

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

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## Egyptians Deserve Free, Transparent Government, U.S. Says

14 June 2012

Washington — The Obama administration is seeking further clarification from Egyptian authorities on the Egyptian Supreme Constitutional Court's June 14 ruling that the country's parliament should be dissolved, along with a separate ruling that former Prime Minister Ahmad Shafiq should stay in the presidential contest.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told reporters June 14 that it is "not clear to us what the implications are going forward" either for Egypt's parliamentary process or the second round of presidential elections, scheduled for June 16-17, between Shafiq and Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohammed Morsi.

"As we have said from the beginning, we want to see the Egyptian people have what they fought for, which is a free, fair, democratic, transparent system of government, governance that represents the will of the people, a parliament so elected, a president so elected," Nuland said.

"Those are the standards that they want. Those are the standards that the international community wants, so we are trying to get a better handle with the Egyptians on how that is going to move forward based on this court decision," she said.

According to press reports, the Supreme Constitutional Court ruled that a third of Egypt's parliament had been illegally elected in 2011, and it declared that "the makeup of the entire chamber is illegal and, consequently, it does not legally stand."

White House press secretary Jay Carney said June 14 that the Obama administration is reviewing the court's decision.

"We continue to believe Egypt's transition must continue and that Egypt is made stronger and more stable by a successful transition to democracy," Carney said in a statement. "Egypt has an enduring role as a security partner and leader in promoting regional stability and we look forward to continuing our close cooperation with the new government."

Nuland said the Obama administration is also concerned that on June 13 Egypt's justice minister reinstated "some powers that seemed to allow the authorities broad ability to detain people during this election period." The decision comes after the May 31 lifting of the emergency law that had also allowed the Egyptian military to arrest civilians.

## Maturing India-U.S. Relationship Sees More Converging Interests

By Stephen Kaufman | Staff Writer | 13 June 2012

Washington — At the conclusion of the third U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said both countries are united in seeking "an open, free, fair and transparent economic system," and stability and security in South Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

"India and the United States have a strong foundation of friendship and cooperation. But today we are seeing something new. The strategic fundamentals of our relationship are pushing our two countries' interests into closer convergence," Clinton said June 13 in Washington.

India and the United States share not only democratic values, but also diplomatic and security priorities, Clinton said. "We both see the importance of a coordinated international response to violent extremism and other shared global challenges," she said.

The U.S.-India relationship has matured beyond the need for "dramatic breakthroughs" but needs "steady, focused cooperation aimed at working through our differences and advancing the interests and values we share," Clinton said.

In a June 13 op-ed, Clinton wrote that the United States and India are both "big, diverse, noisy democracies, committed to pluralism, freedom, and opportunity," and since India's rapid economic development and growing regional leadership that began in the 1990s, the trajectory of their bilateral relationship has begun to change.

"India's expanding [gross domestic product], thriving private sector, emerging consumer class, and increasing diplomatic clout have all combined to make it a global power with a big stake in maintaining international security and prosperity. As a result, we find ourselves sharing more than just common values and political systems — we also increasingly share common interests in an open, free, fair, and transparent global economic system; peace and prosperity in South Asia and the Asia-Pacific; and a coordinated international response to violent extremism and other shared global challenges," she wrote.

Clinton said the world's oldest democracy and the world's largest democracy "should have one of the world's most robust and consequential economic relationships," and that more and more "we find that India's interests and America's interests are lining up."

She emphasized the need to convert "common interests into common action," with results that citizens in both

countries can see and appreciate.

"We recognize that some Indians still fear that working closely with the United States will undermine their 'strategic autonomy.' But at the end of the day, a strategic partnership isn't about one country supporting the policies or priorities of the other. It's about working together on shared goals and preventing short-term disagreements from derailing long-term cooperation," Clinton wrote.

In remarks June 13, Indian Foreign Minister S.M. Krishna said both countries have enjoyed "an unprecedented intensity of engagement over the past years," with the beginning of the Strategic Dialogue in 2009.

"The Strategic Dialogue is a unique opportunity to bring together all the threads of our cooperation that constitute the extraordinarily rich tapestry of our relationship," Krishna said, adding, "Our two sides have a shared vision that our global strategic partnership could be one of the most important defining relationships of the 21st century."

