

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY UPDATE
August 14 - 20, 2014

1. [Secretary Kerry on Murder of Journalist by Terrorist Group ISIL](#) (08-20-2014)
2. [Obama's Remarks on Ongoing Operation in Iraq](#) (08-19-2014)
3. [Kerry on Destruction of Syria's Declared Chemical Weapons](#) (08-18-2014)
4. [White House on President's Authorization of Operations in Iraq](#) (08-17-2014)
5. [White House on Reports of Russian Military Column in Ukraine](#) (08-15-2014)
6. [Ambassador Power on Adoption of U.N. Resolution on Iraq, Syria](#) (08-15-2014)
7. [Obama Praises Success of Humanitarian Operations in Iraq](#) (08-14-2014)
8. [Obama on Latest Events in Iraq](#) (08-14-2014)
9. [U.S. Envoy on Russia's Ongoing Violations, Situation in Ukraine](#) (08-14-2014)
10. [State's Gottemoeller on Arms Control, Nuclear Nonproliferation](#) (08-14-2014)

1. [Secretary Kerry on Murder of Journalist by Terrorist Group ISIL](#) (08-20-2014)

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY KERRY

James Foley went to the darkest of places to shine the light of truth. Nothing could stop him from sharing with the world the reality of what was happening on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan, or the struggle against a brutal dictator in Libya, and he was just as determined to do the same from Syria. He was brave and bold, and no masked coward can ever steal the legacy of this courageous American who lived out the meaning of the word journalism.

I was a Senator when James was first held in Libya, and we were first introduced to the Foley family. His family was as determined in working towards his release as James had been daring in covering those war zones himself. The sheer unfairness and unlikely odds that this young journalist would again find himself in captivity in another conflict was almost unimaginable. It is impossible to express how much we all wanted this latest horror to end with his family reunited, as it had been the first time.

Teresa and I, along with members of my family who got to know James' mother Diane and his brother, are heartbroken for all of the Foleys. There are no words of condolence that can adequately convey our sorrow, our sympathy, or our anger for what has happened.

There is evil in this world, and we all have come face to face with it once again. Ugly, savage, inexplicable, nihilistic, and valueless evil. ISIL is the face of that evil, a threat to people who want to live in peace, and an ugly insult to the peaceful religion they violate every day with their barbarity.

We grieve for James Foley. We mourn for his family and his loved ones. We honor the courage and pray for the safety of all those who risk their lives to discover the truth where it is needed most. And make no mistake: we will continue to confront ISIL wherever it tries to spread its despicable hatred. The world must know that the United States of America will never back down in the face of such evil. ISIL and the wickedness it represents must be destroyed, and those responsible for this heinous, vicious atrocity will be held accountable.

Read also:

[President Obama on Murder of Journalist by Terrorist Group ISIL](#)

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/2014/08/20140820306013.html#axzz3Aumwd3vU>

2. Excerpts from Obama's Remarks on Ongoing Operation in Iraq (08-19-2014)

Following are excerpts of President Obama's remarks on the ongoing situation in Iraq. The full transcript of the president's remarks is [available here](#).

THE PRESIDENT: ... With respect to Iraq, we continue to see important progress across different parts of our strategy to support the Iraqi government and combat the threat from the terrorist group, ISIL. First, our military operations are effectively protecting our personnel and facilities in Iraq. Over the last 11 days, American airstrikes have stopped the ISIL advance around the city of Erbil and pushed back the terrorists. Meanwhile, we have urgently provided additional arms and assistance to Iraqi forces, including Kurdish and Iraqi security forces who are fighting on the front lines.

Today, with our support, Iraqi and Kurdish forces took a major step forward by recapturing the largest dam in Iraq near the city of Mosul. The Mosul Dam fell under terrorist control earlier this month and is directly tied to our objective of protecting Americans in Iraq. If that dam was breached, it could have proven catastrophic, with floods that would have threatened the lives of thousands of civilians and endangered our embassy compound in Baghdad. Iraqi and Kurdish forces took the lead on the ground and performed with courage and determination. So this operation demonstrates that Iraqi and Kurdish forces are capable of working together in taking the fight to ISIL. If they continue to do so, they will have the strong support of the United States of America.

Second, we're building an international coalition to address the humanitarian crisis in northern Iraq. Even as we've worked to help many thousands of Yazidis escape the siege of Mount Sinjar, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have been displaced by ISIL's violence and many more are still at risk. Going forward, the United States will work with the Iraqi government, as well as partners like

the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Italy and Australia, to get food and water to people in need and to bring long-term relief to people who have been driven from their homes.

