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Transcript: Powell Outlines "Big Three" Foreign Policy Challenges

(Discusses Afghanistan, Iraq, Mideast in newspaper interview)

Afghanistan, Iraq and the Middle East peace process are the "big three challenges" currently facing U.S. foreign policy, says Secretary of State Colin Powell.

In an October 18 interview with the editorial board of the newspaper USA Today, Powell said he had talked to the Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Abdullah earlier that day and congratulated the Afghan people for voting in such large numbers in the October 9 presidential elections.

Every member of coalition -- especially the United States -- that liberated Afghanistan is proud to have played a role in allowing Afghans to decide their future and their leadership, Powell said.

"We also believe there is no reason we can't do the same thing in Iraq," Powell added. Even though Iraq's insurgency is far more difficult than that faced in Afghanistan, he said, the coalition there has a coherent plan, that military forces are performing well, and Iraqi forces are being trained and equipped in increasing numbers.

"[T]here is no reason to believe that the Iraqi people don't want the same thing that the Afghans want, and that is the opportunity to choose their own leaders," Powell said.

The secretary said he hoped for movement in the Middle East peace process, both concerning Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's disengagement plan and Palestinian reforms that would empower the Palestinian prime minister to deal with taking over Gaza and parts of the West Bank.

He said regional peace will depend upon creating "a Palestinian state that lives side by side in peace with Israel."

In other areas of foreign policy, Powell said U.S.-China relations are the best they have been in the 30-plus years of bilateral relations between the two countries.

He said U.S. bilateral relations with India and Pakistan are much improved, as well. He noted that Pakistan went from being a supporter of Afghanistan's Taliban regime to being an opponent within 72 hours of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and he added, "[W]e couldn't have done what we did in Afghanistan without the assistance of President [Pervez] Musharraf and the Pakistanis."

The United States and India have a new strategic relationship, Powell said, due to mutual strategic interests in the region. The Bush administration, he said, has stressed that U.S.-India relations are not contingent on relations with Pakistan.

"We see each country as separate and distinct, and because we treat each as a single bilateral partner with us, it gives us more standing to encourage them to do things together," he said.

Powell also talked about free trade agreements, the Millennium Challenge Account, the HIV/AIDS emergency fund, U.S.-Russia relations, African economic development and peacekeeping issues, trade with Latin America, North Korea, Iran, the war on terrorism, multilateral efforts, and the broader Middle East initiative that emphasizes democracy, human rights and market economies.

**Full transcript is available at
<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/200/index.htm>**

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Fact Sheet: Iraq: Building a New Society

(State Department says real progress achieved in many key areas)

Following is a fact sheet issued by the State Department entitled "Iraq: Building a New Society:

(begin fact sheet)

Iraq: Building a New Society

Iraqis, with help from the Coalition and many partners, are rebuilding their country and offering freedom, new opportunities and much needed services to their people. Security problems remain a major challenge for the Iraqi people and for development in various parts of the country. Nevertheless, real progress has been made in many key areas.

Infrastructure

-- Oil revenues for the Iraqi people since June 2003 have been estimated at nearly \$18 billion.

-- Access to essential services is being provided without discrimination.

-- The port of Umm Qasr has been rehabilitated and reopened to commercial traffic, producing more than \$18 million in tariff revenues, with projections of more than \$24 million this year.

-- The Al Mat Bridge in northern Iraq, the Tikrit Bridge in central Iraq, and the Khazir Bridge on the highway between Baghdad and Jordan in western Iraq have been renovated, allowing the delivery of commercial and humanitarian cargo throughout Iraq.

-- Water and sanitation projects are underway across Iraq, benefitting 11.8 million residents.

-- A new program will clear 20,000 kilometers of Iraq's waterways and employ about 100,000 Iraqis. Security and Stability

-- More than 100,000 law enforcement officers are on duty.

-- More than 62,000 Iraqi armed forces, including army, air force, national guard, and coastal defense units, are serving or training.

Education

-- Over 2,405 schools have been rehabilitated, 33,000 secondary school teachers trained and 8.7 million textbooks printed and distributed.

-- Twenty-five Fulbright grantees and over 20 Iraqi high school students are studying in U.S. educational institutions.

-- The first "American Corner" opened in Iraq, including hundreds of books about the U.S., a video and DVD library, Internet connected computers and videoconferencing capabilities.

Health

-- Ground was broken on the first two of 150 new primary health care centers to be built across Iraq.

-- Some 110 health clinics have been opened, 2,500 medical staff are being trained, and over 600 medical centers are being equipped.

-- Five million children under the age of 5 have been vaccinated against childhood diseases.

Economic Growth

-- The new Iraqi currency is stable and has appreciated against many currencies.

-- Small loans for entrepreneurs totaling over \$33 million are available around the country.

-- The Iraq Stock Exchange opened in June 2004 including 44 companies with a market capitalization of over \$1.9 billion.

-- An Economic Trade zone in the north is being developed, connecting it to the central and southern regions.

-- Business training courses are being offered to Iraqi businesspeople.

Advancing Women

-- The Iraqi cabinet includes six women ministers and seven women deputy ministers.

-- Twenty-eight women's centers throughout Iraq (22 now open) offer computer and literacy classes, job skills, and access to information about health care and legal services.

Press

-- Iraq has a vibrant and free press-with over 300 newspapers and numerous television and radio outlets.

-- Iraq has welcomed the world's press; many media have opened permanent offices.

-- Iraqis have access to a variety of information sources allowing the independent formation of opinions and the ability to make crucial decisions about the future.

Culture

-- Cultural preservation activities are underway at the Iraq National Museum and the Iraq National Library.

-- An Archaeological Site Protection Plan and stolen artifact list are being developed.

