

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

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## **U.S.-India Agreement on Nuclear Reprocessing Arrangements**

*U.S. committed to U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman  
July 30, 2010

### **MEDIA NOTE**

United States-India Agreement for Nuclear Cooperation  
Conclusion of Reprocessing Arrangements and  
Procedures

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Bill Burns and Indian Ambassador to the United States H.E. Meera Shankar today signed the Arrangements and Procedures Pursuant to Article 6(iii) of the Agreement for Cooperation Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy regarding the reprocessing of U.S.-obligated nuclear material in India. Upon entry into force, the Arrangements and Procedures will enable reprocessing by India of United States-obligated nuclear material at a new national reprocessing facility to be established by India dedicated to the reprocessing of safeguarded nuclear material under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. These Arrangements and Procedures will facilitate participation by United States firms in India's expanding civil nuclear energy sector.

This arrangement, negotiated and concluded under President Obama, reflects the Administration's strong commitment to building successfully on the landmark U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative and is a prerequisite for U.S. nuclear fuel suppliers to conduct business with India. Previously, the United States had extended such reprocessing consent only to the European Union (EURATOM) and Japan. The Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative has facilitated significant new commercial opportunities across India's multi-billion dollar nuclear energy market, including the designation of two nuclear reactor park sites for U.S. technology in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. Increased civil nuclear trade with India will create thousands of new jobs for the U.S. economy while helping India to meet its rising energy needs in an environmentally responsible way by reducing the growth of carbon emissions.

## **U.S. Is Meeting Pledge to End Combat Missions in Iraq**

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama says his administration is on track to fulfill its promise of ending U.S. combat

operations in Iraq by August 31.

U.S. forces are transitioning to a role of supporting and training Iraqi security personnel and the United States is turning its focus toward civilian efforts in the country.

Speaking at the Disabled Veterans of America conference in Atlanta, Georgia, August 2, Obama said the history of U.S. combat operations in Iraq "is nearing an end" more than seven years after coalition forces launched an invasion of the country and overthrew the regime of Saddam Hussein. He acknowledged the invasion and ongoing U.S. presence in Iraq have provoked "vigorous debates" among Americans.

"Shortly after taking office, I announced our new strategy for Iraq and for a transition to full Iraqi responsibility. And I made it clear that by August 31st, 2010, America's combat mission in Iraq would end. And that is exactly what we are doing — as promised and on schedule," the president said.

"Already, we have closed or turned over to Iraq hundreds of bases. We're moving out millions of pieces of equipment in one of the largest logistics operations that we've seen in decades," he said, adding that by August 31, his administration will have brought more than 90,000 American troops home.

Beginning in September, "we will change our military mission from combat to supporting and training Iraqi security forces," he said. In many parts of Iraq, he said, the country's security forces have already taken the lead. And despite continued efforts by terrorist forces to derail Iraq's progress, "violence in Iraq continues to be near the lowest it's been in years," the president said.

The United States has made an agreement with the Iraqi government to maintain a transitional force in the country until all U.S. troops return home by the end of 2011. The U.S. commitment in Iraq is changing from a military effort led by the military to a civilian effort led by American diplomats, Obama said.

"During this period, our forces will have a focused mission: supporting and training Iraqi forces, partnering with Iraqis in counterterrorism missions, and protecting our civilian and military efforts," he said.

But he warned his audience that the remaining U.S. forces are still at risk of attack, and "the hard truth is we have not seen the end of American sacrifice in Iraq."

U.S. combat troops will continue their missions in Afghanistan, where the president said "huge challenges" remain. "But it's important that the American people know that we are making progress and we are focused on

goals that are clear and achievable," he said.

Under the president's strategy, announced in December 2009, the United States is combining military efforts to go on the offensive against al-Qaida's allies, the Taliban, with civilian efforts to ensure greater accountability from Afghan officials. The Afghan government "has taken concrete steps to foster development and combat corruption, and to put forward a reintegration plan that allows Afghans to lay down their arms," Obama said.

"In this region and beyond, we will tolerate no safe haven for al-Qaida and their extremist allies. We will disrupt, we will dismantle, and we will ultimately defeat al-Qaida," the president said.

### **Russian-American Program Focuses on Culture, Cognitive Science**

*Students explore how human brain absorbs, processes information*

By Alexandra Draggeim  
Staff Writer

Washington — Every summer since 2003, American students together with their Russian and European counterparts have come to the banks of the Neva River in St. Petersburg, Russia's cultural capital, to attend unique seminars on the ways culture influences how the human brain absorbs and processes information. The program, which bridges cultural studies, linguistics and an interdisciplinary field known as cognitive science, is part of the New York-St. Petersburg Institute (NYI).