Third, we will continue to pursue a long-term strategy to turn the tide against ISIL by supporting the new Iraqi government and working with key partners in the region and beyond. Over the last week, we saw historic progress as Iraqis named a new Prime Minister-Designate Haider al-Abadi, and Iraq's outgoing Prime Minister Maliki agreed to step down. This peaceful transition of power will mark a major milestone in Iraq's political development, but as I think we're all aware, the work is not yet done.

Over the next few weeks, Dr. Abadi needs to complete the work of forming a new, broad-based, inclusive Iraqi government, one that develops a national program to address the interests of all Iraqis. Without that progress, extremists like ISIL can continue to prey upon Iraq's divisions. With that new government in place, Iraqis will be able to unite the country against the threat from ISIL, and they will be able to look forward to increased support not just from the United States but from other countries in the region and around the world.

Let's remember ISIL poses a threat to all Iraqis and to the entire region. They claim to represent Sunni grievances, but they slaughter Sunni men, women and children. They claim to oppose foreign forces, but they actively recruit foreign fighters to advance their hateful ideology.

So the Iraqi people need to reject them and unite to begin to push them out of the lands that they've occupied, as we're seeing at Mosul Dam. And this is going to take time. There are going to be many challenges ahead. But meanwhile, there should be no doubt that the United States military will continue to carry out the limited missions that I've authorized -- protecting our personnel and facilities in Iraq in both Erbil and Baghdad, and providing humanitarian support, as we did on Mount Sinjar.

My administration has consulted closely with Congress about our strategy in Iraq and we are going to continue to do so in the weeks to come, because when it comes to the security of our people and our efforts against a terror group like ISIL, we need to be united in our resolve.

Read also:

[Defense Department on Ongoing Operations in Iraq](#)

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/2014/08/20140819305962.html#axzz3Aumwd3vU>

3. Kerry on Destruction of Syria's Declared Chemical Weapons (08-18-2014)

Milestone in Eliminating Syria's Chemical Weapons Program

Today, we mark a milestone in our unrelenting work to ensure the end of the Assad regime's deadly chemical arsenal: the United States has finished neutralizing the regime's deadliest chemical weapons aboard the Cape Ray.

We do so mindful of a tragic milestone fast approaching this Thursday: the one year anniversary of Assad's bone-chilling, deadly chemical weapons attack that killed more than 1,000 innocent Syrians, including so many children in the suburbs of Damascus. No one can or ever will wipe away that memory. The images of children suffering at the hands of a monster's illicit arsenal reminded all the world why these weapons have long been shunned by the civilized world and revealed for any who still doubted the true face of Assad.

These two milestones, one born out of the other, more than just dates on the calendar, are also moments to take stock of the road ahead. In record time, even amid a civil war, we removed and have now destroyed the most dangerous chemicals in the regime's declared stockpiles. But much more work must be done.

First, the international community has important questions with regard to discrepancies and omissions related to Syria's chemical weapons declaration. Second, Syria must complete the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons production facilities within mandated timelines. Third, we also remain deeply concerned by reports of systematic use of chlorine gas in opposition areas, as described by the fact-finding mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Each and every one of these issues must be fully resolved.

Lastly, but most importantly, the Assad regime's brutality must come to an end. Assad lost any legitimacy to lead Syria long before he gassed his own people to death. The United States will continue to provide political, financial, and other support to the moderate opposition because we are committed to help those who seek the right of all Syrians to choose a future of peace and oppose the violent extremists who exploit the chaos and ruin that Assad has brought to Syria. A free Syria where people can live without fear is a milestone we should all be committed to achieve together.

Read also:

[Obama on Destruction of Syria's Declared Chemical Weapons](#)

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/2014/08/20140818305933.html#axzz3Aumwd3vU>

4. White House on President's Authorization of Operations in Iraq (08-17-2014)

Statement by NSC Spokesperson Caitlin Hayden on the President's Authorization of Operations in Iraq

Today, consistent with the War Powers Resolution (WPR), the President transmitted to the Congress a report notifying the Congress that he had authorized U.S. Armed Forces to conduct targeted airstrikes in Iraq to support Iraqi Security Force operations to retake and establish control over the Mosul Dam, a critical infrastructure site, as part of their ongoing campaign against ISIL. This mission is consistent with President Obama's directive that the U.S. military protect U.S. personnel and facilities in Iraq, since the failure of the Mosul Dam could threaten the lives of large numbers of civilians, threaten U.S. personnel and facilities -- including the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad -- and prevent the Iraqi government from providing critical services to the Iraqi populace. These operations are limited in their nature, duration, and scope and are being undertaken in coordination with and at the request of the Government of Iraq.

