

**INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE**  
**March 4 - 10, 2011**

1. [U.S. Wants Active Arab, African Participation in Libya Response](#) (03-10-2011)
2. [Statement by P5+1 Group on Iran's Nuclear Program](#) (03-09-2011)
3. [Obama Nominates Gary Locke to Be Ambassador to China](#) (03-09-2011)
4. [Gates Sees Significant Security Progress in Afghanistan](#) (03-08-2011)
5. [Obama, Australia's Gillard Discuss Afghanistan, Trade](#) (03-08-2011)
6. [Clinton on Commitment to Humane Treatment of Guantánamo Detainees](#) (03-07-2011)
7. [Fact Sheet: New Actions on Guantánamo and Detainee Policy](#) (03-07-2011)

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**1. [U.S. Wants Active Arab, African Participation in Libya Response](#) (03-10-2011)**

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington — The Obama administration wants to see active regional participation in any potential military response to the political violence in Libya, and also says it has been in direct contact with a variety of opposition groups that have de facto control over much of the eastern part of the country.

National Security Advisor [Tom Donilon told reporters in a March 10 conference call](#) that any military action by NATO, such as the enforcement of a no-fly zone, “would need to respond to a demonstrable need and have a sound legal basis.”

Many nations besides the United States have interests in what is occurring in Libya, he said, and it is important for there to be international support behind the decisions that will be made going forward.

“We’re going to be seeking actual support by those nations of the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the African nations to participate in any of these efforts,” Donilon said. “Not just rhetorical support but actual participation, which we think is absolutely critical for a variety of reasons,” he added.

Donilon said the Obama administration has been in direct contact with Libyan opposition groups “through a variety of channels, in an intensive way.” Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

will be meeting with opposition representatives during her March 15–17 visit to the region, he added.

“We’re coordinating directly with them to provide assistance and determine the best ways we can support their aspirations and understand their leadership structures right and their intention. We want to hear from them about the situation on the ground, what their plans are, what their recommendations are,” Donilon said, adding that the United States is also prepared to send diplomats to Benghazi to engage the Libyan opposition.

Donilon said the Obama administration is suspending Libya’s embassy in the United States and is no longer accepting diplomats representing Colonel Muammar Qadhafi in Washington. He also said that \$32 billion in Qadhafi regime assets have been seized as a result of U.S. unilateral sanctions imposed February 25, and the funds are being held in escrow for Libya’s future.

“As a new government, a more representative government, emerges in Libya, ultimately, this ought to be a very important corpus of assets to give the new Libyan leadership a leg up on its path forward,” he said.

Donilon said the United States and the international community will also ensure that members of the Qadhafi regime are held accountable for the violence they have inflicted on their own people, pointing out that U.N. Security Council Resolution 1970, which was passed February 26, refers regime members to the International Criminal Court for probes of human rights violations. The United States has been using its intelligence assets to monitor Libyan activities, and it intends to expand its list of regime officials who could face sanctions or criminal charges, he said.

“Those individuals around Qadhafi who are taking orders from Qadhafi and executing his plans need to think very carefully about this. They need to think about what they’re doing to their fellow citizens, and they need to think about what the consequences are. Walking away now versus participating is the difference between the international community pursuing them to justice, and all the way, and a different future,” Donilon said.

#### MORE U.S. HUMANITARIAN AID ANNOUNCED

The State Department announced that the Obama administration is [giving an additional \\$17 million](#) to fund humanitarian assistance for “conflict victims, vulnerable migrants, and others displaced by the increasing civil unrest in Libya,” bringing the total amount of U.S. assistance to \$47 million.

According to a March 10 fact sheet, the new funds include a \$10 million contribution to the U.N. World Food Programme’s emergency food operations, \$2 million to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in response to a U.N. regional flash appeal and \$5 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

U.S. military aircraft have also flown nearly 800 Egyptian nationals who had left Libya from Tunisia to Egypt, and have delivered emergency relief commodities to the Tunisian Red Crescent, the fact sheet said.

