

DAILY BULLETIN

JULY 21, 2004

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GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM REMAINS URGENT, DANFORTH SAYS

Ambassador Danforth addresses Security Council on counterterrorism

The global campaign against terrorism remains a high priority for the United States and Washington is committed to seeing that the United Nations continues to play an important role in that fight, U.S. Ambassador John Danforth said July 19.

The Security Council "must act with a sense of urgency, as though the events of March 11, 2004, and September 11, 2001, took place yesterday, not months or years ago," Danforth said, referring to the terrorist attacks in Spain and the United States that claimed thousands of lives and injured thousands more.

Danforth spoke during a public U.N. Security Council meeting reviewing the work of the council's counterterrorism committee (CTC) which was set up after the September 11 attacks to determine how prepared countries are to combat terrorism, assess what help they need, and match those needs with donor nations. The counterterrorism committee, which is now chaired by Ambassador Alexander Konuzin of Russia, was restructured in March to provide an executive directorate to acetate the committee's work.

Compliance with the council's resolutions on terrorism require more than reports to the CTC, Danforth said. It requires legislative, regulatory and operational action by governments on many fronts to stop terrorist activi

ties that range from financing to procuring weapons and finding safe haven.

“Perhaps the clearest indication of just how much more needs to be done is the number of major terrorist attacks since the CTC opened its doors for business in October 2001,” he said. “Simply put, the terrorists and their supporters have continued to strike whether in Bali, Moscow, Casablanca, Riyadh, Baghdad, Mombassa, Istanbul, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, or Madrid. Terrorism has not been defeated”

Following is the text of Danforth’s remarks:

Statement by Ambassador John Danforth, U.S. Representative to the United Nations, on the Work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, in the Security Council
United Nations, New York
July 19, 2004

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I’m sure I join all ambassadors in thanking Ambassador Konuzin for his report to us this morning, and also in congratulating him and his staff for their work since assuming the Chairmanship of the CTC in May.

I would also like to welcome Javier Ruperez, the Executive Director of the newly established Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, to his first Council meeting. The establishment of this body marks a watershed moment in the Council’s efforts to deal with the menacing threat to international peace and security that is terrorism.

The global campaign against terrorism remains the highest of priorities for my government. The United States is committed to seeing that the United Nations continues to play an important role in this area, and my government is working to find ways to enhance the UN’s effectiveness.

It will require a team effort to defeat the scourge of terrorism. The Counter-Terrorism Committee has been a valuable member of this team. Through its capacity-building work and its global coordination initiatives, the Committee has helped energize member states and organizations around the world to make the fight against terrorism more of a priority, whether through the adoption of new or the improvement of existing counter-terrorism laws or enforcement mechanisms. As a result of its work, more organizations and countries have joined the counter-terrorism team. Nevertheless, much work remains to be done.

For example, while we have seen a significant increase in the number of states that have become parties to the 12 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, there are still too many that have failed to take action in this area. Some 40 states are parties to fewer than half of these instruments. This suggests a lack of urgency in fighting terrorism and weakens international solidarity.

Although the CTC has received more than 500 reports from member states, compliance with Resolution 1373 requires much more than the submission of reports. Compliance requires action on various fronts -- the legislative, the regulatory, and the operational -- the CTC needs to do a better job of reinforcing this point, both in New York and in capitals.

Perhaps the clearest indication of just how much more needs to be done is the number of major terrorist attacks since the CTC opened its doors for business in October 2001. Simply put, the terrorists and their supporters have continued to strike, whether in Bali, Moscow, Casablanca, Riyadh, Baghdad, Mombassa, Istanbul, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, or Madrid. Terrorism has not been defeated, raising the specter of further deadly attacks on innocent victims and continuing threats to international peace and security.

The Council established the CTED to strengthen the CTC and provide it with additional tools and resources. Now, we must work to ensure that the CTED becomes operational as quickly as possible.

The CTED will enable the CTC to be more proactive, to reach out in different ways to states and organizations to encourage more of them to become full partners on the counter-terrorism team.

Through field visits to different states, it will be able to help the CTC assess on the ground efforts to implement the provisions of Resolution 1373, thus moving beyond the current focus on written reports. This is essential if the CTC eventually hopes to gather enough information to determine which states are in compliance with the resolution. In addition, we encourage those states that have asked for technical assistance to consider requesting a visit from the CTC and the CTED.