-- The Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra performed in the U.S. and had workshops with cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

-- Iraqi wrestlers, boxers, and archers received training in the U.S. and participated in the 2004 summer Olympics.

-- The Iraqi soccer team, competing in the Olympics for the first time since 1988, qualified for the semi-finals.

IRAQ: BUILDING A NEW SOCIETY 10/18/04
THE ROAD TO DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNMENT

-- Interim Government announced, Governing Council dissolved - June 1

-- Election Commission established - June 4

-- Transfer of sovereignty to Iraqi Interim Government - June 28

-- National Conference convenes and selects Interim National Council - August 15

-- National elections for permanent government - scheduled for January 2005

"Like every nation that has made the journey to democracy, Iraqis will raise up a government that reflects their own culture and values...Iraqis will write their own history, and find their own way." - President George W. Bush

(end fact sheet)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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Text: Bolton Outlines Bush Administration's Nonproliferation Efforts

(Says strategy extends beyond rogue states to trade routes, companies)

The nonproliferation policy of the Bush administration is more properly described as counterproliferation, says John Bolton, the State Department's top arms control official.

"[T]he front lines in our nonproliferation strategy extend beyond the well-known rogue states, to the trade routes and entities that are engaged in supplying the countries of greatest proliferation concern," Bolton said October 19 in remarks to the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations.

Employment of scientists, interdiction of suspected shipments, aid in helping other states enforce export controls, and placement of sanctions on companies who trade in components for weapons of mass destruction (WMD) are among the tools the administration uses to disrupt nuclear weapons procurement, Bolton said.

He also spoke of partnerships the United States has formed with other nations in these efforts. The Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), through which 60 countries cooperate to stop the transfer of weapon components, the G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, which seeks to secure dangerous materials, and the Six-Party Talks with North Korea to stop its nuclear program were among those highlighted.

"President Bush has made it clear that the long-term objective of the United States is to create a web of counterproliferation partnerships, through which proliferators will have difficulty carrying out their trade in WMD and missile-related technology," Bolton said.

Full transcript is available at
<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/200/index.htm>

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Text: Four New Ports in U.K. to Implement Container Security Initiative

(Liverpool, Southampton, Thamesport, Tilbury to secure cargo against terrorism)

The ports of Liverpool, Southampton, Thamesport, and Tilbury in the United Kingdom are ready to implement the Container Security Initiative (CSI), which is aimed at securing maritime cargo shipments against the threat of terrorism.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Robert C. Bonner and U.K.

Paymaster General and Customs Minister Dawn Primarolo announced October 19 that CSI will be fully operational in the four ports on November 1.

CSI is now operational in 30 ports in Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America and will continue to expand to other strategic locations that ship substantial amounts of cargo to the United States, according to an October 19 press release by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, of which U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is an agency.

Following is the Department of Homeland Security release:

(begin text)

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Washington, D.C.
October 19, 2004

Press Release

FOUR NEW PORTS IN UK TO IMPLEMENT THE CONTAINER SECURITY INITIATIVE TARGETING AND PRE-SCREENING CARGO DESTINED FOR U.S.

Washington -- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Robert C. Bonner and United Kingdom Paymaster General and Customs Minister, Dawn Primarolo announced today that the ports of Liverpool, Southampton, Thamesport, and Tilbury in the United Kingdom are ready to start CSI operations. During mid-October, CSI will be in a "Procedural Development (testing) Phase" and will be fully operational on November 1, 2004.

"The primary purpose of CSI is to protect the global trading system and the trade lanes between CSI ports and the U.S. By expanding CSI to the ports of Liverpool, Southampton, Thamesport, and Tilbury, the government of the United Kingdom is helping to make a safer, more secure world trading system," Commissioner Bonner said.

United Kingdom Customs officials, working side by side with CBP officers, are responsible for screening any containers identified as a potential terrorist risk. CBP and the United Kingdom signed a CSI declaration of principles on December 9, 2002. The CSI port of Felixstowe became operational on May 24, 2003. U.S. Customs and Border Protection deployed a team of CBP officers to the port of Felixstowe to target cargo containers that pose a potential risk for terrorism destined for the United States.

CSI is now operational in 30 ports in Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America. The operational ports include: Halifax, Montreal, and Vancouver, Canada; Rotterdam, The Netherlands; Le Havre, France; Bremerhaven and Hamburg, Germany; Antwerp, Belgium; Singapore; Yokohama, Tokyo, Nagoya and Kobe, Japan; Hong Kong; Göteborg, Sweden; Felixstowe, Liverpool, Southampton, Thamesport, and Tilbury, United Kingdom; Genoa, La Spezia, and Naples, Italy; Busan, Korea; Durban, South Africa; Port Klang and Tanjung Pelepas, Malaysia; Piraeus, Greece; Algeciras, Spain; Laem Chabang, Thailand.

The 30 ports represent the world's major seaports. The CSI network will expand even farther. CSI will be expanding to strategic locations that ship substantial amounts of cargo to the United States, and that have the infrastructure and technology in place to participate in the program.

United Kingdom Paymaster General and Customs Minister, Dawn Primarolo said: "By implementing the CSI in a further four UK ports, Customs demonstrates commitment in the fight against terrorism. We will continue to share intelligence and co-operate with our partners overseas to prevent suspect material from falling into the hands of terrorists."

CSI was proposed by Commissioner Bonner and launched in January 2002. CSI has been accepted globally as a bold and revolutionary initiative to secure maritime cargo shipments against the terrorist threat.

Before 9/11, the Container Security Initiative did not exist and there was no program that permitted

inspection of high-risk containers destined for the U.S. before they left the foreign ports of embarkation or transshipment.

CSI is the only multinational program in existence in the world today that is actually protecting global trade lanes by preventing containerized shipping from being exploited and disrupted by international terrorists.

