishes a so-called technology mechanism, which will include a new technology executive committee and a climate

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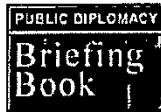
technology center and network; and sets up a framework and committee to promote international cooperation and action on adaptation.

- ✓ The Cancun Agreement represents a balanced and significant step forward. The United States will continue to work with our friends and partners to keep the world focused on this urgent challenge and to continue building on this progress. (Statement by Secretary Clinton, 12/11/10) and (Briefing by Special Envoy Stern)

How does the U.S. intend to address global climate change?

- ✓ President Obama has made it clear that we must take bold action to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, address the growing threat of global warming challenges, and to create clean energy jobs and technologies. The Administration has already taken unprecedented steps to address these problems - through Recovery Act investments in clean energy, through tough new fuel economy standards for cars and light trucks, and through many other actions.
- ✓ The President remains committed to the broad clean energy vision that he has put forward, and the Administration will continue to use the tools that we have to make progress. We will continue to work with Congress to achieve the comprehensive legislation that the President has called for.
- ✓ Moreover, the U.S. is not backing away from the commitments made during international climate change negotiations in Copenhagen. As the administration works with Congress to pass comprehensive legislation, we will use the administrative authorities we have to reduce emissions.
- ✓ The U.S. will continue to work with partners around the world to build on the progress made in Copenhagen and Cancun toward meeting the climate and clean energy challenge. (Press Guidance, 07/23/10)

The content contained here is also available on the PD Briefing Book site.



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JICCENT INTELLIGENCE PUBLICATION

Current Intelligence Product



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Author: OSINT – Open Source Intelligence (CCJ2-JOWO)

On Tuesday, one of the owners of the Amalthea said that the crew would unload its humanitarian goods at El-Arish if refused permission to reach Gaza.

"If this is the only option put forward by the Israeli authorities, we will choose to sail to the port of El-Arish and transfer the assistance by ground to Gaza," Greek businessman Aleksei Angeolopoulos said in an interview with the London based Arabic newspaper Asharq Alawsat.

Angeolopoulos said the ship was "carrying humanitarian aid and food and there are no weapons or prohibited materials, as claimed by Israel."

He added, "If Israel wants, the Israeli navy is invited to board the ship and to search it so that they can see with their own eyes that it is only carrying food and allow it to continue to the port of Gaza."

A spokesman in the Prime Minister's Office said that if indeed the ship was carrying only civilian cargo, there should be no problem with it docking at the Ashdod port.

"We will guarantee that all civilian goods will be allowed in[to Gaza]," the official said.

However, the information put out by the Prime Minister's Office on Tuesday painted a picture of a vessel that was interested in far more than just the delivery of rice and corn oil. The packet sent by email included a link to an Al-Jazeera report from Saturday in which a Moroccan volunteer on the ship said, "We as Muslims are not afraid of death. On the contrary, we love martyrdom."

The packet included a reminder that Libya's involvement in terrorism was "something well-known."

Everyone remembers the Lockerbie tragedy, where 270 people were killed when a Pan Am plane exploded [over] southern Scotland in 1988. An international investigation found a direct link between the Libyan government and the terrorist incident, and it even extradited two suspects for planning the attack."

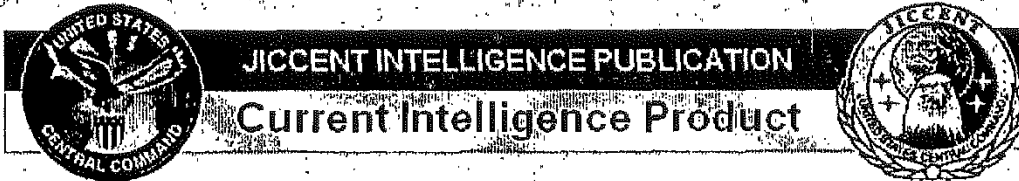
The information included reference to Hamas chief Khaled Mashaal's view of the blockade busting ships as an important brick in bringing about Israel's delegitimization.

