

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

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## Secretary Clinton on Situation on Thailand-Cambodia Border

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman  
April 25, 2011

### STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON

#### Situation on Thailand-Cambodia Border

The United States remains deeply concerned about clashes between security forces along the Thailand-Cambodia border. We strongly urge both sides to exercise restraint, refrain from provocative acts, and immediately take all necessary steps to reduce tensions and avoid further conflict. The loss of life, displacement of civilians, and damage to property is regrettable.

We support the efforts of Indonesia in their role as chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to work with both countries to reach a resolution. The United States is also engaging with Thai and Cambodian officials directly on this matter. We continue to urge the Royal Thai Government and Royal Government of Cambodia to resolve their disputes peacefully to help strengthen regional stability.

## U.S. Considers Targeted Sanctions Against Syrian Leaders

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington — In response to the Syrian government's continued violent crackdown against demonstrators, the Obama administration says it is considering implementing sanctions that would target members of Syria's leadership.

The State Department's director of policy planning, Jacob Sullivan, speaking to reporters in Washington April 26, said the United States is "considering a range of options, including targeted sanctions" against the Syrian government.

The measures are currently "under consideration," Sullivan said, and their purpose would be to "send a clear message to the targets of the sanctions and to leave them with a clear choice and to make them understand that there are ... specific costs" for their actions.

Sullivan condemned the Syrian government's attacks upon civilians, arbitrary arrests, detentions and torture in response to the civil unrest in the country. President Bashar Assad "has taken actions which are completely inconsistent with the actions of a responsible leader. They

are totally unacceptable," Sullivan said.

Syrian human rights organization Sawasiah estimated April 26 that pro-government security forces had killed 400 Syrian civilians since protests began in mid-March, and have arrested up to 500 people in the past two days as part of a crackdown against popular demonstrations.

The United States is urging Syria to "take steps to respond to the aspirations of its people and to respect their rights," and Sullivan said that the Syrian people are ultimately the ones that must decide who will lead them.

In its messages to the Assad regime, the Obama administration consistently has condemned the regime's "brutal violence" against civilians and has told it that the Syrian peoples' desires for free expression, the right to free assembly and the ability to freely choose their leaders "has to be heard," Sullivan said.

White House press secretary Jay Carney said April 25 that the United States is reviewing "a range of policy options" in reaction to what he described as "appalling violence."

"The United States and this administration is doing everything it can, including discussions with allies, with the United Nations, leaders and governments in the region, to make clear its policy position and to make clear to the Syrian government that we believe it needs to cease and desist from the violence it's been perpetrating against its own citizens," he said.

Carney noted that since 2003, Syria has been subject to "a fairly aggressive regime of sanctions" that were levied under the Syria Accountability Act, and U.S. policymakers are now "looking at other means to increase the pressure on the regime and the Syrian government in a targeted way" in addition to the 2003 sanctions.

"Sanctions can put pressure on governments and regimes to change their behavior, and I think that would be obviously the goal of this," Carney said.

## India's Rise Brings New Opportunities for U.S. Partnerships

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington — The U.S. relationship with India will continue to be a mainstay of both countries' foreign policies well into the 21st century, the Obama administration says, and it sees great potential for closer relations as India grows into its anticipated place as the world's most populous country and third-largest economy by 2030.

Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian

Affairs Robert Blake, speaking April 22 in Philadelphia with CNBC TV18 of India, said, "The greatest strength of India is its people," along with the democratic system of government that sets India apart "from all of the rest of the region."

India continues to grapple with the fact that a large number of its citizens live in poverty and the need to raise their standards of living and make them "productive members of society," Blake said. "I think great progress is being made on that, but still much needs to be done."

The assistant secretary said the United States and India "are close to completing the government-to-government pieces of the civil nuclear deal," which would allow India to gain access to U.S. nuclear technology for the first time since it tested a nuclear weapon in 1974.

"The main thing that needs to be done still is for India now to ratify the Convention on Supplementary Compensation. Then it really will be up to the companies to negotiate contracts," he said.

In the aftermath of the nuclear accident at the Fukushima plant in Japan caused by the massive March 11 earthquake and tsunami, Blake said, Indians would have to "make their own judgments about risks" of nuclear energy.

"I do know that American companies still see very significant opportunities in India, and that while what's happened in Japan may pose something of a setback, that there still are significant opportunities," he said.

#### BROAD SUPPORT FOR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP

Blake also spoke April 22 at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton India Economic Forum on the strategic economic partnership between the United States and India.

"There is perhaps no country in the world with whom we have traveled faster and farther than India over the last ten years." President Obama sees the relationship as "one of our defining partnerships for the 21st century," he said.

That close relationship enjoys support across the U.S. domestic political scene, Blake said, and that support "ensures that this relationship will continue to be a mainstay of American and Indian foreign policy, regardless of who is in power."

India is projected to become the world's third-largest economy in the year 2030 and will soon be the world's most populous country, Blake said. Approximately 25 percent of the world's workforce will be Indian citizens by around 2025.

The current bilateral trade relationship is "accelerating, mutually beneficial and relatively balanced," he said. U.S. exports to India have grown faster than its exports to nearly all other countries, while India's exports to the United States are "relatively equal" to its imports, Blake said.

But much of the potential for economic partnership "remains untapped," Blake said, and India must make massive investments in its infrastructure, transportation, energy and other areas to support its rapidly growing population centers.