CSI not only adds security to the movement of cargo containers, but because the targeting, and if necessary, inspection, occurs at outbound ports, rather than at the ports of arrival, the containers move faster and more efficiently through the supply chain.

The World Customs Organization and the G8 have supported CSI expansion through their adoption of resolutions that support the implementation of the security measures introduced by CSI at ports throughout the world. On April 22, 2004, the European Union and the Department of Homeland Security signed an agreement committing both parties to further cooperate on CSI and related matters.

Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) technology allows the screening of a larger portion of commercial traffic in less time. This enables targeting containers that pose a potential risk for terrorism while facilitating legitimate trade. Customs officers use large-scale gamma ray and x-ray imaging systems to safely and efficiently screen conveyances for contraband, including weapons of mass destruction. These units can scan the interior of a full-size 40-foot container in under a minute.

As part of CSI, officers also use radiation detection devices to scan for signs of radioactive materials. If necessary, containers are opened and unloaded by the host government Customs service for a more intensive manual inspection. CSI officers observe this manual inspection.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is the agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the protection of our nation's borders. CBP unified Customs, Immigration, and Agriculture Inspectors and the

Border Patrol into one border agency for the United States.

Press Office
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

www.dhs.gov

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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Fact Sheet: U.S. Identifies 39 Groups as Foreign Terrorist Organizations

(List helps heighten public awareness about terrorism)

Secretary of State Colin Powell has designated 39 groups as Foreign Terrorist Organizations, according to a Department of State fact sheet released October 19.

"FTO designations play a critical role in our fight against terrorism, and are an effective means of curtailing support for terrorist activities and pressuring groups to get out of the terrorism business," the statement said.

The fact sheet includes a listing of the 39 terrorist groups, the legal criteria for designation, the process for selection of the terrorist groups and the legal ramifications of these designations.

Full transcript is available at <http://www.usemb.se/wireless/200/index.htm>

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Excerpt: U.S. Concerned About Impact of Khodorkovsky Case in Russia

(Case is affecting Russia's investment and business climate)

The case against Yukos oil company founder Mikhail Khodorkovsky is "a matter of continuing interest and concern" for the United States, State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher said October 19 during the Daily Press Briefing.

Khodorkovsky has been in jail since October 2003.

"It's a matter that we do think affects not only the view of Russia's human rights climate and judicial climate, but is also affecting the climate of investment in Russia, and therefore has implications for Russians not only on their, sort of the way their society is run, but also on their economy," said Boucher in response to a journalist's question. "And we think those are important factors that need to be taken into account and should be taken into account by the Russian Government as they proceed in this matter."

Boucher said the United States was also concerned about the possible sell-off of the gas company associated with Yukos at a price below market value. Such a sell-off could raise questions of coercion and favoritism, affecting views of the business climate, he said.

Following is an excerpt from the State Department briefing:

(begin excerpt)

U.S. Department of State
Daily Press Briefing
October 19, 2004

12:45 p.m. EDT

Briefer: Richard Boucher, Spokesman

[...]

QUESTION: One of the defense lawyers for Khodorkovsky is here [in Washington, D.C.] and is seeing people at State and seeing people elsewhere and seeing think-tankers and all. His message -- he has a multiple message, but one seems to be that, you know, things aren't -- the outlook for human rights in Russia under Putin is not very bright.

Do you have some -- I know he just was here this morning, but does the State Department have something, some new view of what is going on? Yukos is, you know, is really -- call it an auction, but it really isn't an auction. And Khodorkovsky is still in jail and, you know, what's the state of affairs in Russia for people who don't agree with Mr. Putin?

MR. BOUCHER: Well, the state of affairs in Russia, I think, would be described in a variety of ways. If you look at the transcript of the Secretary's interview with USA Today, which I think is out now, you'll see he addressed the issue there -- if I'm not confusing it with another interview, but I think he addressed it there.

But second of all, yes, we are having meetings with people who are interested or part of the Khodorkovsky case. This is a matter of continuing interest and concern from the United States. It's a matter that we do think affects not only the view of Russia's human rights climate and judicial climate, but is also affecting the climate of investment in Russia, and therefore has implications for Russians not only on their, sort of the way their society is run, but also on their economy. And we think those are important factors that need to be taken into account and should be taken into account by the Russian Government as they proceed in this matter.

We have been concerned about the possible sell-off of the gas company that's associated with Yukos, and that's a matter we've been following as well, again, from the point of view of judicial procedures in Russia and the state of affairs with that, but also the implications for the business climate in Russia as well.

QUESTION: Well, what are your concerns about the sell-off of the gas company? I don't know if I've heard --

MR. BOUCHER: The reports are it's going to be sold at less than fair market value.

QUESTION: A regular auction is the argument. And so far as the prosecution, well, I don't --

QUESTION: Wait, hold on. And so what do care how much it gets sold for? Is there some U.S. interest?

MR. BOUCHER: The reason we care, Matt, is because that a sale at less than fair market value constitutes, first of all, a form of -- one has to assume there is a matter, some element of coercion or forced sale involved; and second of all, that if sales are not made in the open market at fair market value, one has to assume there's an element of favoritism as well, and that affects people's view of the business climate.

QUESTION: Kind of like closed bidding for contracts?

MR. BOUCHER: No, not at all.

QUESTION: So you have something -- you have --

MR. BOUCHER: We have an interest in all these matters and we follow them closely and we continue to have our concerns that we've had before.

QUESTION: But you believe that there's an element of coercion going on in the sale of this?

MR. BOUCHER: All I can tell you is we are concerned that there are reports of sales at less than fair market value. You asked me why that potentially might be a concern. I explained it to you. I'm not -- at this point, I can't confirm that that is, in fact, going to take place.

