

***INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE***  
***May 20 - 27, 2010***

1. [Clinton: North Korea Can Choose the Path of Peace \(05-26-2010\)](#)
2. [Clinton Says Iran Nuclear Swap Plan a Ploy \(05-25-2010\)](#)
3. [Obama Offers South Korea Full Support over Ship Sinking \(05-24-2010\)](#)
4. [U.S., Russia to Discuss Prison Conditions, Migration \(05-22-2010\)](#)
5. [President Obama's Commencement Address at West Point \(05-22-2010\)](#)
6. [U.S. Urges Iran to Release Three American Hikers \(05-21-2010\)](#)
7. [Clinton Warns North Korea of Consequences of Attacking Ship \(05-21-2010\)](#)
8. [U.S. Response to French Secretary Lellouche on European Security \(05-20-2010\)](#)

-----

**1. Clinton: North Korea Can Choose the Path of Peace (05-26-2010)**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says the international community must unite in response to the sinking of a South Korean naval ship that killed 46 sailors, and that it is critical to avoid further escalation and the potential for greater conflict with North Korea.

At a [joint press conference in Seoul](#) with South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan, Clinton said North Korea's unprovoked sinking of the South Korean corvette Cheonan was unacceptable and that "the international community has a responsibility and a duty to respond."

Clinton said measures announced by South Korean President Lee Myung-bak in response to North Korean's actions are appropriate and prudent given the provocation, and have the full support of the United States. Lee announced that his government was severing almost all trade with North Korea, would deny North Korean merchant ships the use of South Korean sea lanes, and seeks U.N. Security Council action to punish the North. Lee said the March 26 attack on the South Korean ship was deliberate.

An explosion March 26 ripped the 1,200-ton warship in half, and it sank in about 40 meters of water near the western sea border between the South and the North. Fifty-eight sailors were rescued, but 46 were killed in the blast, the South Korean government said.

A panel of international experts from South Korea, the United States, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Australia determined the ship was sunk by a torpedo of a type manufactured and used by North Korea. Fragments of a torpedo propeller with North Korean markings were found near the site of the sinking, and investigators found traces of the explosive RDX, which is used in sea mines and torpedoes.

Clinton praised the findings of the investigation as objective, and said the evidence was overwhelming and the conclusion inescapable.

Her stop in Seoul for talks with Lee and Yu were part of a three-nation Northeast Asian mission that included meetings in Tokyo and Beijing.

“We will be working together to chart a course of action in the United Nations Security Council, and I want to acknowledge Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s strong statement on this issue,” Clinton said.

In a rare break with precedent in such matters, Ban told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York May 24 that “I’m confident that the council, in fulfilling its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, will take measures appropriate to the gravity of the situation.” It is unusual for the U.N. secretary-general to comment on events and Security Council actions before they have been presented to the council.

“Pursuant to South Korean President Lee’s call for the Security Council to address the matter, close consultations are expected to take place among key members of the council,” Ban said.

Clinton, who was in Seoul for about a half day before returning to Washington, said North Korea’s regime could still choose another path out of the crisis.

“Instead of isolation, poverty, conflict and condemnation, North Korea could enjoy integration, prosperity, peace and respect,” she said. “Its people could finally experience a better life.”

Foreign Minister Yu reaffirmed the importance of the U.S.-South Korean alliance as critical to the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula. For more than a decade, the United States, China, Japan, Russia and South Korea have been negotiating with North Korea about its nuclear weapons program in what has been dubbed the Six-Party Talks, but the talks have stalled and the North has continued to work on its weapons program.

U.S. and South Korean leaders will meet again in a summit in late June, and a 2+2 foreign affairs and defense ministerial meeting will be held in late July.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will meet with South Korean Defense Minister Kim Tae-young and other international defense leaders from throughout East Asia at the ninth Shangri-La Security Dialogue in Singapore June 4–6. North Korea’s recent actions are expected to play a significant role in the annual defense talks.

Obama will meet with South Korea's Lee at the Group of 20 (G20) Summit in Toronto June 26–27. South Korea will host another G20 Summit in Seoul November 11–12.

---

## **2. Clinton Says Iran Nuclear Swap Plan a Ploy (05-25-2010)**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, in China for strategic and economic negotiations, says a plan offered by Iran to swap some of its enriched uranium for reactor fuel is a “transparent ploy” to avoid U.N. Security Council sanctions.

On May 17 the Iranian regime announced that it has agreed to a plan negotiated by Turkey and Brazil to ship 1,200 kilograms of low-enriched uranium to Turkey, where it would be stored. After one year, Iran would have the right to receive about 120.2 kilograms of uranium enriched to 20 percent from Russia and France in fuel rods for a medical reactor in Tehran.