The Administration will continue to consult with the Congress on the way forward in Iraq and our efforts against ISIL, and we will continue to provide appropriate reports to the Congress consistent with the War Powers Resolution.

5. White House on Reports of Russian Military Column in Ukraine (08-15-2014)

Statement from NSC Spokesperson Caitlin Hayden on Reports of Russian Armored Military Column in Ukraine

We are working to gather more information regarding reports that Ukraine's security forces disabled vehicles in a Russian military convoy inside Ukraine. We are not currently in a position to confirm these reports. Even as we work to gather information, we reiterate our concern about repeated Russian and Russian-supported incursions into Ukraine. Russia has no right to send vehicles, persons, or cargo of any kind into Ukraine, under any pretext, without the Government of Ukraine's permission.

The escalation in Russian activity designed to destabilize Ukraine in recent weeks is extremely dangerous and provocative. It includes supplying separatist fighters with tanks, armored vehicles, artillery, and multiple rocket launchers (MRLs). Russia has also been firing artillery and rockets from Russian territory into Ukraine on a regular basis, and has been moving multiple-rocket launchers (MRLs) and surface-to-air missile systems (SAMs) across the border to fire on Ukrainian positions -- including its newest air defense systems, the SA-22, into eastern Ukraine.

Yesterday, President Putin pledged to "do everything in (Russia's) power" to end the conflict in Ukraine. He can start by ending Russian firing into Ukraine; stopping its supply of weapons, support and cash to separatists; and closing the border to militants, including by facilitating an effective border monitoring mission under the auspices of the OSCE. The U.S. strongly supports efforts to provide humanitarian support to Luhansk through the ICRC, provided that all conditions and modalities set forth by the ICRC and the Ukrainian government are agreed and strictly adhered to by all parties. The continued Russian military intervention into Ukraine is entirely at odds with legitimate efforts to provide humanitarian assistance and negotiate a peaceful resolution to the overall crisis.

Read also:

[Biden's Call with Ukrainian President Poroshenko](#)

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/2014/08/20140816305907.html#axzz3Aumwd3vU>

[Hagel's Phone Call with Russian Defense Minister Shoygu](#)

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/2014/08/20140815305732.html#axzz3Aumwd3vU>

[6. Ambassador Power on Adoption of U.N. Resolution on Iraq, Syria \(08-15-2014\)](#)

Explanation of Vote by Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, after Adoption of Security Council Resolution 2170 on ISIL and the al-Nusrah Front in Iraq and Syria, August 15, 2014

The growth of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), al-Nusrah Front, and other associates of al-Qaeda represents a grave threat to the people of Syria and the people of Iraq, as well as to the region and the larger international community.

Through its rapid and brutal advance across northern Iraq, ISIL has secured heavy weapons and used them to push back Iraqi and Peshmerga forces trying to defend towns and cities. It has seized some of the country's precious natural resources and taken control of critical infrastructure. Now ISIL has the ability to block the flow of electricity and control access to the water supplies on which people depend.

ISIL and the al-Nusra Front have used Syria's civil war and Iraq's instability to claim territory into which they attract others bent on violent extremism – and territory from which they can potentially launch attacks across the region and to other parts of the world.

This is the new front of the terrorist threat, and one with a devastating human cost. ISIL's recent attacks in Ninewa have displaced an estimated 200,000 people, bringing the total number of internally displaced persons in Iraq since January to a staggering 1.4 million.

The stories that have emerged from ISIL's bloody wake are the stuff of nightmares. Christians have been driven from their homes with the threat of "convert or die." I met earlier today with a bishop who was in Iraq just after the fall of Mosul. He described one ISIL attack on a hospital: one Christian patient who refused to convert was shot in the head; two who agreed to convert had their throats slit, denounced as infidels.

The Yezidis have been buried alive, beheaded, or killed in mass executions, and thousands were forced to flee to Mount Sinjar, where many ultimately perished from thirst or exposure to the elements. The Iraqi Human Rights Ministry estimates 500 Yezidi women and girls have been abducted; and there are reports of them being raped, trafficked, and killed.

ISIL and al-Nusra continue to carry out similar atrocities in Syria, and they do so with seeming pride, posting gleeful images to the internet. ISIL also continues to confiscate much needed humanitarian aid bound for thousands of civilians in eastern Syria. They have no shame. None whatsoever.

Today's resolution, which the United States is proud to co-sponsor, represents the Council's strong, unified position that all Member States must disrupt the terrorist financing and foreign fighter recruitment networks that are fueling the violence perpetrated by ISIL, the al-Nusra Front, and other associates of al-Qaeda in the region.

In imposing sanctions on six individuals, this resolution demonstrates the Council's sense of urgency and its willingness to take concrete action against those who carry the guns, and those who supply them.

