

DAILY BULLETIN

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U.S. PRESSING U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL FOR VOTE
ON DARFUR

Secretary-general urges council to act
By Judy Aita
Washington File United Nations
Correspondent

United Nations -- Submitting a revised version of its
draft Security Council resolution on Sudan, the United
States September 16 pressed for a vote quickly, saying
that time is critical in the race to save lives in Darfur.

The revised text still contains the basic points of the
original draft that was first submitted September 9,
endorsing an expanded, proactive African Union (AU)
monitoring mission and asking the United Nations to
establish an international commission to investigate
reports that genocide has been committed in Darfur.

U.S. Ambassador John Danforth said that the key
points of the resolution are “getting the AU in and
providing maximum support for it; also, calling for
the parties to get back to the table in Naivasha and
complete the North-South agreement; and calling for
the world to meet its commitments with respect to the
funding for humanitarian relief.”

The new draft is “essentially the same as what we’ve
had before,” the ambassador said. “We always attempt
to accommodate people where we can and listen to
people’s thoughts and incorporate them where it is
possible to do that” during negotiations.

The council scheduled a private meeting on the revised draft, but no date has been set for a vote. Nevertheless, Danforth said that he hoped the vote would take place before the week ended because “time is of the essence.....When the reports are 10,000 people are dying every month, then every day counts.”

As the council was discussing the revisions, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in an unusual move, made a strong plea for the council to act, saying, “It is urgent to take action now.”

“Civilians are still being attacked and fleeing their villages even as we speak, many months after the government committed itself to bring the militias under control. The cease-fire is also being violated by both groups. Both sides have to stop violating the cease-fire,” he said.

“I have urged the Security Council to act on the draft resolution without delay and to be as united as possible in the face of this crisis,” Annan told journalists. “This is the first time in the council’s history that it has ever been seized under Article 8 of the Genocide Convention, and it seems to me inconceivable that it should fail to respond.”

The council must be fully engaged, the secretary-general said, and appealed to all member states and organizations with the needed logistical and financial capabilities to do whatever they can to make the AU deployment happen as quickly as possible.

The secretary-general also said that he asked High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour and U.N. special adviser on the prevention of genocide Juan Mendes to visit Darfur immediately to see what can be done now and in the future to provide better protection for civilians. “Their job is not to describe or characterize what is happening, but to see what more can be done to stop it, and to prevent further abuses,” Annan said.

A U.S. spokesman said that the changes in the new draft reflect an attempt to give “some credit -- and I emphasize some credit -- where credit was due to the Government of Sudan” for improving humanitarian access. But the new draft retains the demand that Sudan submit the names of Jingaweit militia and others arrested for human rights abuses and calls on all Sudanese parties to take the necessary steps to ensure that human rights violations reported by the African Union monitors are addressed.

Also retained in the draft resolution is the threat of “addi-

tional actions,” which could include an oil embargo and/or sanctions against members of the Sudanese government, if Khartoum doesn’t comply with the resolutions or fails to cooperate with the African Union monitoring mission. It says the council will make that determination “after consultations with the African Union.”

The new draft also “urges the Government of Sudan to refrain from conducting military flights in and over the Darfur region in accordance with its commitments,” replacing language requiring Sudan to stop all military flights over the Darfur region.

The change on the military flights “clearly was ‘a give’ on our side,” the U.S. spokesman said. “We are not comfortable with this ... it is not as strong as we wanted it to be,” but the change was an attempt to keep the council united.

Nevertheless, the spokesman said, in Resolution 1556 “it is very clear that it is unlawful to attack civilians by land or air” and that revised paragraph is a reference to the cease-fire agreement and restates the fact that such attacks are still illegal.

SENATE APPROPRIATORS APPROVE \$175 MILLION FOR AID TO DARFUR

Panel also votes to boost funding for AIDS, decrease it for MCA

By Kathryn McConnell
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved \$175 million for emergency aid to the Darfur region of Sudan.

The Darfur provision is part of a \$19.5 billion foreign operations spending bill for the fiscal year beginning October 1 (FY05). The bill would boost funds to combat AIDS and other infectious diseases in poor countries but decrease by more than half the amount the Bush administration requested for its new foreign aid fund, the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA).

The measure that would increase foreign operations spending by \$2 billion over the 2004 level was approved

in committee 29-0. The \$19.5 billion amount is \$2 billion less than the administration's request and slightly more than the amount approved by the House of Representatives in July.

The approved amount for refugee, famine and disaster relief in the Darfur region augments the \$95 million for Darfur emergency relief Congress appropriated earlier this year in the 2005 defense spending bill. Darfur is experiencing civil conflict that Secretary of State Colin Powell has described as "genocide" by the Sudanese government against its citizens.

The approved amount to combat AIDS -- \$2.4 billion - - is \$220 million more than President Bush's request and the amount approved by the House.

