



Do'stlik



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President Bush And U.S. Muslims Celebrate 50th Anniversary Of Islamic Center

On June 27 President Bush announced that he will appoint a U.S. envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference to “listen and learn” and share U.S. views with delegates from Muslim nations. Below is the transcript of the President’s remarks at the Islamic Center of Washington, D.C.



The Islamic Center of Washington Washington, D.C.

THE PRESIDENT: Imam, thank you very much. Thank you for inviting me. I bring my personal respect to you, sir. And I appreciate your friendship. I do want to thank the governors of the Islamic Center. I welcome the Ambassadors. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate other distinguished guests who are here. It is an honor to join you at this rededication ceremony.

As the Imam mentioned, half a century has passed since one of our great leaders welcomed the Islamic Center into our nation’s family of faith. Dedicating this site, President Dwight D. Eisenhower offered America’s hand in friendship to Muslims around the world. He asked that together we commit ourselves “to peaceful progress of all men under one God.”

Today we gather, with friendship and respect, to reaffirm that pledge -- and to renew our determination to stand together in the pursuit of freedom and peace. We come to express our appreciation for a faith that has enriched civilization for centuries. We come in celebration of America’s diversity of faith and our unity as free people. And we hold in our hearts the ancient wisdom of the great

President Bush makes remarks during the rededication ceremony of the Islamic Center of Washington in Washington, D.C., June 27, 2007. (State Department photo)

Muslim poet, Rumi: “The lamps are different, but the light is the same.”

Moments like this dedication help clarify who Americans are as a people, and what we wish for the world. We live in a time when there are questions about America and her intentions. For those who seek a true understanding of our country, they need to look no farther than here. This Muslim center sits quietly down the road from a synagogue, a Lutheran church, a Catholic parish, a Greek Orthodox chapel, a Buddhist temple -- each with faithful followers who practice their deeply held beliefs and live side by side in peace.

This is what freedom offers: societies where people can live and worship as they choose without intimidation, without suspicion, without a knock on the door from the secret police. The freedom of religion is the very first protection offered in America’s Bill of Rights. It is a precious freedom. It is a basic compact under which people of faith agree

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Braille Quran Donated to Michigan Islamic Center

U.S. Embassy in Tashkent presents gift from historic Uzbek madrassa

The Kukaldosh Madrassa in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, for centuries has prepared young Muslims for leadership roles. Recently, it became one of the few institutions that publish Braille editions of the Quran, which enable the blind to read Muslim scripture. When the madrassa wanted to donate an eight-volume Braille Quran to an American mosque, the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, Michigan, was a logical recipient. The Dearborn mosque is one of the oldest and largest in the United States.



Deputy Chief of Mission Brad Hanson makes remarks at the ceremony marking the donation of the Braille Quran by the Kukaldosh Madrassa in Tashkent to the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, Michigan.

The Braille Quran was sent ahead to Dearborn and officially presented to the Islamic Center on April 4 by Brad Hanson, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent. Hanson told USINFO the embassy acted as an intermediary to transmit the Quran from the madrassa and people of Uzbekistan “to a worthy American Muslim institution with some ties to Uzbekistan.”

Imam Sayed Hassan Qazwini, accepting the Braille Quran, said there could be no better gift. He gave Hanson a letter of gratitude addressed “to the people of Uzbekistan,” for “the most appreciative gift of all, Al Qur’an.”

The mosque, located in the suburbs of Detroit near the Ford Motor Company, has hosted a number of Uzbek participants in the U.S. State Department’s International Visitor Program. Eide Alawan, director of the Islamic Center’s office for interfaith outreach, said the Braille Quran first was mentioned during the visit of eight Uzbek imams in 2006. He told USINFO, “When we heard that Uzbekistan would like to give us a set of Qurans, we were elated.”

Community and interfaith activities are integral to the center. “The Islamic Center of America in its 68-year history has always done work within the interfaith community” and endeavored to overcome “difficult times” through dialogue, Alawan said. It has ties to dozens of Abrahamic and non-Abrahamic religious groups in the area.

“Muslims are doing very well in America. They have integrated very well into the system,” he said. “I think it’s be-

cause we are a country of immigrants. ... Coming here,” he said, anyone can be “a first class citizen, even if you aren’t born here.” In Dearborn, Muslims are so well assimilated into the community that the new fire chief is Muslim, as are other public officers.

The Kukaldosh Madrassa, known as the Kukaldosh Islamic Secondary Educational Institution, dates back to 1569, when it was founded by Darveshkhon. It is an architectural gem of Tashkent, and has schooled



An American Muslim boy is examining the Braille Quran donated to the Islamic Center of America by the Kukaldosh Madrassa.

Muslim youth since it began, except during the Soviet period. In addition to religious instruction in the Quran, Hadith and Arabic, the madrassa offers a broad educational program that includes Uzbek language and literature, science, mathematics and computer science.

Brad Hanson said the Uzbek Braille Quran is “practically a unique project in the Muslim world. It is quite an achievement that they can point to with some pride.” He added, “We are very honored and delighted” that the Quran was given and “that it will be used in the United States.”

First Muslim in U.S. Congress Speaks on Faith and Democracy

Representative Keith Ellison says his Muslim faith “opens doors”



Minnesota Representative Keith Ellison is surprised that his Muslim faith became an issue during his successful campaign for a congressional seat.

“I never bring it up,” he told USINFO, although he discusses it when asked. His first impulse was to downplay religion in favor of discussing the issues, which are his priority. Now he freely discusses Islam, “because it may have the

effect of building understanding. I hope it does.”

Ellison, a Democrat and the first Muslim elected to the U.S. Congress, says he was elected for his values. “I have to continue to elevate the common good, the public interest, education, health, peace. These are the things that they want me to work on,” he said. By electing him, he said, his constituents meant, “We don’t really care what your religion is. This is what we are into, if you can promote and execute and advocate these things, you can represent us.”

His values derive from his Christian upbringing and Islam, which he has practiced for nearly 25 years. “The values that underlie Islam are not unique to Islam. They are shared by all faith traditions. Belief in charity, in giving to others in need and facing adversity, the belief in equality and justice -- there is no religion, including Islam, that has a monopoly on these ideas,” he said.

Ellison said true Islamic values harmonize with the democratic process. “These are universal ideas. In fact, they’re not just compatible with democracy; they drive us toward a society in which there is consultation, in which there is input and approval from the populace.” He asks, “How can you have a just society where one person or only a limited set of people make the laws for their benefit and yet other people who had no role in making the law have to abide by it? That’s fundamentally unjust.”

He quoted from memory a Quranic verse, Surah 49:13: “Oh humanity, we created you from a single pair, male and female, and fashioned you into tribes and nations, so that you would know each other and get to know each other and not hate and despise each other. Surely the most honored among you is the one who is most righteous and just.”

“Now that is an English translation of the Quran which essentially affirms the equality of men and women,” he said. Diversity often brings conflict “as we engage in chauvinistic attitudes,” he said, but actually is meant to “spark our curiosity about the difference so we would get to know each other.

And the differences are not so that we would find ways to oppress and degrade each other.

“[I]t doesn’t say the most honored man among you, or the most honored whites or the most honored blacks among you, or Asians or even Muslims,” he explained. “It really is an inclusive idea, the intention of the Divine for us to treat each other well, to be curious and inquiring, not to ... make distinctions among each other based on sex, race, gender, tribe and things like that. And it says explicitly, in my mind, that this injunction is not only to Muslims but to all people, all humanity.”

“This is fundamental to Islam and fundamental to democracy,” he said. Likewise, he added, the Quran says religion is a matter of choice and not compulsion. “It should be free, voluntary and open.”

When mutual respect and justice are replaced by dictatorship, he said, “It just means that we are putting our desire for domination, power, money, hegemony above the Divine injunction that we should love ye one another, love your neighbor as yourself.”

African Americans long have been attracted to Islam.

As to why, Ellison offered, “[T]here are certain inescapable American realities to look at. People want to be affirmed in their humanity. And during Jim Crow, I think it’s fair to say it was not affirming of African-American humanity.” So-called Jim Crow laws institutionalized inequality, segregating blacks from whites, a situation the civil rights movement fought to rectify.

His Minneapolis constituency includes diverse ethnic groups, among them the largest Somali immigrant community in America, but the people who voted him into office are “overwhelmingly white and Christian,” descendants of Norwegians, Swedish and German immigrants.

When asked who has inspired him in his public service, he immediately named the late Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone, who worked to involve young people, the poor and minorities in politics.

Although he admires Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, John Brown and John F. Kennedy, he said, “I never met those people.” He knew Wellstone. “I saw a real life, practical example of somebody who could combine community, grassroots activism and electoral politics,” he continued.

“I used to think if you get elected to office that you couldn’t maintain your value system. You’d get into that meat grinder and get chewed up. You’d end up something else from what you went in. But he proved it’s not true. You can do the right thing.”

Muslim Women in America a Diverse Group, Scholar Says

Abdrabboh cites freedom to make choices about religious observance



Muslim women listen to a speaker during the Islamic Circle of North America Convention at the Cleveland Convention Center.(© AP Images)

The diversity of Muslim women in America “is a testament” to the freedom of choice they are able to exercise in their religious observance, says Fatina Abdrabboh, a graduate student of Islamic studies and international security at Harvard University in Massachusetts.

Abdrabboh, who wears the hijab (traditional headscarf), said American culture allows everyone to be “who you want to be and whatever you want to be.”

Speaking in a State Department-sponsored webchat April 16 with participants from the United States and 17 other countries, Abdrabboh said Muslim women vary widely in their background, religious expression and political beliefs.