Unchecked, the current terrorist financing and the foreign fighter recruitment networks will only prolong the terror we've seen unleashed in the region. The numbers of foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq, as well as their source nations, are unprecedented, reportedly as many as 12,000 have participated in the conflict. And the return of radicalized, battle-hardened jihadists to their home countries or other vulnerable destinations has the potential to widen the scope of the violence. This resolution should help stem the flow of money and people and I urge all Member States to expend every effort to help achieve these goals.

The United States is proud to have taken unprecedented steps to protect and assist the Yezidis who were trapped on Mount Sinjar. Today, we join with others on the Council in calling on all parties to prevent or stop the widespread or systematic attacks directed against any civilian populations because of their ethnic background, political views, religion, or beliefs.

We believe that Iraq's future political success will depend on preserving its unity and maintaining its vibrant diversity. We are encouraged by Prime Minister al-Maliki's decision to support Prime Minister-designate al-Abadi. This peaceful and historic transition of power demonstrates that Iraq is on its way to developing the kind of fully inclusive government it will need if it is to unify all Iraqis in the fight against ISIL. The international community must support Iraq to this end.

7. Obama Praises Success of Humanitarian Operations in Iraq (08-14-2014)

By Terri Moon Cronk
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14, 2014 – President Barack Obama has announced an end to the siege of Iraq's Mount Sinjar where Iraqi Yezidis had fled to escape Sunni terrorists, and that U.S. airdrops to those who were trapped there will likely end. But he said airstrikes will continue to protect Americans in the country.

“Our military was able to successfully strike ISIL targets around the mountains, which improved conditions for civilians to evacuate the mountain safely,” the president said in televised remarks from Edgartown, Massachusetts where he is vacationing. “The situation on the mountain has greatly improved, and Americans should be very proud of our efforts.” Obama said continued airdrops and evacuation operations are not expected, and military personnel who assessed the situation on the mountain likely will come home soon. However, he said the United States will continue to work with other nations to provide humanitarian assistance to other minority groups in northern Iraq when possible.

Obama said airdrops have delivered more than 114,000 meals and 35,000 gallons of fresh water to those on the mountain. The United Kingdom helped in the effort, and other allies pledged their support, he added.

As commander in chief, the president added, he could not be prouder of the military men and women who carried out the humanitarian operation almost flawlessly. “I'm very grateful to them,” he added. “And I know that those who were trapped on that mountain are extraordinarily grateful.”

But ISIL remains a threat to the people of Iraq, the president said, particularly for minorities. “We obviously feel a great urge to provide some humanitarian relief to the situation, and I've been very encouraged by the interest of our international partners in helping on these kinds of efforts.”

Air strikes to protect American people and facilities in Iraq will continue, he said. “We have increased the delivery of military assistance to Iraqi and Kurdish forces fighting ISIL on the front lines,” Obama said. “Perhaps most importantly, we are urging Iraqis to come together to turn the tide against ISIL above all by seizing the enormous opportunity of forming a new inclusive government under the leadership of Prime Minister-designate [Haider al-Abadi],” he added.

The president said he spoke with Abadi a few days ago, and that Abadi said Iraq needs an inclusive government that speaks to all people of Iraq.

“He still has a challenging task in putting a government together, but we are modestly hopeful that the Iraqi government situation is moving in the right direction,” Obama said.

8. Obama on Latest Events in Iraq (08-14-2014)

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon, everybody. This sound system is really powerful. Today, I'd like to update the American people on two issues that I've been monitoring closely these last several days.

First of all, we continue to make progress in carrying out our targeted military operations in Iraq. Last week, I authorized two limited missions: protecting our people and facilities inside of Iraq, and a humanitarian operation to help save thousands of Iraqi civilians stranded on a mountain. A week ago, we assessed that many thousands of Yezidi men, women and children had abandoned their possessions to take refuge on Mount Sinjar in a desperate attempt to avoid slaughter. We also knew that ISIL terrorists were killing and enslaving Yezidi civilians in their custody, and laying siege to the mountain. Without food or water, they faced a terrible choice -- starve on the mountain, or be slaughtered on the ground. That's when America came to help.

Over the last week, the U.S. military conducted humanitarian air drops every night -- delivering more than 114,000 meals and 35,000 gallons of fresh water. We were joined in that effort by the United Kingdom, and other allies pledged support. Our military was able to successfully strike ISIL targets around the mountain, which improved conditions for civilians to evacuate the mountain safely.

Yesterday, a small team of Americans -- military and civilian -- completed their review of the conditions on the mountain. They found that food and water have been reaching those in need, and that thousands of people have been evacuating safely each and every night. The civilians who remain continue to leave, aided by Kurdish forces and Yezidis who are helping to facilitate the safe passage of their families. So the bottom line is, is that the situation on the mountain has greatly improved and Americans should be very proud of our efforts.

