

# DAILY BULLETIN

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## BUSH ANNOUNCES NEW DOMESTIC, INTERNATIONAL AIDS INITIATIVES

Declares Vietnam will be 15th focus nation for emergency relief

President Bush announced new domestic and international initiatives in the campaign against HIV/AIDS June 23.

Speaking at the Greater Exodus Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Bush urged the American public to bear compassion towards those afflicted with the disease, and emphasized the U.S. responsibility to help persons with the virus both at home and abroad.

"I don't think there's any doubt of where we have to go," Bush said. "We're going to provide better care and treatment to ease the suffering of the sick. We will strengthen our prevention efforts. And through focused research, we will create a vaccine and find a cure. There's no doubt in my mind."

The president outlined new programs and funding commitments to pursue each of those objectives in the upcoming budget year.

He also announced that Vietnam will become the newest addition to the list of 14 previously identified nations that are receiving special emergency relief to address the high level of HIV infection in their populations. These nations, home to about half of the world's total number of people with the virus, are the focus nations for the \$15 billion, five-year emergency plan for AIDS relief. In the first few operational months, \$350

million already has been distributed to locally operated programs in the focus countries.

“In these countries, the money is funding clinics, buying drugs, paying for treatments, supporting faith-based groups, [and] training health care workers,” Bush said. “The funds are making a difference already.”

Speaking to a church congregation involved in providing programs and services for the disadvantaged, Bush also urged reconsideration of how AIDS funds are distributed domestically. The president described the important contributions that faith-based communities must make in fighting AIDS.

“The faith-based groups are making a huge difference on the continent of Africa; they need to be making a huge difference here at home as well,” Bush said.

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#### POWELL, NEGROPONTE SPEAK HOPEFULLY OF IRAQ’S FUTURE

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Negroponte sworn in as Ambassador to Iraq

Secretary of State Colin Powell highlighted the importance of the upcoming transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqi interim government at the June 23 swearing-in of John Negroponte as the new U.S. Ambassador to Iraq.

“America made a promise, and America is keeping its promise. We’re returning full sovereignty over Iraq to the Iraqi people,” Powell said.

“Iraqis themselves will now take over direct responsibility for their own future,” he said. “It’s up to the Iraqis to decide on their constitution and their election law. It’s now up to Iraqis to do business with the rest of the world and to conduct relations with other states. It’s up to Iraqis to determine the use of their natural resources. It’s up to Iraqis to deal with the criminals of the previous regime. And it’s up to Iraqis to decide what support they want from us.”

Powell spoke of the change that will take place in the relationship between the United States and Iraqi authorities when the Coalition Provisional Authority is dissolved

and the U.S. representation in Iraq devolves to its new Baghdad embassy.

He affirmed, however, that the United States would remain committed to helping Iraq in every way possible.

“By sending one of our most accomplished, skilled and effective diplomats to Iraq, we’re telling the world that there’s nothing we hope for more than an Iraq that is at peace, an Iraq that is prosperous, and an Iraq that can reclaim its seat of honor among the nations of the world,” he said.

In accepting the position, Negroponte reflected upon his most recent work as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. In particular, he spoke of the satisfaction he felt at the recent passage of Security Council Resolution 1546.

Negroponte said the resolution “paves the way for the restoration of Iraq’s sovereignty and advances us closer to the day when it will be governed by elected representatives who will build the democratic, economic and social institutions the Iraqi people deserve.”

He added, “When all is said and done, the freedom, security and prosperity of the Iraqi people matter to us, all of us in the community of nations. And we all must give that country our full support.”

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#### DANFORTH WOULD BRING YEARS OF EXPERIENCE TO U.N. POST

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Sudan envoy nominated as U.S. ambassador to U.N.

By Judy Aita  
Washington File United Nations Correspondent

United Nations -- John C. Danforth, President Bush’s nominee to be the chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations, would bring a wide variety of experience in government, law, religion, and public service to the job of representing the United States at the world organization.

John Claggett Danforth, 68, has had a distinguished public service career, serving as the attorney general of Missouri and then as a U.S. senator between 1969 and 1995. He is a partner in a St. Louis-Washington, D.C.,

law firm and President Bush's special envoy to Sudan. An ordained Episcopal minister, Danforth officiated at the recent funeral of the late President Ronald Reagan.