“The diversity of Muslim women in American is a testament to the extent to which they have agency and choice in their religious observance,” said Abdrabboh.

“For the vast majority of Muslim women who wear hijabs in America, there does not appear to be any problems, both in the university and in the workforce,” she said, noting that women who wear the hijab are employed by the federal government, corporations “and every sector of the work force, from teachers to service providers.”

“In fact, many young Muslim women in America take pride in their choice to cover their hair, and the freedom to express such a choice in this country,” she said.

Abdrabboh, the head of the Muslim Student Organization at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, was born and raised in Dearborn, Michigan. In June 2006, she participated in a 10-day State Department-sponsored traveling speaker program in Niger to discuss her research on Islam and life as a Muslim woman in America.

She said there are some 2,000 mosques in the United States and a Muslim population estimated at 7 million to 9 million. They include immigrants from the Middle East, South Asia

and elsewhere, their children and grandchildren, and African-American Muslims.

“These all contribute to the richness and complexity of the identity and psyche of the American Muslim woman,” Abdrabboh said.

She also cited the wide variety of U.S. Muslim women’s groups dealing with humanitarian issues, prevention of domestic violence, gender equality and other challenges. “Most important, there are a rising number of women-initiated and women-led federations,” Abdrabboh said.

“I think it’s crucial that Muslim women all over the world learn from other women’s struggles and combine efforts,” she added. Abdrabboh also stressed that “the struggle for



An American Muslim girl enjoys one of her favorite hobbies, reading, while at her home in Muskogee, Oklahoma.(© AP Images)

women’s equality is not a Muslim thing” and that “gender justice is a principle that we should all strive to perfect.”

Many Americans are very interested in learning about “Islam in general, the Middle East, Arab and Muslim culture,” she said, “and [I] have managed to entertain this opportunity engaging everyone and anyone who is curious.”

According to Abdrabboh, there are advantages to being a Muslim woman in the United States, including the opportunity to answer the many “social, political and intellectual questions” that Americans have. Because the United States offers the opportunity for free expression, Muslim women have the ability to dispel myths and stereotypes, she said.

Abdrabboh also cited rising interest in Arabic classes at Harvard and other institutions. This includes various dialects “from Levantine Arabic to colloquial Egyptian Arabic” as well as modern standard Arabic and classical Arabic, she said.

U.S. Respects Religious Diversity, Muslim Publisher Says

Azizah magazine reflects experiences of Muslim women in America

Muslim women living in the United States are finding that religious and cultural differences are tolerated and respected widely, says Tayyibah Taylor, the editor of *Azizah* magazine, a glossy quarterly written by and for Muslim women in North America.

“I think America is the most religiously diverse country in the world,” said Taylor, who was born in Trinidad of Barbadian parents. “You learn how to get along with people who are very different from you. Your differences don’t really become an issue.”

Speaking during a State Department-sponsored webchat April 23, Taylor said Muslim women are “well-integrated into the workplace” and are “in every professional field, engineering, medicine, business.” Many have been profiled in the magazine, she noted.

“Usually there is no problem in terms of the way you dress or stopping to pray or any small issues like that,” she said. More and more Americans “are getting used to seeing Muslim women in hijabs (traditional headscarfs).” Some Muslim women in America don’t wear the hijab, and that is part of the freedom they have, Taylor said.

Compared with a Muslim majority country, it becomes “a definite conscious choice” to practice one’s Muslim faith in America, she said, “so actually what happens is that your faith can become stronger, and your practice can become more conscious.”

Taylor said she feels that “Muslims in America are really in a very privileged position.” America has a legacy of freedom of speech and movement and support for critical thinking -



Dr. Leila Haddad examines a patient at a community health center in Dearborn, Michigan. (© AP Images)

- things that “are not always present in all Muslim majority countries,” she said. “And you have Islamic legacy of spiritual agency, and autonomy, intellectual autonomy, and the combination really goes to enhance your spiritual potential.”

Taylor, who published the first issue of *Azizah* in 2000, told webchat participants that she wanted to create “a place where people can hear the voice of Muslim women, without filters.” All articles are written by Muslim women, she said.

“It shatters misconceptions about Muslim women, both inside and outside the Muslim community,” she said. Often when Muslim women read *Azizah* for the first time “it is usually their first experience of seeing positive images and stories of Muslim women.”

She pointed out that violations of women’s rights often stem from cultural practices “and not Islam itself. So helping to kind of differentiate between culture and religion also is a way that we help to undo those misconceptions.”



Sama Wareh walks along the sand dressed in swim wear designed for Muslim women in Newport Beach, California. Muslim girls and women are increasingly participating in athletic activities in the U.S. (© AP Images)

“By depicting women who are living a full life, without compromising Islam, we’re really showing that Muslim women have autonomy, and have full human rights,” Taylor said.

The magazine depicts “all kinds of Muslim women, not just one ethnic group or one school of thought,” she said. Its name was chosen because “*Azizah*” is a common name throughout the Muslim world, and “we wanted to use that as a statement of diversity in Islam.”

Americans sometimes ask Muslim women why they wear the hijab, Taylor said, but “usually it is a very friendly conversation out of curiosity, [they’re] being inquisitive.” This doesn’t happen often, because everybody is usually busy with their own concerns, but when it does “you have an opportunity to explain who you are and what your beliefs are.”

Taylor recently participated in a U.S. Department of State traveling speaker program in which she spoke of her experiences as a Muslim woman in America to audiences in Thailand, Malaysia and Pakistan.

Prayer for Peace, Memorial Day, 2007

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

On Memorial Day, Americans pause with solemn gratitude and deep respect for all our fallen service men and women who have given their lives for our country and our freedom.

Through the generations, the courageous and selfless patriots of our Armed Forces have secured our liberty and borne its great and precious cost. When it has mattered most, patriots from every corner of our Nation have taken up arms to uphold the ideals that make our country a beacon of hope and freedom for the entire world. By answering the call of duty with valor and unrelenting determination, they have set a standard of courage and idealism that inspires us all.

All Americans honor the memory of the lives that have been lost in defense of our freedom. Our Nation mourns them, and their example of strength and perseverance gives us resolve. We are also thankful to those who have stood by our service men and women in times of war and times of peace.

Today, the members of our Armed Forces follow in a proud tradition handed down to them by the heroes that served before them. They are protecting our Nation, advancing the blessings of freedom, and laying the foundation for a more peaceful tomorrow through service that exemplifies the good and decent character of our Nation. America is grateful to all those who have worn the uniform of the Armed Forces of the United States, and we will never forget their sacrifices for our liberty.

On Memorial Day, we honor all those who have fallen by remembering their noble sacrifice for freedom. We also pray for our troops, their families, and for the peace we all seek.

In respect for their devotion to America, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved on May 11, 1950, as amended (64 Stat. 158), has requested the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe

each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace and designating a period on that day when the people of the United States might unite in prayer. The Congress, by Public Law 106-579, has also designated the minute beginning at 3:00 p.m. local time on that day as a time for all Americans to observe the National Moment of Remembrance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Memorial Day, May 28, 2007, as a day of prayer for permanent peace, and I designate the hour beginning in each locality at 11:00 a.m. of that day as a time to unite in prayer. I also ask all Americans to observe the National Moment of Remembrance beginning at 3:00 p.m., local time, on Memorial Day. I encourage the media to participate in these observances. I also request the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the appropriate officials



of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half staff until noon on this Memorial Day on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States, and in all areas under its jurisdiction and control. I also request the people of the United States to display the flag at half staff from their homes for the customary forenoon period.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Afghan Official Cites Economic, Security Progress with U.S. Help

Despite a nagging Taliban-backed insurgency, Afghanistan is advancing steadily to meet daunting economic and security challenges thanks to substantial help from the United States, reports Afghan Finance Minister Anwar Ul-Haq Ahady.

Since the Taliban regime was driven from power by a coalition of forces led by the United States in fall 2001, Afghanistan has made “tremendous progress” toward a democratic society and open-market economy, Ahady told an April 16 discussion sponsored by the Brookings Institution, a Washington-based policy research organization.

More than 35,000 troops from 37 countries are part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), whose mission is to provide and maintain a secure environment to facilitate the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

“I think we have a very clear vision” of the future in Afghanistan, Ahady said. In his view, he said, the insurgency will be defeated, governance will improve and the economy will be secured with the help of the international community, especially the United States, which has contributed half of the \$12.8 billion in development assistance disbursed recently.

“We have a strategic partnership with the U.S.,” the Afghan official reported. With this help, “I am convinced we will overcome” the daunting development and security challenges still facing the nation, he said.

Ahady listed a number of fiscal and macroeconomic improvements that helped double the Afghan national income in the last five years, including:

- \$550 million in government revenues gathered in 2006-2007, up from \$180 million in the previous year, as a result of improved tax collection;
- A customs rate of 5 percent, one of the most liberal in the region;
- Privatization of firms, including more than a dozen banks; and
- Some of the most liberal investment laws in the region, allowing easy repatriation of profits abroad.

Despite an economic growth rate of 8 percent, difficult challenges still remain, said Ahady. Per capita income still is only \$300, and unemployment ranges as high as 40 percent in the cities. Illegal drug cultivation still accounts for 27 percent of the total economy.

“With 2 million people working in the [opium] poppy fields we need more alternative livelihood programs,” he told the Brookings audience.

On the social front, Ahady said his government has worked to strengthen education and that 6 million students now are enrolled in schools with 181,000 teachers. Approximately



A young Afghan boy looks up at Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai during a ceremony marking the start of the school year at Amoni High School in Kabul, Afghanistan. (© AP Images)

1,000 Afghan students study at universities and institutes in India each year.

