

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
July 7 - July 14, 2011

1. [U.S., Russia Sign Agreements on Adoption, Plutonium Disposal](#) (07-13-2011)
2. [Obama, Clinton Condemn Mumbai Bomb Attacks](#) (07-13-2011)
3. [Quartet Urges Israel, Palestinians to Overcome Obstacles to Talks](#) (07-12-2011)
4. [Mullen Discusses U.S.-China Relations with Beijing Students](#) (07-12-2011)
5. [Clinton Says Syria's Assad Has Lost Legitimacy](#) (07-11-2011)
6. [U.S. Recognizes South Sudan, Pledges Steadfast Partnership](#) (07-09-2011)
7. [South Sudan: Lessons Learned at the Negotiating Table](#) (07-09-2011)

1. [U.S., Russia Sign Agreements on Adoption, Plutonium Disposal](#) (07-13-2011)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton praised the advancement of U.S.-Russian relations under the Obama administration and said both countries need to “continue and maintain the momentum” for the good of their people.

Clinton met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov July 13 in Washington, where they signed agreements to increase cooperation in nuclear-weapons-grade plutonium disposal, air navigation, visa services between the two countries, research on the effects of radiation exposure safeguarding adoption procedures.

Speaking with Lavrov, Clinton said the past two and a half years have been “a time of great strides in the relationship between our countries,” citing new arms control agreements and new security and diplomatic cooperation.

“Our challenge now is to continue and maintain the momentum in order to deliver more results for both of our people,” she said.

Lavrov said there is now a “new quality” to Russian-U.S. cooperation. “We do not only think about strategic things. We also care about our citizens, and I think that this is a lesson ... for our cooperation for many years ahead.”

The new agreement on the intercountry adoption of children provides important safeguards to protect the safety and security of Russians who are adopted by American parents and increases the transparency of the adoption process, Clinton said.

“We both want the same outcomes. We want all children, whether they be Russian children or American children, to be able to have loving homes with families that will take good care of them,” she said, and the United States “wants to be sure that we meet all of the concerns that the Russian side raised.”

Lavrov said the agreement offers guarantees and safeguards for both parents and children and ensures that “an adoptive parent is psychologically stable, that the family has come through a special filter of authorized bodies authorized by the United States government, and that the adoptive parents provide access of Russian diplomats to the children living in the United States.”

The United States and Russia also agreed to begin disposing of excess weapons-grade plutonium in 2018 as part of their efforts to “eliminate nuclear-weapon-grade materials and to reduce nuclear dangers,” according to a [July 13 State Department fact sheet](#).

The fact sheet said the agreement marks an “essential step” in the nuclear disarmament process “by making these reductions in plutonium stocks irreversible.”

In her remarks, Clinton said the agreement “commits both of our countries to dispose of no less than 34 metric tons of weapons-grade uranium on each side, the equivalent of some 17,000 nuclear weapons.”

Clinton and Lavrov also signed an agreement to renew cooperation on researching the effects of radiation in order to try to minimize the consequences of radioactive contamination on health and the environment.

Under the agreement, 30 U.S. and 200 Russian scientists and technical personnel will undertake studies on radiation doses and epidemiology and collaborate on a repository of tissue samples from workers at the Mayak nuclear facility in Russia, where workers and the surrounding communities have been exposed to radiation, according to a July 12 State Department fact sheet.

“Studying the health of Russian nuclear workers and people resident in nearby communities who have been exposed to radiation improves our understanding of the risks of employment in the nuclear industry and reinforces the importance of U.S. and global radiation protection standards and practices,” the fact sheet said.

Russia and the United States also concluded an agreement on nonimmigrant visas that will facilitate the travel of businesspeople and tourists, allowing multiple-entry visas and reducing the level of documentation.

Clinton said the agreement is of special importance to business people in both countries.

“Businessmen and women can travel multiple times between our two countries over 36 months on a single visa. This is a big deal for those who are doing business, and we are laying the groundwork for even more trade and travel,” she said.

The two countries also agreed to increase their air traffic control and navigation cooperation, allowing the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the State Air Traffic Management

Corporation of the Russian Federation to cooperate more closely on communication, navigation, surveillance, air navigation facilities and air traffic management.

