

# DAILY BULLETIN

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## BUSH DISCUSSES IRAQ, EUROPE TRIP IN ITALIAN TV INTERVIEW

President optimistic on U.N. Security Council resolution on Iraq

"We will succeed with the United Nations," President Bush told RAI Italian Television in an interview conducted at the White House June 1, referring to the quest for a new U.N. Security Council resolution on Iraq.

"I know we'll succeed," Bush said. "I've got great faith in the future. And having talked to the new leadership ... in Iraq -- I can tell you they share that same sense of destiny, the same great hope for their people."

Bush also responded to questions regarding the prospect for demonstrations during his trip to Europe, his view of the ongoing violence in Iraq, his reaction to the new Iraqi interim government, and the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison.

The likely demonstrations he characterized as a "healthy sign" and positive. "[O]ne of the values we share is the freedom for people to express themselves," he said. "So I have no problem with people saying, 'I disagree.'"

The president departed June 3 for a three-day trip to Europe focused on the 60th anniversaries of the liberation of Rome and of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France.

Regarding the ongoing violence in Iraq, Bush said

the cause is “killers in that country who want to stop the march to freedom.” He vowed that they would not succeed. “We are not going to be intimidated by killers in Iraq, or anywhere else, for that matter,” he told the Italian journalist.

Asked to identify any mistakes made in Iraq, Bush pointed to the rapid progress of a U.S. force to Baghdad, which “moved too quickly,” enabling Saddam loyalists to disperse. “They regrouped and came back to fight,” he said.

Regarding the new interim Iraqi government chosen by U.N. Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, Bush said he was “happy that Mr. Brahimi did what he said he would do,” consulting widely with Iraqis and choosing a “very diverse government.”

On the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison, Bush said: [W]hat the world will see is that we will handle this matter in a very transparent way, that there will be rule of law ... And people who have done wrong will be held accountable for the world to see.”

#### POWELL FORESEES NO MAJOR PROBLEMS IN U.S.-IRAQ RELATIONSHIP

U.S. forces, Iraqi interim government to work in partnership

U.S. military commanders will work in close partnership with the new Iraqi government to coordinate operations and security efforts, according to Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Speaking to Middle East Broadcasting Center’s Aziz Fahmy in a June 2 interview, Powell said, “The understanding we will enter into with this new government is that there will be mechanisms at a political level and at a military level where both sides will be familiar with the plans of the other. The plans will be integrated into a single operational plan.”

The secretary said that the U.S. forces in Iraq would operate within a U.S. chain of command while Iraqi forces will operate within an Iraqi chain of command.

He dismissed the idea that this arrangement is likely to generate problems.

“They will work together as partners, just as we have worked together with our Korean friends, with our German friends, with other allies that we worked with over the years,” he said. “We’re not looking for ways to cause problems. We’re looking for ways to solve problems.”

Powell cited the experiences of U.S. forces in Fallujah and Najaf to underscore their heightened understanding of the political environment.

“The Marines started to go in and narrow down the pocket [of resistance], but we realized to do more would create a lot of damage to the city and might cause a loss of innocent life. And Iraqi political leaders said, please, there has got to be another way to handle this. So we stood back and let political authorities go in, tribal Sheikhs and others, find a solution,” Powell said.

He said, “We will work with Iraqi authorities to make sure that their needs and their desires and their political imperative and their sovereignty is protected as we go about providing security for them.”

The secretary also reaffirmed the administration’s support for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s plan to remove 21 settlements in Gaza and four settlements in the West Bank as a means to return to the road-map process.

Commenting on the discussions about the Greater Middle East at the upcoming G8 Summit in Sea Island, Georgia, Powell dismissed the idea that the United States or any other G8 nation seeks to impose reforms on the Arab world.

“We are anxious to be partners with the Arab world ... because we believe there is a need for modernization, for reform, in the area. Many nations are going, you know, as full throttle as they can toward reform. We want to help them,” Powell said.