Under the Senate bill, the MCA would receive \$1.1 billion; the administration had requested \$2.5 billion. The House foreign operations bill also approved less than half the administration request for MCA.

MCA, a supplemental aid program announced by President Bush in 2002, rewards select developing countries for progress in opening their economies and adopting human rights and democratization policies. The fund's administrative agency, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), has already named 16 qualifying countries and is expected to name more later in 2004, according to news reports.

State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher September 15 said the Millennium Challenge initiative is already having an impact. In countries that have been selected for eligibility, he said, "governments are conducting unprecedented consultations with their societies to identify development priorities. In countries that have not yet been selected but are striving to qualify for funding in future years, governments are implementing bold reform programs."

The spending bill will next be taken up by the full Senate or be rolled into an omnibus spending bill with other still unfinished appropriations measures for 2005. Differences between Senate and House versions of a spending bill then need to be reconciled before a final bill is sent to the president for signature.

BAN ON HUMAN CLONING A U.S. GOAL AT UNITED NATIONS

U.S. seeks to prevent "harvesting" of human embryos

The following is one of a series of seven fact sheets describing U.S. goals at the 59th session of the United Nations General Assembly:

TO BAN HUMAN CLONING

"As we seek to improve human life, we must always preserve human dignity. And therefore, we must prevent human cloning by stopping it before it starts."
-- President George W. Bush, April 10, 2002

The U.S. Position

The United States supports efforts to ban all forms of human cloning. Human cloning, for any purpose whatsoever, is unethical and morally reprehensible, and ignores respect for human dignity. At the 59th U.N. General Assembly, the United States will join a large group of nations co-sponsoring a resolution, proposed by Costa Rica, to draft an international convention against all human cloning.

What is Human Cloning?

The process commonly referred to as cloning (Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer) results in the creation of a human embryo. In "reproductive" cloning, this embryo is implanted into a woman's womb and allowed to grow. In what has been called "therapeutic," "research," and "experimental" cloning, the stem cells are removed from the embryo, destroying this nascent human life. A ban that differentiates between human reproductive and experimental cloning would essentially authorize the creation of a human embryo for the purpose of killing it, thus elevating the value of research and experimentation above that of a human life. Experimental embryonic cloning would therefore turn nascent human life into a natural resource to be mined and exploited, eroding the sense of worth and dignity of the individual. A partial ban that prohibits reproductive cloning but permits therapeutic, research, or experimental cloning is unacceptable to the United States and many other countries.

Stem-Cell Therapy

The United States supports continued research into the promising field of stem-cell therapy. In the United States, both human embryonic stem-cell research and so-called "adult" stem-cell research are legal and both receive funding from the federal government. There are important ethical restrictions, however, placed on the use of federal funds to conduct human embryonic stem-cell research, to ensure that the funds do not encourage or support the further destruction of human embryos. Specifically, federally funded researchers may use only stem cells derived prior to the announcement of the policy; federally funded researchers may not use newly destroyed embryos to derive new stem-cell lines. The federal government also provides substantial support to adult stem-cell research, which does not require the destruction of human embryos. Within the last few years, a wealth of published scientific reports has demonstrated that adult stem cells --contained in tissues of the human body, and after birth in the umbilical cord and placenta -- have the ability to transform into other tissue and cell types, and have been shown to be able to repair and regenerate damaged and diseased tissue. Adult stem cells have already benefited hundreds of patients in clinical trials, for such conditions as heart damage, Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, and sickle-cell anemia. The potential for adult stem cells to advance medicine and alleviate human suffering is enormous.

The Support of All Nations Is Needed

Consenting to human cloning would be a step toward a society in which human beings are grown for spare body parts and children are engineered to fit eugenic specification. We cannot allow human life to be devalued in this way. We urge all nations to prohibit any research, experimentation, development, or application that is aimed at human cloning.

SCIENTISTS HALFWAY TO COMPLETING DETAILS OF DRAFT HUMAN GENOME

Newly completed chromosome 5 has key disease genes, evolution clues

Four years after publicly revealing the official draft human genetic sequence, researchers have reached the halfway point in completing the genetic sentences that describe how to build a human, according to a September 15 press release by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Joint Human Genome Project.

The newly finalized chromosome 5 is the 12th chromosome completed. Twelve more chromosomes must be finalized to complete the human genetic sequence.

"This extremely accurate sequence will be a powerful tool for scientists trying to understand human disease," said Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham. "I'm pleased that the Department of Energy, which launched the human genome project in the mid-1980s, could help make this important contribution."

The new sequence shows that this chromosome contains key disease genes and a wealth of information about how humans evolved, scientists say.

Chromosome 5 is the second of three chromosomes that the DOE Joint Genome Institute (JGI) has finalized in collaboration with colleagues at the Stanford Human Genome Center. The final sequence analysis is published in the September 16 issue of the journal *Nature*. The JGI played a significant role in the federally funded Human Genome Project and now contributes to other critical areas of genomics research.