Clinton said the agreement will “enhance information sharing and ultimately make even more air traffic between our countries even safer.”

[Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov After Their Meeting](#)

[U.S.-Russia Agreement on Plutonium Disposal](#)

[U.S.-Russia Agreement on Radiation Research Extended](#)

[Fact Sheet: U.S.-Russia Air Navigation Services Agreement](#)

2. Obama, Clinton Condemn Mumbai Bomb Attacks (07-13-2011)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton condemned bombings in the Indian city of Mumbai, and said the United States will support India’s efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice.

According to press reports, at least 21 people were killed in separate bomb attacks that targeted the Opera House, Zaveri Bazaar and Dadar areas of the city July 13.

[In a July 13 statement](#), President Obama condemned the bombings as “deplorable terrorist attacks” and offered condolences to the victims and their families.

“India is a close friend and partner of the United States,” he said. “The American people will stand with the Indian people in times of trial, and we will offer support to India’s efforts to bring the perpetrators of these terrible crimes to justice.”

The president also praised “the strength and resilience of the Indian people,” and said he was certain they would be able to overcome the attacks.

Secretary Clinton, at a signing ceremony with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Washington July 13, said the bombings had been intended to provoke “fear and division,” but the perpetrators “must know they cannot succeed.”

She said she will travel to New Delhi July 19 as planned for the second India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue.

“The Indian people have suffered from acts of terrorism before, and we have seen them respond with courage and resilience,” Clinton said.

“I believe it is more important than ever that we stand with India, deepen our partnership and reaffirm our commitment to the shared struggle against terrorism,” she said.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner said July 13 that the Obama administration has offered its “full support and assistance to the government of India in their response to and investigation of the attack.”

July 14, 2011

Under Secretary of State William Burns telephoned Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao earlier in the day to convey U.S. condolences and offer support, Toner said.

Toner said it is “far too early to speculate” on who carried out the attacks.

“The Indian government will no doubt begin an investigation of this incident, and we’ll wait for their results. And as I said, we stand ready to cooperate with them,” he said.

3. Quartet Urges Israel, Palestinians to Overcome Obstacles to Talks (07-12-2011)

Washington — Representatives of Russia, the European Union, the United Nations and the United States, collectively known as the Quartet, urged Israel and the Palestinians to begin “a preparatory phase” of peace talks and to narrow their differences on outstanding issues, pledging to help facilitate peace efforts “in any and every way possible.”

According to a senior Obama administration official who asked not to be identified, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held a working dinner at the State Department July 11 to discuss how to advance Middle East peace.

Speaking by telephone July 11, the official said the Quartet sees “an urgent need to appeal to the parties to overcome current obstacles and find a way to resume direct negotiations without delay or preconditions and to begin with a preparatory phase of talks to maximize the chances of success.”

There are gaps remaining between Israel and the Palestinians that are “impeding progress,” the official said, and “more work needs to be done to close those gaps before the Quartet can go forth publicly with the kinds of statements that might allow the parties to actually break through the impasse.”

The official said the Quartet needs to work privately with the parties to try to close the gaps in an effort to give direct negotiations between the two parties “real traction and be the right path forward.”

The Palestinian leadership is “still evaluating” what it may seek from the U.N. General Assembly in September, the official said. According to press reports, the Palestinians may ask the U.N. to recognize an independent Palestinian state.

However, “we’ve heard a consistent message from the Palestinian leadership that they prefer negotiations, that they see the ultimate goal of a two-state solution coming through a negotiating path,” the official said, and the United States and others in the international community are putting their emphasis on how to close the gaps between the two parties.

In her remarks with High Representative Ashton July 11, Secretary Clinton said the path to an independent Palestinian state lies through direct negotiations, just as the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement between northern and southern Sudanese led to the independence of South Sudan on July 9.

“The United States, the U.K., Norway and other countries were very involved in the 2005 agreement, which ended years of civil war and conflict. In the absence of that agreement, I do not believe there would have been celebration in Juba,” Clinton said.

“A resolution, a statement, an assertion is not an agreement,” she said. The sooner Israel and the Palestinians can resume direct negotiations, “the sooner there can be the result that many of us have worked for for a long time.”