QUESTION: Are you concerned about the way Khodorkovsky has been treated?

MR. BOUCHER: We have had concerns all along about the situation and those continue, and that's why we've followed all these matters very closely and kept in touch with people.

(end excerpt)

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Text: NASA Scientists Predict Next Period of Minimum Solar Activity

(Solar minimum should arrive a year early, in late 2006)

Scientists at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center have found a simple way to predict the date of the next solar minimum, one extreme of the sun's 11-year activity cycle, according to an October 18 NASA press release.

Solar physicist David Hathaway has checked the sun every day since 1998 and has seen sunspots. Sunspots are planet-sized "islands" on the sun's surface. They are dark, cool, powerfully magnetized and fleeting; a typical sunspot lasts a few days or weeks before breaking up.

Even during the solar minimum (Solar Min) observers will see one or two spots on the sun, but when Hathaway looked on January 28, there were none. It happened again, twice, on October 11 and 12. The other extreme of solar activity is the solar maximum (Solar Max).

"This is a sign," says Hathaway, "that the solar minimum is coming, and it's coming sooner than we expected."

Working at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, Hathaway and a colleague "examined data from the last eight solar cycles and discovered that

Solar Min follows the first spotless day after Solar Max by 34 months," Hathaway said.

The most recent solar maximum was in late 2000. The first spotless day after that was January 28, 2004. Using this rule, solar minimum should arrive in late 2006, about a year earlier than expected.

Tracking sunspots is important on Earth because the intensity of this activity can increase the levels of space radiation, affecting satellites, communications and broadcasts.

Text of the NASA press release follows:

(begin text)

NASA
Press release, October 18, 2004

Solar Minimum is Coming

Solar Cycle Update

Something strange happened on the sun last week: all the sunspots vanished. This is a sign, say scientists, that solar minimum is coming sooner than expected.

Six ... long ... years.

Solar physicist David Hathaway has been checking the sun every day since 1998, and every day for six years there have been sunspots. Sunspots are planet-sized "islands" on the surface of the sun. They are dark, cool, powerfully magnetized, and fleeting: a typical sunspot lasts only a few days or weeks before it breaks up. As soon as one disappears, however, another emerges to take its place.

Even during the lowest ebb of solar activity, you can usually find one or two spots on the sun. But when Hathaway looked on Jan. 28, 2004, there were none. The sun was utterly blank. It happened again last week, twice, on Oct. 11th and 12th. There were no sunspots.

"This is a sign," says Hathaway, "that the solar minimum is coming, and it's coming sooner than we expected."

Solar minimum and solar maximum -- "Solar Min" and "Solar Max" for short -- are two extremes of the sun's 11-year activity cycle. At maximum, the sun is peppered with spots, solar flares erupt, and the sun hurls billion-ton clouds of electrified gas toward Earth. It's a good time for sky watchers who enjoy auroras, but not so good for astronauts who have to be wary of radiation storms. Power outages, zapped satellites, malfunctioning GPS receivers -- these are just a few of the things that can happen during Solar Max.

Solar minimum is different. Sunspots are fewer -- sometimes days or weeks go by without a spot. Solar flares subside. It's a safer time to travel through space, and a less interesting time to watch polar skies. Hathaway is an expert forecaster of the solar cycle. He keeps track of sunspot numbers (the best known indicator of solar activity) and predicts years in advance when the next peaks and valleys will come. It's not easy: "Contrary to popular belief," says Hathaway, "the solar cycle is not precisely 11 years long." Its length, measured from minimum to minimum, varies: "The shortest cycles are 9 years, and the longest ones are about 14 years." What makes a cycle long or short? Researchers aren't sure. "We won't even know if the current cycle is long or short -- until it's over," he says.

[Excerpted: Table of yearly averaged sunspot numbers 1610-2000]

But researchers are making progress. Hathaway and colleague Bob Wilson, both working at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, believe they've found a simple way to predict the date of the next solar minimum. "We examined data from the last 8 solar cycles and discovered that Solar Min follows the first spotless day after Solar Max by 34 months," explains Hathaway. The most recent solar maximum was in late 2000. The first spotless day after that was Jan 28, 2004. So, using Hathaway and Wilson's simple rule, solar

minimum should arrive in late 2006. That's about a year earlier than previously thought.

The next solar maximum might come early, too, says Hathaway. "Solar activity intensifies rapidly after solar minimum. In recent cycles, Solar Max has followed Solar Min by just 4 years." Do the math: 2006 + 4 years = 2010.

By that time, according to NASA's new vision for space exploration, robot ships will be heading for the moon in advance of human explorers. If Hathaway and Wilson's prediction is correct, those robots will need good shields. Solar flares and radiation storms can damage silicon brains and electronic guts almost as badly as their organic counterparts.

For now, says Hathaway, we're about to experience "the calm before the storm." And although he's a fan of solar activity--what solar physicist isn't?--he's looking forward to the lull. "It'll give us a chance to see if our 'spotless sun' method for predicting solar minimum really works."

Solar Max will be back soon enough.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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Text: Microscopic Sensor Monitors Glucose Levels, Scientists Say

(NASA-funded sensor also could help hospital patients, astronauts)

Scientists at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio have developed a fully functional, minimally invasive microscopic sensor that can be placed just under the skin and be seen with the naked eye for accurate, continuous examination of glucose

and other body-fluid levels with the help of simple color changes.

Colors in the tiny sensor, which is smaller than a pencil tip, gradually change from orange (low glucose levels) to green and then to dark blue as levels increase, according to an October 18 Case Western press release.

A darker blue signifies the highest glucose level that can occur in diabetics. Miklos Gratzl, a Case Western Reserve University biomedical engineer, and colleague Koji Tohda believe implications for improving diabetics' quality of life are substantial.