"Breaking the siege is a priority, and we must compel it by all means, including new flotillas which will be organized in the coming weeks and months, with the help of Allah," Mashaal said in a speech in Damascus on June 28.

"I call on the Arab and Muslim people and other lovers of freedom in the world to multiply the number of participants," he said.

"Together with us, all freedom loving people around the world have begun to understand how much of a curse Israel is to the world, to its security and interests, and to what extent it is a heavy burden on the interests of both West and East."

The information sent out by the Prime Minister's Office also included the cabinet decision last month to ease restrictions on what is allowed into Gaza, the Quartet's positive reaction to this step, and statements



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Author: OSINT – Open Source Intelligence (CCJ2-JOWO)

from the US State Department and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton expressing concern about further ships.

The Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, meanwhile, has recommended to the IDF that for public diplomacy reasons, it would be preferable to commandeer the ship once it enters Israel's territorial waters, though intercepting it out of that 20-km. zone would be legal if it were clear that the ship was headed for Gaza.

A similar recommendation was made prior to the May flotilla's arrival, but that recommendation – according to government sources – was not heeded because of operational reasons. The IDF's argument in May, according to the sources, was that since that flotilla included six ships, the navy would need sufficient time to commandeer all of them and, as a result, needed to begin the job outside the country's territorial waters.

12 July 2010

Jerusalem Post

Bishara reportedly meets Gaddafi

Committee debates suspending former MK's pension benefits.

Former MK Dr. Azmi Bishara (Balad) was reported on Sunday to have arrived Saturday night in Libya for a meeting with Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

The two were said to have discussed issues pertaining to the Arab world and the Palestinian struggle.

While Bishara was reportedly in Libya, the Knesset's Ministerial Committee for Legislation approved a bill on Sunday that would suspend his government pension benefits.

The proposed bill will suspend any pension or salary payments normally due to Knesset members if they are under investigation or indicted for a felony, punishable by five years imprisonment or more, committed during their tenure, and they seek to evade justice by refusing to appear before a court or investigators.

Knesset and former Knesset members' payments would only be reinstated upon their appearance in court or compliance with the investigator's requests.

The passing of the bill, commonly known as the "Bishara Law," would strip former MK Bishara (Balad) of the pension payments he currently receives while living outside Israel.

Bishara was under investigation for allegedly aiding Hezbollah while serving as an Israeli MK when he fled the country in 2007.

The bill was sponsored by MK Yariv Levin (Likud) and MK Yisrael Hasson (Kadima).

"I want to end this situation where betraying the State of Israel has become a profitable business that supports the traitor Bishara to the tune of thousands of shekels a month," said Levin.

The bill will now have to be brought to a vote in front of the entire Knesset before it can become law.

RELEASED IN PART B3 OTHER, B6

452

Law, Rosemary C

From: [redacted] B6
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 5:43 AM B3 OTHER
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Flotilla reports

Categories: Working

Hi, Todd: Please plan on having a [redacted] 3 p.m. debrief on last night's SVTS. 3rd floor conf room.

[redacted] and I have access to your IIRs and continue to read them with keen interest. B3 OTHER
B6

Thanks,
[redacted]

B3 OTHER
B6

Sensitive
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: [redacted] B3 OTHER
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 12:19 PM B6
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Flotilla reports

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

Sir,
Below are titles of [redacted] reports on the Finch and flotillas -- let us know if you are interested in any of the B3 OTHER
can forward you the full text. Also, if you would like we can have [redacted]
[redacted] Please let us know when we need to support further VTCs or other meetings on this topic.