Advances for women in Afghanistan's traditional conservative society also have been made, Ahady said. Women now represent 47 percent of the parliament and 12 percent of government employees.

Government-sponsored health care has been expanded to include 80 percent of the population, and there has been a substantial decline in infant mortality.

On the security situation, Ahady acknowledged that the Taliban-led insurgency had picked up in the past year but that it was now more of a hit-and-run “guerrilla” movement unable to consolidate military gains. “It’s a reign of terror,” Ahady said, “and this is hurting their popularity.”

To meet the security challenge, the official said, the Afghan national army soon will be expanded to 64,000 troops and the police force to 73,000 officers by 2008. The international troop presence also is expanding. In February, President Bush pledged an additional 3,200 U.S. troops to Afghanistan and called on other nations to increase their military effort. For example, Australia in April said it would send an additional 300 troops, for a total of 1,000.

However, in the long run, Ahady said his government would like to see a diminished international presence as a result of increased Afghan capability.

“What we need really is to ‘Afghanize’ the security problems in Afghanistan,” Ahady said. “It’s our country. Afghans should be fighting for their own security. The Afghan army should be expanded, better trained ... but we would need financing, equipment and advice. If our international supporters give us support in those areas, I think the Afghan security forces” can succeed.

U.S. Government Helps Secure Uzbekistan's Border

A multi-year effort by the United States Government to supply the Uzbek Border Guards with 18 boats to patrol the Amu Darya River culminated at a ceremony at the Termez Naval Border Guard Station.

The U.S. Defense Attaché, Lieutenant Colonel Greg Wright, represented the Embassy. The Chairman of National Security Service of Uzbekistan, General-Colonel Rustam Inoyatov, and the Chairman of the Uzbek Committee for State Border Security, General-Lieutenant Ilkhom Ibragimov, accepted delivery of the final 14 patrol craft and related equipment on behalf of the Uzbek Government.

Chairman Inoyatov thanked the United States for the boats and equipment – valued at nearly \$3.0 million – and emphasized the significant role the American patrol craft will play in enhancing Uzbekistan's border security. He praised the United States for its commitments to help secure borders and noted that the patrol craft will be used to intercept terrorists, drug smugglers and human traffickers trying to cross into Uzbekistan from Afghanistan via the Amu Darya River. This was the second and final delivery of patrol craft; four similar



Uzbek officials examine one of the patrol boats donated by the U.S. Government. (U.S. Embassy photo)

boats had been delivered in 2004.

As a follow-up to the delivery, the U.S. Government expects to provide Uzbek Border Guard personnel with additional training on riverine border security later this spring.

Information Resource Center Launches Book Lending Service

Ambassador Jon Purnell and the visiting Deputy Coordinator of the State Department's International Information Programs Bureau Janet Garvey announced the launch of the Book Circulation Service and the opening of a new computer room for visitors in the Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) at the reception held for Uzbek librarians, professors, students, alumni and members of the business community on April 4. In his remarks, Ambassador Purnell said the IRC expansion was the Embassy's response to the fast growing



Guests get acquainted with sample IRC resources displayed at the ceremony marking the launch of Book Circulation Service. (U.S. Embassy photo)



Ambassador Purnell gets the first IRC Identification Card, which allows customers to borrow books from the IRC. (U.S. Embassy photo)

numbers of visitors to the Center. He also encouraged all current and future IRC customers to make wide use of the new book lending service, thanks to which customers can now borrow fiction and some non-fiction books from the IRC to use them at home for two weeks.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Information Resource Center's Book Circulation Service

Information Resource Center is research and reference service of the Embassy. It offers users an excellent collection of books, videos and other materials on topics such as:

- U.S. politics, government and laws
- U.S. foreign policies, international relations and defense
- U.S. society, arts, culture and values
- U.S. and international economics, trade and business
- Environmental and global issues

The IRC supplements these collections by offering users free access to high-speed Internet and information from major U.S. data sources and on-line databases including Lexis-Nexis, Factiva, Leadership Directories, Stat-USA, ProQuest Direct, EBSCO, NewspaperDirect, Open Source Center and others.

IRC services are primarily available to journalists, NGO representatives, academics, librarians, students, teachers, government officials, alumni of U.S. government exchange programs, and others. All services are free of charge.

Visitors can use the IRC on an appointment only basis, Monday through Friday, from 09:30 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 17:00. To make an appointment, please, call the Embassy switchboard at 120 5450.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BOOK CIRCULATION SERVICE

What is the Information Resource Center's Book Circulation Service?

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) is offering a new service to its patrons: they may borrow books and other materials for use at home, school or work.

What materials are available for circulation?

As of April 4, 2007, IRC patrons may borrow any item of fiction, including novels suitable for adults, young adults and children. Institutional users (for example, schools or libraries) may also borrow posters and other display material. In a few months, the IRC intends to also make available for loan some non-fiction materials (principally, biographies and treatises on U.S. culture, history, political science, etc.) as well as DVDs and VHS tapes.

Reference books such as encyclopedias, dictionaries and almanacs, periodicals and educational advising materials will not be available for circulation.

Who may use the IRC's Book Circulation Service?

All IRC patrons with a valid IRC Identification Card may use the IRC's Book Circulation Service. To qualify for an IRC Identification Card, an IRC patron completes an application form available at the IRC's Circulation Desk and presents it

and a valid passport to an IRC staff member. The IRC staff member will then register the patron in the IRC's automated library system (InfoCentre) and, within two working days, provide the patron with an IRC Identification Card.

How long may an IRC patron keep a borrowed item?

An IRC patron may borrow one book at a time for two weeks and renew the loan for an additional two-week period at the IRC staff's discretion.

What is the procedure for borrowing an item?

An IRC patron interested in borrowing a book should present the book and his or her IRC Identification Card to the IRC's Circulation Desk. The IRC staff member will record the loan and contact the Embassy's security personnel, alerting them that the patron will be leaving the Embassy compound with the book.

All borrowers are responsible for all books and other materials until they are returned to the IRC. **If an item on loan is lost or damaged, the borrower will be charged for its full replacement cost plus a \$5.00 fee.** Patrons should examine the book or other item thoroughly for missing pages or pictures, damage, handwritten notes, etc., before borrowing it.

What is the procedure for renewing a loan?

If an IRC patron wants to renew the loan of a book, he or she must ask permission from the IRC staff in person, by telephone or via e-mail. Normally, one two-week renewal will be allowed, provided that no other patron has reserved the book.

What happens if a patron keeps an item beyond its return date?

The borrower will be fined at a rate of \$0.20 for every week-day the overdue book remains in his or her possession. An institutional user will be fined \$1.00 for every weekday the overdue poster or other display material is in its possession. If, after five working days, the item is not returned, the IRC Director, at his discretion, can suspend the patron's privileges to use the IRC. If the item is not returned within four weeks of its due date, the IRC Director, at his discretion, can deem the item lost or stolen and the patron will be charged the full replacement cost of the item plus a \$5.00 administrative fee.

How does someone contact the IRC for further information about the Book Circulation Service?

If you have any questions about the IRC's Book Circulation Service or wish to renew a loan or place an item on reserve, please contact the IRC by phone at 120-5450 or email at SalihovDR@state.gov.



The State of Minnesota -

Minnesota entered the Union as the 32nd state on May 11, 1858. It is the northernmost of the 48 continental states thanks to the Northwest Angle that juts into Canada. Minnesota is a diverse land of forests, rolling prairies and approximately 15,000 lakes that make up nearly 5,000 square miles of inland fresh water.

According to a 2005 estimate, there are approximately 5.1 million people living in the Minnesota, with most of the state's population residing in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. Minnesota is noted for its strong broad based economy and as a producer and processor of timber, iron ore and numerous



A statue of Snoopy smiles at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota. (© AP Images)

unique identity. One of Minnesota's nicknames is "Land of 10,000 Lakes," but it really has closer to 11, 842 lakes. The state is on the shore of Lake Superior, which is the biggest of the Great Lakes. Minnesota is also the starting point of the world's third largest river, the Mississippi.

Minnesota became a state in 1858; the 32nd state in the union. People first came to Minnesota during the last ice age. They probably followed herds of large game into this area.

Some of those early Minnesota people carved pictures of humans, animals and weapons into rocks. Some of these carvings, called "petroglyphs," may be 5,000 years old – and many are still visible today in Minnesota's state parks, such as Jeffers Petroglyphs near Comfrey and Windom. Ancient burial mounds and unearthed objects like spear points are evidence that people lived here ages ago.

The Dakota and Ojibwe (also called Chippewa or Anishinabe) Indians lived in Minnesota when the first Europeans arrived. Many Dakota, Ojibwe and other American Indians live in Minnesota today.

In the late 1600s, French explorers led an expedition into Minnesota, and were soon followed by fur traders for French, and then British companies, who come for beaver pelts to make hats in Europe.

In 1825, Fort Snelling became the first permanent European-American settlement. This site is now a state historic site. The early settlers in the territory were primarily Americans from the East Coast. By the 1860s large numbers of immigrants, especially Germans and Scandinavians, came to Minnesota.

ECONOMY

Minnesota is rich in natural resources. A few square miles



Aerial Lift Bridge, Duluth, Minnesota (courtesy of Nick Zlonis)

agricultural crops. The state also maintains a reputation for quality education and a high standard of living.