In her remarks June 13, Clinton cited a new agreement between U.S.-based Westinghouse Electric and India's Nuclear Power Corporation to work on preliminary licensing and site development that will be needed to begin construction of new nuclear reactors in the Indian state of Gujarat. Clinton hailed the agreement as "a significant step toward the fulfillment of our landmark civil nuclear cooperation agreement."

In addition, the State Department announced June 12 the first round of awards under the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative to eight educational partnerships between the United States and India.

For the initiative, announced in November 2009 by President Obama and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, both governments pledged \$5 million each, and the eight projects will all be receiving \$250,000 over a three-year grant period to "encourage mutual understanding, educational reform, and economic growth, as well as the development of junior faculty."

The initiative aims to "further strengthen, through faculty exchanges, joint research, and other collaboration, partnerships between American and Indian institutions of higher education in priority fields, including food security, climate change, sustainable energy, and public health," according to the State Department.

## 2012 Conventions Stress Voter Access, Community Service

By Lauren Monsen | Staff Writer | 13 June 2012

Washington — Republicans and Democrats typically differ on a wide range of issues, so many people might be surprised to learn that the two major U.S. political parties are following nearly identical approaches as they prepare to launch their presidential nominating conventions.

Leading up to the 2012 Republican National Convention — which takes place August 27–30 in Tampa, Florida — party officials are introducing a "convention without walls" theme that emphasizes social media and cutting-edge technology to increase access to the four-day event. Similarly, in the run-up to the 2012 Democratic National Convention — taking place September 3–6 in Charlotte, North Carolina — organizers are showcasing a digital-media effort that they say will make their party's convention "the most open and accessible in history."

Republicans are paying particular attention to the needs of U.S. citizens abroad, who vote by absentee ballot.

"With more than 6 million Americans living overseas, including approximately 300,000 serving our nation in uniform, the 2012 Republican National Convention has made it a priority to give them access to the proceedings, wherever they live and according to their schedules — free of charge," said James Davis, spokesman for the Republican National Convention.

Multiple online communications platforms such as Google, YouTube, Facebook and Twitter will give every U.S. soldier or citizen "full and uninterrupted access to live and recorded streaming gavel-to-gavel video and audio of the proceedings at their fingertips on any Internet device," he explained.

By visiting the Republican National Convention's website, Facebook page, Twitter feed or YouTube video channel, "our soldiers stationed overseas and other Americans abroad will have as much opportunity to engage in the proceedings as if they were right here in Tampa Bay," Davis said.

Democrats, too, unveiled a convention website featuring interactive tools and portals to the convention's Twitter feed, Facebook page, YouTube videos and Flickr photostream. According to organizers, the site "will provide more interactivity, allowing users to watch a live stream of official convention proceedings and share photos, videos and ideas about the convention."

"Whether you're in Charlotte or anywhere else in the country or the world, our website provides Americans with new and innovative ways to join the conversation

and participate in the convention,” said Democratic National Convention Committee chief executive Steve Kerrigan.

The Democrats’ commitment to make their convention open and accessible also includes changes to the convention format and venues.

On Labor Day, when the Democratic National Convention begins, organizers will host what they describe as “a free, and open to the public, family-friendly festival at Charlotte Motor Speedway celebrating the Carolinas, Virginia and the South.” On the final day of the convention, when President Obama delivers his acceptance speech, “thousands of everyday Americans” will be allowed to attend and participate, said organizers.

In addition to courting voters through outreach efforts, both political parties are highlighting the importance of “giving back” to their respective conventions’ host cities.

Republican National Convention staffers have joined forces with a community-service program that Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn calls “the best all-volunteer program that this community has ever had.” The staffers recently joined an estimated 2,500 other volunteers to lend a helping hand to low-income, elderly citizens in the Tampa area, painting 101 homes as part of the 24th annual “Paint Your Heart Out, Tampa!” campaign.

The not-for-profit program, funded entirely by donations, provides materials and volunteers every spring to paint the exteriors of homes owned and occupied by residents who are at least 62 years old and on fixed incomes. Services and materials are offered at no charge to recipients.

Whitney Nichols, a Republican National Convention staffer who volunteers with the program, expressed gratitude for Tampa’s hospitality.

“We live here, we play here and we work here too,” she said. “It’s been so much fun to give back to the community that’s welcomed us so wonderfully. We’re so happy to be here and helping out the city.”