FINCH info--

[redacted] M/V FINCH, single blockade runner, is navigating toward Gaza on 23 May 2011 with intent B3 OTHER
penetrate Gazan waters

[redacted] Unsuccessful attempt by M/V FINCH to enter Gaza on 16 May 2011, details on Israeli Navy deterrence
efforts

B3 OTHER

Flotilla efforts-

[redacted] Possible Turkish escort to the Gaza Flotilla while Turkish-Israeli Relations Remain Strained
Israel Lessons Learned During Boarding of MAVI MARMARA, Preparation for Free Gaza Flotilla II
Israel implements new tactics and equipment to disable propulsion system of ships in Gaza Flotilla


V/R

[redacted]

B3 OTHER

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

B3 OTHER



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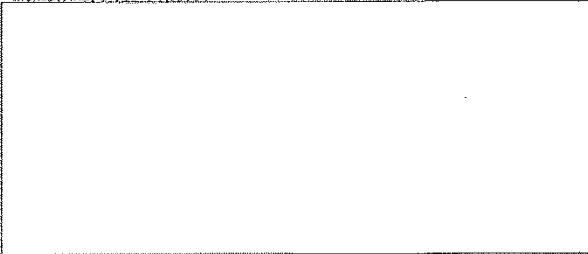
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

W16

RELEASED IN PART B3 OTHER, B6

Osman, Amany A

From: Dayton, Win (Istanbul)
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 7:08 AM
To:



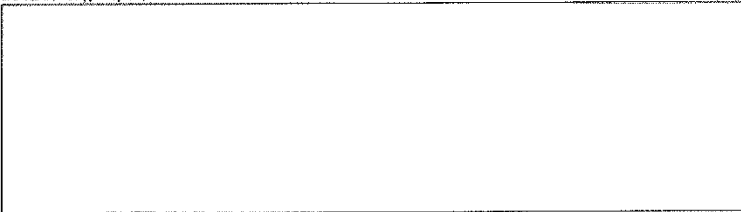
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Update Monday

B3 OTHER

Turkish television (quoting Israeli media) is reporting 10 dead and more wounded in the Israeli Defense Forces' interception and boarding of the flotilla. Film clips purporting to be from the flotilla depict chaotic scenes from the deck of one ship and apparent wounded civilians. We are trying to contact IHH reps in Istanbul for comment, including on status of US citizens on board.

Turkish TV is showing a live feed of a crowd of hundreds in front of the Israeli consulate in Istanbul. Earlier reports indicated some stone throwing there but current videos show a peaceful crowd with Palestinian flags and a bullhorn or two.

From: Marwaha, Brianna C
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 9:02 PM



Subject: RE: Free Gaza Update Monday

B3 OTHER

Hi All - please see the below e-mail from [redacted] I am able to respond intelligently regarding the assistance to American Citizens if they are detained...however, if they are U.S. owned boats, does NEA or DDD know what we can expect will happen with their property?

B6

Thanks,
Brianna
CA/OCS Weekly Duty Officer

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

From: Macris, Gregory P
To: CA-Staffers Mailbox; CA-OCS-Duty-Principals; Harwaha, Brienne C; Scott, Pamela F
Sent: Sun May 30 13:13:02 2010
Subject: FW: Assistance for American Humanitarians

CA colleagues -- hoping you could take a crack at responding. Greg Macris, SWO

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 1:02 PM
To: Operations Center
Subject: Assistance for American Humanitarians

B6

State Department Operations Center:

This morning I offered a prayer in my Baptist Church for the safe landing of the humanitarian flotilla bringing needed goods to the refugees in Gaza. Several of my Baptist colleagues asked how our State Department would aid of American citizens on American-owned boats should the Israeli armed forces make arrests and/or seize property. I called (202) 647-4000 for answers and the operator suggest I email you for prompt answers.

Because we are following the event by the hour, your prompt response is appreciated.

B6

[Redacted]
First Baptist Church
Hamilton NY

B3 OTHER

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 7:04 AM

[Redacted]

B3 OTHER

Subject: RE: Free Gaza update Sunday

Recirculating update below from USDAO Tel Aviv to this list. Also adding some additional US military addressees.

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 6:24 AM

B3 OTHER

Challenger II Greek flagged, probably not participating. Challenger I St. Vincent/Grenadine flagged most likely participating. Israel Navy assesses the flotilla has not yet started to head south, once it does, expect 8-12 hours for interdiction.