"Many diabetics could greatly benefit from this technology, freeing them from having to take samples from their fingers several times a day to monitor blood sugar levels," Gratzl said. "The monitor could also help doctors with close monitoring of electrolytes, metabolites and other vital biochemicals in the body, primarily those of critically ill patients."

The research also may benefit future astronauts, who could become ill or have accidents while in space. The research is funded mainly by NASA and the John Glenn Biomedical Engineering Consortium at NASA Glenn Research Center.

The sensor is one to two millimeters long and 100 to 200 micrometers wide. The device penetrates the skin easily and painlessly so users may insert or reinsert it themselves for several days of operation. Gratzl says the sensor could be ready for human testing in six months.

The text of the Case Western Reserve University press release follows:

(begin text)

Case Western Reserve University
Press release, October 18, 2004

Biomedical engineers at case develop first sliver-sized sensor to monitor glucose levels

CLEVELAND -- It's a good thing that the now eight-year-old son of Miklos Gratzl, a Case

Western Reserve University biomedical engineer, got a splinter in his finger one day -- at least for the sake of science. With apologies to his son -- instead of an "Ouch!" moment, for Gratzl it was more of an "A-ha!" moment.

As he was removing it from his son's finger, the splinter gave him an idea: Since it showed no open wound in the skin, he thought to himself that a sensor like a sliver would be ideal for all kinds of biomedical applications since the skin would heal very quickly above it and after that no track infection can occur.

The associate professor of biomedical engineering and researcher at the Case School of Engineering has developed for the first time a "sliver-sensor" -- a fully functional, minimally invasive, microscopic new monitor that can be placed just under the skin and seen with the naked eye for very accurate, continuous examination of glucose level for diabetics and other bodily fluid levels -- with the help of simple color changes.

Colors in the tiny sensor, which is smaller than the tip of a pencil, gradually change from orange (low glucose levels) to green and then to dark blue as levels increase. A deep, darker blue signifies the highest glucose level that can occur in diabetics. Gratzl and co-principal investigator Koji Tohda, a biomedical engineering researcher at Case, believe the implications for improving the quality of life of diabetics would be substantial.

"Many diabetics could greatly benefit from this technology, freeing them from having to take samples from their fingers several times a day to monitor blood sugar levels," Gratzl said. "The monitor could also help doctors with close monitoring of electrolytes, metabolites and other vital biochemicals in the body, primarily those of critically ill patients."

Gratzl and Tohda's research also may benefit our future astronauts. The research is being funded by NASA and the John Glenn Biomedical Engineering Consortium at NASA Glenn Research Center, and partially by Vision Sensors LLC, a Cleveland-based startup.

Astronauts face the possibility of becoming ill while in space. Accidents also happen. In such cases doctors on Earth have to make a diagnosis from a distance of several thousand miles. This new sensor, continually monitoring such vital markers as ions and metabolites in an astronaut's interstitial fluid may make it easier and quicker for doctors to decide the best intervention and therapy. To date, no such continuous, minimally invasive monitor for ions and metabolites has been available.

Tohda's expertise in the area of optode technology helped point the researchers in the direction of using color changing molecules to detect ionic levels as they vary with changes in glucose. According to Gratzl, this approach is much more modern and powerful technology than the traditional color dyes, which are difficult to "immobilize" inside the sensor, Gratzl says. Traditional dyes tend to diffuse and "get lost" in tissue and cannot be changed or "tuned" to best adapt to being inside a sensor. So Tohda suggested they create a sliver sensor that would generate color change instead of an electrical current.

"We also thought that color can be seen better from the outside if the sliver is not too deep, and if it gets distorted by the skin this can be corrected by using a white spot inside the sensor that does not change color," Gratzl said.

The sensor, which is one to two millimeters long and 100 to 200 micrometers wide, penetrates the skin easily and painlessly so users may insert or reinsert it themselves when needed and can be operational at least for several days at a time. It can be monitored by eyesight and by electronic telemetry using a watchlike device worn by the person for data processing. Sensing itself does not require a battery, or the collection of blood samples, and needs very little energy if a watchlike signal processor is used. With no wires across the skin, there is no deterioration of the skin surface or other areas inside the skin and no danger of track infection. The device also is advantageous because no electrical currents are going through the body.

Gratzl says lab testing and in vivo testing of the sensor in laboratory animals has been going well. He also reports the sliver sensor could be ready for human testing within six months.

"So far, the sensor is performing beyond expectation in preliminary laboratory tests," Gratzl said. "Over the years, there has been a lack of good, quality devices for diabetics to monitor glucose -- something they must do every day of their lives -- devices that are reliable, relatively low-cost and minimally invasive."

Members of the John Glenn Biomedical Engineering Consortium include Case, NASA Glenn Research Center, the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, University Hospitals of Cleveland and the National Center for Microgravity Research.

About Case Western Reserve University Case is among the nation's leading research institutions. Founded in 1826 and shaped by the unique merger of the Case Institute of Technology and Western Reserve University, Case is distinguished by its strengths in education, research, service, and experiential learning. Located in Cleveland, Case offers nationally recognized programs in the Arts and Sciences, Dentistry, Engineering, Law, Management, Medicine, Nursing, and Social Sciences. <http://www.case.edu>

(end text)

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Text: International Panel Looks at Illegal Internet Drug Sales

(Governments seek to tackle illicit sales by online pharmacies)

The Internet has created a marketplace for illegal drug sales in cyberspace, and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is bringing together experts October 19-21 to develop a plan to shut it down.