For their part, Democratic National Convention Committee (DNCC) staffers pledged to perform at least 2,012 hours of community service in the Charlotte area before the 2012 Democratic National Convention opens. To help fulfill that pledge, DNCC staffers recently spent an afternoon at Charlotte’s Ramblewood Park, working on landscaping and beautification projects. Staffers pitched in with mulching and weeding, as well as trail and greenway trash pickup and maintenance.

DNCC staffers also joined other volunteers to package 1

million meals for food-insecure North Carolinians.

Staffers spoke about the issue of hunger in surrounding communities, the state and the nation. They said they learned that “food insecure” refers to people who do not know where their next meal is coming from, or if it is coming at all.

“It was great to take the time out to do something like this, knowing we were feeding thousands of families,” said the DNCC’s Adam Gibbs.

### **Efficient Water Use Critical, Secretary Clinton Says**

By Kathryn McConnell | Staff Writer | 13 June 2012

Washington – The world will experience a water crisis if more ways to efficiently use the resource are not found, says Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Clinton spoke June 12 at a State Department ceremony announcing Israeli water and soil expert Daniel Hillel as winner of the 2012 World Food Prize. Hillel was named in honor of his 40 years of work developing microirrigation methods for arid regions, opening those regions to farming. The methods consistently apply small, accurate amounts of water to plant roots, producing major increases in crop yields and conserving water.

Drawn to the critical need for water in arid regions during his years as a child living in the highlands of the Negev desert, Hillel developed the new approach to provide low-volume, high-frequency measured water to crops.

Hillel’s methods were first applied in the Middle East, then spread to Africa, Asia and the Americas.

“Today, farmers using microirrigation produce high-yield, nutritious crops on more than 6 million hectares worldwide,” Clinton said. She noted that more water is used for agriculture than for any other purpose.

Clinton said the Obama administration has prioritized agricultural development through its Feed the Future food-security initiative. Feed the Future focuses on “finding ways to do more with less and deliver results to people in need,” she said. Since 2011, Feed the Future has dedicated more than \$100 million to promote water productivity in agricultural development.

One example of a Feed the Future effort is in Senegal, where the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Peace Corps developed a program to teach farmers how to reduce the amount of water they lose through evaporation while tripling their maize yields.

Nearly 1 billion people around the world go to bed hungry every day, and by 2050 the world's population is estimated to reach 9 billion, Clinton said. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that in that time agricultural production must increase by 60 percent and the demand for water to grow food will increase by 20 percent. Yet the world's water supply is finite, Clinton said. "Doctor Hillel's work will become even more important as we grapple with how to feed the world's growing population," she added.

"Scarce food resources can lead to panic buying, countries disrupting or even stopping their food trades, and spikes in the prices of food," Clinton said. "That can then lead to public unrest or violent protests."

At the G8 summit outside Washington in May, President Obama announced the latest agriculture partnership, called the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. The G8 consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

"The Green Revolution saved as many as a billion people from starvation. It is up to us to make sure we save the next billion," Clinton said.

### **Report Shows Correlation Between Peace and Resilience**

By Stephen Kaufman | Staff Writer | 12 June 2012

Washington – Would political and economic leaders work harder for peace if they saw that it not only has economic benefits, but it also helps societies recover faster from a crisis?

The international nonprofit organization Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), which rates global levels of peacefulness, including safety and security, says countries with attitudes, institutions and structures that help sustain peace can better withstand economic shocks and natural disasters.

IEP has issued an annual Global Peace Index since 2007, and its latest report, released June 12, shows that the overall global level of peace rose during 2011 – its first positive report.

The past year saw a decrease in political terror and in militarization, which IEP's U.S. vice president, Michael Shank, ascribed in part to economic austerity caused by economic declines. In his June 12 remarks in Washington, Shank also noted that the world seems to be moving away from conflicts between states and more toward internal conflicts, as exemplified by the violence occurring between citizens and their governments in the Middle East.

Princeton University Professor Anne-Marie Slaughter said June 12 that peace is defined not only by the absence of war, or only the absence of conflict and instability, but rather by the absence of violence and the freedom from being afraid of violence, such as dangers from drug cartels, insurgents, gangs and domestic abuse.

Having a more peaceful society is what makes life better, rather than "just avoiding what makes life unlivable," she said.