Because of the skill and professionalism of our military -- and the generosity of our people -- we broke the ISIL siege of Mount Sinjar; we helped vulnerable people reach safety; and we helped save many innocent lives. Because of these efforts, we do not expect there to be an additional operation to evacuate people off the mountain, and it's unlikely that we're going to need to continue humanitarian air drops on the mountain. The majority of the military personnel who conducted the assessment will be leaving Iraq in the coming days. And I just want to say that as Commander-in-Chief, I could not be prouder of the men and women of our military who carried out this humanitarian operation almost flawlessly. I'm very grateful to them and I know that those who were trapped on that mountain are extraordinarily grateful as well.

Now, the situation remains dire for Iraqis subjected to ISIL's terror throughout the country, and this includes minorities like Yezidis and Iraqi Christians; it also includes Sunnis, Shia and Kurds. We're going to be working with our international partners to provide humanitarian assistance to those who are suffering in northern Iraq wherever we have capabilities and we can carry out effective missions like the one we carried out on Mount Sinjar without committing combat troops on the ground.

We obviously feel a great urge to provide some humanitarian relief to the situation and I've been very encouraged by the interest of our international partners in helping on these kinds of efforts as well. We will continue air strikes to protect our people and facilities in Iraq. We have increased the delivery of military assistance to Iraqi and Kurdish forces fighting ISIL on the front lines.

And, perhaps most importantly, we are urging Iraqis to come together to turn the tide against ISIL – - above all, by seizing the enormous opportunity of forming a new, inclusive government under the leadership of Prime Minister-designate Abadi. I had a chance to speak to Prime Minister-designate Abadi a few days ago, and he spoke about the need for the kind of inclusive government -- a government that speaks to all the people of Iraq -- that is needed right now. He still has a challenging task in putting a government together, but we are modestly hopeful that the Iraqi government situation is moving in the right direction.

Now, second, I want to address something that's been in the news over the last couple of days and that's the situation in Ferguson, Missouri. I know that many Americans have been deeply disturbed by the images we've seen in the heartland of our country, as police have clashed with people protesting. Today, I'd like us all to take a step back and think about how we're going to be moving forward.

This morning, I received a thorough update on the situation from Attorney General Eric Holder, who has been following it and been in communication with his team. I've already tasked the Department of Justice and the FBI to independently investigate the death of Michael Brown, along with local officials on the ground.

The Department of Justice is also consulting with local authorities about ways that they can maintain public safety without restricting the right of peaceful protest and while avoiding unnecessary escalation. I made clear to the Attorney General that we should do what is necessary to help determine exactly what happened, and to see that justice is done.

I also just spoke with Governor Jay Nixon of Missouri. I expressed my concern over the violent turn that events have taken on the ground, and underscored that now is the time for all of us to reflect on what's happened, and to find a way to come together going forward. He is going to be traveling to Ferguson. He is a good man and a fine governor, and I'm confident that, working together, he is going to be able to communicate his desire to make sure that justice is done and his desire to make sure that public safety is maintained in an appropriate way.

Of course, it's important to remember how this started. We lost a young man, Michael Brown, in heartbreaking and tragic circumstances. He was 18 years old. His family will never hold Michael in their arms again. And when something like this happens, the local authorities -- including the police -- have a responsibility to be open and transparent about how they are investigating that death, and how they are protecting the people in their communities.

There is never an excuse for violence against police, or for those who would use this tragedy as a cover for vandalism or looting. There's also no excuse for police to use excessive force against peaceful protests, or to throw protestors in jail for lawfully exercising their First Amendment rights. And here, in the United States of America, police should not be bullying or arresting journalists who are just trying to do their jobs and report to the American people on what they see on the ground. Put simply, we all need to hold ourselves to a high standard, particularly those of us in positions of authority.

I know that emotions are raw right now in Ferguson and there are certainly passionate differences about what has happened. There are going to be different accounts of how this tragedy occurred. There are going to be differences in terms of what needs to happen going forward. That's part of our democracy. But let's remember that we're all part of one American family. We are united in common values, and that includes belief in equality under the law; a basic respect for public order

and the right to peaceful public protest; a reverence for the dignity of every single man, woman and child among us; and the need for accountability when it comes to our government.

So now is the time for healing. Now is the time for peace and calm on the streets of Ferguson. Now is the time for an open and transparent process to see that justice is done. And I've asked that the Attorney General and the U.S. Attorney on the scene continue to work with local officials to move that process forward. They will be reporting to me in the coming days about what's being done to make sure that happens.

