

DAILY BULLETIN

JUNE 22, 2004

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IAEA RESOLUTION PUTS IRAN ON NOTICE, SAYS POWELL

ElBaradei tells Iran to be more proactive, transparent, cooperative

Secretary of State Colin Powell said that with the June 18 passage of a resolution by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Iran has been put on notice "rather firmly and strongly" to respond to international concerns over its nuclear program.

Speaking with IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei after their meeting at the State Department in Washington June 21, Powell said he was "very satisfied" with the resolution, and hoped that "in the weeks and months ahead the Iranians will satisfy all the concerns that members of the international community still have."

"[I]n due course, we will have a chance to examine their response in September and at that time judgments can be made as to what action might be appropriate," Powell said.

Director General ElBaradei said his agency has been asking Iran to become more proactive, transparent and cooperative.

"I think the international community is urgently seeking assurance from the [IAEA] that Iran['s] program is exclusively for peaceful purpose[s]," he said.

Turning to North Korea, Secretary Powell said the United States is entering six-party talks on the coun-

try's nuclear program, due to begin June 23 in Beijing, "with a spirit of flexibility in trying to solve this problem."

"But the resolution of the problem demands that North Korea fully divulge and fully turn over and fully dismantle, in a way that the whole world can see and there is no question about it, and also to make sure we remove their nuclear program," he said.

Powell said Pyongyang is aware of the benefits that would result from a resolution of its standoff with the international community.

Both Secretary Powell and Director General ElBaradei said U.S. and IAEA work in dismantling Libya's nuclear weapons program was an excellent model of cooperation.

"[W]e are working very closely with the Libyans to ensure that they will make full use of the benefit of nuclear energy for peaceful purpose," ElBaradei said.

Secretary Powell also praised anti-terrorism efforts in Saudi Arabia directed against al-Qaida, saying the actions show the Saudis recognize and are taking seriously the danger the organization presents to their country.

U.S., CHINA TO BROADEN COOPERATION ON SAFETY, WORKERS' RIGHTS

Secretary Chao says labor standards should match development

The United States and China have signed four letters of understanding to broaden bilateral cooperation in the areas of labor, employment, and workplace safety, the Department of Labor said in a press release issued June 21.

"The U.S. Labor Department is committed to working with its Chinese counterparts to share information and practices that will help ensure that the development of labor standards in China keep pace with China's rapid economic development," Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao said in the press release. "These agreements are the next step in the department's ongoing engagement with

China and include collaboration on several important labor issues including mine safety, workplace safety, wages and pensions."

Following is the text of the press release:

OPA News Release: [06/21/2004]
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The U.S. Department of Labor and The People's Republic of China Sign Four Joint Letters of Understanding

Four-Day Trip of High-Ranking U.S. Labor Officials Highlights Expanded Efforts to Strengthen Worker Protections

BEIJING -- U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao announced the signing of four letters of understanding to broaden cooperation between the United States of America and China in the areas of labor, employment and workplace safety.

Officials from the Ministry of Labor and Social Security of the People's Republic of China (MOLSS) and the State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) participated in the signing ceremony. Secretary Chao's visit and the four agreements represent the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) most comprehensive engagement with China on labor issues ever.

Observing the signing ceremonies with Secretary Chao today were Minister Zheng Silin, Minister of Labor and Social Security, People's Republic of China and Administrator Wang Xianzheng, State Administration of Work Safety, People's Republic of China.

"The U.S. Labor Department is committed to working with its Chinese counterparts to share information and practices that will help ensure that the development of labor standards in China keep pace with China's rapid economic development," said Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. "These agreements are the next step in the department's ongoing engagement with China and include collaboration on several important labor issues including mine safety, workplace safety, wages and pensions."