[Remarks by Secretary Clinton and EU High Representative Ashton
Summary of Quartet Meeting on Middle East Peace](#)

4. Mullen Discusses U.S.-China Relations with Beijing Students (07-12-2011)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, told Chinese university students that one of the ways to increase openness and security, and ensure better stability between the United States and China, is to build more substantive relationships between the two militaries.

“What we have learned over time is that one of the best ways to credibly change the problem of judging intentions is through deep, broad and continuous military-to-military engagement,” Mullen said in a speech July 10 at Beijing’s Renmin University of China.

“As President Obama has said, the relationship between the United States and China will shape the 21st century, which makes it as important as any bilateral relationship in the world, and I could not agree more,” Mullen said. In 2009, Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao called for expanded military-to-military contacts as part of an effort to expand the relationship between the two nations.

Mullen is visiting China at the invitation of the chief of the General Staff of the People’s Liberation Army, General Chen Bingde, who visited the United States in May. He has participated in a discussion with Chinese journalists, visited with military leaders and viewed a CSS-7 short-range ballistic missile on a mobile launcher at the 2nd Artillery Force headquarters.

Seeking a sustained and reliable relationship between militaries is not unusual, Mullen told students. Mullen keeps an active schedule of regular military visits around the world and talks routinely with his counterparts about issues, both urgent and less so. Miscalculation and miscommunication most often occur, he said, in times of crisis, and so constant dialogue is a vital element of good relations.

“It is crisis which most often reveals the true character of a government and a military,” Mullen said.

He said a relationship improves when military-to-military talks can expand cooperation where interests converge and provide at least some context in areas where there are differences. High-level visits like this one to China are important and should continue, Mullen said, but they are only the beginning.

“Over time it is just as important that our younger military officers meet and get to know each other so that they can begin to develop relationships that I hope will last decades, and that our military can actually operate together in exercises and joint activities,” Mullen told students.

Mullen noted that current military maritime consultative agreement working groups will meet in China and at the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii later in 2011 to build cooperation. The two navies plan to participate in joint counterpiracy exercises in the Gulf of Aden by the end of 2011.

Senior military medical exchanges between China and the United States will be hosted in Washington as well as in Hawaii and Texas, with plans for a joint military medical exercise in the future, Mullen said.

“And future humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exchanges, as well as joint exercises, are expected to take place in 2012,” Mullen told the university students.

Mullen offered three areas for both nations to build on:

- Work from a posture of mutual respect.
- Think locally and globally, for the local issues that impact the region often have global implications.
- Adopt a view of looking to the future in U.S.-China relations, not to the past.

5. Clinton Says Syria’s Assad Has Lost Legitimacy (07-11-2011)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton condemned Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s regime for failing to protect U.S. and French diplomatic facilities in Damascus and said the Syrian leader “has lost legitimacy” because of his violent response to legitimate Syrian aspirations for greater freedom.

Speaking with European Union (EU) High Representative Catherine Ashton at the State Department July 11, Clinton said U.S. officials have spoken with their Syrian counterparts to demand that Syria honor the Vienna Convention, which requires countries to protect foreign diplomats and properties, after several days of attacks by Syrian mobs against U.S. and French facilities.

Clinton said the Assad regime will not succeed in using the attacks on diplomatic facilities to deflect global attention from “the real story unfolding in Syria” and the nearly four months of peaceful protests by its people who have been calling for reforms.

“This is not about America or France or any other country. This is about the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people for dignity, universal rights and the rule of law,” Clinton said.

The violence, arrests and intimidation against the Syrian people “must stop,” the secretary said, and neither they nor the international community will accept “half measures or lofty speeches” from the Assad regime.

Assad “is not indispensable” and the United States has “absolutely nothing invested in him remaining in power,” she said. “Our goal is to see that the will of the Syrian people for a democratic transformation occurs.”

The Syrian leader “has failed to deliver on the promises he’s made. He has sought and accepted aid from the Iranians as to how to repress his own people,” Clinton said. She called on more countries in the international community to speak out “as forcefully as we have.”

Ashton said the EU is trying to use its collective political and economic power to get Assad to turn away from violence. She described the situation of Syrian refugees who have fled the unrest for Turkey as “very grave indeed.” Their accounts reflect information that international news media, which have been unable to report from inside Syria, have been receiving.