As senator, Danforth served on the Finance Committee; the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; and the Select Committee on Intelligence. During his senate career, he worked to expand U.S. exports and to remove foreign trade barriers to U.S. goods and services, was a sponsor of many aviation laws, and sponsored the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

In 1999 then-Attorney General Janet Reno appointed Danforth as a special counsel to investigate the 1993 deaths of 80 Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas.

The current U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, John Negroponte, called Danforth "a magnificent choice" for U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Negroponte is leaving the U.N. post to head the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad after the turnover of sovereignty from the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) to the Interim Government of Iraq. He said that Danforth "is just an extraordinarily respected American. He has wonderful government experience, including three terms as a senator. He's worked on the peace process in Sudan, so he's very familiar with some of the recent complex emergencies that the United Nations has been dealing with."

"I don't think the president could have made a better choice," Negroponte said.

Danforth will be arriving in New York during a period of intense interchange between the United States and the United Nations. The U.N. role in Iraq will be increasing and the organization continues to play a role in other major issues around the world that are also important to the United States, including the Middle East, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Liberia, Sierra Leone, counterterrorism, HIV/AIDS, nuclear non-proliferation, human rights, drugs and trafficking in persons.

The United Nations plays a vital role in U.S. foreign policy issues, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs Kim R. Holmes has said. "Ever since the president went to the General Assembly (in 2002) and challenged the United Nations on Iraq and, generally, to live up to its founding principles, we have seen the United Nations at the center of almost every major U.S. foreign policy issue."

At his recent Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirmation hearing, Danforth said that "the breadth and scope of the activities of the United Nations concern U.S. interests and activities around the globe and affect the daily lives of average U.S. citizens. The U.S. vision of global stability, democracy for more and more people who long for freedom and expanding prosperity guide the work of the United States Mission to the United Nations."

One of his highest priorities as ambassador will be to work for a resolution of the situation in Darfur, Sudan, Danforth said.

"A comprehensive peace accord cannot be implemented if the situation in Darfur is not resolved," Danforth said. "The United States has led the international community in reacting to the violence and atrocities taking place in Darfur. We have made it clear that we hold the Sudanese Government responsible for its support of the Arab 'jingawit' militia and its systematic targeting of African ethnic groups."

On counter-terrorism, the U.N. with its 191 member countries "has the stature and global reach to advance the fight against terrorism in important ways," Danforth told the committee.

"The U.N. can -- and must -- keep the world community focused and energized for the long battle ahead. The U.N. must continue to make clear to the world that acts of international terrorism simply cannot be justified or tolerated," he said. "Our challenge is to ensure that counter-terrorism remains at the top tier of the U.N.'s agenda, and that all member states are engaged in the fight."

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan has appointed a high-level independent panel to investigate allegations of corruption and bribery during the 10 years the United Nations administered the Oil-for-Food Program in Iraq. The program used the proceeds from Iraqi oil sales to provide humanitarian assistance to Iraqi civilians. The panel is headed by former U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker.

Danforth said the United States "strongly supports the ongoing investigations" and will continue to cooperate with the investigators.

"We will do all we can to push for a full and effective accounting," he said. "We will continue to work with Mr.

Volcker and with Congress to gain the fullest possible access to the records necessary for the investigation.”

Danforth also told the Senate that he “strongly supports U.N. peacekeeping.

“The peacekeeping activities of the United Nations further the goals of the U.N. Charter and, more importantly, further the national interests of the United States,” he said. “U.N. peacekeeping operations promote regional stability, facilitate humanitarian assistance, and prevent ethnic cleansing.”

The United States is the largest single contributor to U.N. peacekeeping operations with the U.S. contribution in 2004 reaching \$795 million. Costs are expected to rise in 2005 because new operations will reach full strength in such places as Liberia and Haiti, and other operations are being considered for Burundi and the Sudan.

“I consider the money well spent,” Danforth said. “Were it not for U.N. peacekeeping, there would be even more numerous calls for the use of U.S. troops abroad to help keep the peace at a time when the demands on our troops are already high.”

Danforth is also chairman emeritus of the World Agricultural Forum, which is an independent, not-for-profit organization that brings together global leaders and others to advance solutions to the critical issues facing the agricultural community. He has received the Woodrow Wilson Award for Outstanding Public Service, the Presidential World Without Hunger Award, and the 2003 Award for Excellence of Diplomacy from the American Academy of Diplomacy in recognition of his achievements as special envoy to the Sudan.