LAND OF 10,000 LAKES

The name "Minnesota" comes from Dakota Indian words meaning "sky-blue waters." The large number of lakes and rivers throughout the state is an important part of Minnesota's

Land of 10,000 Lakes



of land in the north in the Mesabi, Cuyuna, and Vermilion ranges produce more than 75% of the nation's iron ore. The state's farms rank high in yields of corn, wheat, rye, alfalfa, and sugar beets. Other leading farm products include butter, eggs, milk, potatoes, green peas, barley, soybeans, oats, and livestock.

Minnesota's factories produce nonelectrical machinery, fabricated metals, flour-mill products, plastics, electronic computers, scientific instruments, and processed foods. The state is also a leader in the printing and paper-products industries.

Minneapolis is the trade center of the Midwest, and the headquarters of the world's largest super-computer and grain distributor. St. Paul is the nation's biggest publisher of calendars and law books. These "twin cities" are the nation's third-largest trucking center. Duluth has the nation's largest inland harbor and now handles a significant amount of foreign trade. Rochester is home to the Mayo Clinic, a world-famous medical center.



The rod and ball mills in United Taconite facility at Forbes, Minnesota. (© AP Images)

Tourism is a major revenue producer in Minnesota, with arts, fishing, hunting, water sports, and winter sports bringing in millions of visitors each year.

Among the most popular attractions are the St. Paul Winter Carnival; the Tyrone Guthrie Theatre, the Institute of Arts, Walker Art Center, and Minnehaha Park, in Minneapolis; Boundary Waters Canoe Area; Voyageurs National Park; North Shore Drive; the Minnesota Zoological Gardens; and the state's more than 10,000 lakes.

The Aerial Lift Bridge at the entrance to the Duluth harbor is one of the most popular landmarks in Minnesota. It is an unusual bridge, in that the bridge deck raises straight up to allow big ships to pass below. The bridge was originally built in 1905, but the lift span wasn't added until 1929-1930. Before that, it was an aerial transfer bridge, a rare type of bridge that used a huge gondola to carry up to 60 tons of traffic, from pedestrians to streetcars, across the canal.

The canal itself was dug in 1871 across a long, thin strip of land known as Minnesota Point to create a harbor at the far end of the Great Lakes shipping routes. However, the canal cut off residents of the Point from the mainland. For years, traffic was carried by ferries in the summer, and by a temporary suspension bridge in the winter.

The Aerial Lift Bridge is on Lake Avenue at Canal Park, a favorite gathering spot where visitors watch massive lake carriers and seagoing vessels from around the world pass through the canal and under the bridge. Near the bridge is the Maritime Museum, operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; it has exhibits on the history of Lake Superior shipping.



U.S. Map, courtesy of U.S. Census Bureau.

Quick Facts

Abbreviations: MN.

Capital City: St. Paul.

Governor: Tim Pawlenty.

Date of Statehood: May 11, 1858 (32nd)

Population: 5.1 million (2005 estimate).

Area: 86,943 square miles; 12th largest state.

Origin of State's Name: From a Dakota Indian word meaning "sky-tinted water".

Largest Cities: Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Rochester, Bloomington.

Economy:

Agriculture: Dairy products, corn, cattle, soybeans, hogs, wheat, turkeys (50states.com).

Industry: Machinery, food processing, printing and publishing, fabricated metal products, electric equipment, mining, tourism (50states.com).



President Bush shakes hands with Dr. Abdullah Khuj, Director of the Islamic Center of Washington, during the rededication ceremony at the Center in Washington, D.C., June 27, 2007. (State Department photo)

Continued from front page

not to impose their spiritual vision on others, and in return to practice their own beliefs as they see fit. This is the promise of our Constitution, and the calling of our conscience, and a source of our strength.

The freedom to worship is so central to America's character that we tend to take it personally when that freedom is denied to others. Our country was a leading voice on behalf of the Jewish refusniks in the Soviet Union. Americans joined in common cause with Catholics and Protestants who prayed in secret behind an Iron Curtain. America has stood with Muslims seeking to freely practice their beliefs in places such as Burma and China.

To underscore America's respect for the Muslim faith here at home, I came to this Center six days after the 9/11 attacks to denounce incidents of prejudice against Muslim Americans. (Applause.) Today I am announcing a new initiative that will improve mutual understanding and cooperation between America and people in predominately Muslim countries.

I will appoint a special envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference. This is the first time a President has made such an appointment to the OIC. (Applause.) Our special envoy will listen to and learn from representatives from Mus-

lim states and will share with them America's views and values. This is an opportunity for Americans to demonstrate to Muslim communities our interest in respectful dialogue and continued friendship.

We have seen that friendship reflected in the outpouring of support Americans have extended to Muslim communities across the globe during times of war and natural disaster. Americans came to the aid of the victims of devastating earthquakes in Pakistan and Iran, and responded with urgency and compassion to the wreckage of the tsunami in Indonesia and Malaysia. Our country defended Muslims in Bosnia and Kosovo after the breakup of Yugoslavia. (Applause.) Today we are rallying the world to confront genocide in Sudan. Americans of all beliefs have undertaken these efforts out of compassion, conviction, and conscience.

The greatest challenge facing people of conscience is to help the forces of moderation win the great struggle against extremism that is now playing out across the broader Middle East. We've seen the expansion of the concept of religious freedom and individual rights in every region of the world -- except one. In the Middle East, we have seen instead the rise of a group of extremists who seek to use religion as a path to power and a means of domination.

These self-appointed vanguard -- this self-appointed vanguard presumes to speak for Muslims. They do not. They call all Muslims who do not believe in their harsh and hateful ideology "infidels" and "betrayers" of the true Muslim faith. This enemy falsely claims that America is at war with Muslims and the Muslim faith, when in fact it is these radicals who are Islam's true enemy. (Applause.)

They have staged spectacular attacks on Muslim holy sites to divide Muslims and make them fight one another. The majority of the victims of their acts of terror are Muslims. In Afghanistan, they have targeted teachers for beatings and murder. In Iraq, they killed a young boy, and then booby-trapped his body so it would explode when his family came to retrieve him. They put children in the backseat of a car so they could pass a security checkpoint, and then blew up the car with the children still inside. These enemies bombed a wedding reception in Amman, Jordan, a housing complex in Saudi Arabia, a

hotel in Jakarta. They claim to undertake these acts of butchery and mayhem in the name of Allah. Yet this enemy is not the true face of Islam, this enemy is the face of hatred. Men and women of conscience have a duty to speak out and condemn this murderous movement before it finds its path to power. We must help millions of Muslims as they rescue a proud and historic religion from murderers and beheaders who seek to soil the name of Islam. And in this effort, moderate Muslim leaders have the most powerful and influential voice. We admire and thank those Muslims who have denounced what the Secretary General of the OIC called "radical fringe elements who pretend that they act in the name of Islam." We must encourage more Muslim leaders to add their voices, to speak out against radical extremists who infiltrate mosques, to denounce organizations that use the veneer of Islamic belief to support and fund acts of violence, and to reach out to young Muslims -- even in our country and elsewhere in the free world -- who believe suicide bombing may some day be justified.

We need to rally the voices of Muslims who can speak most directly to millions in the Arab world left behind in the global movement toward prosperity and freedom. For decades the free world abandoned Muslims in the Middle East to tyrants, and terrorists, and hopelessness. This was done in the interests of stability and peace, but instead the approach brought neither. The Middle East became an incubator for terrorism and despair, and the result was an increase in Muslims' hostility to the West. I have invested the heart of my presidency in helping Muslims fight terrorism, and claim their liberty, and find their own unique paths to prosperity and peace.

The efforts underway in Afghanistan and Iraq are central in this struggle, but that struggle is not going to end the threats; it's not going to end there. We believe the ultimate success of Afghans and Iraqis will inspire others who want to live in freedom, as well. We will work toward a day when a democratic Palestine lives side by side with Israel in peace. (Applause.) We have already seen stirrings of a democratic future in other parts of the Middle East, though it will take time for liberty to flower. A democratic future is not a plan imposed by Western nations, it is a future that the people of the region will seize for themselves. A future of freedom is the dream and the desire of every loving heart.

We know this because of the 8 million people who braved threats and intimidation to vote in Afghanistan. We know this because of the nearly 12 million people

who cast ballots in free elections in Iraq. And we know this because the world watched as the citizens of Lebanon raised the banner of the Cedar Revolution, drove out their Syrian occupiers, and chose new leaders under free elections. Even now the hope for freedom is felt in some dark corners in the Middle East -- whispering in living rooms, and coffee houses, and in classrooms. Millions seek a path to the future where they can say what they think, travel where they wish, and worship as they choose. They plead in silence for their liberty -- and they hope someone, somewhere will answer.

So today, in this place of free worship, in the heart of a free nation, we say to those who yearn for freedom from Damascus to Tehran: You are not bound forever by your misery. You plead in silence no longer. The free world hears you. You are not alone. America offers you its hand in friendship. We work for the day when we can welcome you into the family of free nations. We pray that you and your children may one day know freedom in all things, including the freedom to love and to worship the Almighty God.

May God bless you.



Guests listen to President Bush's remarks during the rededication ceremony of the Islamic Center of Washington in Washington, D.C., June 27, 2007. (State Department photo)

Games For The Whole World

Baseball and basketball, and to a lesser extent American football, have captured the imagination of athletes and sports fans around the world. In the U.S. professional and university leagues, foreign-born players are increasingly making their marks in those games as well as in ice hockey, soccer, and other sports.