Staffed by leading U.S. and Russian academics, the NYI, which boasts more than 500 graduates, is a three-week summer program organized by the faculties at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and at St. Petersburg State University. Most students are from Russia, while most faculty members represent American universities. Each year's participants include a group of about 15 American students and professors from Russia, France, Serbia, Croatia and several other countries.

"The NYI program was a great opportunity for us to meet Russian students with similar interests but very different backgrounds. ... Working alongside each other while pursuing the same goals created a unique environment that helped all of us excel," said William Hochul III, a 2009 NYI graduate.

The seminars in the 2010 program, which included 121 students from eight countries, covered topics ranging from the philosophy of fatalism in film noir and the psychology of memory to cognitive lexical semantics, which studies how the understanding of words can change depending on the state of mind and experience of the language user.

One of the program's founders, Stony Brook professor John Baily, explained in an interview with America.gov that some newer areas of linguistics are underrepresented in Russia, and that is why the program places particular emphasis on certain aspects of linguistics.

Baily said the faculty pursues an informal, interactive style of teaching with round tables and discussions, a format that is new to many of the Russian students. "The atmosphere is fantastic," he said after coming back from a "cog fest," a mini-conference at which students can make five-minute presentations on anything related to the mind.

Talks at this year's "cog" and "cult" fests, where students can speak about culture-related topics, ranged from how aging affects the ways in which people access their lexicon to American English translations of the Russian author Anton Chekhov.

The 2010 program included a film festival showcasing not only Russian and American but also Polish, Hungarian and German movies, such as the Hungarian cult comedy *The Witness* (1969) and the Polish science fiction comedy *Sexmission* (1984), which is about two men who wake up from hibernation to find themselves in a post-war world inhabited only by women.

To make the program accessible to students from all over Russia and Europe who would not be able to travel to the United States, the classes are held in the Department of Arts and Philology of St. Petersburg State University on the city's famous University Embankment. The area houses numerous scientific academies and museums and has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Apart from academic seminars, the program also offers traditional language classes: American students wishing to enhance their knowledge of Russian can sign up for classes.

For the first time, "Universals in Contrast," a publication summarizing the results of this summer's work, will be published and made available online.

"American-Russian cooperation is what makes this program what it is," Baily said. "The spirit of cooperation is infectious and the range of intellectual views represented is also very challenging." He hopes to expand the program to include more participants from other countries in the years to come.

**United States Rushing Aid to Pakistan Flood Victims**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — The United States has begun a massive humanitarian response in the aftermath of devastating flooding that has struck northwestern Pakistan, including a pledge of \$10 million in aid, according to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

“The Pakistani people are friends and partners, and the United States is standing with them as the tragic human toll mounts from flooding in northwest Pakistan,” Clinton said in a prepared statement August 1. “Our embassy in Islamabad is coordinating closely with Pakistani authorities to support rescue and relief efforts.”

“We have made an initial commitment for \$10 million in aid and are rushing helicopters, boats, pre-fabricated bridges, mobile water treatment units and emergency food supplies to meet Pakistan’s growing humanitarian needs,” Clinton said.

By August 2, according to the U.S. embassy in Islamabad, approximately 500,600 people had been displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and another 200,000 near Mianwali, Punjab. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government estimates that at least 800 people have died in the floods, with another 358 injured and 129 lost or missing, the embassy reported.

To date, 12,823 people have been rescued, the embassy said; that includes 733 people rescued since July 30 by U.S. helicopters working under Squadron 50 of the Ministry of Interior. Exact totals may not be known for days as officials struggle to reach remote areas that have been out of contact.

Ambassador Anne Patterson said in Islamabad that the United States is responding to requests for support from Pakistan’s National Disaster Management Authority. One request was for four inflatable rescue boats that are designed for lightness and speed on rapidly flowing waters.

“Monsoon rains have caused a lot of flooding,” said Hassan Zulfiqar, director of the National Disaster Management Authority. “Almost 1 million people have been affected and thousands of people are marooned in flooded areas. They need immediate assistance, especially food and medicines.”

Zulfiqar said U.S. relief supplies are urgently needed and the effort needs to be sustained.

The Pakistani authority has also requested two U.S. water filtration units, which are essential to provide fresh water

and prevent disease outbreaks. The units provide pumping, purification, storage and distribution. Each unit can meet daily water requirements of up to 10,000 people.