“There are a number of deficiencies with it that do not answer the concerns of the international community,” [Clinton said at a press conference in Beijing](#). Clinton was in Beijing on the second stop of a three-nation diplomatic mission to Northeast Asia.

“There is a recognition on the part of the international community that the agreement that was reached in Tehran a week ago between Iran and Brazil and Turkey only occurred because the Security Council was on the brink of publicly releasing the text of the resolution that we have been negotiating for many weeks,” she added.

“It was a transparent ploy to avoid Security Council action,” she said.

[Clinton announced at a U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing](#) May 18 that the United States, China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany had reached agreement on a draft sanctions resolution that has been presented to the other members of the U.N. Security Council. The six countries are known as the P5+1 and include the five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany.

Details of the sanctions resolution were not announced, but it is expected to carry broad economic penalties against Iranian officials and institutions responsible for the nuclear development program. Work toward the sanctions resolution began after Iran failed to comply with an October 2009 agreement on its nuclear materials.

“There is a clear choice which Iran faces. It's been the same choice that it has faced since the Obama administration undertook its dual-track approach of engaging with Iran and holding in abeyance international pressure,” Clinton said.

The six countries had offered Iran a means of swapping its enriched uranium that would have eliminated the risk the material would be used for nuclear weapons, but still give Iran the nuclear fuel needed for its Tehran reactor. Clinton said the difference now is that the diplomatic track has moved to the Security Council. The Security Council previously imposed three sets of political and economic sanctions on Iran.

Clinton said there is a standing invitation from the six nations that have tried to negotiate with Iran: begin a discussion about its nuclear program, forgo uranium enrichment and accept the offers made by the P5+1.

“We discussed all of this in great detail with our Chinese friends and we are moving forward to hold Iran accountable,” Clinton told reporters.

---

### **3. Obama Offers South Korea Full Support over Ship Sinking (05-24-2010)**

By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama says trade and political actions taken by South Korea in response to the sinking of one of its naval vessels by a North Korean submarine have the full support of the United States, the White House said May 24.

“Specifically, we endorse President Lee’s demand that North Korea immediately apologize and punish those responsible for the attack, and, most importantly, stop its belligerent and threatening behavior,” White House press secretary [Robert Gibbs said in a statement](#).

South Korea’s president, Lee Myung-bak, announced early May 24 that his government is severing almost all trade with North Korea, will deny North Korean merchant ships use of South Korean sea lanes, and will seek U.N. Security Council action to punish the North. Lee said the March 26 attack on a South Korean naval vessel that killed 46 sailors was deliberate.

“The measures that the government of the Republic of Korea announced today are called for and entirely appropriate,” Gibbs said. “The Republic of Korea can continue to count on the full support of the United States, as President Obama has made clear.”

An explosion March 26 ripped the 1,200-ton South Korean corvette Cheonan in half and it sank in about 40 meters of water near the disputed western sea border between the South and the North. Fifty-eight sailors were rescued, but 46 sailors were killed in the blast.

A panel of experts from South Korea, the United States, Britain, Sweden and Australia determined the ship was sunk by a torpedo of a type manufactured and used by North Korea. Fragments of a torpedo with North Korean markings were found by South Korean fishermen on the ocean floor near the site of the sinking, and investigators found traces of the explosive RDX. RDX is used in sea mines and torpedoes.

#### **DIPLOMATIC RESPONSE**

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in Beijing May 24 that she has been consulting closely with South Korean officials and will continue to do so when she arrives in Seoul May 26. Clinton is on a three-nation Northeast Asia diplomatic mission that began in Tokyo, moved to Shanghai for the 2010 Shanghai World Expo, then traveled to Beijing for talks with the Chinese leadership. She is scheduled to make a one-day stop in Seoul.

“I have also had in-depth conversations with the Japanese leadership, and I am in the midst of intensive consultations with the Chinese government on this issue,” Clinton told reporters in

Beijing. “The Chinese are taking this very seriously, and recognize the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.”

Clinton said others in the U.S. government including Defense Secretary Robert Gates are “actively engaging countries in the region.” Gates and Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will meet with South Korean Defense Minister Kim Tae-young and other defense leaders from throughout East Asia at the June 4–6 Shangri-La Security Dialogue held annually in Singapore.

Obama will meet with South Korea’s Lee at the Group of 20 (G20) Summit in Toronto June 26–27.

Clinton said the United States endorses Lee’s call for North Korea to come forward with the facts on this naval engagement. Second, the U.S. support for South Korea’s defense is unequivocal.

