

DAILY BULLETIN

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DANFORTH SWORN IN AS U.N. AMBASSADOR

Bush sends envoy to confront terror, fight suffering and despair

By Judy Aita
Washington File United Nations
Correspondent

United Nations -- Former U.S. Senator John Danforth was sworn in July 1 as the U.S. chief delegate to the United Nations, replacing Ambassador John Negroponte who is in Baghdad heading up the new U.S. embassy in the Iraqi capital.

At a White House ceremony, President Bush said that Danforth is being sent to U.N. headquarters with “a clear mandate: American will work closely with the United Nations to confront terror and to fight the suffering and despair that terrorists exploit.”

“In all our work at the U.N., Ambassador John C. Danforth will be a strong voice for the humane and decent conscience of America,” Bush said.

In his response, Danforth said that “by seeking consensus and working together, there is much the United Nations can do, certainly in Iraq, but also in combating terrorism and preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and bringing peace to the Middle East and stability to Africa, among others.”

“We face a conflict between civilization and the forces of chaos. The task before the United Nations is for civilization to find ways to pull together to meet the

common challenges we face. It is with this task firmly in mind that I go to the United Nations,” the new ambassador said.

The former senator is “exceptionally well prepared” for the U.N. post, the president also said.

“During his years on Capitol Hill, he earned the admiration of colleagues on both sides of the aisle,” the president said. “Jack is a man of strong convictions, unquestioned integrity, and great decency. He is a man of calm and judicious temperament who goes about his work with deliberation and a good will that draws others to his cause.”

The president noted that Danforth will represent the United States at the United Nations at a “critical time when the United States and the United Nations are facing new tests.”

“We are called to defend the peace against ruthless terrorist networks and against outlaw regimes that support and shelter them. We are called to preserve the peace by building good relations among the great powers. We’re called to extend the peace by replacing poverty and repressions and resentment around the world, especially in the broader Middle East,” Bush said.

“America is determined to lead all in these great objectives, yet no nation can achieve them alone,” the president said. “Global challenges must be answered by active, effective, multilateral institutions.”

Danforth, 68, has had a distinguished public service career, serving as the attorney general of Missouri and then as U.S. senator. Before accepting the U.N. posting, he was a partner in a St. Louis/Washington law firm and President Bush’s special envoy to the Sudan. A member of the U.S. Senate for 18 years, Danforth served on the Finance Committee; the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; and the Select Committee on Intelligence. He is also an ordained Episcopal minister.

In his remarks during the swearing in ceremony Danforth said that “the United Nations is . . . essential to winning the war against terrorism.”

“Too often disagreements among nations on how to confront this new threat have been bitter, as though the enemy were ourselves not those who fly planes into buildings or build the power to destroy cities,” Danforth said.

But Resolution 1546 on Iraq unanimously adopted by the Security Council in late June “demonstrated how nations can come together,” the ambassador said. “All members agreed on the transfer of sovereignty to a new interim Iraqi government. All members agreed to the central role to be played by the United Nations in Iraq.”

The task now, he said, “is to build on the momentum begun by Resolution 1546.”

One of Danforth’s first challenges will be dealing once again with the Sudan, especially with the situation in Western Sudan, where many have described the situation as genocide. Secretary of State Colin Powell and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan were both in the region in the past several days.

The United States has already begun informally circulating a draft resolution that would endorse the deployment of international monitors to the Darfur region under the leadership of the African Union and impose an arms embargo on the Jingaweit militias.

POWELL SPELLS OUT PRIORITIES FOR DARFUR

Ultimate solution is political, he says

The number one priority in Darfur is to bring an end to militarism in the region, and the number two priority is to do everything possible to speed the flow of humanitarian supplies to the strife-torn area, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell stressed June 30.

Ultimately, “we need a political solution to this conflict,” Powell noted in remarks following his tour of the Abu Shouk Camp in Al Fasher, Sudan.

Following is the transcript of Secretary Powell’s remarks after his Tour of the Abu Shouk Camp
Al Fasher, Sudan
June 30, 2004

SECRETARY POWELL: Thank you very much. I would like to express my appreciation to the dedicated workers who are here at this camp from the International Committee of the Red Cross, Oxfam, USAID, World Food Program and so many others. The people of this camp are being given hope, as well as sustenance.

But, as was just said, we don't want them to stay in camps; we all want them to return to their homes. And that will require the re-establishment throughout Darfur of security, the end of this fighting, the end of the Jingaweit, the end of atrocities, the end of the violence.

Camps are good for temporary purposes, but cannot be the answer, especially as we enter the rainy season and where we run the risk of people not being able to get home to plant crops. Crops that will not be harvested months later and the cycle repeats itself and the need for international assistance becomes great.

In my conversations with my colleague, the Foreign Minister, and with the President last evening, and the conversations I hope to continue this afternoon in my meeting with [United Nations Secretary-General] Kofi Annan later today, we'll have a chance to review all we have heard, seen and make a judgment of what else the international community must do to help Sudan, to help the people of Darfur, help to bring peace to this region. We are anxious to see the end of militarism out here, we are anxious to see the Jingaweit brought under control, disarmed so that people can leave camps in safety and go back to the villages. It seems to me that is the number one priority.