On a dusty basketball court outside Johannesburg, South Africa, this past September, Michel Los Santos, a 17-year-old boy from Angola, drilled one long-range shot after another into the basket. Powerfully built Nigerian center Kenekwuwu Obi, 15, huffing and puffing after grabbing a rebound, admitted he had touched a basketball for the first time only three months earlier. Rail-thin Cheikh Ahmadou Bemba Fall said most of his friends in the Senagalese port city of St. Louis play basketball in bare feet.

The three players were among 100 young African talents who gathered at the U.S. National Basketball Association's (NBA) first-ever professional development camp on the continent.

All-Star center Dikembe Mutombo, who himself was plucked from obscurity in Zaire 15 years ago, tutored the youngsters with some basic moves – and offered invaluable words of encouragement. “I want them to know that they can make it to another level if you want to push yourself,” said Mutombo, who frequently visits his homeland, which is now called the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“The NBA is becoming a global game,” said Mutombo, who now plays for the NBA's New York Knicks team. “In the past, soccer would be most popular, but today, in any country, young kids will recognize, in two seconds, 10 NBA players. The league should be proud of that success.”

Armed with visions of fame and million-dollar contracts to play ball in the United States, the 100 players came from poverty-stricken townships of South Africa, crowded cities of Nigeria, and the edge of the Sahara Desert.

Will any of them ever see their dreams fulfilled? Maybe not. But their very presence at the camp, not to mention the stands packed with sports agents and scouts, demonstrates the growing global reach of American sports. Basketball, baseball, American football, and ice hockey are now multi-billion dollar industries that promote themselves – and recruit new talent – in the four corners of the world.

A Two-Way Street

The phenomenon is an unusual cultural two-way street: American sports are beamed around the world by omnipresent TV and Internet connections. In return, foreign stars have flooded onto the fields, courts, and rinks of the U.S. pro leagues and major colleges in recent years like never before.

Chinese basketball center Yao Ming, high-scoring forward Dirk Nowitzki from Germany, and Brazilian Nene Hilario

have emerged from little-known basketball backwaters to star in the NBA. Female track stars have made their mark in college athletics and female basketball stars – buoyed by the popularity of women's basketball in countries like Portugal and Brazil – have internationalized the new Women's National Basketball Association, or WNBA.

“It's now a game for the whole world,” said Serbian-born center Vlade Divac, who plays for the Sacramento Kings.

For The Love Of The Game

It wasn't always that way. American scouts and trainers were once lonely altruists helping athletes in developing countries for the love of the game.

Track star Mal Whitfield won three Olympic gold medals in the 1948 and 1952 Games. With the Cold War raging, the U.S. government decided to send world-class American athletes on goodwill missions around the world and picked Whitfield to be one of the first such ambassadors.

Whitfield, now 79 and retired, spent much of the next four decades traveling the globe and training young track stars. He even lived in countries like Kenya, Uganda, and Egypt under the then U.S. Information Agency's Sports America program. The result was a harvest of good will for America – and a bounty of Olympic medals for African athletes. He trained legends like distance runner Kip Keino of Kenya, who took home two gold medals, and hurdler John Akii-Bua of Uganda, who won a gold in 1972.

Whitfield also inspired a second wave of American coaches to teach in – and learn from – Africa, including Ron Davis, who became a national track coach in Tanzania, Mozambique, and Mauritius.

“I know the meaning of sports,” Whitfield said in a 1996 interview. “All Americans have a job to do. I just happen to be one proud American.”

The successes, in addition to producing a wave of medals for Olympic athletes, triggered an influx of athletes from developing nations to American universities, which typically set aside a set number of scholarships for a variety of sports, even some less popular ones such as wrestling, fencing, and track. But the exposure failed to dent America's major professional sports leagues, which were overwhelmingly dominated by U.S.-born athletes.

The Charisma Of One Player

About two decades ago, the picture started to change. Foreign audiences started tuning into American pro sports, especially basketball, in previously unheard of numbers. Teenagers snapped up player jerseys and stayed up past midnight to watch games on live television. Soon, they were imitating the moves on their own courts and fields.

So What Happened? In Two Words: Michael Jordan

More than any single athlete, Jordan, the magnetic and charismatic Chicago Bulls superstar, transformed American sports into a global phenomenon. Jordan's soaring dunks and graceful athleticism made him a worldwide poster child for the American dream. Starting in the late 1980s, he drew hundreds of millions of dollars into the sport and became one of the most recognized persons in the world.

"Michael made it matter all over the world," Indianapolis Star columnist Bob Kravitz wrote in an article celebrating Jordan's retirement last season.

Of course, American stars have long been global cultural icons. In music, Michael Jackson and Madonna sold millions of albums worldwide. Actors like Eddie Murphy and Richard Gere became household names from Delhi to Dakar. But the massive exposure of American sports did more than just sell jerseys - it brought a powerful new pool of talent to the game.

One day in 1995, a tall kid named Maybyner (Nene) Hilario watched an NBA game on TV in his family's cramped home outside the industrial city of Sao Carlos, Brazil. The next day he skipped his usual soccer game and played a pickup game on a makeshift court created from a basket mounted on a battered car in an empty lot. Hilario, now 21, dunked the ball with such force, he brought down the hoop. Now, he is playing for the Denver Nuggets.

Half a world away, Mwadi Mabika would sit for hours watching boys play basketball on a dirt court in front of her family's home in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. The boys would taunt the eight-year-old girl, telling her she could shoot the ball for five minutes if she swept sand off the court.

"So I would clean it, but sometimes they wouldn't give me the ball," said Mwadi, now a star with the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks.

In a smoke-filled gymnasium in the Serbian town of Vrsac, a bony 14-year-old named Darko Milicic was practicing with a new team that lured him with a \$100-a-month salary. Suddenly, air raid sirens ripped through the air and explosions rang out as NATO warplanes launched the bombing campaign to force Serbia out of the restive province of Kosovo. The frightened players stopped in their tracks and peered over at their coach, who shouted at them to keep playing.

The results of stories like these are written indelibly on the

rosters of pro teams. In 1990, 20 foreign-born players played in the NBA. Last season there were 68.

American Football in Europe

American football has also seen an international boom, albeit on a smaller scale. For years, the National Football League (NFL) had recruited soccer-playing foreigners as kickers, including legends like Morten Anderson of Denmark, South African Gary Anderson, and Portugal-born Olindo Mare. But non-U.S. players remained rare in a sport that was largely unknown outside of North America.

The international profile of American football got a boost from the launch of the NFL Europe league, which provides an opportunity for some European neophytes to play against somewhat lesser American professional talents. Many of the foreigners - 90 made preseason rosters in the NFL this season - are sons of immigrants from places like Mexico or West Africa.

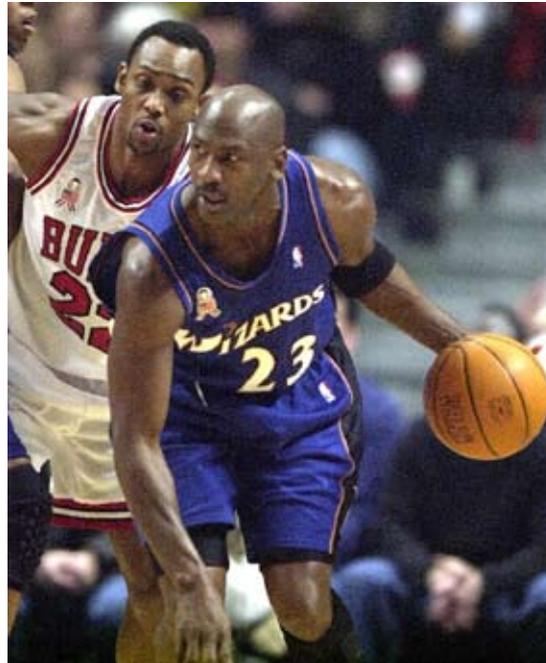
For ice hockey, the biggest barrier to playing in the United States was always political. The sport had the advantage of already being hugely popular in countries across northern and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. But for decades, Communist governments prevented star players from leaving their countries or signing pro contracts.

"They didn't allow people to think freely or do whatever they wanted," said former Soviet Olympic hero Vyacheslav Fetisov. "They wanted the control of the people. . . . It was scary."

All that changed as the Iron Curtain started to collapse in the late 80s, setting off a stampede of players from Russia. Fetisov, the first to leave, went on to win two Stanley Cups with the Detroit Red Wings. He was followed by flashy scorer, Pavel Bure, and puck-handler Sergei Zubov, who grew up playing hockey on the frozen ponds of Moscow.

"I knew about NHL (National Hockey League), but I never had any thought to play there," Zubov said. "We didn't think that way." Now, more than 60 players from the former Soviet Union play in the NHL.

The Russians were followed by Jagr, who grew up milking cows on a farm in the Czech Republic and chose the number 68 to honor his country's resistance during the Soviet invasion of 1968. Jagr says his number "is about history, in Czech."



Washington Wizards' Michael Jordan moves around Chicago Bulls Trenton Hassell (22) during a basketball match in Chicago. (© AP Images)

President Bush Announces Five-Year, \$30 Billion HIV/AIDS Plan

President George Bush announced May 30 that he would work with Congress to double the U.S. commitment to fight HIV/AIDS around the world -- to \$30 billion -- and reauthorize the legislation that established the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

If Congress meets the president's budget request for fiscal year 2008, and with the new \$30 billion proposal, the American people will have committed \$48.3 billion over 10 years to fight HIV/AIDS. The U.S. contribution is already the largest international health initiative dedicated to a specific disease.

