

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

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## President Obama's Proclamation on National Hispanic Heritage Month 2010

*Pays tribute to immeasurable contributions Hispanics have made in America*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
September 15, 2010

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH, 2010

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### A PROCLAMATION

From the early settlers of the New World to those reaching for the American dream today, Hispanics have shaped and strengthened our country. During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we pause to celebrate the immeasurable contributions these individuals have made to our Nation -- from its inception to its latest chapters.

Reflecting the remarkable diversity of the American people, Hispanics represent a wide range of nationalities and backgrounds. Like so many Americans, Hispanics have overcome great obstacles to persevere and flourish in every sector of our society. With enduring values of faith and family, hard work and sacrifice, Hispanics have preserved the rich heritage of generations past while contributing mightily to the promise of our Nation for their children and grandchildren.

Hispanics are leaders in all aspects of our national life, from the Supreme Court and halls of Congress to boardrooms and Main Streets. Across America, Hispanics protect neighborhoods as police officers and first responders, guide young people as teachers and mentors, and boost economic growth as business owners and operators. As members of the Armed Forces, heroic Hispanic men and women have also fought and died to defend the liberties and security of the United States in every war since the American Revolution, many serving before becoming American citizens.

This month, we honor Hispanics for enriching the fabric of America, even as we recognize and rededicate ourselves to addressing the challenges to equality and opportunity that many Hispanics still face. In reflecting on our Nation's rich Hispanic heritage, let us take pride in our unique and vibrant history, and recommit to a shared future of freedom, prosperity, and opportunity for all.

To mark the achievements of Hispanics in the United States, the Congress, by Public Law 100-402, as amended, has authorized and requested the President to issue

annually a proclamation designating September 15 through October 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2010, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

BARACK OBAMA

### Senate Panel Approves Nuclear Arms Control Treaty

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington – A Senate panel has approved a landmark nuclear arms control treaty between the United States and Russia that would reduce each nation's nuclear arsenals to their lowest levels in more than 50 years.

The New START, which replaces the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), now goes to the full Senate for consideration, but a vote is not expected before the November 2 mid-term elections. For the new treaty to win final approval, a two-thirds majority of the Senate, or 67 senators, must vote for ratification and the treaty must also win approval in the Russian Duma.

Committee Democrats and Republicans voted 14-4 in favor of the treaty, which has undergone months of often intense scrutiny.

Russian officials say they are ready to ratify the nuclear arms pact this year but are waiting to take their vote at the same time the U.S. Senate votes.

Senate Foreign Relations Chairman John Kerry told the committee September 16 that this treaty is essential for U.S. national security. "The stakes are enormous," he added.

President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed the treaty in Prague on April 8. The treaty would limit strategic warheads to 1,550 for each country, which is down from the current limit of 2,200 warheads.

Kerry said that, by ratifying this treaty, the United States

will redouble international support for nonproliferation efforts. "At a moment when the world has imposed sanctions on Iran for its nuclear ambitions, this treaty validates American leadership and moves the world an important step closer to reducing the threat from nuclear weapons," he added.

Russia and the United States possess 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons, and the New START is designed to succeed the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which expired in December 2009, and the 2002 Moscow Treaty.

U.S. nuclear forces will continue to be based on the triad of delivery systems — land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and strategic long-range bombers. But the treaty provides an upper boundary of 1,550 deployed warheads for each nation, and up to 700 deployed ICBMs, deployed SLBMs or heavy bombers. Additionally, the treaty would permit up to 800 deployed and nondeployed missile and submarine launchers or heavy bombers.

The treaty gives the United States and Russia seven years to reduce forces and remains in force for 10 years from ratification. It contains detailed definitions and counting rules that would help the parties calculate the number of warheads that count under the treaty limits.

The first START in 1991 took the number of deployed nuclear weapons down from about 12,000 warheads on each side to about 6,000, then the Moscow Treaty in 2002 reduced that number to a range of 1,700 to 2,000.

### **U.S. Must Do More to Help Exporters, Report Says**

Washington — The U.S. government must invest in more resources to help U.S. businesses realize their export potential if it wants to create more jobs and redirect the U.S. economy to a more sustainable path of economic growth, a new report says.

Released September 16 by the President's Export Council, the report calls for an increase in government-backed export financing for transactions that would lack access to credit from the private sector and intensified efforts to promote trade through trade missions and shows. The council, established by President Obama earlier this year, is an advisory body composed of business and governmental leaders.

"The world wants to buy goods and services made in the United States, and our workers are ready to produce them," Obama said September 16 at a meeting of the council at the White House.

The United States and other members of the Group of 20 major economies have endorsed in principle the need for rebalancing of the global economy, which has relied for two decades on U.S. consumption and borrowing and on China's and other countries' exports and lending. Most experts believe the recent financial crisis revealed that such a model was not sustainable and more diversified sources of global economic growth were needed. The report says that a broad range of countries need to change their policies for rebalancing to happen, mostly through encouraging domestic demand.

U.S. small and medium-size companies with potential to sell their goods or services overseas have the most to gain from a renewed U.S. commitment to exports, as many lack access to relevant information and necessary resources, the report says.