According to the Global Peace Index, Iceland is the world's most peaceful country for the second year in a row, even though the country suffered a severe financial crisis in 2008, which saw the collapse of its three largest banks put it in real danger of declaring national bankruptcy.

Iceland's rating "shows that it has the resilience to withstand those kinds of shocks to the system," Shank said.

Likewise Japan, which suffered a major earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, is the world's fifth-most-peaceful country, according to the Index.

Both countries rated high in IEP's eight Positive Peace Index factors, which take into account peace-sustaining ingredients, including good governance, high education, tolerance for others and free expression.

With a high Positive Peace Index, "you are much more resilient to shocks, be they environmental or economic," he said. If countries use the eight Positive Peace factors as a tool and work to improve them, their people will see not only more prosperity, but also more happiness and less fear, he said.

IEP calculates the level of peace using 23 indicators, including political terror, internal conflicts, crime, incarceration rates, relations with neighbors, military expenditures and weapons exports.

The organization is trying to understand the key drivers and metrics of peace and show how peace is economically beneficial, Shank said. It draws much of its data from academic institutions, think tanks, international organizations and nonprofit institutions.

"We try to provide a full accounting of the costs of violence, complementing that with a 'road map' of how a country can improve its peace and the economic benefits from those improvements," he said.

According to IEP, if the world had been completely peaceful in 2011, it would have had a positive economic impact of \$9 trillion, which is equal to the size of the

German and Japanese economies combined. The figure takes into account medical, justice and law enforcement costs, as well as the long-term reduction in economic productivity as the result of loss, injury or incarceration of potential workers.

Even a more realistic 25 percent reduction in global violence could yield at least \$2.25 trillion, which is enough to cover Europe's current \$1 trillion allocation to cover its sovereign debt crisis as well as to achieve annual Millennium Development Goals, according to the IEP report.

Shank and Slaughter noted that the Global Peace Index shows democracies tend to be more peaceful than autocracies or "hybrid regimes," and that there appears to be a "tipping point" for countries that eliminate sources of violence and strengthen institutions, after which they achieve higher-than-expected gains in their gross domestic products and a decline in corruption.

The tipping point is encouraging, Slaughter said, because rather than having countries continually face difficult and incremental development in their quest for peace and prosperity, "suddenly, relatively small increases lead to much bigger changes."

Shank agreed, and said the data show that once countries reach the tipping point, "you see a lowering of corruption pretty precipitously."

The United States does not rate highly on IEP's list of the world's most peaceful countries, coming in at 88 out of 158, although the report said its score improved in 2011.

"The U.S.'s fairly low rank largely reflects much higher levels of militarization and involvement in external conflicts," the report said, adding that several measures of societal safety and security, including its relatively high rate of incarceration, also contributed to its score.

Lawrence Wilkerson, a professor at the College of William & Mary in Virginia, said the United States has a different approach than other countries to militarization, partly because of its post-World War II past, when, he said, it took on the role of "global policeman" in the face of the threat of Soviet communism.

### **State Department on World Day Against Child Labor 2012**

12 June 2012

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson  
June 12, 2012

Statement by SPOKESPERSON VICTORIA NULAND

### **2012 World Day Against Child Labor: Human Rights and Social Justice**

On this World Day Against Child Labor, we partner with members of the international community to reiterate our commitment to ending exploitative child labor around the world, with a particular recognition of the important relationship between eliminating child labor, and promoting broader human rights.

The most recent estimate by the International Labor Organization (ILO) suggests that 215 million boys and girls are involved in child labor throughout the world, often in hazardous and exploitative conditions. The U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices and the annual *Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report* call attention to global trends in child labor each year.

As Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has stressed, "The exploitation of children anywhere should be a concern to people everywhere." Children in situations of exploitative child labor are deprived education, and lack the opportunities to rise to their full potential and lift themselves, their families and their communities out of a cycle of poverty.

It is essential to continue to strengthen efforts to abolish child labor to ensure that the world's children remain free from exploitation. Through its labor diplomacy efforts in diplomatic missions, as well as key partnerships at home and abroad, the Department of State will continue to promote labor rights, and develop and implement effective approaches to combat exploitative child labor.