PEPFAR, Bush said during a White House press briefing, is "a promising start, yet without further action, the legislation that funded this emergency plan is set to expire in 2008. Today, I ask Congress to demonstrate America's continuing



A doctor examines an HIV patient at the Hope Center in Nairobi, Kenya, where vital drugs are available due to an initiative launched by President Bush in 2003. (© AP Images)

commitment to fighting the scourge of HIV/AIDS by reauthorizing this legislation now."

The added \$15 billion, he said, "will be spent wisely through the establishment of partnership compacts with host nations. These compacts would ensure that U.S. funds support programs that have the greatest possible impact and are sustainable for the future."

Joining Bush were Mark Dybul, U.S. global AIDS coordinator; Rajat Gupta, chairman of the board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Michael Leavitt, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and John Negroponte, deputy secretary of state.

If the plan is approved, the United States will work with governments, the private sector, and faith- and community-based organizations worldwide, Bush said, to support treatment for nearly 2.5 million people, to prevent more than 12 million new infections, and to support care for 12 million people, including more than 5 million orphans and vulnerable children.

The president also announced that through March 31 -- after three years of PEPFAR implementation -- the United States has supported treatment for 1.1 million people in the 15 focus countries, including more than 1 million in Africa.

The focus countries are Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia.

NEW PARTNERSHIP PLAN

Bush's new plan for PEPFAR would continue HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention and care, and expand efforts to strengthen health systems and leverage programs that address malaria, tuberculosis, child and maternal health, clean water, food and nutrition, education and other needs.

Under the plan, the United States would pursue what the administration calls "partnership compacts."

Countries in such partnerships would add their own resources to U.S. support for HIV/AIDS, and adopt policies and practices that contribute to expanding each country's health care work force, promoting gender equality, protecting orphans rights, and making HIV counseling and testing effective.

In this way, the plan would transition from an emergency response to a sustainable response for treatment, prevention and care.

The new proposal would maintain 2 million people on life-saving treatment and support treatment for another 500,000, avert 5 million more HIV infections beyond the 7 million averted in the initial phase and maintain care for 10 million people, including 4 million orphans and vulnerable children, and support care for another 2.3 million people, including more than 1 million orphans and vulnerable children.

"The statistics and dollar amounts I've cited in the fight against HIV/AIDS are significant," Bush said, "but the scale of this effort is not measured in numbers. This is really a story of the human spirit and the goodness of human hearts. Once again, the generosity of the American people is one of the great untold stories of our time."

Bush thanked Congress for its strong bipartisan support for the original PEPFAR program and called for passage of reauthorizing legislation consistent with the program's successful principles.

Laura Bush will travel to Senegal, Mozambique, Zambia and Mali June 25-29 to underscore the U.S. commitment to Africa and highlight advances being made in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment.

A transcript of the president's remarks and a fact sheet on the initiative are available on the White House Web site.

United States Is Largest Donor of Foreign Aid, Report Says

The United States is the single largest donor of foreign economic aid, but, unlike many other developed nations, Americans prefer to donate their money through the private sector, according to a new report published by a Washington research organization.

Of the \$122.8 billion of foreign aid provided by Americans in 2005 (the most current data available), \$95.5 billion, or 79 percent, came from private foundations, corporations, voluntary organizations, universities, religious organizations and individuals, says the annual *Index of Global Philanthropy*, issued May 24 by the Center for Global Prosperity at the Hudson Institute, a Washington-based nonpartisan research organization.

Carol A. Adelman, the director of the Center for Global Prosperity, spoke at the launching of the report.

U.S. foundations gave more -- in money, time, goods and expertise -- than 11 of the 22 developed-country governments each gave in 2005, and U.S. private voluntary organizations totaled more than the governments of Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany and France each.

More than half of all U.S. assistance to developing countries, \$61.7 billion, came in the form of private remittances by individuals living in the United States to their families abroad, the report says. According to the report, those remittances not only reduce poverty, but, in some cases, increase creditworthiness of countries and underwrite their trade imbalances.

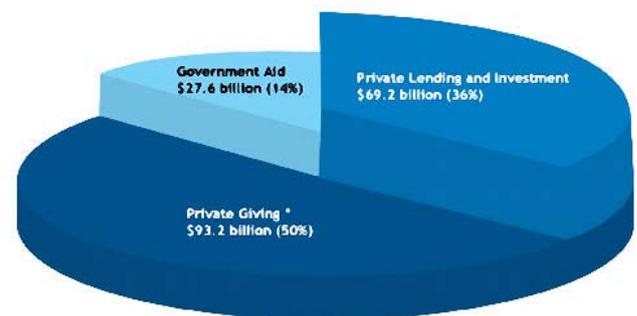
The scope of U.S. private giving often is overlooked in statistics that compare the relative generosity of various countries, the authors of the report say. Most of the other developed countries deliver their international aid primarily through official development aid programs run and financed by government agencies.

U.S. official development assistance (ODA) in 2005 was \$28 billion, the largest of all official donations by an individual country. But, according to the often-quoted measure used by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which compares government aid as a percentage of a country's gross national income (GNI), U.S. government aid is only 0.22 percent of GNI, which ranks the United States as the 20th of the 22 listed donor states.

Index of Global Philanthropy combines all aid from developed countries -- government and private -- an approach that its authors say is a more accurate measure of a nation's generosity. According to the index, the United States is the top donor in absolute amounts and the seventh of 22 in terms of GNI percentage.

"This shouldn't be a numbers game, but since it always is, since people always are comparing numbers, let them look at what is going on in developing countries. Just looking at government aid flows is not going to help us understand ... what are the best practices, what are the success stories,"

American Private Giving Exceeds U.S. Government Aid



Private giving includes foundations, corporations, private and voluntary organizations, universities and colleges, religious organizations and individual remittances.
Sources: Hudson Institute, 2007, OECD 2007

Chart shows the breakdown of U.S. foreign aid by category. Private giving outweighs government aid, contributing to the report that the United States gives more foreign aid than any other country.

Adelman said.

For example, the report lists several case studies of private programs using skilled volunteers and delivering hands-on assistance at a third of the typical cost of government aid programs.

In addition, according to the *Index*, private aid usually involves more people-to-people contact and more transfer of expertise, thus creating a more genuine partnership between the helpers and the poor.

One of the case studies in the *Index* cites a \$150 million AIDS prevention and treatment program for Africa launched by Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation (B-MS). Together with Baylor College of Medicine, B-MS built the first pediatric AIDS hospital in Gaborone, Botswana, and trained African doctors through its Pediatric AIDS Corps volunteer program.

Most data on development aid also neglect those forms of foreign help that do not fall within the traditional notion of "aid programs," such as foreign scholarships offered by U.S. universities, research and development that benefit the poor, special lending and insurance programs, and direct investment, say the authors of the report.

In 2005, loans and investment by U.S. companies to the developing world totaled \$69.2 billion, according to the index. Adelman said data on some of the less traditional forms of international aid, like personal remittances or help in goods and time, still are scarce and hard to obtain but the growing diversity of aid flows needs to be studied to see what really works.

"If nothing else, we need to learn about what is going on in this area so we can see what is the engine that is driving the economies in the developing world," she said.

Secure Borders, Open Doors



Maura Hartly
Assistant Secretary of State for
Consular Affairs

Current Visa Issues

Visa processing by the U.S. State Department is carried out by the Bureau of Consular Affairs, an organization of some 8,000 people working in 211 embassies and consulates around the world, in Washington, D.C., and in two visa processing centers in the United States. We are charged with thoroughly and fairly adjudicating immigrant and nonimmigrant visas for citizens of foreign countries who seek to come to the United States. In performing this function,

we play a key role in enhancing U.S. border security while facilitating legitimate travel to the United States.

America's approach to visa and immigration issues reflects our history and our common ideals. The United States is a "nation of nations" and has always welcomed visitors from all over the globe. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in her confirmation hearings, reaffirmed the department's commitment to that tradition when she said:

Our interaction with the rest of the world must be a conversation, not a monologue, and America must remain open to visitors and workers and students from around the world. We do not and will not compromise our security standards, yet if our public diplomacy efforts are to succeed, we cannot close ourselves off from the rest of the world.

Secure Borders, Open Doors

The context for current visa procedures is, quite simply, September 11, 2001. On that terrible day, when so many Americans—and citizens from 90 other nations—lost their lives, we saw the lengths to which some would go to do us harm. We had to act swiftly and decisively to address our nation's border security needs and make America safe for our citizens and our foreign visitors.

While security must always be our primary concern, we must also ensure that our country's doors remain open to those whose presence we encourage and value. Welcoming visitors is central to U.S. national security. Last year some 50 million foreign visitors accounted for \$104.8 billion in spending and other economic activity in the United States. International students contribute an additional \$13 billion each year.

The United States welcomes international visitors because we know that the best advertisement for America is America. The best way for foreign visitors and students to understand America, to truly appreciate our country and our people, is for them to see America with their own eyes. The understanding that comes from such exchange is priceless. Visitors re-

turn home usually with positive impressions of the United States based on first-hand experiences, rather than third-hand stories.

The challenge of securing our borders while keeping our doors open is not an easy one, but these objectives are not mutually exclusive. We must and we can do both. Every day, consular officers around the world are on the front lines of the Global War on Terror and actively implementing our policy of Secure Borders and Open Doors.

Improvements in the Visa Process

Since 9/11, the Bureau of Consular Affairs has worked tirelessly to improve the transparency, predictability, and efficiency of the visa process. We have a lot of good news to report. For example:

- More than 97 percent of all visa applicants who are interviewed and approved receive their visa in one or two days. For the 2.5 percent of visa applicants who need extra screening, we have streamlined the process to ensure a prompt response.
- We have invested heavily in technology to speed the adjudication process, as well as to enhance access to information from other U.S. government agencies and share our information with them.
- We devoted increased resources to visa processing by creating 570 new consular positions since September 2001.
- We publish current visa appointment wait times and processing times for each visa-issuing post on our Internet Web site at <http://www.travel.state.gov/>, so visa applicants will have more information to plan their travel.