With the anonymity offered by the Internet and the mail, online pharmacies are providing easy access to controlled substances by illegally selling drugs to customers worldwide without a physician's prescription. According to a press release prepared by the U.N. Information Service on behalf of INCB, these online pharmacies "are used as a source by addicts and provide the means for large-scale dealing to a practically unlimited number of customers."

"The sale of controlled drugs through the Internet is a global problem and tackling it requires joint action and close working by national authorities," said INCB President Hamid Ghodse.

The borderless nature of the Internet allows rogue online pharmacies to dodge the laws of one nation that may have attempted to address the problem and simply move to another less regulated country. It is hoped that the expert panel, at work in Vienna, Austria, will be able to devise recommendations for preventing this illicit traffic.

The INCB promotes government compliance with the major international conventions regarding trafficking in illicit drugs.

The text of the UNIS press release follows:

(begin text)

United Nations Information Service
UNIS Vienna

International Narcotics Control Board Targets
Illicit Sales of Drugs on Internet Pharmacies

International Experts to Meet in Vienna to Discuss
Solutions

VIENNA, 18 October (UN Information Service) --
In an effort to organize concerted global action
against the increasing sales of internationally

controlled substances by Internet pharmacies, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is organizing a meeting of experts from 19 to 21 October at the Vienna International Centre.

The meeting comes in response to requests by governments to explore ways and means of tackling this issue. It will examine the problem of illicit sales by Internet pharmacies and drug smuggling via postal services, with the aim of identifying the scale of the problem and providing suggestions and recommendations on actions to be taken at national and international levels.

Because it provides easy access to controlled drugs, the Internet is becoming an important route for trafficking by on-line pharmacies. These pharmacies illegally provide prescription drugs to clients worldwide, but without the required prescriptions. They are used as a source by drug addicts and provide the means for large-scale dealing to a practically unlimited number of customers.

These prescription drugs often contain narcotics and psychotropic substances with properties similar to illicit drugs such as heroin and cocaine. Demand is high for some of these controlled pharmaceuticals, which are often abused by drug addicts as their first drug of choice. Others may become unwittingly dependent on drugs if they take them without medical supervision. In practical terms it is easier to access drugs via online pharmacies, which are just a mouse-click away, than by seeking professional help or by forging prescriptions or by theft.

"The INCB has repeatedly alerted the international community to this problem since the mid-1990s. The sale of controlled drugs through the Internet is a global problem and tackling it requires joint action and close working by national authorities. So far, only a few countries have taken specific legal action to prevent misuse of the Internet in this way. Even in countries where such legislation exists, different laws and regulations in other countries make it very difficult to consistently identify, investigate and ultimately prevent the illicit use of the Internet," said Professor Ghodse, INCB President. Countries which have already

established the required legal framework to close down such Internet sites and control access to the Internet service providers are obstructed in their efforts by companies operating from countries where no such legal provisions are in place.

Isolated activities by individual countries can therefore have only limited impact without concerted, supportive international action. "The INCB recognizes the need for coordinated international interventions, and hopes that the expert group meeting will come up with recommendations for appropriate action as well as identifying longer term goals and measures to tackle this problem," added Professor Ghodse.

The Vienna-based Board is a quasi-judicial body that monitors the implementation of the United Nations international drug control conventions. It was established in 1968 in accordance with the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. INCB is independent of governments, as well as of the United Nations. Its 13 members are elected by the Economic and Social Council and serve in their personal capacity, not as government representatives.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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Text: New Flexible Fibers Sense Light and Analyze its Colors

(Smart fabric blends optical fiber, electronic component technologies)

In work that could lead to applications such as multifunctional fabrics and all-optical computer interfaces, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) researchers have created flexible fibers and fabrics that can sense light and analyze its colors, -

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according to an October 14 MIT press release.

With the new fabric, the team can create devices that marry the ease of fabrication and the length and flexibility associated with optical fibers with the many integrated functions associated with semiconductor devices.

"These novel fiber structures offer a unique possibility for constructing an optoelectronic functional fabric because the fibers are both flexible and mechanically tough, and can thus be woven," write the researchers in the October 14 issue of the journal *Nature*. "Interesting device applications follow not only from the ability to engineer the single-fiber properties, but also from the specifics of fiber arrangements into larger assemblies."

Some of the most exciting and novel potential applications stem from assembling the fibers into woven structures. Potential products include fabrics for advanced chemical and bio-detection, and very-large-area photodetecting grids for security fences. The technology may lead to creation of "a fence that sees," said MIT team leader Yoel Fink.

The work is funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Army Research Office, the Office of Naval Research, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the U.S. Department of Energy, MIT and the National Science Foundation.

"The technique we developed allows us to bring together two disparate technologies: those involved in creating optical fibers and those for electronic components," Fink said. The work "challenges the traditional barrier between semiconductor devices and fiber-optic processing," he added.

**Full transcript is available at
<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/200/index.htm>**

Text: Drought Atlas Reconstructs North American Drought History

(2005-year record has applications for science, education, history)

Not enough is known about what triggers major droughts, yet they occur across North America, often having greater economic and social impacts than any other type of natural disaster, according to an October 7 press release from the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

Researchers from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of the Earth Institute have reconstructed a 2,005-year drought history, using measurements from 20,000 to 30,000 tree samples across the United States, Mexico and parts of Canada.

A tree ring is the layer of wood cells produced by a tree in a single year, consisting of thin-walled cells formed in the early growing season (earlywood) and thicker walled cells produced later in the growing season (latewood). The beginning of earlywood and the end of latewood form an annual ring. The rings are counted and compared. A departure of growth for any one year compared to average growth is a tree-ring chronology. Temperature and other factors affect tree-ring growth.

Earth Institute scientists used 835 annual tree-ring chronologies to compile the drought history.

The drought reconstructions have been organized into a North American Drought Atlas CD-ROM that maps year-by-year occurrences of droughts. The National Science Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration supported the work.