### **Secretary Clinton on Violence in Burma's Rakhine State**

11 June 2012

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson  
June 11, 2012

#### **STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON**

#### **Violence in Burma's Rakhine State**

The United States continues to be deeply concerned about reports of ongoing ethnic and sectarian violence in western Burma's Rakhine State and urges all parties to exercise restraint and immediately halt all attacks. The Burmese Government has announced a State of Emergency and curfews in Rakhine State, but reports of violence continue.

We join others in the international community and call on authorities to work with local leaders—together with Muslim, Buddhist, and ethnic representatives, including

Rohingya – to halt the ongoing violence, begin a dialogue toward a peaceful resolution, and ensure an expeditious and transparent investigation into these incidents that respects due process and the rule of law.

The United States has welcomed Burma's recent reform efforts and the important steps President Thein Sein, Aung San Suu Kyi, and other leaders inside and outside of government have taken. The situation in Rakhine State underscores the critical need for mutual respect among all ethnic and religious groups and for serious efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Burma. We urge the people of Burma to work together toward a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic country that respects the rights of all its diverse peoples.

### **Secretary Clinton Opens First Global Women in Public Service Institute**

By MacKenzie C. Babb | Staff Writer | 11 June 2012

Washington – Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton emphasized the critical importance of supporting the next generation of women leaders at the opening day of the inaugural Women in Public Service Institute at Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

"Women's contributions are vital to building successful democracies and thriving societies," Clinton told the institute's delegates June 11. The women selected to take part in the two-week training and networking program represent 21 nations in the process of political and social transformation, including several countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

"I am looking forward to hearing what you have to say, and to seeing what you will accomplish and to admiring the progress that you will achieve," Clinton said. "The United States will stand with you as your partner and as your supporter as you do what is necessary to secure democracy and the universal human rights that every human being is entitled to."

Clinton, a Wellesley College alumna, expressed great appreciation to delegates who have worked toward political revolution and democracy in their own countries. She said the institute is intended to help delegates move from protest to politics by training them to organize, run for office and hold new governments accountable.

"Over the coming days, you will work with leading experts and academics and have a chance to build these relationships that can give you additional insights," Clinton said. "You'll hear from a wide range of women leaders, from inside and outside government, women who have organized social movements and civil society organizations, who have started businesses, run for office and defied the odds throughout their lives."

The secretary said each delegate will be paired with a mentor who will provide her guidance and assistance during the institute and after returning home.

Clinton said delegates will also participate in seminars on practical skills, such as moving legislation through parliament, holding press conferences, organizing grassroots networks and lobbying public officials. She said discussions will also cover major challenges, such as increasing women's participation in peace negotiations and post-conflict decision-making.

"So by the time you leave Wellesley, I hope that you will not only have some new tools and connections, but even more importantly, new confidence and determination," Clinton said.

"This, as you know so well, is only the beginning," she added. "The real work lies ahead for each of you back home."

Women scheduled to address the delegates include former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright; Jane Harman, former congresswoman and president of the Woodrow Wilson Center; Cambodian opposition leader Mu Sochua, a former Cambodian minister for women's affairs; Judge Nancy Gertner; and U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Vermeer.

The State Department helped to sponsor the initiative, which is designed as the first in a series of seminars for women leaders around the world hosted at women's colleges in the United States.

### **U.S. Honors Development Banks for Great Projects**

11 June 2012

Washington – Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner recognized outstanding projects undertaken by the multilateral development banks (MDBs) at the first Development Impact Honors, hosted by the U.S. Department of the Treasury in Washington June 7.

The event brought together heads of the multilateral development banks, members of Congress, leaders of the development and business community, and senior U.S. administration officials to recognize and promote excellence in development.

"Given the challenges facing the global economy today, our support for the multilateral development banks has never been more important," Geithner said. "Investments in these institutions are part of this administration's strategy to strengthen economic growth."

The Treasury Department convened representatives of the Treasury, Department of State, U.S. Agency for

International Development (USAID), Millennium Challenge Corporation, and Overseas Private Investment Corporation to evaluate 58 MDB projects nominated for the Development Impact Honors. Projects were judged on their focus on priority sectors, innovation in overcoming previous difficulties, quality of preparation, focus on beneficiaries, quality of results, effectiveness of risk mitigation and generation of lessons learned.