Victoria A. Lipnic, Assistant Secretary for Employment Standards at U.S. DOL signed a letter of understanding with Liu Xu, Director General of Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Labor and Social

Security, for the PRC. Under the agreement the agencies will broaden their cooperation in the areas of wage and hour regulations and enforcement, public awareness of wage and hour laws and the effective management and analysis of wage and hour enforcement data.

John L. Henshaw, Assistant Secretary for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration at U.S. DOL signed a letter of understanding with Lin Yisheng, Deputy Director General Department of Foreign Affairs, State Administration of Work Safety, for the PRC. Under the agreement the agencies will broaden their cooperation in the areas of occupational safety and health, the handling and distribution of hazardous chemicals; emergency response procedures in workplace accidents; private insurance programs that help promote workplace safety and health; and the effective collection and analysis of occupational safety and health data.

David D. Lauriski, Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health at U.S. DOL, signed a letter of understanding with Lin Yisheng, Deputy Director General, Department of Foreign Affairs, State Administration of Work Safety for the PRC. Under the agreement the agencies will broaden their cooperation in the areas of accident emergency response, the role of private insurance in the promotion of mine safety and health; and the effective collection and analysis of mine safety and health data.

Ann L. Combs, Assistant Secretary of the Employee Benefits Administration at U.S. DOL, signed a letter of understanding with Liu Xu, Director General of Department of International Cooperation, Minister of Labor and Social Security for the People's Republic of China. Under the agreement the agencies will broaden their cooperation in the regulation, administration and oversight of pension programs.

These four agreements broaden the ongoing cooperation between the U.S. Department of Labor and its counterparts in the People's Republic of China. Under these agreements, the agencies reaffirmed their common objectives to ensure economic growth, raise living standards and support greater shared prosperity, foster safe work environments and protect workers rights in accordance with relevant international labor principles while fully respecting the national laws of both the United States and China.

The department's earlier cooperative agreements with China include a \$4.1 million grant to support the rule of law and a \$2.3 million mine safety and health project.

EVANS TELLS YOUNG CHINESE THEIR FUTURE DEPENDS ON ECONOMIC REFORM

Commerce secretary says China must comply with WTO obligations

"Make no mistake, your future as entrepreneurs and business leaders is directly linked to your government's economic reforms," U.S. Commerce Secretary Donald Evans told students June 21 at the Harbin Institute of Technology, one of China's most prestigious universities.

"Let me be candid," Evans said, "There is concern over the failure to implement some of China's obligations under the WTO [World Trade Organization]. And there is concern about the pace of reform in China."

Evans said an open trading system "assumes that enterprises in one country will compete on equal terms with enterprises in another. ... From the United States' perspective, free trade and open market access only works if both trading partners operate under the same rules and a good faith commitment to the spirit of all agreements and obligations."

The United States, he said, is "committed to working toward an open trading environment in which major economies are free of tariffs and trade barriers and the playing field is level. Our goal is fewer obstructions, not more."

Evans plans to spend four days in China, his first stop on an 11-day tour that includes visits to Ireland and Mexico. The commerce secretary has scheduled a series of high-level meetings to discuss trade, investment and security issues.

While in Harbin, the capital of Heilongjiang Province and a thriving industrial and technological center, Evans visited the Harbin Electric Machinery Company, a state-owned manufacturing enterprise that is responding to changes in China's economic policies. He also visited the Harbin Children's Home, an orphanage established by the Harbin municipal government.

CONGRESS PASSES BILL TO ASSIST SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION

Legislation would authorize spending up to \$5 million a year

Washington -- The Senate has passed a bill to authorize U.S. spending of up to \$5 million a year to support foreign governments' programs to protect endangered sea turtles.

The Senate passed the bill without debate June 18 just days after the House of Representatives' passage June 14. For the bill to become law, it still requires the president's signature.

All seven species of marine turtles have been included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). The turtles' populations have been devastated by fishing; destruction of nesting habitat; poaching of turtle eggs, meat and shells; and pollution.