Even with the work of these bodies, and that of the Council’s other counter-terrorism body -- the “Al-Qaeda/Taliban Sanctions Committee” -- the Council itself must remain at the forefront of the global campaign to rid the world of the scourge of terrorism. It must act with

a sense of urgency, as though the events of March 11, 2004 and September 11, 2001, took place yesterday, not months or years ago. It must never forget that so long as a few states are not acting quickly enough to raise their capacity to fight terrorism or are not meeting their international counter-terrorism obligations, all of us remain vulnerable. The Council must be prepared to live up to its responsibility under the U.N. Charter to maintain international peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. President.

WTO REVIEW OF JAPAN'S RESTRICTIONS ON U.S. APPLES SOUGHT

United States also seeks to impose trade sanctions against Japan

The United States has asked the World Trade Organization (WTO) to review whether Japan's recently revised measures for importation of U.S. apples are now in compliance with the WTO's Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, also known as the SPS Agreement.

"The United States does not believe that Japan has brought its measure into compliance with WTO agreements," U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Zoellick said in a press release issued July 19. "Japan continues to require various restrictions, including orchard inspection and buffer zones. The revised restrictions are little changed from the original restrictions found to be inconsistent by a WTO panel with Japan's obligations under the SPS Agreement."

Zoellick said the United States also is seeking permission from the WTO to impose trade sanctions against Japan totaling \$143.4 million, an amount approximately equivalent to the harm Japan's restrictions on the importation of U.S. apples have caused the U.S. economy annually.

"We won't be satisfied until there is a level playing field, and that's why we are moving to assert our WTO rights," Zoellick said.

Following is the text of the USTR press release:

Office of the United States Trade Representative
Executive Office of the President

Washington, D.C. 20508

USTR Press Releases are Available on the USTR Website at www.ustr.gov.

July 19, 2004

U.S. Dissatisfied With Japan Over Apple Dispute Moves for WTO Review of Japanese Restrictions and Seeks \$143.4 Million in Sanctions

WASHINGTON - U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick announced today that the United States asked a World Trade Organization (WTO) panel to review whether Japan has complied with earlier WTO rulings against its restrictions on imported U.S. apples. The United States is also seeking authorization to impose trade sanctions against Japan totaling \$143.4 million.

"American apple growers have been blocked from the Japanese market - that's wrong. The United States does not believe that Japan has brought its measure into compliance with WTO agreements," stated Zoellick. "Japan continues to require various restrictions, including orchard inspection and buffer zones. The revised restrictions are little changed from the original restrictions found to be inconsistent by a WTO panel with Japan's obligations under the SPS Agreement. We won't be satisfied until there is a level playing field, and that's why we are moving to assert our WTO rights."

In its request seeking authorization to impose trade sanctions against Japan, the United States proposes to increase tariffs on Japanese products with an annual trade value of up to \$143.4 million, which is the approximate amount of annual harm to the U.S. economy caused by Japan's measure on U.S. apples. The United States may also opt to suspend obligations to Japan under the SPS and Agriculture Agreements in order to achieve this annual value. Under an agreement with Japan, the United States would not suspend trade concessions until an arbitrator has confirmed the level of trade harm suffered by the United States.

The request for authorization to suspend trade concessions includes a list of potential product categories from which the United States could draw in selecting specific products that will be subject to increased duties. At this time, USTR is not publishing in the Federal Register

a list of the specific products that may be subject to increased duties. However, at a later date USTR will publish, as appropriate, a Federal Register notice seeking public comment on a specific list of products.

Background

On December 10, 2003, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) adopted the panel and Appellate Body reports in the fire blight case which found that Japan's restrictions on imported U.S. apples are scientifically unfounded and inconsistent with WTO SPS obligations. In January 2004, the United States and Japan met to agree on the reasonable period of time (RPT) to implement the DSB's decision. The parties agreed that the RPT would expire on June 30, 2004.

The DSB decision found that Japan's requirements for three orchard inspections, 500 meter buffer zones between infected trees and trees with apples for export to Japan and chlorine treatment requirements are not based on scientific evidence nor did Japan base its measures on a risk assessment. The United States successfully argued that mature symptomless apples, the only apples exported, are not vectors for the fire blight bacteria.

Japan and the United States met on several occasions to discuss Japan's implementation of the WTO decision, most recently on June 15. Japan issued a revision to its measure on June 30, 2004, the date the RPT expired. The United States does not believe that the revision to the measure brought it into compliance with Japan's obligations under the SPS Agreement.