“The multilateral development banks have truly stepped up to the challenges of our times,” said Treasury Under Secretary for International Affairs Lael Brainard. “When food prices spiked, we worked with the MDBs to find ways to address global hunger. When the Arab Spring started, we worked with the Banks to help countries remain economically stable so that democratic transitions could deliver on their promise. That is why, when last year we faced a once-in-a-generation decision to provide new capital to the MDBs, the United States worked on a bipartisan basis to provide support for these institutions.”

#### ABOUT THE HONOREES

##### **Mali-Senegal Road Project: African Development Bank**

Recognizing that an effective transport corridor requires more than a road, this African Development Bank project combined construction of an international road with a radio communication system, allowing operators to report problems; border-crossing stations equipped with scanners to speed crossing times; axle scales along the corridor; awareness training on road safety and transmission of diseases; and socio-economic infrastructure that meets the needs of local communities. As a result of the project, transport times for agricultural products have fallen by half, and shipping charges have dropped significantly.

##### **Afghanistan Telecom Development Company Project: Asian Development Bank**

Helping to re-establish critical connectivity in a fragile, conflict environment, this Asian Development Bank project provided private-sector loans and political-risk guarantees to help the Telecom Development Company Afghanistan Limited (Roshan) invest in mobile phone operations throughout Afghanistan. From modest beginnings, Roshan has expanded mobile telephone services to 4.5 million subscribers in more than 200 cities and all of the country’s 34 provinces, binding together a country whose communications infrastructure had been fractured by decades of conflict. The program is notable for its emphasis on serving the poor, employing and protecting women, allowing farmers to shop by text for the best prices for their products and facilitating social services. Roshan’s products also include a mobile phone wallet and money transfer system to help Afghans access

financial services.

##### **Basic Nutrition Program: Inter-American Development Bank**

Designed to address the prevalence of acute malnutrition and anemia among poor children under 2 years of age, this Inter-American Development Bank program funded the distribution of an iron supplement and a food coupon to facilitate the preparation of a daily meal for children. Evaluation of the program indicated that it lowered the prevalence of anemia among affected children by 30.3 percent and reduced the prevalence of malnutrition by 49.1 percent. The program was so successful in overcoming previously unsuccessful approaches – which had failed primarily because of unsuitable choices of food for distribution and a lack of follow-up training of community workers – that it was expanded beyond its initial target of reaching 15,000 vulnerable children to serve 41,000 children.

##### **Amazon Region Protected Areas Program (ARPA): World Bank Group and Global Environment Facility**

The ARPA was designed by the World Bank Group and Global Environment Facility to address deforestation in the Amazon by expanding and consolidating protected areas. The goal was to increase the fraction of the Brazilian Amazon that was under strict conservation use to a minimum of 10 percent, and to improve the effectiveness of management of these areas. The project overcame challenges including poverty, poor coordination between stakeholders, lack of managerial capacity and resources, and the vastness of the territory.

##### **President Obama, Secretary Clinton Welcome Philippine President Aquino**

08 June 2012

Washington – Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III met in Washington with President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to discuss enhancing U.S.-Philippine economic, defense and people-to-people ties.

“Together, the United States and the Philippines are writing a new chapter in our storied alliance and building a multifaceted relationship for the 21st century,” Clinton said during a June 8 luncheon honoring Aquino at the State Department. “Today, I welcome [Aquino] here to reaffirm our shared future based on mutual respect and interests, our common democratic values, new partnerships and the bonds between our people.”

Following the luncheon, Aquino met with Obama at the White House. There, the two leaders underscored the “significant contributions our people have made to each

other's security, prosperity and culture," according to a White House statement.

The two pledged to continue their commitment to the Partnership for Growth, a "catalyzing joint effort to promote anti-corruption and rule of law, improved fiscal performance and regulatory quality and inclusive fiscal growth."

The statement said they agreed to push for progress on good governance and transparency through the Open Government Partnership and through implementation of the Philippines Millennium Challenge Corporation compact.

Obama and Aquino also welcomed the signing of a science and technology agreement that will help boost innovation by facilitating bilateral collaboration and promoting the exchange of ideas, information, skills and technology.

"When our scientists share their ideas and their resources ... the world reaps the benefits," Clinton said.

The White House said both leaders acknowledged the importance to both sides of a strong economic relationship and committed to bolster and deepen efforts to expand bilateral trade and promote greater economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region.