"America is going to bat as a stronger partner and a better advocate for our businesses abroad," Obama said in his remarks to the council.

Many governments give their exporters stronger support than the U.S. government has done in the past, according to a White House announcement.

### **REMOVING BARRIERS TO TRADE**

The report urges the government to improve U.S. companies' access to overseas markets by completing and expanding free-trade agreements and enforcing trade rules.

Specifically, the report urges concluding the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and resolving issues that the administration views as obstacles to its acceptance of free trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama. These agreements were concluded by the previous Republican administration but never have been submitted to Congress for ratification.

"We are losing market share to Europeans and Asian and even South American countries," Boeing Company chief executive and council chairman James McNerney told reporters after the council's meeting. He said that out of "600 trade agreements being worked on right now around the world" the United States is involved in just a few.

The council did not address the issue of China's currency, which labor unions and some lawmakers believe constitute a barrier to U.S. export competitiveness. But Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, who testified on the same day before two congressional committees, said China has not been moving fast enough to reform its currency system. In his testimony, he outlined the steps the U.S. administration might take to encourage China to accelerate efforts aimed at allowing the yuan to appreciate

against the dollar.

## DOUBLING EXPORTS, REBALANCING THE ECONOMY

The council is part of the National Export Initiative announced by President Obama earlier this year, which calls for doubling U.S. exports over the next five years. Earlier in September, the administration announced a plan to streamline the export controls system as a step toward reaching this goal.

Despite skepticism expressed by some private sector experts, Obama said the goal is not only achievable, but also essential to refocusing the U.S. economy and rebuilding U.S. manufacturing. He has cast his initiative as a major part of the shift away from consumption as a U.S. economic growth driver. He sees innovation and exports as major sources of future U.S. economic growth.

### Envoy Sees "Make or Break" Period for Sudan Ahead of Referendum

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington — The current period leading up to the January 9, 2011, referendum on Southern Sudanese independence presents “a make-or-break period for Sudan,” U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan Scott Gration said, and both the Sudanese and the international community must work together so that the vote is held peacefully and on time, and does not lead to armed conflict.

Speaking at the State Department September 15, Gration, who just returned from visits to Juba and Khartoum, said the United States is currently making plans for both potential outcomes of the vote.

“Whether they secede or whether they still stay unified, the South still needs to have better governance, better security, better agriculture, better education, better delivery of public sector services, and so we’re continuing to build those. And if it remains united or if it becomes independent, the international community, the United Nations, all of us have a large role and things that we can do to make sure that Sudan is either successful as a whole or as two countries hopefully at peace with each other,” Gration said.

The Obama administration is “not choosing sides” on whether it wants to see unity or secession. “We’re just trying to put in place a process so that the people themselves can make the decision,” he said.

“The main thing is to make sure that we have a referendum that allows the people to express their will. If

we don’t have a referendum or if it’s delayed, then it obviously increases the risk and tensions go up. So that’s why we’re working so very hard to make sure the referendum takes place on time,” Gration said.

President Obama has agreed to participate in high-level meetings on Sudan at the United Nations September 24, and Gration said many other heads of state and senior leaders will also be attending.

“What this will do is it will elevate Sudan on the world stage and make the international community pay a little bit more attention to what is happening,” he said, adding that Southern Sudan and the Darfur region will be in need of international assistance to help develop their infrastructures.

Gration said that following the U.N. General Assembly, the United States would like to see a renewed international commitment to Sudan, either helping to see that an independent South is “birthed in a way that avoids war and builds a new country,” or assisting the people of a unified country to “work together in a way that makes one strong country that provides security and stability” to all of Africa.

He said that in Khartoum he had outlined both U.S. expectations and potential incentives to the Sudanese government in return for its full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), as well as a pathway that could lead to the normalization of relations between the United States and Sudan.

“I [also] made it clear that there was also a wide range of consequences that could be deployed if the situation in Sudan deteriorated or if they failed to make progress,” he said.

According to a September 14 fact sheet released by the State Department, the Obama administration is offering “an immediate shift in the use of our licensing regulations with respect to the agricultural sector to enhance local food production” in Sudan.

If the January 9, 2011, referendum is held on time and is credible, and its outcome is respected, the United States will take steps to allow additional trade and investment in certain prescribed non-oil sectors in Sudan. Agreement on the key principles for post-referenda arrangements will lead to U.S. support for an exchange of ambassadors between Washington and Khartoum, and the fulfillment of the CPA and the resolution of the Darfur conflict will cause the Obama administration to work with the U.S. Congress to remove foreign assistance restrictions, lift economic sanctions and actively support international assistance and debt relief, according to the fact sheet.

Full normalization of relations “will require a comprehensive peace agreement in Darfur that is credibly implemented, a sustained improvement in security, humanitarian access, and services that improve living conditions on the ground, full cooperation with [the U.N.-African Union Mission in Darfur], a cessation of all support for international terrorism, and efforts to achieve accountability, justice and reconciliation,” the fact sheet says.

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