Student Visa Issues

The United States is preeminent in the field of higher education and gained that standing with the contributions of countless students and academics from all over the world. The United States welcomes more international students than any other nation—and the Department of State plays a key role in making that welcome possible.

In 2006, we issued 591,050 student and exchange visitor visas—an all-time high. The increases from China, South Korea, India, and the Middle East are particularly notable, but we've seen increases from every region in the world.

Here are just a few of the ways we continue to encourage international students to choose our country:

- All of our embassies and consulates give students and exchange visitors priority in making visa appointments and processing visas.
- Students can now apply for visas 120 days before their studies begin.
- Many of our embassies provide educational counseling services to foreign students. The department's Web site,

<http://www.educationusa.state.gov>, provides a wealth of information on the excellent educational opportunities in the United States.

Business Visas

Recognizing that a vibrant business relationship with all nations contributes to progress toward a more secure and prosperous world, the Department of State has developed several initiatives to assist business travelers:

- We expanded visa reciprocity agreements with many nations so that we have flexibility to issue visas that are valid for a longer period.
- We instructed our embassies and consulates to establish mechanisms to expedite appointments for legitimate business travelers. Consular sections from Buenos Aires to Bratislava have imaginative programs to facilitate business and tourist travel.
- The Business Visa Center (BVC) in Washington, D.C., explains the visa process to U.S. companies and convention organizers who invite employees or current and prospective business clients to the United States. The BVC receives hundreds of inquiries, and we estimate that it indirectly assists more than 20,000 international travelers each month.

Visa Appointment Wait Times

The first step in applying for a nonimmigrant visa (NIV) is to make an appointment for an interview. To keep the wait time for an NIV appointment as short as possible, the department has added staff, improved space in consular sections at many posts, and streamlined visa processing procedures. Most posts now have appointment wait times of less than one week, but we urge applicants to apply for appointments as far

in advance of planned travel as possible. Posts with waiting periods have established mechanisms to expedite appointments for students and exchange visitors, applicants seeking emergency medical care, and legitimate business travelers with urgent needs.

While these steps have proven effective, there are still some posts where the wait for an appointment can exceed 30 days, especially during peak travel times. We are working with these posts to devise creative solutions to reduce appointment wait times.

Visa Refusals

One of our most frequently asked questions is why visa applicants are refused, and whether a refusal is permanent. Under U.S. immigration law, all applicants for nonimmigrant visas must satisfy the interviewing officer that they are entitled to the type of visa for which they apply. While the requirements of each nonimmigrant visa category differ, one of the most common is for applicants to demonstrate they have a residence in a foreign country that they do not intend to abandon. Applicants usually meet this requirement by showing the consular officer that they have strong professional, employment, educational, family, and/or social ties overseas that would ensure their return to a foreign country after a temporary visit to the United States. Applicants can demonstrate these ties in a variety of ways; there is no specific document that an applicant must have to demonstrate such ties, nor does lack of a document necessarily mean an applicant cannot obtain a visa.

If an applicant cannot demonstrate that he/she qualifies, the consular officer is legally required to refuse the visa. This type of refusal, however, is never permanent. The applicant may reapply if he or she believes there is additional evidence to demonstrate his or her qualifications for a visa, or if personal circumstances change and the applicant develops such ties in the future.

A Welcoming Country

There have been many changes in U.S. visa procedures over the past four years. What has not changed, however, is that America is still the welcoming country it has always been. We want visitors from every corner of the globe to continue to visit the United States and experience everything this country has to offer. The Bureau of Consular Affairs will continue to work every day to facilitate legitimate international travel while protecting U.S. national security.



Chinese visa seekers look through U.S. visa application forms outside the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China, in April 2006. More Chinese received U.S. visas last year than in any other year over the past century. (© AP Images)

How The System Works: Choosing A College Major



Classes can be large or small, formal or informal. This Brown University professor instructs his class at the campus in Rhode Island. (© AP Images).

With hundreds of majors and thousands of colleges and universities from which to choose, how does one begin to decide what and where to study? For some, the first decision is where—at a large comprehensive university, or a small liberal arts college, or a specialized institution offering programs in engineering or technology or computer science, for example; in a city or the country; near the beach or in the mountains; near fam-

ily or far away; at a school providing financial aid; or at a school that offers specific extracurricular activities, such as the opportunity to play on a soccer team, or to work on the campus radio or television station, newspaper, or drama, or film productions. But for many others, the college search begins with what they might want to study and where the best places to study that subject might be.

Unlike other national educational systems, where someone's college major is determined by what was studied in secondary school or scores received on college entrance exams, undergraduate applicants to U.S. colleges and universities often can choose from the full range of schools and academic majors. Of course, at highly selective institutions, competition for admission is very strong and only a small number of outstanding students gain entrance. Even at institutions that are less selective, some majors—nursing or engineering, for example—will have stricter and more competitive admission requirements. But, generally speaking, the array of choices for prospective students is quite broad.

WHAT EXACTLY IS A COLLEGE MAJOR?

Stanford University's Web site states, "A major is the field in which you choose to specialize during your undergraduate study. Your choice determines the academic discipline that will absorb a significant portion of your academic time and energy. Upon successful completion of the major requirements and University requirements, you receive a bachelor's degree. Your major offers an opportunity to develop your intellectual skill, to show your capability in grasping a subject from the fundamentals through advanced study. What you study is an important personal decision." [<http://www.stanford.edu/~susanz/Majors.html>]

When a student chooses a major, he or she enters into a con-

tract with a college to complete a prescribed course of study that consists of both general education requirements (i.e., university requirements) and academic major requirements. In other words, the college curriculum will consist not only of courses in the major field of study. In fact, as much as 50 to 60 percent of coursework might consist of general education and elective courses, i.e., courses that the student chooses from a broad range of options both within and outside of the major. The percentage of general education courses, as compared to major courses, varies depending on the school and the major, but all institutions require some general education courses. The U.S. undergraduate education is rooted in a liberal arts tradition, with general education seen as very important. The goal of all undergraduate baccalaureate degrees is to develop in each student critical thinking skills and the ability to learn how to learn, as well as proficiency in a specific academic area.

At many institutions, students can choose both a major and a minor area of study. A minor, or concentration, is usually closely related to the academic major; e.g., a student might major in English and minor in theater, or major in history and minor in political science, or vice versa. A small number of courses in the minor will be required for graduation and will frequently "count" (i.e., be applicable) toward the major degree requirements as well.

At some institutions, students, working closely with an academic advisor, can design their own individualized majors. A growing number of undergraduate students choose dual majors. In other words, they graduate having met the requirements for two majors. The majors can be related—for example, two majors in the social sciences, such as history and sociology. Or they can be completely different—biology and literature, for instance. Often students will choose more than one major in order to better prepare for a career or to make themselves more competitive for graduate school. But sometimes they choose a double major because of personal passion. At some institutions, double majors can be taken simultaneously, and at others dual majors must be taken sequentially. Generally speaking, the length of time to earn a degree will be a bit longer, but students are not starting with each major from the beginning. A good number of the general education and even elective courses in one major will count toward the degree requirements for the second major.

All institutions clearly define the expectations and course requirements that students must fulfill to graduate. Students generally meet each term with an academic advisor who helps them choose courses that will count toward their degree requirements. Most institutions also provide tools to help students, such as program or degree requirement checklists.

WHEN DOES ONE CHOOSE A COLLEGE MAJOR?

Some students enter college knowing exactly what they want to study, some think they know, and some have no idea. Most will change majors at least once.

Since nearly two-thirds of undergraduate students in the United States change majors before graduating and might consider up to four or five majors before finally deciding on one, a number of institutions actually prefer that students not declare a major until after they have started their college education. Even at those institutions that require prospective students to identify a major when they apply, students can usually select an “undecided” or “undeclared” major option.

While students do not have an unlimited amount of time to choose a major—most baccalaureate degrees are designed to be completed in four years with 120 semester credits (see sidebars)—students often have until the end of their sophomore year to decide and still be able to complete their degree on time. Of course, students choosing to enter community colleges (two-year institutions that award associate’s degrees) must choose a major much sooner. And it is better for students to decide early if they choose a major for which a large percentage of the required coursework is in the major field (e.g., highly technical fields or some health fields) or if there are a large number of prerequisites (basic courses that must be taken before one is allowed to register for a more advanced course).



Small adjustments make a giant engine work at the Pennsylvania College of Technology. The student received a scholarship that was initially funded through money left in Benjamin Franklin’s will. (© AP Images).

HOW DOES ONE CHOOSE A MAJOR?

Some have a passion for a subject. Some have an area in which they excelled in high school. Some have a career goal that will dictate the major they must take; for example, nursing, teaching, studio art, or engineering. But many students just don’t know. While they may have an idea of what they want to do after college, they might not have a clear idea what area of study will best help them reach that career goal. Nor is there usually only one major that leads to a specific career. In fact, many schools caution that choosing a career and choosing a major are two distinctly different processes.

Most educators agree that in choosing a major, students

should consider what they like to do, what their abilities are, and how they like to learn. Some of the best resources for helping choose a major come from colleges and universities themselves. A large number of institutions post on their Web sites a wealth of information and tools to help prospective and current students select majors. While some Web sites focus entirely on the programs and services offered at that institution, many others post helpful information that can be applied to any college setting (see sidebar).