Chromosome 5, the largest to be completed so far, is made up of 180.9 million genetic letters -- the As, Ts, Gs, and Cs that compose the genetic alphabet. Those letters spell out the chromosome's 923 genes, including 66 genes that are known to be involved in human disease. Another 14 diseases seem to be caused by chromosome 5 genes, but they haven't yet been linked to a specific gene. Other chromosome 5 genes include a cluster that codes for interleukins, molecules that are involved in immune signaling and maturation and are implicated in asthma.

The DOE launched the historic quest to discover the human genetic blueprint and also developed cost-effective sequencing and computational technologies that enable

ongoing contributions to the expanding discipline of genomics.

Information about the Joint Genome Institute is available at:

<http://www.jgi.doe.gov>

The Stanford Human Genome Center (SHGC):

<http://www-shgc.stanford.edu>

U.S. RELEASES ANNUAL NARCOTICS CERTIFICATION REPORT

Burma not meeting counternarcotics obligations, White House says

President Bush has authorized Secretary of State Colin Powell to submit the annual report listing major illicit drug-producing and drug-transit countries to Congress. According to a September 16 White House press release, the report also contains presidential determinations of countries that have not met their international counternarcotics obligations.

In the report, the President identified Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, and Vietnam as major drug-transit or major illicit drug-producing countries, in a grouping also known as the "Majors List."

The president removed Thailand from the 2004 "Majors List," but determined that Burma "has failed demonstrably during the previous 12 months to adhere to its obligations under inter-national counternarcotics agreements."

The president also determined that Haiti's new interim government has taken substantive counternarcotics actions, but expressed continued concern over the Haitian government's ability to carry out sustained counternarcotics efforts.

The president commended the Netherlands for its counternarcotics efforts while expressing concern over obstacles to mutual legal assistance and extradition from that country.

The report notes presidential concerns over the flow of illicit drugs from Canada, political corruption in Nigeria, and increased opium production in Afghanistan.

The president also expressed deep concern about heroin and methamphetamine linked to North Korea that is being trafficked to East Asian countries.

EU REJECTING U.S. PUSH TO END SUBSIDIES FOR COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT

Transatlantic partners discuss replacing 1992 subsidy agreement

By Berta Gomez

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. government has thus far been unable to convince the European Union (EU) to replace a 1992 bilateral agreement that permits subsidies for commercial aircraft development, a U.S. trade official says.

U.S. negotiators traveled to Brussels September 16 aiming to reach agreement on ending aircraft development subsidies and permitting fair competition between the European producer, Airbus Industries and its U.S. competitor, Boeing Company, John Veroneau, general counsel of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), told reporters via teleconference.

Noting that Airbus has now achieved market parity with Boeing, Veroneau said, "The status quo is not acceptable." In the absence of a new agreement the United States will consider bringing a case before the World Trade Organization (WTO), he added.

Boeing and U.S. officials have said that the existing agreement reflects conditions 12 years ago, when Airbus was struggling and Boeing dominant in the market. The two companies are now fully competitive, they say.

In an August 13 speech to Boeing employees in Seattle, Washington, President Bush described ongoing EU government subsidies to Airbus as "unfair" and said he had directed U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick to inform European officials of the U.S. position and

“to pursue all options to end these subsidies -- including bringing a WTO case, if need be.”

Veroneau described the five-hour talks in Brussels as “useful and frank,” but said the European Commission (EC), the EU governing body, “has not yet accepted our goals,” nor did the parties agree on a time frame for resolving their differences.

“We will continue this conversation, but we did not lay out a specific timetable for consultations,” said

Veroneau, who led the U.S. delegation to the meeting, said that one problem facing the parties is that differing definitions of “subsidy” have led to disagreements over how much government support is going to the two companies. “There are diverging views on the levels of support each side has received. There are a number of different ways to calculate the numbers,” he said.

For example, Airbus and EU officials say that Boeing receives “indirect” subsidies in the form of U.S. government research and development (R&D) funds and various tax breaks. For their part, Boeing and U.S. officials contend that the 1992 agreement allowing direct government support of up to 33 percent of the costs for development of new aircraft is no longer needed by a mature and financially robust Airbus.

Veroneau said that the real question is whether the 1992 agreement should remain in force given current conditions.

“We’ve suggested that to have a useful agreement we need a definition of subsidies. We believe the SCM [WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures] is a good place to start,” Veroneau said.

He acknowledged that if the U.S. were to file a complaint with the WTO, the EU might respond by filing a complaint alleging U.S. subsidies. “We assume that if we file, they’ll respond in some way,” Veroneau said.

Zoellick is scheduled to meet at the end of September in Washington with outgoing EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy. Zoellick spokesman Rich Mills told reporters the meeting would “probably” take place and that “it would be safe to assume” the Airbus issue will be on the agenda.

Please Note: Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage www.usmission.ch. Select “Washington File” from the drop-down menu under “News.”