The maps provide paleoclimate data with important applications to science, policy, education and history, according to the institute press release.

An animation of the drought reconstructions is available at

http://www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu/flash/drought_hi_res.html

Text of the Columbia University press release follows:

(begin text)

Columbia University Earth Institute
Press release, October 7, 2004

Scientists Reconstruct the History of Drought for North America
New CD-ROM Drought Atlas Provides Year-by-Year Chronologies

Not enough is known about what triggers major droughts, yet they occur all across North America often having greater economic and social impacts than any other type of natural disaster.

Losses due to drought in the United States alone average \$6-8 billion each year, with a high of \$39 billion for the three-year drought of 1987-89.

Researchers from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of the Earth Institute at Columbia University have used 835 annual tree-ring chronologies based on measurements from 20- to 30-thousand tree samples across the United States, Mexico, and parts of Canada to reconstruct a history of drought over the last 2,005 years. The resulting drought reconstructions have been organized into a North American Drought Atlas CD-ROM, the first of its kind, which maps year-by-year occurrences of droughts. The maps provide essential paleoclimate data with important applications to science, as well as policy, education, and history.

"It is not yet possible to forecast droughts, but we can surmise a great deal from the paleoclimatic record about the future possibilities of droughts. When and where droughts have occurred in the past, at what severity, and for what duration are all indicators of drought patterns we may see in the future," said Edward R. Cook, lead developer of the North American Drought Atlas, Director of the Tree Ring Laboratory, and Doherty Senior Scholar at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

The goal of this North American Drought Atlas is to improve and expand knowledge on North American drought severity and to catalyze innovative advances in the use of paleoclimate data with climate models to better understand the causes of drought.

The resulting Atlas contains 2,005 annual maps of reconstructed droughts over North America, a full animation of those maps, and a time-series plot of each reconstruction with associated plots of calibrated and verification statistics.

The full animation can be viewed at http://www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu/flash/drought_hi_res.html The Atlas was created through the support of the paleoclimate programs of the National Science Foundation and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.

The Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, a member of The Earth Institute at Columbia University, is one of the world's leading research centers examining the planet from its core to its atmosphere, across every continent and every ocean. From global climate change to earthquakes, volcanoes, environmental hazards and beyond, Observatory scientists provide the basic knowledge of Earth systems needed to inform the future health and habitability of our planet. For more information, visit www.ldeo.columbia.edu.

The Earth Institute at Columbia University is the world's leading academic center for the integrated study of Earth, its environment and society. The Earth Institute builds upon excellence in the core disciplines-earth sciences, biological sciences, engineering sciences, social sciences and health sciences-and stresses cross-disciplinary approaches to complex problems. Through its research, training and global partnerships, it mobilizes science and technology to advance sustainable development, while placing special emphasis on the needs of the world's poor.

(end text)

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Transcript: State Department Noon Briefing, October 19

(Iraq, Lebanon/Syria, Russia, U.S. visa process, Burma, Belarus)

State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher briefed October 19.

Following is the transcript of the State Department briefing:

(begin transcript)

U.S. Department of State
Daily Press Briefing
Tuesday, October 19, 2004

12:45 p.m. EDT

Briefer: Richard Boucher, Spokesman

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2004
(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

12:45 p.m. EDT

MR. BOUCHER: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. It's a pleasure to be here. I don't have any statements or announcements today, so I'd be glad to take your questions.

George.

QUESTION: Did you see the remarks of Kofi Annan in London? He seems concerned that the U.S. campaign against the insurgency in Iraq could wind up alienating the Iraqi public.

MR. BOUCHER: I did not see any new comments.

I think we're clearly on the record, both the Iraqi Government and the coalition forces are clearly on the record as saying that this problem of terrorism in Iraq needs to be brought under control, that the vast majority of Iraqi citizens are looking for a safer life and a better life. And the people that are setting off bombs and killing Iraqis who are just trying to serve their country are trying to drag Iraq

back into a horrible past. And we can't allow them to do that, so I think stopping the insurgency is actually a contribution to a better life for all Iraqis.

Full transcript is available at
<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/200/index.htm>

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Text: New EU Sanctions on Burma a Positive Step, U.S. Says

(State Department urges speedy adoption and implementation)

The United States welcomes a decision by the European Union (EU) to impose new sanctions on the military regime of Burma, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in an October 18 statement.

"The EU action is a positive step that underlines the international community's continued desire to see positive and peaceful change in Burma, and we urge the EU to move quickly to final adoption and implementation of the sanctions," Boucher said.

EU foreign ministers agreed to impose the tougher sanctions on October 11, after the Burmese junta failed to meet an October 7 deadline for the release from house arrest of democratic opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and failed to take other concrete steps toward democratization.

Boucher said the United States encourages the members of the EU and other democracies in the international community to consider further strengthening sanctions, including placing a comprehensive import ban on Burmese products.

"We urge the international community to remain focused on this vital matter in order to generate more cooperation in support of the Burmese people's enduring desire for freedom, democracy, and national reconciliation," he said.

Following is the full text of the statement:

(begin text)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
October 18, 2004

Statement by Richard Boucher, Spokesman
New E.U. Sanctions on Burma

The United States welcomes the European Union's announcement of new sanctions on Burma, following the Burmese junta's failure to meet the E.U.'s October 7 deadline for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and the completion of certain concrete steps toward democratization. The E.U. action is a positive step that underlines the international community's continued desire to see positive and peaceful change in Burma, and we urge the E.U. to move quickly to final adoption and implementation of the sanctions. Should Burma continue to deny its citizens basic human rights and freedoms, we urge the E.U. and other democracies in the international community to consider further strengthening sanctions, including placing a comprehensive import ban on Burmese products. We urge the international community to remain focused on this vital matter in order to generate more cooperation in support of the Burmese people's enduring desire for freedom, democracy, and national reconciliation.