"Marine turtles are now among the oldest living creatures on earth," Representative Wayne Gilchrest, chairman of the House fisheries conservation subcommittee, said in a June 14 press release. "They may have outlived the dinosaurs, but without our help their long-term survival is in serious peril."

The bill passed by Congress was modeled after earlier legislation aimed at conserving elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, great apes and migratory birds.

Under the bill, the U.S. secretary of the interior would decide where to spend the money -- up to \$5 million a year in the fiscal years 2005-2009 -- based on applications by foreign governments. Those governments might use such a grant to pay for monitoring of trade in turtle products, tracking the movement of sea turtles by satellite, protecting nesting beaches, or trying to stop poaching.

U.S., FOUNDATION AGREE TO PROMOTE FOOD TECHNOLOGIES IN AFRICA

Agreement announced at agricultural ministerial in Burkina Faso

The United States and an agricultural foundation serving sub-Saharan Africa have signed an agreement to share and disseminate agricultural technologies that can help improve food production, increase food security, reduce poverty and expand agricultural trade, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The agreement was signed during a June 21 ceremony in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, by J.B. Penn, U.S. under secretary of agriculture for farm and foreign agricultural services and Mpoko Bokanga, executive director of the Kenya-based African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), USDA said in a press release.

The signing came on the first day of a three-day ministerial conference focusing on agricultural technologies that can help West Africa's economic development.

Penn led the U.S. delegation to the conference, attended by up to 400 ministers and representatives of private sector groups and universities.

The conference was sponsored by USDA, the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Burkina Faso Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Fisheries Resources. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), West African Monetary Union (WAEMU) and Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control (CILSS) provided advisory support.

AATF is a public-private partnership established with funding from USAID, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the United Kingdom's Department of International Development. It was developed in consultation with stakeholders in North America, Africa and Europe, the release said.

Following is the USDA press release:

USDA and African Agricultural Technology Foundation Sign Agreement to Share Technologies

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso, June 21, 2004 --- Officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

and the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to share and disseminate agricultural technologies to improve African production systems, increase food security, reduce poverty, expand agricultural trade and commerce on a sustainable basis, and provide new opportunities for African farmers.

“This Memorandum of Understanding will identify technologies that can be adapted for use by African farmers,” Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman said. “The agreement will help African scientists to learn specific technologies developed by USDA scientists.”

The signing took place during the Ministerial Conference on Harnessing Science and Technology to Increase Agricultural Productivity in Africa: West African Perspectives, which began today and continues through June 23. The conference is co-sponsored by USDA, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Department of State and the Burkina Faso Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Fisheries Resources.

The West African regional conference is a follow-up activity to the Ministerial Conference on Agricultural Science and Technology hosted by Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman in Sacramento, California, in June 2003. Ministers and other officials, including three West African presidents, are meeting to share information on technologies, policies and partnerships to increase agricultural productivity, reduce hunger and promote economic growth in the region.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by J.B. Penn, USDA under secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, and AATF Executive Director Mpoko Bokanga. Penn is leading the U.S. delegation at the conference.

AATF is an African public-private partnership to enhance food security and reduce poverty by identifying and promoting the distribution of agricultural technologies useful to resource-poor farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. Under the Memorandum of Understanding, USDA and AATF will work together to identify specific technologies that would help African farmers increase their food production, marketing and distribution. The agreement is expected to eventually involve a variety of USDA agencies as specific technological needs are identified.

The conference in Burkina Faso supports three U.S. Presidential initiatives, including the Initiative to End

Hunger in Africa, the Water for the Poor Initiative, and the Trade for African Development and Enterprise Initiative. The Economic Community of West African States, the West African Economic and Monetary Union, and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel have endorsed the conference and are providing advisory support.

USAID, the Rockefeller Foundation and the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development provided funding for the startup of AATF, which was developed through consultations by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Meridian Institute with many African, North American, and European stakeholders.

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.”