The United States has begun delivering more than 189,000 halal meals from U.S. supply depots in the South Asia region on 10 separate flights. “The meals are being delivered to Pakistan’s military for distribution in flood-stricken areas,” the embassy said. “Food and water also has been ferried to people still not able to leave the flood areas.”

On July 31, a U.S. Air Force C-130 cargo plane delivered international assistance to Islamabad that included nearly 8,000 halal meals. Early on August 1, an Air Force C-17 cargo jet delivered more than 44,000 more halal meals.

The U.S. embassy said another 62,000 halal meals were scheduled for delivery by Air Force transport on August 1 and over the next few days. The relief flights were coming in to the Pakistan Air Force Base at Chaklala, Rawalpindi.

The United States is sending 12 prefabricated steel bridges that can be used to temporarily replace highway bridges damaged by flooding in Peshawar and Kurram Agency. The provincial government and Pakistan’s military are coordinating their efforts for use of the bridges, the embassy said.

U.S. helicopters were used to deliver more than 11,873 pounds of rations and supplies to flood victims. On August 1 alone the helicopters rescued 165 people and ferried another nine to a hospital in Nowshera.

Clinton said the United States is working closely with the Pakistani government to ensure that the humanitarian assistance reaches those who need it most.

“I have seen firsthand the strength and resilience of the Pakistani people and I know they will come through this tragedy with determination and compassion,” Clinton said.

The World Food Programme has issued a \$30 million emergency appeal to help 150,000 families in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province with 47,000 metric tons of mixed food commodities. News reports quote the International Committee of the Red Cross reporting that up to 2.5 million people across Pakistan may have been affected by the heavy flooding that was brought on by torrential monsoon rains a week ago. More rain has been forecast.

**U.S. Presses Iran for Release of Hikers**

*Obama says three Americans, arrested a year ago, are being held unjustly*

By Jeff Baron  
Staff Writer

Washington – President Obama is urging Iran to release three American hikers arrested a year ago near the Iran-Iraq border, calling their detention unjust and a violation of international treaties on human rights.

The three young Americans – Shane Bauer, Josh Fattal and Sarah Shourd – were visiting Kurdish northern Iraq and hiking near the unmarked border when they were arrested July 31, 2009. In a statement from the White House on the eve of the anniversary of their arrest, the president said the three “committed absolutely no crime” yet have been imprisoned for a year, “causing extraordinary grief and uncertainty” for the three and their families and friends.

“I want to be perfectly clear: Sarah, Shane and Josh have never worked for the United States government,” Obama said. “They are simply open-minded and adventurous young people who represent the best of America and of the human spirit. They are teachers, artists, and advocates for social and environmental justice. They have never had any quarrel with the government of Iran, and have great respect for the Iranian people.”

The United States has repeatedly and steadfastly denied assertions by Iranian officials that the hikers were spies. “As we’ve said many, many times, these were three hikers that wandered close to or across an unmarked border. Iran has called them spies. They’re not spies,” said State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley, speaking to reporters on July 28.

Obama said the government of Iran, as a signatory to multiple conventions on human rights, “should act in line with the principles of justice” and release the trio. The detention of Bauer, Fattal and Shourd “has nothing to do with the issues that continue to divide the United States and the international community from the Iranian government. This is a humanitarian imperative, as these three young people are innocent of any crime,” he said.

Obama said he had recently spoken with the mothers of the three hikers, who were granted a visit with their children in Tehran in May. He said that gesture by the Iranian government was welcome, “but I cannot imagine how painful it was for these three courageous women to return home without their children.”

A statement by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton also appealed for the hikers’ release. “Iran has long espoused to the world its commitment to justice, security

and peace for all,” she said. “We urge Iran to take action in the case of the three hikers – detained for a year in Evin Prison without charge – to match its stated commitments. We call on Iran to do the right thing and allow these three Americans to return home to their families.”

Obama said he also had spoken recently with the wife of Robert Levinson, a U.S. citizen and retired FBI agent who disappeared on Iran’s Kish Island three years ago. “We continue to have no information about his welfare, and reiterate our call for the government of Iran to provide any information that it has about his whereabouts,” Obama said. “It is time to facilitate Robert Levinson’s return to the family and friends who have suffered so greatly in his absence. We continue to have him in our thoughts and prayers, and to do all that we can to reunite him with his family.”

Crowley said the cases of the detained hikers and Levinson’s disappearance are hurting the status of Iran in the world community. “Iran considers itself a great country, it considers itself a civilized country, it wants to have the respect of the international community and the United States,” he said July 28. “But respect is earned, and if Iran wants our respect, then sending these three young people home would be an important step in that direction.”

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