[Redacted]

B3 OTHER

B3 OTHER

From: Goodman, Ian A
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 11:22 AM
 To: Reisser, Wesley J; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zerobavely, Sandra S; Schiereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Magg, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogile, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amary A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Siliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Danover, Jennifer J; Marwaha, Brianne C; Finnegan, Joseph P; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H
 Subject: RE: One More Free Gaza Update

I've added my contact numbers, in case I need to be reached.

Ilan Goodman
 EUR/SE
 C: 413-530-1358
 BB: 202-486-2407

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Reisser, Wesley J
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 11:05 AM
 To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zerobavely, Sandra S; Schiereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Magg, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogile, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amary A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Siliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ian A; Danover, Jennifer J; Marwaha, Brianne C; Finnegan, Joseph P; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H
 Subject: RE: One More Free Gaza Update

Also, please note that weekend POCs are listed in the spreadsheet as well. I will be out of town and only reachable via State Ops; Karlene Frelch and Jeff Glauque will be in town and also can be reached with any NEA related concerns.
 Wes

From: Reisser, Wesley J
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 10:29 AM
 To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett,

David R; Barsh, Desirée A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavey, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera Y; Weinfeld, Nill I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finer, Frank J; Greene, David J; Hanning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Magg, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amey A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ian A; Danover, Jennifer J; Marwaha, Brianne C; Finnegan, Joseph P; Glaucque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H
Subject: One More Free Gaza Update

Everyone – Here is one last update as we move into the holiday weekend. Emb. Tel Aviv is standing by and the duty officers in DC have been briefed in and are on this message. I have once again pasted the link to the spreadsheet, which is now as updated as possible. It has a link to press guidance as well for your reference. Thanks to all for your assistance on this big effort!

Wes

<http://neap.state.sbu/sites/ipa/Shared%20Documents/Free%20Gaza%20May%202010.xlsx>

Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.
Desk Officer – NEA/IPA
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs
Phone (202) 647-2847
Fax (202) 735-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/ESU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.

Law, Rosemary C

N6

RELEASED IN PART B5, B6

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 8:31 AM
To: Frelich, Karlene H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza
Attachments: 052410-Israel-Palestinians - Israel Blockade of Gaza.docx

From: Frelich, Karlene H
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 8:31 AM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Can you send me the press guidance too? Thanks.

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 8:26 AM
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C
Cc: Sindle, James M; Frelich, Karlene H; Giaouque, Jeffrey G; Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Baumert, Kevin A
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Greeks finally passed the ship info for the Amcits. The Challenger 1 and 2 are U.S. flagged vessels per Greek port authorities. L has alerted the Coast Guard to this fact.

From: Frowick, George H
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 7:31 AM
To: Netos, Eleftherios E; Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A; Braunschweig, John J
Cc: 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlattelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa S; McCarthy, Deborah A
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Attached are crew/passenger manifests for three additional vessels we received (via Cons sections' persistent calls) from the Port of Piraeus.

It shows a number of Amcits (including the retired Ambassador) are on MV Svendoni flagged in Lome, Togo.

It also shows the two US-flagged boats (60 ft. MVs) owned by "Western Mediterranean Trips PLU, LLC" based in Wilmington DE. Challenger I is captained by a UK citizen [redacted] Challenger II is Captained by a Greek citizen [redacted]

SBU
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

From: Netos, Eleftherios E
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:13 PM
To: Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlattelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa

S

Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes,

Thanks for this important update. I'm looping in Teresa Mendel in CA regarding the w/w. (We've already discussed by phone and she'll be in touch with Nicosia's consular section separately.)

Terry

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Goodman, Ilan A
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:10 PM
To: Reisser, Wesley J; Netos, Eleftherios E; Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlatelli, Adam W
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Looping in Embassy Athens.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:08 PM
To: Netos, Eleftherios E; Goodman, Ilan A; Baumert, Kevin A
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

FYI – Our naval folks are sure the Challenger boats are not U.S. flagged. Would still appreciate concurrence by Emb Athens if at all possible. Terry, this means we would not need anything other than potential w/w if they stop in Cyprus.