Read also:

[Kerry on Political Developments in Iraq](#)

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/2014/08/20140815305691.html#axzz3Aumwd3vU>

[National Security Advisor Rice on Iraq](#)

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/2014/08/20140814305689.html#axzz3Aumwd3vU>

[9. U.S. Envoy on Russia's Ongoing Violations, Situation in Ukraine \(08-14-2014\)](#)

Ongoing Violations of OSCE Principles and Commitments by the Russian Federation and the Situation in Ukraine

The United States joins other delegations in thanking the Swiss Chairmanship for convening this meeting of the Permanent Council in order to discuss important and time-sensitive issues. The United States continues to condemn strongly Russia's destabilizing actions and ongoing support for armed separatists in eastern Ukraine as well as its continued occupation of Crimea. The United States understands that talks are ongoing among the Governments of Russia, Ukraine, and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to the people of Luhansk – a city in eastern Ukraine currently held by force by Russia-backed separatists. Considering the suffering the citizens of Luhansk have had to endure while separatists have controlled that city, we welcome this news. A convoy of trucks from Russia is currently making its way towards Ukraine, reportedly carrying humanitarian assistance. It is not entirely clear yet what is in the trucks, and this raises concerns. Our position is that no humanitarian assistance – either from Russia or anywhere else – can enter Ukraine without the permission of the Ukrainian Government. It has the final say on the modalities concerning this delivery and any other such delivery. It appears that we have some time before the Russian trucks get to Ukraine's border. This should allow for any remaining details to be worked out before the trucks appear at the border.

If Russia wants to be part of an enduring solution to the crisis in Ukraine's east, it must end its support to the separatist fighters. Russia has no right to intervene in Ukraine unilaterally and without Kyiv's permission under any pretext.

For those countries represented here that want to send humanitarian assistance to needy people in eastern Ukraine, the best way to do that is to work through international organizations that have the expertise, experience, and independence to provide it. These organizations are already on the ground in Ukraine. The ICRC is a multilateral organization voluntarily funded by more than twenty governments. The United States is the largest financial contributor to the ICRC's annual emergency appeal and budget extensions, including its recent budget extension appeal for Ukraine where the

U.S. provided \$2.3 million to support assistance needs in eastern Ukraine and throughout the country.

We appreciate President Poroshenko's engagement with international relief organizations to deliver multilateral humanitarian aid to distressed populations in eastern Ukraine. We have called, and will continue to call on the Russia-backed separatists to allow full and unimpeded access for the continued delivery of humanitarian aid to vulnerable populations. And we call on Russia to urge them to cooperate in this way.

We also call on the Russian government to halt its material support for the separatists, and to use its influence with the separatists to push them to lay down their arms and to release all hostages. We also call on Russia to end its occupation of Crimea, which remains an integral part of Ukraine. In taking these steps, Russia can contribute to a restoration of lasting peace in Ukraine.

Mr. Chair, before concluding, allow me to thank again the Special Monitoring Mission monitors for their ongoing, tireless, and dedicated work. The SMM leadership and monitors—despite intimidation, restricted access, and chaotic conditions—have answered the call of duty and performed superb work in the most challenging of circumstances. The SMM spot reports and daily reports have brought important information to light and provided the international community with verified facts and reliable assessments. We strongly support ramping up the Mission to its full strength of 500 monitors as soon as possible in order to provide the necessary reporting throughout the territory of Ukraine. We also welcome the acquisition of additional tools such as unmanned aerial vehicles to support SMM operations.

Mr. Chair, the United States strongly supports Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and advocates diplomatic efforts toward finding a political resolution to the crisis. This quest for peace and stability, however, cannot succeed when one participating State continues to stymie all reconciliation efforts. We reiterate that Russia's commitment to peace in Ukraine will be judged by its actions, not its words.

10. State's Gottemoeller on Arms Control, Nuclear Nonproliferation (08-14-2014)

Remarks at the Annual Deterrence Symposium

Thank you for that kind introduction. I am always honored to be a speaker here at the Annual Deterrence Symposium and of course, I am glad to be here at the invitation of Admiral Cecil Haney. Turn about is fair play: The Admiral gave a great speech at my invitation last month in Washington to a group of young people on the threshold of their careers. More on that later. Thank you, Admiral, for all you do for this nation.

While we are gathered here today in Omaha, the world is facing serious challenges: The threats to Ukraine's sovereignty and Russia's flagrant disregard for international law, the continuing conflicts in the Middle East, a dangerous Ebola outbreak in West Africa. It goes without saying that most people are not focused on nuclear weapons or nuclear deterrence. But we all know that we have important work to do and we do it. My admiration for this community, in and out of uniform, knows no bounds. We are ready to work. That is the theme I'm striking today: We who focus on the foundation of our nation's nuclear deterrent are ready to work.