In his comments, Donilon said the U.S. Agency for International Development also has deployed a disaster assistance response team to eastern Libya to assess the humanitarian situation there, identify what assistance is most urgently needed and help coordinate the international response.

“This is focused on providing the kind of assessment you need to ensure that the most effective humanitarian assistance that could be provided by the United States and by the international community is being delivered,” he said.

## NATO INCREASING NAVAL PRESENCE IN MEDITERRANEAN

Following the meeting of defense ministers from NATO countries in Brussels March 10, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen announced the alliance is ready to support international efforts on Libya and is increasing its naval presence in the central Mediterranean Sea.

“These ships will improve NATO’s situational awareness, which is vital in the current circumstances, and they will contribute to our surveillance and monitoring capability, including with regard to the arms embargo established by the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1970,” Rasmussen said in a news conference.

The defense ministers, including U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, also discussed the possibility of a no-fly zone and agreed that further planning would be required if NATO receives a clear mandate from the United Nations to implement one.

Rasmussen said all alliance members “have agreed to three principles, which will act as a guide for any future considerations or actions regarding Libya: demonstrable need, a clear legal mandate and solid support from the region.”

Regional support is “crucial” and is needed to ensure that any NATO actions “are seen as helping the situation and the democratic movement that is sweeping the region,” he said.

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## **2. Statement by P5+1 Group on Iran’s Nuclear Program (03-09-2011)**

IAEA Board of Governors Statement by China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America  
Read by the Governor of the Russian Federation

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Our six countries wish to thank Director General Amano for his latest report on the “Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement and relevant provisions of the UNSC Resolutions in the Islamic Republic of Iran”. We commend the Secretariat for its efforts to pursue its verification mission and reaffirm that the IAEA plays an essential role in establishing confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear program.

We recall that our six countries, with the support of the EU High Representative, are determined and committed to find a comprehensive negotiated long-term solution which restores international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear program, while respecting Iran’s legitimate right under the NPT to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Iran’s obligations under the relevant UNSC and the IAEA Board of Governors

March 10, 2011

Resolutions are explicitly set out in the latest IAEA report. Full implementation by Iran of these international obligations is needed to establish confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program. The implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement, and relevant provisions of UNSC Resolutions in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which were adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, is mandatory.

We call on Iran to cooperate fully with the Agency, including prompt implementation and ratification of the Additional Protocol, applying the modified Code 3.1 of the subsidiary arrangements to its Safeguards Agreement, and implementing all transparency measures, as requested by the Agency. Outstanding issues need to be resolved in order to exclude the existence of possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear program.

We, together with the EU High Representative, held two meetings with Iran in the last few months, one in Geneva in December, and another in Istanbul in January. At that meeting, it was not possible to reach any substantive result. We came to Geneva and to Istanbul with a constructive spirit and proposed in Istanbul several practical ideas aimed at building confidence and to facilitate the engagement of a constructive dialogue with Iran on the basis of reciprocity and step-by-step approach. We look to Iran to engage in future in a similarly constructive spirit.

We reaffirm our June 2008 offer and the proposals we made in Istanbul. It remains our wish to establish a cooperative relationship with Iran in many fields including that of peaceful nuclear technology — where of course we fully recognize Iran's rights under the NPT. We invite Iran to consider our proposals seriously.

We remain ready to participate actively in the E3+ 3 process with Iran. We expect Iran to demonstrate a pragmatic attitude and to respond positively to our proposals and to our openness toward dialogue and negotiations. The door remains open.

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### **3. Obama Nominates Gary Locke to Be Ambassador to China (03-09-2011)**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama has announced the nomination of Commerce Secretary Gary Locke to become the next U.S. ambassador to the People's Republic of China. If approved by the Senate, he would become the first Chinese American to hold the post.

Locke would succeed Ambassador Jon Huntsman, the former Republican governor of Utah, who recently asked to step down from his post in China, Obama said at a March 9 White House ceremony attended by Locke and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

“As one of the world's fastest-growing economies, our relationship with China is one of the most critical of the 21st century,” Obama said. “Continued cooperation between our countries will be good for America, it will be good for China, and it will be good for the world.”