He received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University and his law degree from Yale University. He holds a bachelor of divinity degree from Yale Divinity School.

## U.S. VOICES CONCERNS OVER LATEST EC CHEMICALS PROPOSAL

Submits comments to WTO on October 2003  
REACH draft document

The United States believes that the European Commission (EC) has made “limited improvements” to its latest proposal to regulate chemical substances, but that despite “a number of welcome modifications,” the proposal does not yet offer a realistically workable solution for ensuring “robust protection” of the environment and human health.

The EC proposal is intended to regulate the registration, evaluation and authorization of chemicals and is commonly known as REACH.

The United States spelled out its concerns about REACH in a 59-point document submitted June 21 to the World Trade Organization (WTO) committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

The document says the United States “appreciates and understands” the EC’s interest in collecting data on chemicals currently in use, in facilitating the introduction of new, cleaner and safer chemicals, and in improving its system for regulating chemicals. At the same time, however, the latest EC proposal -- issued in October 2003 -- “still appears to adopt a particularly costly, burdensome, and complex approach” that could “prove unworkable in its implementation, disrupt global trade, and adversely impact innovation.”

The U.S. document also notes that some national European governments “have articulated similar concerns about the workability and uncertain economic implications” of the REACH approach. In particular, it says, Britain, France and Germany have stated that the proposal is “too bureaucratic,” “unnecessarily complicated,” and that “it will as a result not be workable in practice.”

Washington has commended the EC for simplifying regulatory treatment for selected chemicals, such as polymers, but says REACH would impose “an administratively burdensome regulatory regime” on thousands of other chemicals “that are unlikely to pose any significant risk to health or the environment.”

It urges the EC to consider adopting a simpler and more cost-effective approach “while relying on a science-based decision-making framework.”

A major U.S. concern involves the effect of REACH on transatlantic trade, because the regulations would apply to a majority of U.S. exports to the European Union (EU) -- valued at over \$150 billion in 2003. Among the key sectors affected would be textiles, pharmaceuticals, electronics and automobiles.

Another concern involves the effect of REACH on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The United States says the proposal "places all SMEs at a distinct disadvantage because most do not have the resources or the capital to meet REACH's administrative requirements."

The U.S. document also cites concerns over the possibility that the EU approach to assessing chemical risks will supplant ongoing international efforts in this area, the likely negative impact of REACH on innovation, and a potential lack of consistency in implementing and enforcing REACH across EU member states. It asks the EC for clarification on all these points.

"The extensive impacts of this proposed regulation on EU and international stakeholders merit a full and comprehensive assessment, based on realistic assumptions as to how the program will be implemented," the document says.

#### STATE DEPARTMENT WILL NO LONGER RE-ISSUE CERTAIN VISAS

Visa holders must seek renewal in home countries

The U.S. State Department announced June 23 that it plans to stop issuing certain categories of visas in the United States on July 16.

A law passed in 2002 requires visas of the future to include biometric identifiers, such as fingerprints. An explanation of the policy changes printed in the U.S. Federal Register says, "It is not feasible for the Department [of State] to collect the identifiers in the United States."

The State Department encourages holders of the affected visas (those classified in categories E, H, I, L, O and P) to apply for renewal in their home countries.

The Federal Register notice explaining the policy is available at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/06jun20041800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/pdf/04-14245.pdf>

Following is the text of the State Department announcement:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman  
June 23, 2004

#### Discontinuation of Domestic Visa Service for Certain Nonimmigrant Visas

The State Department is discontinuing its domestic reissuance service for E, H, I, L, O, and P visas. The Department will stop accepting applications for these visa classifications on July 16, 2004. The Department will continue to process diplomatic and official visas (A, G, and NATO) in Washington and at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York.

This action is being taken because Section 303 of the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act requires the State Department to incorporate a biometric in every U.S. visa issued after October 26, 2004. All visa-adjudicating posts abroad will have fingerprint-scanning equipment installed before the October deadline. Persons residing in the United States in one of the affected visa classes may continue to reside in the country for the period granted by Department of Homeland Security officers at ports of entry. If these persons depart the United States and require new visas to reenter, after July 16 they must seek adjudication of a new visa application at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad.

A notice announcing the termination of domestic reissuance service for these visas appears in the Federal Register of June 23, 2004, Public Notice 4747, at page 35121

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