## AID OFFICIALS FEAR HUGE DEATH TOLL IN DARFUR

Natsios says 1 million could die if aid cannot reach them

By Wendy Lubetkin  
Washington File Correspondent

Geneva -- Describing Darfur in the Republic of Sudan as "the most serious humanitarian crisis in the world today," USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios warned June 3 that close to a million people could die if conditions do not allow humanitarian aid to reach the victims rapidly.

"We estimate right now if we get relief in we will lose a third of a million people. And if we don't, the death rates could be dramatically higher, approaching a million people," Natsios said.

"These people have no way of supporting themselves, and they are in terrible condition. That is just a prediction. We don't know for sure. We pray that it is not true," he said.

Natsios expressed these fears at a press conference in Geneva, where a U.S.-U.N.-EU-sponsored meeting on Darfur brought together donor countries, U.N. agencies, nongovernmental organizations, the government of Sudan, and the governments of some neighboring countries.

He also announced a new U.S. pledge of \$188 million between now and the end of calendar year 2005 that would bring U.S. total contributions for Darfur to nearly \$300 million since February 2003.

U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland also addressed the press briefing, saying the funding gap for Darfur of \$236 million must be filled "with the utmost urgency to enable us to save hundreds of thousands of lives."

Egeland said conference participants agreed on targets for the next 90 days, including feeding up to 1 million displaced persons across the Darfur region, providing water to IDP (internally displaced persons) camps and host communities, providing basic drugs and access to health care for 90 percent of the IDP population, providing materials for constructing shelter, and deploying human rights and protection staff.

International aid officials at the conference acknowledged that a high death toll is likely in Darfur, even

under the best of circumstances. "We are going to have a large number of people die, no matter what we do," Natsios said. "The question now is how can we minimize the death and the suffering."

The USAID administrator emphasized that four conditions are needed to reduce the mortality rates.

The first is unimpeded access, he said. The government of Sudan had made some progress by eliminating travel permits to get into Darfur, but they have imposed other requirements.

The second condition would be an increased presence of international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and U.N. agencies on the ground and setting up the infrastructure for the delivery of relief.

The third and most important condition, Natsios said, is to provide security against the jingaweit Arab militias that have been attacking African villagers, particularly those from the Zagowa, Fur and Masolit ethnic tribes.

"While the regular military operations by the Sudanese military have dramatically dropped since they signed the accords in N'Djamena with the rebels a couple of months ago, there has been an increase, not a reduction, in attacks by the jingaweit," Natsios said.

"Unless the jingaweit are put under control and these atrocities are stopped, people will not accept relief commodities in the camps," he said. "They actually tell us that even though they are dying of starvation they don't want the food because as soon as they get it the jingaweit come in, take the food, rape the women, and shoot the men."

The fourth condition is funding for a massive relief effort. "We pledge today," he said, "an additional \$188.5 million between now and the end of calendar 2005 ... to deal with this crisis."

Natsios said he also wanted to make clear the U.S. position with respect to the North-South peace negotiations and the crisis in Darfur. "There has been a suggestion, somehow, that we are separating the two. We are not separating the two.

"The fact that a peace agreement has been signed after 22 years of civil war between the North and South is a great accomplishment," he said. However, the United

States has made clear to the Sudanese government at the highest level that there can be no normalization of relations as long as the atrocities by the jingaweit continue.

Natsios said the United States is looking to Egeland and the United Nations, along with NGOs, to provide leadership on the ground, and he expressed full support for Egeland's efforts.

#### USDA'S VENEMAN URGES PROGRESS ON WTO FARM NEGOTIATIONS

Agriculture secretary also addresses food safety, biotechnology and obesity

Failure to advance agriculture negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the weeks ahead could block much-needed reforms for decades, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman says.

In June 2 remarks to the International Federation of Food Producers' meeting in Washington, Veneman called attention to the crucial stage of the negotiations going on now.

Negotiators have said that if participants cannot agree by July on a framework for working out the contentious agriculture issues, then progress on the entire negotiating round, formally called the Doha Development Agenda, would stall again.

Negotiations collapsed at the September 2003 WTO ministers' meeting in Cancun, Mexico, largely because of squabbling over agriculture. U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick and others acted months later to revive the round.