The two agreed also to build on security cooperation on counterterrorism by expanding efforts to enhance joint military capabilities and interoperability in humanitarian assistance, as well as in the areas of disaster relief, maritime security and maritime domain awareness. Obama reaffirmed the United States' support for Philippine efforts to build a minimum credible defense posture, and said the number of bilateral exercises and training programs will continue to grow.

Clinton thanked Aquino for making the trip, which she said offered an opportunity to "celebrate the enduring friendship" between the United States and the Philippines, which has contributed to peace and security in the Asia Pacific region for more than 60 years.

### **Dempsey: Asia-Pacific Is of Global Strategic Import**

By Cheryl Pellerin | American Forces Press Service |  
08 June 2012

*This article was originally posted on June 7 to the Department of Defense website.*

Washington — Just back from his first major trip to Southeast Asia, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said he laid out the context and rationale there for the Defense Department's rebalance to a region that is of

strategic consequence to the world.

During a Pentagon press briefing June 7, Army General Martin E. Dempsey told reporters he had positive visits with counterparts in Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand.

Along with Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta, the chairman participated in the Shangri-La Dialogue, a conference that brought together key defense officials from 10 Asia-Pacific nations.

"Economic, demographic and military trends mean that prosperity and security will increasingly depend on how that expansive region evolves," Dempsey said.

The department's aim in the Asia-Pacific, specified in the new defense strategy as a region critical for the future, is "to be ... partnered with nations and have a rotational presence that allows us to build up common capabilities for common interests in the region because we think that'll be stabilizing," the chairman said.

Neither the strategy nor the rebalancing is intended to contain China, he said.

"It seems to me to be somewhat evident that the strategic challenges of the future -- whether those are economic challenges, whether they're demographic challenges, whether they're military challenges -- are migrating to the Pacific," Dempsey said.

"By virtue of the size, the scope, the scale of populations and economies, that is the region of the world where we all ought to be engaged," he added. "And we all ought to be engaged with the intent of avoiding confrontation."

That's the message he and Panetta carried into the Pacific, Dempsey said.

Repositioning forces is not the essence of the department's rebalancing. Rather, he said, it involves "what I think of as three mores: more attention, more engagement and more quality."

Attention means a greater investment of intellectual capital and engagement is made possible by making forces in the region more available, he said.

"Engagement is how we build trust and how we prevent misperceptions that can lead to conflict," the chairman said.

"We'll strengthen our traditional relationships and develop new partnerships by expanding both the scope and scale of our interactions throughout the region," Dempsey said, "for example with multilateral exercises,

force posture and rotational deployments and continued personnel exchanges and dialogue with our counterparts.”

Quality is an evolution in the department’s priorities, he added.

“What we decide to bring to the region matters as much, perhaps more, than how much we bring. This means that as the rebalance evolves, we’ll make available our most advanced ships, our fifth-generation aircraft and the very best of our missile defense technology as we work with our partners,” Dempsey said.

Even more important than hardware, he added, “we will bring to bear our human capital.”

In the Philippines, an example of the successful role of human capital is the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines in Mindanao.

It is a small joint team of roughly 400 men and women from every service – active, Guard and Reserve – “built around a core of U.S. special operating forces who have been, over time, building the capability of the Philippine armed forces to counter the [Jemaah Islamiyah] and [Abu Sayyaf Group] threats that exist in Mindanao. Enormously successful,” Dempsey said.

The task force is helping Philippine counterparts conduct network offensive kinetic operations against counterinsurgents along with civil-military operations.

“They’re out there, our counterparts in the Philippines, building schools and helping with small local economic projects. And what’s beginning to happen is that ... the Philippine military is beginning to rise in stature with people who heretofore wouldn’t allow them anywhere near their neighborhoods,” the chairman said, offering an example of their work.

Two special operating forces in the joint task force were killed in 2010 by a roadside bomb on their way to a school project, he said.

“The people of the village have now petitioned the government of the Philippines to allow them to name that school after those two American soldiers,” Dempsey said.

“You can’t buy that kind of good will. You have to sacrifice to earn it,” he added. “And I think those kinds of JTFs ... certainly are the mark of what will make our strategy work.”

Dempsey said he received only positive feedback on the department’s overall approach to the region from leaders there.

They “welcome our commitment to the region and look forward to working together toward a more secure and prosperous future,” the chairman said. “I share their optimism. I see far more opportunity than liability.”

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