The most frequently cited advice includes:

- Learn more about yourself. What are your academic strengths and weaknesses? What do you enjoy? What are your interests? What are your values? What are your immediate goals after graduating—getting a job or going to graduate school?
- Take a personality or an interest inventory or assessment. If such inventory or assessment opportunities are not available in your secondary school or town, you can check at a U.S. Educational Advising/Information Center in your home country. Through its EducationUSA program, the U.S. Department of State operates more than 450 of these centers in 170 countries [<http://www.educationusa.state.gov>].
- Visit Web sites of university departments. Look at the majors offered. Analyze the courses offered and the degree requirements. Some college faculty members post their course syllabi, a full description of the courses, online. The more you can learn about the types of courses and work required for a major, the better.
- Once you are in the United States, go to departmental offices on campus and talk with staff, faculty, and students.
- Visit college career centers and look for reports that list jobs recent graduates have found, as well as the subject area in which the graduate majored.
- After you enroll, try out different courses in different departments. Learn about the faculty members who teach the major courses and about what kind of students enroll.
- If you find yourself in the wrong major, don’t worry. Most students in U.S. colleges change their majors. Do not stay in a major you don’t like or that is not challenging and stimulating.

• Don’t confuse a career choice with a major choice. Any major can prepare you for a number of different job possibilities. As the University of Washington states on its Web site, “A college education helps prepare you for the job market but doesn’t limit you to a specific career” [www.washington.edu/students/ugrad/advising/majchoos.html].

Public Libraries in the Internet Age

Futurists, editorial writers, and countless others have been ready to play a funeral march for the public library for years, arguing that the Internet will eliminate the need for libraries, even books. But visit a public library in the United States and you'll find they are being used more heavily each year. The Internet has led to dramatic increases in the circulation of all library information services and materials in ways that extend the use of those services well beyond the walls of the brick and mortar building.

Public libraries have absorbed, employed, or promoted the use of new technologies and media as they appeared over the past 150 years. The Internet and the access it provides to the world of information bring a technology and medium to the public library that is qualitatively different from the technologies and media that preceded it. The quantity of information accessible via the Internet is so vast that it brings about a qualitative change in the information offerings made by public libraries.

First, the Internet enables the public library to provide information services and access to materials online 24 hours per day, 7 days per week (24/7). People with Internet browsing capability—at home or anywhere else—can examine the online catalog of library holdings, place reserves on items that they would like to borrow, and renew items that are due or overdue—all as functions of the integrated library systems that are available to the public via the Internet 24/7.

The ability to reserve books online is especially appealing to online patrons. Most libraries have seen the numbers of reserves made online double and triple, in contrast to earlier manual systems involving a paper form. The Westchester County, New York, cooperative public library system, serving a suburban area around New York City, saw an increase from 4,000 paper-filled reserves per month in 1999 to more than 93,000 reserves filled monthly in 2005. This was possible because the online catalog system is accessible anytime to residents of the county's computer-equipped homes.

Today's online catalog has vastly enhanced search and retrieval functionality, further enabling public access to the

collections. Despite predictions of the demise of books and other printed materials, Westchester found that 30 percent of the book reserves filled were requests for books that had been published prior to 1990.² Librarians reported that books that hadn't circulated in years, sometimes in decades, were now moving from the shelves as browsers scoured the on-

line catalog and found literary gems of the past that they might otherwise have overlooked. This is how the new technology offers a dramatic assist to traditional public library services, increasing their relevance in an era of new technology.

Numerous applications of the new technologies and media have helped improve traditional services and introduced others unique to the electronic medium.

The first service is access to the Internet. More than 90 percent of U.S. libraries provide Internet access to the public. Despite widespread Internet access in homes and businesses, people choose for a variety of reasons to come into the public library to access the Web, send or answer e-mail, and, where allowed, chat with others.

This immediately led to a service vital to the public library's continued support by taxpayers. Because of

concerns, especially about Internet safety for children, public libraries offer courses in "safe" use of the Internet for parents, children, and others. Also, many public libraries use their Web sites to direct parents and children to other sites especially appropriate to children. Proactively educating parents and children has been the public libraries' preferred approach to dealing with safety concerns, rather than promoting filters, other forms of restriction, or censorship.

Exploiting the technology and the Internet's 24/7 accessibility, many public libraries offer reference services via e-mail and chat. Many users prefer to make an inquiry via e-mail, rather than a telephone call that may result in a lengthy wait.



© AP Images

Public libraries offer “Webliographies,” an especially wonderful and high-impact service. Libraries also provide valuable annotated lists of linked sites organized by topic for people of all interests and all ages. Professional librarians validate and compile these lists, ensuring their appropriateness, accuracy, and timeliness, none of which can be assured about the results delivered by commercial search engines.

The New York Public Library (NYPL), which serves the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island, has been a pioneer for well over a century in children’s work. NYPL provides access on its children’s home page, On-Lion for Kids [<http://kids.nypl.org/>], to Picture Books Everyone Should Know (newly revised) and 100 Favorite Children’s Books. These online lists reach many more people than the library’s printed lists do.



Information-resource professionals offer further guidance for parents and children seeking appropriate materials on the Web site. Drop-down menus at the top of the kids’ page include resources on science and technology, arts and games, events in the branch libraries, reading and books, people and places, sports, holidays and celebrations, and more.

Public library users also have access to commercial full-text databases. With these tools, NYPL, for example, brings the home user thousands of periodicals and millions of articles [<http://www.nypl.org/databases/>]. In large libraries and small, databases allow access to periodicals and other publications that libraries would otherwise need to purchase for their users.

Many states have bought licenses to databases that make them available to all citizens of their respective sites. This means that a leased 3,000-title database of periodicals can be made freely accessible to a tiny community whose library can afford only 50 hard-copy subscriptions. Now all public libraries in New York and many other states promote access to electronic versions of thousands of periodicals, exponentially increasing the amount of information all public libraries make freely accessible to their users 24/7.

All of the aforementioned services highlight how the Internet has dramatically increased the relevance of public libraries to their users and the use of public library services.

Public libraries flourish and meet their users’ information needs precisely because of the existence of the Internet.

Access: People flock to the public library and overwhelm the libraries’ available Internet computers, contrary to the belief that virtually everyone has a computer at home and access to

the Internet. There never seem to be enough machines available at peak and other periods.

Seniors: Seniors are one category of high-volume library Internet users. Perceptions that the elderly cannot adapt to change and are afraid of computers is not borne out by the hosts of seniors who use the Internet to exchange e-mail with children, grandchildren, relatives, and friends; research information about health and welfare programs; and explore whatever else interests them, all at their local public library.

Homework: Numerous public libraries, public library consortia, and even states have contracted with Tutor.com [<http://www.tutor.com>] to provide students with online homework help and assistance with school projects. Part of what makes

the service so valuable is that the online tutors are actual school teachers.

Laptops: The Bronx Library Center is one of many libraries that loans laptops to users for in-library use. All the laptops have in-library wireless network connections that enable people to use the Web for any of a variety of applications; they also have microcomputer programs.

Browsing: Libraries’ online catalogs give users a chance to review dust jackets, tables of contents, first or sample chapters, and reviews for thousands of book titles. Now users can find out a great deal of information about items they might borrow without having to be at the library or physically handle such books.

Online Reviews: Some libraries have launched specialized reviews of books online. For example, the Ossining, New York, Public Library recently added to its Web site the Ossining Review of Books [<http://www.ossininglibrary.org/bob/default.aspx>], a new online guide to contemporary writing with involvement of prominent local writers and reviewers. The site features recommendations of books by writers with ties to Ossining. It also will give Ossining residents the opportunity to post their own comments and book reviews.

Today, public libraries are more relevant than ever to people fortunate enough to have new technologies and media in their homes. And for those who don’t, computers and a wealth of other services await them at the library. Using media of a new century, the public library retains its traditional status as a community center, a gathering place, and simply a nice place to enjoy and share knowledge and information.

The United States Government and Project Hope Donate Medicines to the Uzbek Ministry Of Health

In April, the Ambassador of the United States of America, Jon R. Purnell, the Uzbek Minister of Health, Feruz G. Nazirov, and representatives of the American NGO Project HOPE participated in a ceremony marking the donation of American medical aid to the Uzbek Ministry of Health.

This donation, valued at more than \$10 million, is the result of efforts by the United States government, American pharmaceutical companies and Project HOPE along with the Uzbek Ministry of Health. The donation consists of essential medicines and medical supplies requested on behalf of the Uzbek citizens by the Uzbek Ministry of Health.

Addressing the crowd attending the ceremony at Tashkent City Hospital Number One in the Shayhontohur district, Ambassador Purnell emphasized the cooperative nature of the donation, praising the work done by both American and Uzbek governmental and private entities. He told the audience that he likes “the words sotrudnichestvo and hamkorlik, which mean cooperation, . . . which means to work together, since without your cooperation, medical supplies cannot do much.” He added that since this cooperative program began in 1996, the United States government and Project HOPE have delivered more than \$82 million in medical supplies, medicines and vaccines to help the people of Uzbekistan. These shipments



Staff of Tashkent City Hospital Number One examines donated medicines and medical supplies. (U.S. Embassy photo)

highlight the long and productive relationship that the United States government and American businesses and NGOs enjoy with the Uzbek Ministry of Health.

The medicines and supplies that were part of this shipment have been distributed to hospitals and clinics in the Navoi, Khorezm, Bukhara, Samarkand and Tashkent regions and Karakalpakstan.



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