Strategic stability is the cornerstone of American national security, but as all of you know, it is not a static state of being. Threats to strategic stability can surface quickly and it is incumbent upon all of

us to recognize those threats, anticipate them when we can, and make moves to counter them. We must be prepared for the unpredictable, and constantly on the look-out so that we see threats emerging while they are still over the horizon. My role as a diplomat is different from your roles on the military side, but our goals are no different. As President Obama said five years ago in Prague, as long as nuclear weapons exist, we will maintain a safe, secure, and effective nuclear arsenal. And that is as we seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.

Violation of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF)

One threat to strategic stability has made news in the last month. As you all know, the Department of State recently delivered the Annual Arms Control Compliance Report to Congress with the determination that the Russian Federation is in violation of its INF Treaty obligations not to possess, produce, or flight-test a ground-launched cruise missile with a range capability of 500 to 5,500 kilometers, or to possess or produce launchers of such missiles.

We have been attempting to address this very serious matter with Russia for some time, as the United States is wholly committed to the continued viability of the INF Treaty. We are asking Russia to return to compliance with the Treaty in a verifiable manner.

This groundbreaking treaty serves the mutual security interests of the parties – not only the United States and Russia, but also the 11 other states bound by its obligations. Moreover, this Treaty contributes to the security of our allies and to regional security in Europe and in the Far East. When we notified Russia of our determination of a violation, we made it clear that we are prepared to discuss this in a senior-level bilateral dialogue immediately. We hope that this dialogue begins soon, with the goal that Russia return to compliance with its obligations under the Treaty. There is an expert debate in Russia about its nuclear modernization programs and about the contribution of the INF Treaty to Russia's security. It is important for Russia to take into account that no military decisions happen in a vacuum. Actions beget actions. Our countries have been down the road of needless, costly and destabilizing arms races. We know where that road leads and we are fortunate that our past leaders had the wisdom and strength to turn us in a new direction. Let us hope that debate in and out of the government leads to a decision to return Russia to compliance with all of its international obligations.

New START and Future Reductions

Despite our serious concerns about Russia's violation of the INF Treaty, we believe that the New START Treaty is in the national security interest of the United States. The New START Treaty enhances our national security and strategic stability with Russia and both the United States and Russia are implementing the Treaty's inspection regime.

Current tensions with Russia highlight the importance of both the verification and confidence provided by data exchanges and on-site inspections under the Treaty, and the security and predictability provided by verifiable mutual limits on strategic weapons. We take questions about compliance with arms control treaties very seriously and are closely monitoring Russian compliance with the New START Treaty. We assess that Russia is implementing and complying with the New START Treaty, and that the Treaty remains in our national security interest. The mutual predictability this gives to the U.S.-Russia relationship increases stability, especially during difficult times such as now.

With respect to future agreements, the United States will only pursue agreements that are in our national security interest and that of our allies. The offer that President Obama made in Berlin one

year ago, of an up to one-third reduction in operationally deployed warheads beyond the New START limits, is a sound one, and worthy of serious consideration. We will continue to be open to discussion of agreements that would reduce nuclear and other military threats. Of course, we know that the situation is different than it was four years ago, four months ago, four weeks ago. But cooperation in the arms control realm has been an important facet of strategic stability over the past forty years and it should remain so in the future. Moreover, we need nuclear cooperation with Russia and others to address new threats, first and foremost the risk that terrorists could acquire a nuclear weapon or the fissile materials needed to make one. We will continue to pursue arms control and nonproliferation tools, because they are the best - and quite frankly - the only path that we can take to effectively prevent a terrorist nuclear threat and reduce nuclear dangers more broadly.

The United States has taken steps to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy. We have clearly stated that it is in the U.S. interest, and that of all other nations, that the nearly 70-year record of non-use of nuclear weapons be extended forever.

We are taking time now to prepare the ground for the future. That includes more research into how we incorporate new technologies and innovations into verification and monitoring. We can also shape, maintain, and improve strategic stability through a variety of bilateral and multilateral dialogues, including in the Track 1.5 and Track 2 realms. These engagements reduce the potential for misunderstanding and provide the basis for future agreement and cooperation.

Multilateral agreements like a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT) can also enhance global stability. The United States will continue to push for the commencement of negotiations on such an agreement.

And we are working to expand our public outreach and educational efforts on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. As stated in the April 2010 U.S. Nuclear Posture Review: "Ratification of the CTBT is central to leading other nuclear weapons states toward a world of diminished reliance on nuclear weapons, reduced nuclear competition, and eventual nuclear disarmament."