“As the grandson of a Chinese immigrant who went on to live the American dream, Gary is the right person to continue this cooperation,” the president added.

Obama also praised the work accomplished by Huntsman in Beijing. “Jon has been an outstanding advocate for this administration and this country,” the president said. “I am grateful for his service.”

Locke's grandfather left China more than 100 years ago aboard a steamship bound for the United States, where he worked as a domestic servant for a family in Washington state in return for the opportunity to learn English. "A century later, his grandson will return to China as America's top diplomat," Obama said.

But Locke also became the first Chinese-American state governor when he was elected in Washington state in 1996, and worked during those years to attract jobs and business to his state, the president said.

Locke joined the Obama administration in 2009 to be the president's chief advocate for America's businesses and specifically its exports abroad. As part of that assignment, Obama said he asked Locke to continue to make progress on the U.S.-China bilateral relationship.

During the past two years, Locke has overseen an increase in American exports, and particularly exports to China, a country with which the United States recently signed trade deals that will support 235,000 American jobs, Obama said. Locke was also the president's lead official for his National Export Initiative, which is designed to make the United States more competitive globally in trade and, over five years, double U.S. exports of goods and services. In 2010, the United States increased exports to China by 34 percent.

"My father never imagined that one of his children could ever serve as the secretary of commerce in the United States of America," Locke said at the White House announcement. "And he was beaming with pride, Mr. President, the day you presided over my swearing-in ceremony."

Locke said his father, a combat veteran of World War II who served in Europe, died in January. "It would be one of his proudest moments to see his son named the United States ambassador to his ancestral homeland," he added.

"I'm going back to the birthplace of my grandfather, my father, my mom and her side of the family, and I'll be doing so as a devoted and passionate advocate for America, the country where I was born and raised," Locke said.

Muhtar Kent, chairman and chief executive officer of the Coca-Cola Company and also the chairman of the U.S.-China Business Council, praised Obama's choice for ambassador for his experience helping to promote American business in China and his effectiveness as commerce secretary.

"Secretary Locke's leadership roles in business and government, combined with his recent success in strengthening U.S.-China commercial relations, makes him ideally suited to be a strong and effective ambassador to China," Kent said. "Over the long run, innovation, economic growth and diplomatic harmony are most effectively achieved by free and fair trade and open dialogue. For these reasons, we are extremely pleased to see Secretary Locke nominated for this vital role."

Locke's nomination will be sent to the U.S. Senate and to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where a confirmation hearing will be held. If his nomination is approved by the committee — and it's likely it will be since he also had to pass a confirmation hearing and Senate approval to become commerce secretary — it will be voted on by the full Senate.

#### [Nomination for New Ambassador to China](#)

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#### **4. Gates Sees Significant Security Progress in Afghanistan (03-08-2011)**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates says security gains achieved by Afghan and coalition forces across Afghanistan are significant, but the momentum must be maintained to begin a formal security transition later in 2011.

“The gains we are seeing across the country are significant,” Gates said at a March 7 joint press conference in Kabul with President Hamid Karzai. “In the east, Afghan and International Security Assistance Force forces are expanding zones of security outward from Kabul and Jalalabad, focusing on blocking insurgent infiltration into population centers along key arteries.”

“As a result, commerce has grown and distant provinces are increasingly connected to major marketplaces,” Gates said. “I believe we are now positioned to achieve the shared goal of a stable, secure Afghanistan that is no longer a safe haven for terrorists.”

A similar situation is happening in southern Afghanistan, Gates said, where Afghan and international troops have forced remnants of the Taliban out of traditional strongholds and a semblance of normal life has begun returning to villages and towns.

“Our forces are linking zones of security in Helmand to Kandahar as we ultimately move toward connecting these areas in the south with those in the east, centered in Kabul,” Gates told reporters during a two-day visit.

Because of these successes, Afghanistan is closer to achieving the goal of building national security forces that can take responsibility for their nation’s security, Gates said. He expects that Karzai will soon announce the first areas of the country where the formal transition will take place.