And the number two priority is to make sure that we are doing everything we can in the international community to speed the flow of humanitarian workers, supplies, vehicles, all the other things that are necessary to get the job done. And I will be having discussions with government leaders and Foreign Minister Ismail later today, to see what can be done to speed up that process.

Ultimately, of course, we need a political solution to this conflict. And that has been the subject of my discussions with the Foreign Minister and with the President, and I will continue those discussions later this afternoon.

I've also had a chance to visit with the AU Monitoring Group that is here under the leadership of the very distinguished Nigerian General, General Okonkwo, and he is anxious to build up the size of the monitoring team. And I'll have conversations later this afternoon with the Foreign Minister as to what can be done to make sure that their vehicles arrive as promptly as possible and that the additional personnel waiting to join the monitoring group can arrive here because it is in everyone's interest for the monitoring group to spread out as quickly as possible and get on with their work.

I would like to say thank you to all my hosts here this afternoon, and a special thanks for what they are doing to give these desperate people -- who want nothing more than to go home in safety -- giving them hope until that day arrives when they can go home and live in peace and safety with their families.

Thank you.

USAID RECAPS U.S. RESPONSE TO DARFUR HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

United States has provided in excess of \$100 million in aid

The U.S. Agency for International Development June 30 published a fact sheet on U.S. assistance to the humanitarian emergency in Darfur, Sudan.

To date, the fact sheet explains, the U.S. government has provided \$100,357,490 in humanitarian assistance to Darfur and \$4,914,000 in humanitarian assistance to eastern Chad.

Following is the text of the USAID fact sheet:
UPDATED
June, 30 2004

U.S. Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Darfur

According to the United Nations (UN), the crisis in the western Sudanese region of Darfur is currently the worst humanitarian and human rights catastrophe in the world. The UN has estimated that out of a pre-conflict population in Darfur of 6.5 million people, approximately 2.2 million people are affected by the crisis. There are more than 1 million internally displaced people (IDP) within Darfur and there are approximately 160,000 refugees who have fled into neighboring Chad as a result of the conflict. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) expects the refugee population to reach nearly 200,000 by the end of 2004.

Until late May, the Government of Sudan limited humanitarian access to conflict-affected populations outside the state capitals of Geneina, El Fasher, and Nyala. While the Government of Sudan has lifted some of the restrictive travel regulations, obstacles remain and secu-

rity concerns continue to slow the flow of humanitarian assistance to Darfur.

On June 24, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell announced plans to travel to Sudan on June 29 and June 30 to urge the Government of Sudan to rein in the Jingaweit Arab militias responsible for the violence in Darfur and in eastern Chad. Administrator Andrew S. Natsios of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will accompany Secretary Powell to Sudan. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who was briefed on Sudan by Administrator Natsios on June 23, plans to take a three-day trip to Sudan and Chad beginning on June 30.

To date, the U.S. government has provided \$100,357,490 in humanitarian assistance to Darfur and \$4,914,000 in humanitarian assistance to eastern Chad. During a June 3 donor conference in Geneva, Switzerland, USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios announced that the U.S. will pledge an additional \$188.5 million to Darfur. The U.S. government, aware that the current rainy season will adversely affect the situation in Sudan, announced on June 24 that it will provide \$14 million in supplemental funding to western Sudan and to eastern Chad. The U.S. Senate also passed a resolution on June 24 that will send \$95 million in emergency humanitarian assistance to the region.

Over the past year, USAID has been proactive in dealing with the crisis. USAID has deployed field staff to Sudan and eastern Chad specifically to assess the situation in Darfur. On April 11, USAID responded to the increasing scale of humanitarian needs by mobilizing a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). USAID continues a phased deployment of humanitarian personnel as official access and improved security allow for an increased presence in Darfur.

USAID airlifted \$1,941,150 in relief supplies between June 5 and June 14. These shipments included 40,000 blankets, two water purification systems and 1,890 rolls of plastic sheeting, which will provide enough shelter for 119,070 people. Between June 19 and June 28, USAID shipped an additional 60,000 blankets and 1,260 rolls of plastic sheeting, which will provide enough shelter for 79,380 people. These shipments, including transportation costs, are worth \$1,065,500.

As of June 30, USAID has delivered a total of 7,680 rolls of plastic sheeting, 157,500 blankets, two water purification systems, and 600 water containers via 23 airlifts to

Darfur. USAID's contribution of plastic sheeting will provide shelter for approximately 414,720 beneficiaries. The total value of the commodities provided to date, including transportation costs, is approximately \$3.4 million. USAID's contributions to Darfur represent 45 percent of the blankets required and 33 percent of the plastic sheeting required.

Since February 2003, USAID has provide nearly \$17.4 million to UN agencies and NGOs, including CARE, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Medair, Save the Children-UK, and Save the Children-U.S. for emergency health, water and sanitation, agriculture, food security, shelter, logistics and coordination activities.

Since October 2003, USAID has provided nearly \$82.9 million to the World Food Program (WFP) for Darfur for 86,700 megatons of food commodities, including cereals, cooking oil, pulses, and blended foods. USAID has contributed \$4.8 million to the WFP for Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad, including 7,040 megatons of mixed commodities already in the region.