We are deeply disappointed that the Burmese junta continues to ignore the demands of the international community and their own citizens for democracy and the free exercise of fundamental human rights. The situation in Burma has further deteriorated since the brutal May 30, 2003, attack on Aung San Suu Kyi and members and supporters of the National League for Democracy (NLD). The United States remains deeply concerned by the continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi and over a thousand other political prisoners, the failure of the junta to permit the NLD to open its offices nationwide and operate freely, the denial of full and free participation of ethnic minority and NLD representatives in the National Convention, and by recent reports of

serious abuses in southern Shan, Karen and Karenni States.

(end text)

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Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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Citizens in U.S., Islamic Countries Seek to Ease Tensions

(Hope not Hate initiative holds town meetings, videoconferences)

By Phyllis McIntosh

Washington File Special Correspondent

Washington -- Through town hall meetings and videoconferences linking college students in the United States and Islamic countries, a project that grew out of the tragedy of September 11, 2001, aims to ease tensions between Americans and Muslims in the United States and abroad.

The initiative, known as Hope not Hate, was launched on the second anniversary of the 9/11 attacks by Americans for Informed Democracy, an organization that works to raise global awareness on college campuses. The first round of town hall meetings, held in more than a dozen U.S. cities on September 12 and 13, 2003, brought together 1,500 concerned citizens, policymakers, journalists, military leaders, and scholars to explore common ground between America and the Islamic world.

In 2004, the project expanded to a full month and involved 5,000 people at more than 30 town hall meetings held on college campuses in 21 states and the District of Columbia. The Families of September 11, and The People Speak, an initiative that promotes discussion of foreign policy, joined Americans for Informed Democracy in sponsoring the series.

Hope not Hate 2004 concluded with three days of videoconferences between young leaders at nine universities in Middle America -- from Georgia to South Dakota --and nine in predominantly Muslim countries, including Egypt, Indonesia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Senegal, Turkey and Uganda.

"The goal of this unprecedented series is two-fold," says Hope not Hate co-chair Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, former Pakistani High Commissioner (Ambassador) to the United Kingdom. "First we want to build a bridge of understanding between non-Muslims and Muslims in the U.S. and then extend that bridge of understanding from the U.S. to the Muslim world."

U.S. action in Iraq and the global war on terrorism were the main topics of an October 13 videoconference involving 80 students at the University of Texas in Austin, Texas, Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, Dakar, Senegal, and Kampala, Uganda. The Americans expressed strong views both for and against the war in Iraq, while the Africans, mostly opposed to the war, argued that America should not act unilaterally but in the words of one young man "should begin to move with the world."

Many of the American and African students agreed that eradicating poverty and injustice in the world will be more effective than military action in fighting terrorism. "Violence is not the solution to terrorism," said a student in Senegal. "I would like to see the U.S. use its money to help people improve themselves. Then you will have peace."

The Africans also cautioned against viewing all Muslims as Arabs and blaming Islam for terrorism. "The solution is to open yourselves to other cultures," advised a young man in Uganda. "It would be good for younger Americans to get information about other cultures from outside your country."

Reflecting on the impact of terrorism, a young woman in Atlanta said, "More than anything I fear the fear. We must be determined not to let hate shape our future."

"The biggest enemy of peace is not Islam but the heart of man," said a student in Uganda. "All of us should look into our hearts, study our hearts, and there will be peace in the world."

At a town hall meeting at Georgetown University in Washington, October 6, speakers discussed how the September 11 attacks changed American policy toward Muslims in the United States and abroad and called on moderates everywhere to help stem the growing animosity between America and the Islamic world.

"In reality, people in the Muslim world and Americans have more in common than they have differences," said Samer Shehata, visiting scholar at Georgetown's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. "Whenever I hear 'Why do they hate us?' I have this sort of revulsion because the question is so fundamentally flawed. People in the Mideast may be angry with our policies, they may not respect our political leaders, but is 'hate' the proper word? What about the word 'they'? Are we going to homogenize the 280 million people in the Arab world or the 1.2 billion people in the Muslim world and say they all feel the same way? The word 'us' is also problematic. [People in the Muslim world] might hate some of our leaders, but they don't hate you and me."

Helen Samhan, executive director of the Arab American Institute, spoke about the impact of the September 11 attacks on Muslims in the United States. She contended that most Americans have long held negative images of Arabs in their midst, "so when 9/11 happened it was not surprising that all those negative stereotypes exploded."

Samhan identified three phases of reaction following the terrorist attacks: the "hot pursuit stage" in the immediate aftermath of September 11, when some people who were perceived to be Muslim were harassed or attacked; then "under-the-radar discrimination and harassment," especially in the workplace; and finally the "most onerous" phase, in which Muslim people and organizations are subjected to various forms of racial profiling.

"We as Arab American advocates are very concerned that the backlash since 9/11 has impacted a lot of cultural and political discourse in this country and that there is now a real license for anti-Islamic bigotry."

Nikki Stern, whose husband died in the September 11 attacks and who now serves as executive director of Families of September 11, declared, "I do not now and I have never given permission for the death of my husband to be an excuse to perpetrate stereotypes, intolerance, or prejudice."

She used the analogy of a bridge to call for moderation: "Structurally a bridge is stronger near the ends than where it is suspended. Because it is most vulnerable in the middle, it needs special reinforcements. In an age when it may seem that dialogue has been replaced by diatribes and reason has been overtaken by rancor on both sides of the bridge, we need to strengthen the middle of that bridge and what it represents, which is thoughtful discussion and compassionate understanding."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)