“While no decisions on numbers have been made, in my view, we will be well positioned to begin drawing down some U.S. and coalition forces this July, even as we redeploy others to different areas of the country,” he said.

Gates said there will be substantial numbers of coalition forces in Afghanistan for some time. He emphasized that the coalition is not leaving this summer. The Afghan and coalition forces will continue to maintain unrelenting pressure on Taliban insurgents, but will work toward the goal of Afghan forces assuming the lead by the end of 2014, he said.

Karzai told reporters that the state of Afghan security forces’ readiness as they are being trained and equipped does not “reduce our responsibility or our determination to provide protection to the Afghan people and protection of our borders.”

This trip marks Gates’ 13th visit to Afghanistan. He travels on to the Stuttgart, Germany, headquarters of the U.S. Africa Command to attend a change-of-command ceremony March 9 for the arrival of Army General Carter Ham. He will attend a regular meeting of NATO defense ministers in Brussels March 10–11.

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## **5. Obama, Australia's Gillard Discuss Afghanistan, Trade (03-08-2011)**

Washington — Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard's meetings with President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton focused on shared efforts to transfer the security control of Afghanistan to Afghan forces as well as expanding trade in the Pacific region.

Gillard met with Obama at the White House March 7 and with Clinton at the State Department March 8. She will address a joint session of the U.S. Congress March 9, which the president said is "a high honor that is reserved for only our closest friends, and ... it's a measure of the degree to which Australians are held in such high esteem by Americans."

After their meeting, Obama said he and the Australian premier had discussed the situation in Afghanistan, noting that Australia is the largest non-NATO member of the international coalition, with more than 1,550 Australian service members deployed in the country.

The Australians are making "extraordinary sacrifices in Afghanistan," Obama said, adding that he and Gillard "discussed the fact that 2011 is going to be a year of transition in which we, more and more, provide the assistance necessary for Afghans to take the lead in that effort."

Gillard said she is personally committed to seeing Australia complete its mission in Afghanistan and "ensuring we play our part in training the Afghan National Army and bringing security to Afghanistan so that the Afghan people can lead their own security."

President Obama said the United States and Australia share common interests in "expanding trade in the Pacific region, in promoting clean energy, in making sure that we don't have regulatory barriers that prevent our businesses from working across our borders."

The United States is "very excited about the prospect of joining forces with Australia and other countries to promote growth and employees in the region," he said.

The United States is Australia's fifth-largest merchandise export market and its most important market for services, according to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It is also Australia's largest import source for services and second-largest import source for merchandise. The United States is also the largest investor in Australia.

Australia is the world's 14th-largest importer of American goods and services. According to the U.S. Commerce Department's Foreign Trade Statistics, U.S. exports to Australia totaled \$21.803 billion and imports totaled \$8.581 billion in 2010. Those figures represent an increase from 2009, when U.S. exports to Australia totaled \$19.6 billion and imports totaled \$8.011 billion.

President Obama will travel to Indonesia later in 2011 for the East Asia Summit, which the United States will formally join. He will also host the Asia Pacific Economic Council (APEC) forum in Honolulu in November.

"I've talked to President Obama today about preparations for the G20, about its continuing importance in keeping a focus on growth and on jobs for the future," Gillard said.

She added that she is hoping to see "major progress" at APEC, where the Trans-Pacific Partnership will be discussed, as well as at the Doha Round of trade talks that will be discussed at the upcoming summit of the Group of 20 (G20) leading economies in Seoul.

## **6. Clinton on Commitment to Humane Treatment of Guantánamo Detainees (03-07-2011)**

Statement by Secretary Clinton: Reaffirming America's Commitment to Humane Treatment of Detainees

Today the Obama Administration is taking two important steps regarding Additional Protocols of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 that reaffirm the determination of the United States to treat humanely all detainees in our custody and to advance America's long-standing leadership in setting and encouraging compliance with global legal standards for the conduct of armed conflict.

