



Passing the BATON

*Foreign Policy Challenges and
Opportunities Facing the New Administration*

Session One: "Today's World, Tomorrow's Challenges"

Speaker: **Henrietta Fore**, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development

Main Issues

Administrator Fore spoke on behalf of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who was scheduled to speak at Passing the Baton but was detained at the United Nations Security Council in New York to continue discussions on recent violence in the Gaza Strip.

The administrator used her address to focus on the Bush administration's transformational diplomacy agenda, which she said includes a strong emphasis on foreign assistance and development. For development strategies to be successful, she said, there must be improved accountability, increased numbers of staff working on development issues, and partnering with the private sector. The Bush administration agenda has been to build and sustain democratic, well-governed states that will respond to the needs of the people.

Ultimately, the administration's agenda led to the most ambitious development strategy since the Marshall Plan. This has been accomplished through traditional means such as assistance grants, but also through effective partnering with the private sector, improving accountability, and increasing the number of international development officers through the Development Leadership Initiative. Accountability has been improved through the work of the Millennium Challenge Corporation and foreign aid reform.

The U.S. is dedicated to building lasting peace through multiple means, including partnering with the private sector, said Fore, pointing out that USAID has created 225 new partnerships in the last year, leveraging almost \$650 million dollars in private sector contributions.

She also pointed out that the Bush administration has worked to make change in the Middle East. The administration believes that a chance for a better future in the region exists as a result of positive changes fostered by the president in other parts of the region, including Iraq, Lebanon, and Afghanistan.

The U.S. strives to create a Middle East that moves away from the status quo and toward a durable and sustainable peace, she said, but it must proceed according to the Annapolis process. Fore identified Gaza as a particularly important issue for U.S. foreign policy, saying that the U.S. is greatly concerned about the recent violence -- especially the humanitarian situation that continues -- and is earnestly trying to bring about an end to the current conflict.

She went on to highlight administration efforts in other parts of the region and the world. Specifically, she pointed out that:



Passing the BATON

*Foreign Policy Challenges and
Opportunities Facing the New Administration*

1. Iraq now has a democratically elected prime minister, and the country is friend of the U.S.;
2. Syrian forces have left Lebanon;
3. A democratically elected government is in place in Afghanistan;
4. The U.S. has established strong bilateral relationships where they did not exist previously;
5. The U.S. continues its effort to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula by promoting Six Party Talks.

Policy Conclusions

Administrator Fore identified several lessons that can be gleaned from the work of the Bush administration. These include:

1. An emphasis on planning and integrating defense, diplomatic, and development strategies - all essential to U.S. national security.
2. The importance of investing in a secure future by continuing current development commitments, notwithstanding the global economic slowdown.
3. The need to continue commitments to rebuilding diplomatic and development staff throughout the world.
4. Prioritizing essential partnerships with the private sector in the long term. Fore indicated, "This is the strongest trend for our shared future and in it lie the seeds for a safer, more peaceful and prosperous world."