From: Schlereth, Frank G
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 3:58 PM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Burgess, Richard J
Subject: Re: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

ONI and Sixth Fleet are ver confident that the boats are not legitimately US flagged.

R/
LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attache
USDAO Tel Aviv
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov
Office: 972-03-519-7486
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

From: Reisser, Wesley J
To: Schlereth, Frank G
Cc: Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C
Sent: Thu May 27 18:16:56 2010
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Frank – Does the Israeli Navy have any more info beyond the ship's names? If so we can touch base with the Coast Guard to see if they are American registered and can let us know more about their position on what happens if they are boarded etc.

Wes

From: Baumert, Kevin A
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:15 AM
To: Baumert, Kevin A; Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Just connected with Coast Guard. If we can provide more facts on the vessels in question, they can assist with identifying options. Thanks, Kevin

From: Baumert, Kevin A
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:00 AM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

B5

Someone needs to identify the vessels. That is a central fact here that I don't believe there is clarity on.

Thanks,
Kevin

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:56 AM
To: Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin –

Wes

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:36 AM
To: Baumert, Kevin A

Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin – We are still trying to get confirmation from Greece on the 2 ships. They are yachts and may actually be U.S. registered. [REDACTED]

B5

Wes

From: Baumert, Kevin A
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:41 PM
To: Reisser, Wesley J
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes – it is definitely worth pursuing more factual information as to which vessels are actually doing what. I suspect they are not US flagged vessels, and might not even be Greek flagged (may just be Greek owned, but who knows).

Thanks,
Kevin

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:00 PM
To: Baumert, Kevin A
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin – We have a whole bunch of ships headed towards Gaza right now to “break the Israeli blockade.” The Israeli Navy will probably interdict them this weekend, board the ships, haul them to port and deport all of the foreign nationals (they did this last summer). However, we have a slight hitch this time in that two of the boats, after leaving Greece, are now supposedly flying American flags rather than Greek ones. Embassy Athens is looking into this to find out if the boats are registered in Greece or the U.S.

The Israeli Embassy has contacted us about this, and they have been contacted by the Greek Ambassador here, who has stated these ships are flying U.S. flags (although he did not tell the Israelis if the boats are American or Greek registered).

Thanks!
Wes

From: Schlereth, Frank G
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 11:06 AM
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E

Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Correction from Israel Navy –
Vessels departed Greece and are currently on the way to Cyprus.

V/R,

LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attaché
US Defense Attaché Office
US Embassy, Tel Aviv
Tel: 972 3 519 7486
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

From: Schlereth, Frank G
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:51 PM
To: Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E
Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Israel Navy is inquiring about two vessels –Challenger I and Challenger II that they believe have departed Cyprus as a part of the Flotilla and reportedly are now flying American Flags. They have asked if there is any way to confirm this. I will reach out to our POCs in Cyprus, but appreciate any insight folks may have on this topic. I have trouble believing they would be legitimately sailing under an American Flag, but if so for some reason, potentially complicates the situation more. Thanks.

R/

LCDR Frank Schlereth
Assistant Naval Attaché
US Defense Attaché Office
US Embassy, Tel Aviv
Tel: 972 3 519 7486
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

From: Reisser, Wesley J
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:06 PM
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hananla, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Bally, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gislvoed, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S
Subject: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

(SBU) Courtesy Embassy Tel Aviv, a message on how the navy intends to handle this:

"The Israel Navy has expressed to me that they intend to respond to this situation as peaceful as possible; however they have been directed by the GOI to prevent the vessels from arriving in Gaza. Their intention is to ensure the ships arrive in Ashdod, process the individuals to be deported and deliver any legitimate humanitarian aide to Gaza via land. It should be noted, that GOI has made it clear that although they have directed a peaceful response, those participating are viewed as individuals deliberately attempting to provoke the Israel Navy and appropriate action to prevent arrival in Gaza will be taken."

Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs
Phone (202) 647-2647
Fax (202) 736-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/SBU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.