Agriculture negotiators were back tackling those tough issues in Geneva the week ending June 4 and had been planning another week-long session near the end of the month.

"If these fail, it will be years, if not a generation, before new leaders emerge with enough resolve and political capital to launch another round of global talks," Veneman said.

Veneman discussed a number of other global challenges in agriculture: One is to prevent protectionist misuse of food safety standards. Another is to increase farmers' productivity through sound scientific practices, including use of biotechnology. Another is to fight the rapidly increasing epidemic of obesity.

#### HIV/AIDS RATES IN SOUTH AFRICA SERVE AS WARNING FOR OTHERS

Experts see parallels in Russia, China and India  
By Tara Boyle  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The spike in South Africa's HIV infection rate has been caused by a "perfect storm" of political and cultural factors that should serve as a warning to other nations struggling to combat HIV/AIDS, economists at a World Bank discussion said on June 2.

Historically poor government policies on HIV/AIDS, a large migrant labor force, gender inequality and unsafe sexual practices have exacerbated South Africa's AIDS crisis, panelists said, causing a growth in the HIV prevalence rate from less than 1 percent in 1990 to nearly 25 percent in 2001, according to figures from the United Nations.

"This should stand as a forewarning to other governments about being complacent about HIV/AIDS. While we remain unclear about the specific interplay of factors that caused the virus to spread so rapidly, there are enough patterns of behavior in South Africa that may resonate with other countries," said Kyle Kauffman, an associate professor of economics at Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

In China, for example, Kauffman said, the nation's migrant laborers could contribute to the spread of HIV/AIDS in the same way that they have in South Africa, while in Russia, the government has shown a similar unwillingness to combat HIV/AIDS aggressively, he suggested. And in India, the "subservient role of women to men" in some regions mirrors gender relations in parts of South Africa, he said.

Jeffrey Lewis, manager of the Development Prospects Group at the World Bank, said that India, Russia and China are all experiencing a “creeping up” in their HIV/AIDS rates that should be a cause for alarm. “You see the same stigmatization and denial [in these countries],” he said. “I think in all of these cases the potential for really getting it wrong is enormous.”

South Africa is a particularly alarming example for other nations because of how rapidly HIV/AIDS spread through the population -- and because its rate of infection is still climbing, the panelists said.

“We are still very much in the phase of an expanding epidemic in the South African context,” Lewis said. The nation’s HIV/AIDS infection rate is not expected to “top out” until 2007, he added. “That’s to a large extent related to the fact that the deaths start catching up with the new infections, and so the size of the population that’s available to be infected has actually begun to shrink,” he said.

The disease has had a particularly dramatic effect on adults in South Africa, with one-third of people “in the most productive phases of their lives” infected with HIV/AIDS, Lewis said. In some sectors, such as the military, the rate of infection is more than 60 percent.

The high infection rate has transformed HIV/AIDS from a public health problem to a broad social and economic crisis in South Africa, panelists said.

The World Bank estimates that by 2010, the HIV/AIDS crisis will have caused the real GDP growth rate in South Africa to drop by nearly one percentage point, to 1.25 percent a year. Without AIDS, the rate of real GDP growth would be 3.5 percent in 2010.

Several panelists argued that governments could stem these problems if they decide to combat HIV/AIDS aggressively before infection rates get out of control in their nations. In the early 1990s, for example, Thailand and South Africa had roughly the same HIV/AIDS infection rates, Lewis noted. Today, Thailand’s HIV/AIDS rate is less than 3 percent, while South Africa’s infection rate has skyrocketed.

“Thailand intervened aggressively through a variety of social programs, through a variety of health interventions, through public awareness campaigns. ... I think the lesson that I take out of this is that for countries that are not as far along the prevalence curve as South Africa,

there are turning points in the process. It’s certainly very clear that prevention is much more cost-effective than cure or amelioration after the fact,” Lewis said.

Keith Hansen, manager of the AIDS Campaign Team for Africa at the World Bank, said that the South African example might be more relevant for nations such as Russia and China than it is for other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In Africa, many governments recognize that HIV/AIDS is a serious problem, but have not been able to get money for antiretroviral drugs and other treatments to the grassroots level.