Based on the severity of the humanitarian situation in eastern Chad, especially the increasing demand for potable water in both the refugee camps and within towns and villages in eastern Chad, U.S. Ambassador Marc M. Wall declared a disaster in Chad on June 24. USAID immediately provided \$114,000 to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to improve the surface water during the June to September rainy season for 5,000 vulnerable host-country families (approximately 25,000 people) whose resources and livelihoods have been taxed by the heavy influx of refugee populations.

On May 21, the U.S. Department of State approved an additional contribution of \$1.2 million to UNHCR in response to its emergency appeal for Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad. The total contribution to date from the U.S. Department of State is \$6,912,972 to the UNHCR appeal for Chad, including \$712,972 provided during FY 2003.

The United States will continue to support relief efforts in western Sudan and in eastern Chad, as well as continue to push for an end to the atrocities committed by the Government of Sudan and the Jingaweit Arab militias. For additional information on USAID's efforts in Darfur, please visit USAID's website at: <http://www.usaid.gov>

NASA CELEBRATES "MIND-BOGGLING" IMAGES OF SATURN

Spacecraft returns images less than a day after entering Saturn's orbit

More than 20 years of scientific work on the Cassini-Huygens space mission came to fruition July 1 when the scientific team at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory saw the first images of Saturn's rings. Cassini transmitted the pictures back to Earth -- across more than 900 million miles of space -- just hours after the spacecraft slipped through the rings June 30 to enter an orbit around the planet.

In a July 1 news release from NASA, elated Cassini scientists described the images of the rings as "mind-boggling" and "dramatic." The spacecraft's cameras caught close-ups of the rings, and the images convey geometric patterns, in stark black and white. The images reflect the varying density of the particles comprising the rings, according to the press release.

Further information on the Cassini mission and the images of Saturn's rings are available at http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/cassini/main/index.html

Following is the text of the NASA press release:

NASA
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
[PASADENA, CALIFORNIA]

Fresh Cassini Pictures Show Majesty of Saturn's Rings

The first pictures taken by the Cassini spacecraft after it began orbiting Saturn show breathtaking detail of Saturn's rings, and other science measurements reveal that Saturn's magnetic field pulsed in size as Cassini approached the planet.

"For years, we've dreamed about getting pictures like this. After all the planning, waiting and worrying, just seeing these first images makes it all worthwhile," said Dr. Charles Elachi, Cassini radar team leader and director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif. "We're eager to share these new views and the exciting discoveries ahead with people around the world."

The narrow angle camera on Cassini took 61 images

soon after the main engine burn that put Cassini into orbit on Wednesday night. The spacecraft was hurtling at 15 kilometers per second (about 34,000 miles per hour), so only pieces of the rings were targeted.

"We won't see the whole puzzle, only pieces, but what we are seeing is dramatic," said Dr. Carolyn Porco, Cassini imaging team leader, Space Science Institute, Boulder, Colo. "The images are mind-boggling, just mind-boggling. I've been working on this mission for 14 years and I shouldn't be surprised, but it is remarkable how startling it is to see these images for the first time."

Some images show patterned density waves in the rings, resembling stripes of varying width. Another shows a ring's scalloped edge. "We do not see individual particles but a collection of particles, like a traffic jam on a highway," Porco said. "We see a bunch of particles together, then it clears up, then there's traffic again."

Other instruments on Cassini besides the camera have also been busy collecting data. The magnetospheric imaging instrument took the first image of Saturn's magnetosphere. "With Voyager we inferred what it looked like, in the same way that a blind man feels an elephant. Now we can see the elephant," said Dr. Tom Krimigis of Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel, Md., principal investigator for the magnetospheric imaging instrument. The magnetosphere is a bubble of energetic particles around the planet shaped by Saturn's magnetic field and surrounded by the solar wind of particles speeding outward from the Sun.

"During approach to Saturn, Cassini was greeted at the gate," said Dr. Bill Kurth, deputy principal investigator for the radio and plasma wave science instrument onboard Cassini. "The bow shock where the solar wind piles into the planet's magnetosphere was encountered earlier than expected. It was as if Saturn's county line had been redrawn, and that was a surprise." Cassini first crossed the bow shock about 3 million kilometers (1.9 million miles) from Saturn, which is about 50 percent farther from the planet than had been detected by the Pioneer, Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 spacecraft that flew past Saturn in 1979, 1980 and 1981.

The location of the bow shock varies with how hard the solar wind is blowing, Kurth said. As the magnetosphere repeatedly expanded and contracted while Cassini was approaching Saturn, the spacecraft crossed the bow shock seven times.

The Cassini-Huygens mission is a cooperative project of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a division of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, manages the Cassini-Huygens mission for NASA's Office of Space Science, Washington, D.C. JPL designed, developed and assembled the Cassini orbiter.

For the latest images and more information about the Cassini- Huygens mission, visit <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov> and <http://www.nasa.gov/cassini>.

Please Note: Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage www.usmission.ch. Select "Washington File" from the drop-down menu under "News."