"India is committed to investing more than \$1 trillion on infrastructure by 2030; yet, private industry estimates India's need may even exceed these figures. India clearly will need to find innovative ways to further finance their infrastructure needs, and will rely on the brightest minds in this room to help solve its infrastructure challenges," Blake told those attending the Wharton forum.

The U.S. private sector is looking for ways to match "world-class American technology ... with local Indian know-how," to the benefit not only of both countries, but to other places around the world.

"They see in India a vibrant laboratory for research and innovation that will produce tomorrow's goods and services. The complex, multifaceted environment in India allows companies and entrepreneurs to test and validate multiple strategies and solutions. Increasingly, these solutions will be applicable not just to India or the U.S., but to the world at large," Blake said.

Other areas of collaboration that could yield wider benefits are clean-technology development and food-security initiatives that could strengthen agricultural markets and reduce post-harvest crop losses.

"The U.S. and India will adapt our shared innovations and technologies in food security to engage in our first trilateral cooperation with other interested countries, particularly in Africa and Afghanistan, thereby bringing wider global benefits to our collaborative approach," Blake said.

#### **International Anti-Malaria Campaign Saving Lives, USAID Reports**

By Charlene Porter  
Staff Writer

Washington — More young children in Africa are surviving or avoiding malaria since U.S. and international health agencies began scaling up efforts to combat this potentially fatal disease.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

released an annual survey of its anti-malaria push in time for World Malaria Day April 25. It calculates that 150,000 fewer deaths from malaria occurred in 2010 than in 2005. Given the high concentration of cases among children in sub-Saharan Africa, USAID estimates that 485 children are saved from succumbing to the mosquito-borne disease each day.

The United States launched the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) in 2006, targeting 15 African nations where the disease was especially severe. The campaign boosts resources devoted to prevention of the disease through wider distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets and insecticide spraying in dwellings. Easier access to anti-malarial medicines and better training for more health-care workers are further aspects of the program. PMI has been expanded to include two more African nations, and a program is being launched in the Greater Mekong region of Southeast Asia where some drug-resistant forms of the disease have appeared.

Following are some of the milestones noted in the fifth annual report tracking the progress of the President's Malaria Initiative:

- In seven focus countries where surveys have been conducted, mortality in children under the age of 5 has dropped by 23 percent to 36 percent.
- More than 27 million people were protected by in-home insecticide spraying in 2010 alone.
- More than 30 million insecticide-treated bed nets have been distributed by the campaign. Another 15.5 million have been acquired by other international health groups and distributed in partnership with PMI.
- More than 67 million treatments of artemisinin combination therapies (ACTs) have been distributed to health facilities. This is considered the most effective medicine available to treat most malaria cases, and is 95 percent effective.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention oversees the U.S. initiative, along with USAID. The PMI campaign works in concert with a number of other health initiatives and agencies, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the World Bank Booster Program for Malaria Control; national governments in focus countries; and other multilateral organizations, nongovernmental organizations and foundations.

Almost 250 million people worldwide were infected with malaria in 2008, according to the World Health Organization, and 1 million died as a result of the disease. About half of the world's population lives in areas where they risk exposure to the disease. Most malaria cases and deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa, but Asia, Latin America, and to a lesser extent the Middle East and parts

of Europe are also affected. In 2008, WHO says, malaria was present in 108 countries and territories.

### **NASA, USAID Expand Work to Meet Global Development Challenges**

By MacKenzie C. Babb  
Staff Writer

Washington — NASA and the U.S. Agency for International Development are partnering to meet global development challenges such as food security, climate change, and energy and environmental management.

"Technologies for NASA missions have long improved life here on Earth. Together with USAID, we'll meet even more sustainable development challenges here on the ground, solving problems for the world community," NASA Administrator Charles Bolden said April 25 before signing a new partnership agreement with USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah.

The five-year memorandum of understanding, signed at NASA headquarters in Washington, formalizes ongoing agency collaborations that use Earth science data to address developmental challenges and to assist in disaster mitigation and humanitarian responses, according to an April 25 joint agency announcement. The pact also "encourages NASA and USAID to apply geospatial technologies to solve development challenges affecting the United States as well as developing countries," the announcement said.

USAID is the lead federal development agency, charged with implementing U.S. development efforts through field-based programs and projects around the world. NASA has broad experience with Earth science research, the development of Earth science information products and technology applications.

According to the joint release, the agencies will also use research, computer models, visualization applications and remote-sensing techniques "to stimulate innovative science and technology solutions" to problems across the international development spectrum.

"Through our partnership with NASA, we can apply the latest, cutting-edge technology to deliver meaningful results for people in developing countries in areas like health, food security and water," Shah said. "It's a prime example of our efforts to use the power of science and technology to tackle today's pressing development challenges."

Since 2003, NASA and USAID have worked together in building and expanding the SERVIR program, which allows people in developing regions to use Earth observations for addressing challenges in agriculture,

biodiversity conservation, climate change, disaster response, weather forecasting, and energy and health issues.

SERVIR integrates satellite observations, ground-based data and forecast models to monitor and forecast environmental changes and improve responses to natural disasters in Central America and the Caribbean, East Africa and the Himalayan region of Asia.

The agencies, along with the State Department and U.S.-based sports corporation Nike, also collaborate on the LAUNCH program, which supports science and technology innovators in the nonprofit and private sectors. The program seeks to address sustainability issues by identifying, showcasing and supporting innovative approaches to global challenges through a series of forums.

Underscoring the importance of educating the next generation of international leaders, the agency chiefs highlighted their joint work on the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) initiative.

GLOBE is a worldwide primary and secondary school-based program funded by several U.S. agencies to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics education.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov>)