The EU representative called for an end to the violence, for the Syrian people to have their voices heard, and for them to then be allowed to make the decisions about how their country should move forward.

6. U.S. Recognizes South Sudan, Pledges Steadfast Partnership (07-09-2011)

By Merle Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — The United States formally recognized the Republic of South Sudan on July 9 and pledged steadfast partnership as the South Sudanese begin building a new country after decades of civil war.

President Obama issued the formal recognition of the world’s newest nation in Washington as independence ceremonies and celebrations were being held in the new country’s capital, Juba, and across South Sudan.

“Today is the reminder that after the darkness of war, the light of a new dawn is possible,” [Obama said](#). “A proud flag flies over Juba and the map of the world has been redrawn.”

“These symbols speak to the blood that has been spilled, the tears that have been shed, the ballots that have been cast, and the hopes that have been realized by so many millions of people,” he added.

Obama said that July 9 marks the creation of two new neighbors — South Sudan and Sudan, from which the south separated. The people of South Sudan voted in a weeklong national referendum for independence in balloting that began January 9. That vote was called for by the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended two decades of civil war.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton [echoed the president’s statement](#), saying, “Independence presents a new beginning for the people of South Sudan; an opportunity to build a nation that embodies the values and aspirations of its people.”

“The challenges are many, but the South Sudanese people have demonstrated their capacity to overcome great odds,” she added. “The United States will remain a steadfast partner as South Sudan seeks to peacefully meet these challenges and build a free, democratic and inclusive society.”

South Sudan’s African neighbors and the African Union played an essential part in making July 9 possible, Obama said.

“The Comprehensive Peace Agreement must be fully implemented, the status of Abyei must be resolved through negotiations, and violence and intimidation in Southern Kordofan, especially by the government of Sudan, must end,” Obama added.

The U.S. presidential delegation was led by the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Susan Rice, and included former Secretary of State Colin Powell, who signed the 2005 peace accord on behalf of the United States.

“On behalf of President Obama, my fellow delegates, the U.S. government and the American people, we warmly welcome the Republic of South Sudan to the community of sovereign nations,” Rice said during the independence ceremonies.

“We salute those who did not live to see this moment — from leaders such as Dr. John Garang to the ordinary citizens who rest in unmarked graves,” Rice added. “We cannot bring them back. But we can honor their memory by working together to build South Sudan into a country worthy of their sacrifice.”

The peaceful transition to independence for South Sudan was a major milestone following nearly five decades of civil war and strife. The latest civil war, from 1983-2005, culminated in the 2005 peace accord that led to the July 9 independence. The United States played a key role in brokering the 2005 peace accord, and the United States has been the lead donor of assistance for many years.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) provided comprehensive technical and material assistance that was essential to the conduct of the January referendum on self-determination. USAID supported the procurement of registration and voting materials, voter education, and domestic and international observers to ensure that the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and Bureau had the capacity to hold a credible, on-time referendum.

Since the signing of the CPA, USAID worked closely with the new government to provide a million people access to clean water; helped increase children’s enrollment in schools nearly fourfold; and established tools like microfinance institutions to jump-start economic opportunities.

Later this year, the United States will host an international engagement conference to provide South Sudan leaders with a platform to present their vision for the future of their country and engage international partners on priority areas of support and collaboration, according to the U.S. State Department.

INDEPENDENCE CEREMONY

The noon independence celebration in Juba was marked by the changing of national flags from Sudan to South Sudan and with the signing of the new constitution by South Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit. There were military parades, prayers, receptions and street celebrations as the South Sudanese launched a new era.

Delegations from across the globe attended the ceremonies held in the center of Juba. Sudan formally recognized South Sudan and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir attended and spoke at the independence ceremonies. After signing the new constitution, Kiir took the oath of office followed by the playing of the national anthem.

In a week, South Sudan is expected to become the 193rd nation recognized by the United Nations and the 54th U.N.-member nation from Africa.