These steps are part of our broader commitment to the goals President Obama laid out in his three Executive Orders of January 22, 2009 and his speech at the National Archives: to close Guantánamo consistent with our values, by prosecuting Guantánamo detainees where possible, by transferring them abroad when it can be safely done, and by asserting clear, defensible and lawful standards for those Guantánamo detainees who cannot be prosecuted for past crimes, but still pose a threat to the security of the United States. The State Department has worked closely with the Defense Department to transfer 67 Guantánamo detainees to third countries, and those determined efforts continue daily.

Today we are informing the Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that we intend to seek, as soon as practicable, Senate advice and consent to ratification of the Additional Protocol II to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which elaborates upon safeguards provided in Common Article 3 and includes more detailed standards regarding fair treatment and fair trial.

Ratifying Protocol II will strengthen our national security and advance our interests and values. It is fully consistent with current military practice and would improve America's ability to maintain strong coalition cooperation in ongoing and future operations, as 165 other countries have now ratified the treaty.

The second step we are taking is to declare that as of today, the United States, out of a sense of legal obligation, will adhere to the set of norms in Article 75 of Protocol I in international armed conflicts. Article 75 sets forth humane treatment and fair trial safeguards for certain persons detained by opposing forces in international armed conflict and was praised by President Reagan's Joint Chiefs of Staff as "militarily advantageous insofar as it might make mistreatment of captured U.S. military personnel more difficult to justify in future conflicts."

These steps we take today are not about who our enemies are, but about who we are: a nation committed to providing all detainees in our custody with humane treatment. We are reaffirming that the United States abides by the rule of law in the conduct of armed conflicts and remains committed to the development and maintenance of humanitarian protections in those conflicts.

[Attorney General Holder on Guantánamo Bay, Detainee Policy](#)

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## **7. Fact Sheet: New Actions on Guantánamo and Detainee Policy (03-07-2011)**

In a speech nearly two years ago at the National Archives, the President advanced a four-part approach to closing the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, keeping our country safe, and upholding the law: (1) to bring detainees to justice in prosecutions in either federal civilian courts or

in reformed military commissions, (2) to comply with court-ordered releases of detainees, (3) to transfer detainees from Guantanamo whenever it is possible to do so safely and humanely, and (4) when neither prosecution nor other legal options are available, to hold these individuals in lawful military detention. He affirmed that “whenever feasible, we will try those who have violated American criminal laws in federal courts.”

The Administration remains committed to closing the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, and to maintain a lawful, sustainable and principled regime for the handling of detainees there, consistent with the full range of U.S. national security interests. In keeping with the strategy we laid out, we are proceeding today with the following actions:

### **Resumption of Military Commissions**

The Secretary of Defense will issue an order rescinding his prior suspension on the swearing and referring of new charges in the military commissions. New charges in military commissions have been suspended since the President announced his review of detainee policy, shortly after taking office.

The Administration, working on a bipartisan basis with members of Congress, has successfully enacted key reforms, such as a ban on the use of statements taken as a result of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and a better system for handling classified information. With these and other reforms, military commissions, along with prosecutions of suspected terrorists in civilian courts, are an available and important tool in combating international terrorists that fall within their jurisdiction while upholding the rule of law.

### **Executive Order on Periodic Review**

In the Archives speech, the President recognized there are certain Guantanamo detainees who have not been charged, convicted, or designated for transfer, but must continue to be detained because they “in effect, remain at war with the United States.” For this category of detainees, the President stated: “We must have a thorough process of periodic review, so that any prolonged detention is carefully evaluated and justified.”

Today, the President issued an Executive Order establishing such a process for these detainees.

The periodic review established by this order will help to ensure that individuals who we have determined will be subject to long-term detention continue to be detained only when lawful and necessary to protect against a significant threat to the security of the United States. If a final determination is made that a detainee no longer constitutes a significant threat to our security, the Executive Order provides that the Secretaries of State and Defense are to identify a suitable transfer location outside the United States, consistent with the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States and applicable law. As the President has stated before, no Guantanamo detainee will be released into the United States.