“President Obama has directed his military commanders to coordinate closely with their Korean counterparts to ensure readiness and to deter future aggression,” Clinton said. “We will explore further enhancements to our joint posture on the Korean Peninsula.”

Clinton said Lee’s decision to bring the matter before the U.N. Security Council was prudent. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice, her Korean counterpart and representatives from Japan, China and other Security Council nations have begun working to reach an agreement on the way ahead.

The United States has also begun reviewing its policies toward North Korea to identify areas where adjustments may be needed, Clinton said.

“The U.S. will continue to work with the Republic of Korea and other allies and partners to reduce the threat that North Korea poses to regional stability,” Gibbs said at the White House.

---

#### **4. U.S., Russia to Discuss Prison Conditions, Migration (05-22-2010)** **Issues will be focus of May 27 civil society working group meeting**

By Keida Kostreci  
Staff Writer

Washington — Prison conditions and migration are the central issues to be discussed at the next session of the Civil Society Working Group, to be held May 27 in Russia, the U.S. National Security Council (NSC) confirms.

Representatives from the United States and Russia each will talk about their experience with these issues, as they did during their first full-scale working group in January. The working group is co-chaired by Michael McFaul, a special assistant to the president and senior director for Russia and Eurasia at the NSC, and Vladislav Surkov, first deputy chief of staff of the presidential executive office.

The civil society group meeting is being held under the auspices of the [U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission](#) created in July 2009 by President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev as part of the “reset” in [relations between the two countries](#).

The January civil society meeting dealt with civil society's role in helping to fight corruption. Other issues that were discussed included protecting children — including from human trafficking and sexual exploitation — and fighting stereotypes in both countries.

After the meeting, McFaul said in an interview with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty that the United States sees the working group process “as an exchange of information on how we deal with these problems respectively in our countries, and then the idea is to create a forum for Russian and American NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] to meet with each other.”

“There are many other mechanisms, means, presidential statements, meetings of our presidents, where we can express our disagreement and our concern about human rights issues, corruption issues, the whole list of issues we have, and we do that rather militantly, I would say, in the Obama administration. I think it's wrong to think that this is our only way that we can engage on fostering the development of civil society and democracy in Russia. I personally don't see it that way at all. I see it as one of many mechanisms.”

The May 26 meeting in the city of Vladimir — 200 kilometers (124 miles) east of Moscow — will include both government and nongovernmental representatives.

This kind of approach is in line with the Obama administration's idea of engaging Russian society directly by creating opportunities for peer-to-peer interaction as an effective way to promote democracy and human rights. President Obama focused on this theme at a U.S.-Russia civil society meeting in Moscow in July 2009.

“We not only need a ‘reset’ button between the American and Russian governments, but we need a fresh start between our societies — more dialogue, more listening, more cooperation in confronting common challenges,” [Obama said](#).

The Bilateral Presidential Commission's goal is to address new challenges through cooperative projects that strengthen strategic stability, international security, mutual economic well-being and the development of ties between the Russian and American people.

In addition to the civil society group, there are 15 other groups working to promote cooperation in areas such as security, business, energy, culture and education, counternarcotics, agriculture and space.

---

## **[5. President Obama's Commencement Address at West Point \(05-22-2010\)](#)**

**[Obama lays out tough challenges ahead, Afghan war and al-Qaida fight](#)**

Remarks by the President at United States Military Academy at West Point Commencement  
Michie Stadium, West Point, New York

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Please be seated. Thank you very much. Good morning.

AUDIENCE: Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: It is wonderful to be back at the United States Military Academy -- the oldest continuously occupied military post in America -- as we commission the newest officers in the United States Army.

Thank you, General Hagenbeck, for your introduction, on a day that holds special meaning for you and the Dean, General Finnegan. Both of you first came to West Point in the Class of 1971 and went on to inspire soldiers under your command. You've led this Academy to a well-deserved recognition: best college in America. (Applause.) And today, you're both looking forward to a well-deserved retirement from the Army. General Hagenbeck and Judy, General Finnegan and Joan, we thank you for 39 years of remarkable service to the Army and to America. (Applause.)

To the Commandant, General Rapp, the Academy staff and faculty, most of whom are veterans, thank you for your service and for inspiring these cadets to become the "leaders of character" they are today. (Applause.) Let me also acknowledge the presence of General Shinseki, Secretary McHugh, the members of Congress who are with us here today, including two former soldiers this Academy knows well, Senator Jack Reed and Congressman Patrick Murphy. (Applause.)