As we consider arms control and nonproliferation priorities, we will continue to consult closely with our allies and partners every step of the way. Our security and defense – and theirs – is non-negotiable.

Conventional Deterrence Tools

While nuclear deterrence is and will remain an important part of protecting our nation and our allies, we must also make full use of our non-nuclear capabilities – that includes regional and homeland missile defenses, security cooperation, assurances and conventional arms control. Of course, the Russian Federation's challenge to the security of Europe and Ukraine's territorial integrity has to be factored into our work to modernize conventional arms control.

First and foremost, we need to make the best use of the regimes currently in place. The Vienna Document 2011 and the Open Skies Treaty, which are part of the conventional arms control regime in Europe, are vital tools to maintain stability and have provided transparency about military activities in and around Ukraine.

Second, we must consider our options for the future. We will continue the process of modernizing the Open Skies Treaty, including the upgrade to digital sensors to replace obsolescent film cameras. With regard to the Vienna Document mechanisms, it is clear to us that there is room to improve provisions for notification of military activity and risk reduction, among other issues. Moving

forward, the United States will work with others to update the Vienna Document in a way that builds on our recent experiences. NATO will also continue its review of the future of conventional arms control in Europe. We recognize that now is not the time to engage Russia on this, but we need to be thinking now about how in the future a revitalization of conventional arms control in Europe could contribute to improving mutual security in the Euro-Atlantic region.

Of course, we are not without good examples to follow. We can and will benefit from the experience of the so-called Dayton Article IV states. Eighteen years ago, these states in the Western Balkans were emerging from years of bloody conflict. Through hard work, they established military stability and security, despite a range of differences.

The architects of Dayton created a comprehensive arms control agreement that led to significant reductions in heavy weapons and equipment in just six months. Without as much as a breather, the states involved then turned their efforts to the harder step of fulfilling the obligations laid out in the Agreement, to sustain disengagement of military forces and create a stable security environment for all. The Dayton Article IV experience is a testament to what can be achieved through conventional arms control measures at a time when they are being sorely tested elsewhere in Europe.

Space and Cyber Deterrence

In addition to fully realizing the potential of conventional deterrence, we must make sure that we are ahead of the curve on space and cyber issues. I know this was the subject of a panel yesterday and rightly so - it is critical that we identify ways to stabilize behavior in both realms.

My colleague, Deputy Assistant Secretary Frank Rose spoke about strategic stability in space yesterday, highlighting the point that it is essential that all nations work together to adopt approaches for responsible activity in space in order to preserve this domain for future generations. China's recent irresponsible and provocative ASAT test accentuates the importance of these efforts. Russia's pursuit of anti-satellite weapons is also a matter of concern. Destabilizing actions like these threaten the long-term security and sustainability of the outer space environment.

In the cyber realm, the Department of State's Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues, led by Chris Painter, is leading our efforts to promote an open, secure, and reliable information and communications infrastructure that supports international trade and innovation, strengthens international security, and fosters free expression.

As we move forward, we should continue to cooperate and coordinate both internally and with our friends and allies. Such efforts as the UN Group of Government Experts that convened last month will continue to enhance our common understanding of the ways in which international law is essential to maintaining peace and stability in cyberspace. Cyberspace can be the source of both great societal advances and significant threats. There is no doubt that domain will only remain stable through our collective efforts.

Deterrence in the Future

Of course, you know all of this - all of what we have been talking about - is moot if we don't attract the next generation to nuclear policy jobs. As I said at the outset, this community is ready to work, but we can't work forever. We have some recruiting to do. Frank Klotz struck this same note this morning: we need to bring the next generation into the nuclear deterrence enterprise.

That is why I was so pleased that Admiral Haney was able to join the Department of State's 5th Annual Generation Prague Conference that was focused on engagement with the next generation of nuclear experts. It is one piece of ongoing efforts, but it is not enough. We need to be actively

August 21, 2014

recruiting political scientists, lawyers, physicists, geologists, engineers, and more, if we want to make sure that this essential part of national security will be supported as long as it needs to be. In closing, I want to leave you with a thought.

History has shown us that when faced with obstacles, we always have several paths. When it comes to our current situation with the Russian Federation, I, for one, want to follow the path that President Reagan took, the path that President George H.W. Bush took. When confronted with a difficult and sometimes unpredictable partner in the Soviet Union, they did not take their ball and go home. They did not let strategic stability become a political punching bag. They set about the hard task of building up strategic stability through arms control treaties and agreements, and they succeeded in making this world a safer place. They worked hard, and achieved much.

So let's leave Omaha ready to work. In the world of nuclear stability and deterrence, there is much to do.