[Clinton's Congratulations to South Sudan on Its Independence](#)
[Ambassador Rice at South Sudan Independence Ceremony](#)
[USAID Support for Sudan, South Sudan](#)
[Fact Sheet: U.S. Support for Peace and Security in South Sudan](#)

7. South Sudan: Lessons Learned at the Negotiating Table (07-09-2011)

Ambassador Princeton N. Lyman serves as U.S. special envoy for Sudan. He wrote this op-ed, which appeared on the CNN website July 8.

South Sudan: Lessons Learned at the Negotiating Table

By Princeton N. Lyman

Tomorrow South Sudan will declare independence, joining the international community as the world's 195th independent state. This is a momentous occasion for the people of South Sudan, made all the more remarkable having seen the process from the inside.

Last summer, few expected that Sudan's peace process would make it this far. Many believed that a return to war was coming and that Sudan would return to the cycle of violent conflict that had marked two decades of its past and claimed two million lives.

When I joined the on-going negotiations last summer, I found it striking that despite the bitter divides and tensions between the parties, Khartoum and Juba's leaders were weary of war and had no desire to return to it. Negotiations over tough issues would be difficult and sometimes armed clashes did occur. But each time leaders pulled back from more widespread conflict and never walked away from the negotiating table.

They realized that whatever issues divided them, their respective territories were inextricably linked by economic, social and political ties. Even when the south Sudanese voted in January 9 to secede from Sudan and create a new nation, the people on both sides of the border continued to trade, move back and forth and depend on what would come to be called "soft borders" to maintain their livelihoods.

I also learned that the weight of world opinion mattered. When in September 2010 President Obama assembled the leaders of nations from around the world at the United Nations in New York to discuss Sudan, the Vice Presidents from both north and south Sudan sat on the dais for hours to hear that peace was not only their own concern but that of their neighbors, their friends, their donors and their commercial partners. In many other ways and many times over the next year, this message was sent clearly to Sudan. Many countries and organizations contributed more directly to the peace process.

July 14, 2011

The United States remained deeply involved. Like my predecessors, I have traveled to Sudan and neighboring countries more than half my time - at least a dozen trips since last August. I have participated in the negotiations, worked with each side individually, offered solutions to knotty problems and held out the prospect of a brighter future for both north and south Sudan once peace was achieved making the land open to investment, assistance and greater trade. President Obama, Vice President Biden, Secretary of State Clinton, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Susan Rice and many other officials lent their voices and political influence to this cause.

In the end, it comes down to what people want. Sudan's people have suffered decades of war. Their economic prospects are dim unless the two sides can come to agreement on how to share precious resources, cooperate in other economic areas and together promote the viability and stability of each other.

The overwhelming majority of Sudanese, north and south, want enough food to feed their families, education for their children and security for their loved ones. They want the freedom to be able to express their opinions, choose their leaders and become active participants in political and social life. These are the imperatives that in the end have driven the negotiation process and enabled negotiators to reach sufficient agreement to move ahead and avoid return to war.

I also learned that individuals matter. Through months of meetings and shuttle diplomacy between Washington, New York, Khartoum, Juba, and Addis Ababa, I came to appreciate the deeply personal connection between Sudan's negotiators. Many went to school together before war drove them apart. They know each other's families, have shared innumerable cups of tea and would often take a break from long hours fighting at the negotiating table to share quiet dinners together. They have a profound and deeply personal understanding of each other that outsiders will never fully comprehend.

Yet, often enough, the deep well of bitterness, recrimination, and hurt would rise to the surface and sharp exchanges would replace the diplomatic niceties of a few minutes before, reminding us that peace is not easily attained, memories not easily assuaged and suspicions not readily removed. To their credit, they nevertheless returned once again, indeed time and time again, to the task at hand, to their commitment to the needs of their people for peace.

The peaceful transition to independence for South Sudan is thus no coincidence. It is the culmination of six years of dialogue and reflection, of choosing peace over war and of pursuing a brighter future in lieu of a return to a darker past. It is the result also of the commitment of people from all over the world, through their governments, their advocacy groups and their religious organizations on behalf of peace and justice.

Even as much work remains, I am proud that the United States has been in the forefront of this commitment. It will serve us well if there is peace in this part of Africa, if turmoil and human crises no longer dominate the scene and if we welcome a new partner in the search for a more stable and prosperous world.

The views expressed in this article are solely those of Princeton N. Lyman.