POWELL, TADIC DISCUSS WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL, SERBIA'S FUTURE

Secretary of State also asked about Iraq, Middle East, Darfur

Secretary of State Colin Powell welcomed the new president of Serbia and Montenegro, Boris Tadic, to the State Department July 20 less than two weeks after Tadic's inauguration and said the people of Serbia "clearly ... want to see democratic forces take the lead in Serbia."

"I committed to the president that we would do everything we could to help him as he moved forward," Powell said in a joint press conference with Tadic after their meeting.

The secretary stressed the importance of bringing war crimes indictee Ratko Mladic before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague.

Powell said he also told Tadic that the United States wants "to work with Serbia as it pursues its goals toward achieving a Partnership for Peace status on the way to NATO membership, and as it seeks its proper place in the European community as a member of the European Union."

The secretary also reiterated the U.S. position that Kosovo needs to make progress toward achieving standards or benchmarks relating to democracy and human rights that were set out by the United Nations before the international community will address the issue of Kosovo's final status.

Tadic agreed that cooperation with the Hague Tribunal "is very important for our future also, and political stability in Serbia."

Another major issue, he added, is U.S.-Serbian economic cooperation. "That is very important also, in terms of political stabilities," Tadic said. "We need more jobs, direct American investments in our economy, and I mean that we have a new era, in terms of our economic relationship right now."

He also said his government wants "to do everything what we can right now to provide security for the Serbian minority in Kosovo."

In addition to questions about Serbia, reporters asked Powell about the audit of the Oil-for-Food Program in Iraq, Gaza and Sudan.

STABILITY A PREREQUISITE FOR PROGRESS IN HAITI, POWELL SAYS

Secretary outlines challenges at Haiti donors' conference

Stability is the first and foremost prerequisite for democratic and economic progress in Haiti, according to Secretary of State Colin Powell.

In July 20 remarks at the Haiti Donors' Conference sponsored by the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations and the European Commission, Powell said that beyond stability, Haiti's democratic and economic progress will also require "honest, inclusive government and sound economic policies and procedures."

At the two-day conference in Washington, he said that Haiti has the leaders in place to take on the challenges facing the country, and he noted that the Haitian interim government has already taken "solid steps" toward necessary democratic and economic changes.

Powell pointed out that the Haitian government has committed itself to uphold the rule of law and mount free and fair elections in 2005. He noted that Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council is moving forward on elections preparation and that the Haitian government continues to reach out to all political parties. Powell added that press freedom in Haiti also has improved dramatically.

The secretary of state said these are positive signs that the government is committed to creating a new political dialogue in Haiti. On the economic front, he said the Haitian government has demonstrated its determination to implement reforms to ensure greater transparency and discipline in public spending.

Powell indicated that the international community stands ready to help Haiti move forward, and said that the attendance of representatives from over 20 nations, 10 intergovernmental organizations and 20 international non-governmental organizations at the donors' conference attests to the importance of Haiti's democracy, stability and prosperity to the international community.

"Haiti's needs are great," he said. "But with our help, her government and people will be equal to the task."

Powell noted that a needs assessment complemented by the Haitian government, the World Bank and 25 other

donor institutions estimated that Haiti will need \$1.3 billion through September 2006.

He warned that after taking into account current and pledged resources, the World Bank estimates a shortfall of \$924 million. "We must close that gap," he said.

For its part, the United States has tripled the amount of aid originally designated for Haiti in fiscal year 2004, Powell observed. Overall U.S. aid to Haiti in fiscal years 2004 and 2005 combined, he said, would be about \$230 million.

Powell said U.S. assistance will help Haiti prepare for elections, meet the humanitarian and health needs of its most vulnerable citizens, support a jobs program to spur economic activity, repair infrastructure and professionalize the national police.

Powell said he could not overemphasize the importance of the pledges made at the donors' conference, and he called on donors to coordinate efforts and establish benchmarks for progress.

"Together, we must ensure that our assistance flows rapidly, expeditiously, so that the Haitian people soon see concrete improvements in their daily lives, such as new jobs, better roads, cleaner, safer streets, and water that is fit to drink," he said.

Powell added that the benefits of assisting Haiti will extend beyond its borders.

"The people of Haiti will work hard to build a better future for their children -- a future that befits a proud and independent country celebrating its bicentennial year of independence," he said. "And we must help Haiti build that future, not just because it is right and good to do so. We must also help the Haitian people because the international community will benefit from the transformation of Haiti into a fully democratic, stable and prosperous country."

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."