We are grateful to all of our allies and partners who have worked with the Administration to implement the transfers undertaken thus far in a secure and humane manner, especially those who have resettled detainees from third countries. Our friends and allies should know that we remain determined in our efforts and that, with their continued assistance, we intend to complete the difficult challenge of closing Guantanamo.

## **Continued Commitment to Article III Trials**

Pursuant to the President's order to close Guantanamo, this Administration instituted the most thorough review process ever applied to the detainees held there. Among other things, for the first time, we consolidated all information available to the federal government about these individuals. That information was carefully examined by some of our government's most experienced prosecutors, a process that resulted in the referral of 36 individuals for potential prosecution. Since the time of those referrals, the Departments of Justice and Defense, with the advice of career military and civilian prosecutors, have been working to bring these defendants to justice, securing convictions in a number of cases and evaluating others to determine which system – military or civilian – is most appropriate based on the nature of the evidence and traditional principles of prosecution.

In recent months, some in Congress have sought to undermine this process. In December, Congress enacted restrictions on the prosecution of Guantanamo detainees in Federal courts. The Administration opposes these restrictions as a dangerous and unprecedented challenge to Executive authority to select the most effective means available to bring terrorists to justice and safeguard our security. The Executive Branch possesses the information and expertise necessary to make the best judgment about where a particular prosecution should proceed, and Congress's intrusion upon this function is inconsistent with the long-standing and appropriate allocation of authority between the Executive and Legislative branches.

Time and again, our Federal courts have delivered swift justice and severe punishment to those who seek to attack us. In the last two years alone, federal prosecutors have convicted numerous defendants charged with terrorism offenses, including those who plotted to bomb the New York subway system; attempted to detonate a bomb in Times Square; and conspired in murderous attacks on our embassies abroad. These prosecutions have generated invaluable intelligence about our enemies, permitted us to incapacitate and detain dangerous terrorists, and vindicated the interests of victims – all while reaffirming our commitment to the rule of law. Spanning multiple administrations, Republican and Democratic, our Federal courts have proven to be one of our most effective counterterrorism tools, and should not be restricted in any circumstances.

Military commissions should proceed in cases where it has been determined appropriate to do so. Because there are situations, however, in which our federal courts are a more appropriate forum for trying particular individuals, we will seek repeal of the restrictions imposed by Congress, so that we can move forward in the forum that is, in our judgment, most in line with our national security interests and the interests of justice.

We will continue to vigorously defend the authority of the Executive to make these well-informed prosecution decisions, both with respect to those detainees in our custody at Guantanamo and those we may apprehend in the future. A one-size-fits-all policy for the prosecution of suspected terrorists, whether for past or future cases, undermines our Nation's counterterrorism efforts and harms our national security.

## **Support for a Strong International Legal Framework**

Because of the vital importance of the rule of law to the effectiveness and legitimacy of our national security policy, the Administration is announcing our support for two important components of the international legal framework that covers armed conflicts: Additional Protocol II and Article 75 of Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

*March 10, 2011*

Additional Protocol II, which contains detailed humane treatment standards and fair trial guarantees that apply in the context of non-international armed conflicts, was originally submitted to the Senate for approval by President Reagan in 1987. The Administration urges the Senate to act as soon as practicable on this Protocol, to which 165 States are a party. An extensive interagency review concluded that United States military practice is already consistent with the Protocol's provisions. Joining the treaty would not only assist us in continuing to exercise leadership in the international community in developing the law of armed conflict, but would also allow us to reaffirm our commitment to humane treatment in, and compliance with legal standards for, the conduct of armed conflict.

Article 75 of Additional Protocol I, which sets forth fundamental guarantees for persons in the hands of opposing forces in an international armed conflict, is similarly important to the international legal framework. Although the Administration continues to have significant concerns with Additional Protocol I, Article 75 is a provision of the treaty that is consistent with our current policies and practice and is one that the United States has historically supported.

Our adherence to these principles is also an important safeguard against the mistreatment of captured U.S. military personnel. The U.S. Government will therefore choose out of a sense of legal obligation to treat the principles set forth in Article 75 as applicable to any individual it detains in an international armed conflict, and expects all other nations to adhere to these principles as well.

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