To all the families here -- especially all the moms and dads -- this day is a tribute to you as well. The decision to come to West Point was made by your sons and daughters, but it was you who instilled in them a spirit of service that has led them to this hallowed place in a time of war. So on behalf of the American people, thank you for your example and thank you for your patriotism. (Applause.)

To the United States Corps of Cadets, and most of all, the Class of 2010 -- it is a singular honor to serve as your Commander-in-Chief. As your Superintendent indicated, under our constitutional system my power as President is wisely limited. But there are some areas where my power is absolute. And so, as your Commander-in-Chief, I hereby absolve all cadets who are on restriction for minor conduct offenses. (Applause.) I will leave the definition of "minor" -- (laughter) -- to those who know better. (Laughter.)

Class of 2010, today is your day -- a day to celebrate all that you've achieved, in the finest tradition of the soldier-scholar, and to look forward to the important service that lies ahead.

You have pushed yourself through the agony of Beast Barracks, the weeks of training in rain and mud, and, I'm told, more inspections and drills than perhaps any class before you. Along the way, I'm sure you faced a few moments when you asked yourself: "What am I doing here?" I have those moments sometimes. (Laughter.)

You've trained for the complexities of today's missions, knowing that success will be measured not merely by performance on the battlefield, but also by your understanding of the cultures and traditions and languages in the place where you serve.

You've reached out across borders, with more international experience than any class in Academy history. You've not only attended foreign academies to forge new friendships, you've welcomed into your ranks cadets from nearly a dozen countries.

You've challenged yourself intellectually in the sciences and the humanities, in history and technology. You've achieved a standard of academic excellence that is without question, tying the record for the most post-graduate scholarships of any class in West Point history. (Applause.)

This includes your number one overall cadet and your valedictorian -- Liz Betterbed and Alex Rosenberg. And by the way, this is the first time in Academy history where your two top awards have been earned by female candidates. (Applause.)

This underscores a fact that I've seen in the faces of our troops from Baghdad to Bagram -- in the 21st century, our women in uniform play an indispensable role in our national defense. And time and again, they have proven themselves to be role models for our daughters and our sons -- as students and as soldiers and as leaders in the United States armed forces.

And the faces in this stadium show a simple truth: America's Army represents the full breadth of America's experience. You come from every corner of our country -- from privilege and from poverty, from cities and small towns. You worship all of the great religions that enrich the life of our people. You include the vast diversity of race and ethnicity that is fundamental to our nation's strength.

There is, however, one thing that sets you apart. Here in these quiet hills, you've come together to prepare for the most difficult test of our time. You signed up knowing your service would send you into harm's way, and you did so long after the first drums of war were sounded. In you we see the commitment of our country, and timeless virtues that have served our nation well.

We see your sense of duty -- including those who have earned their right shoulder patch -- their right shoulder combat patches, like the soldier who suffered a grenade wound in Iraq, yet still helped his fellow soldiers to evacuate -- your First Captain of the Corps of Cadets, Tyler Gordy. (Applause.)

We see your sense of honor -- in your respect for tradition, knowing that you join a Long Grey Line that stretches through the centuries; and in your reverence for each other, as when the Corps stands in silence every time a former cadet makes the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Indeed, today we honor the 78 graduates of this Academy who have given their lives for our freedom and our security in Iraq and Afghanistan.

And we see your love of country -- a devotion to America captured in the motto you chose as a class, a motto which will guide your lives of service: "Loyal 'Til the End."

Duty. Honor. Love of country. Everything you have learned here, all that you've achieved here, has prepared you for today -- when you raise your right hand; when you take that oath; when your loved one or mentor pins those gold bars on your shoulders; when you become, at long last, commissioned officers in the United States Army.

This is the ninth consecutive commencement that has taken place at West Point with our nation at war. This time of war began in Afghanistan -- a place that may seem as far away from this peaceful bend in the Hudson River as anywhere on Earth. The war began only because our own cities and civilians were attacked by violent extremists who plotted from a distant place, and it continues only because that plotting persists to this day.

For many years, our focus was on Iraq. And year after year, our troops faced a set of challenges there that were as daunting as they were complex. A lesser Army might have seen its spirit broken. But the American military is more resilient than that. Our troops adapted, they persisted, they partnered with coalition and Iraqi counterparts, and through their competence and creativity and courage, we are poised to end our combat mission in Iraq this summer. (Applause.)

Even as we transition to an Iraqi lead and bring our troops home, our commitment to the Iraqi people endures. We will continue to advise and assist Iraqi security forces, who are already responsible for security in most of the country. And a strong American civilian presence will help Iraqis forge political and economic progress. This will not be a simple task, but this is what success

looks like: an Iraq that provides no haven to terrorists; a democratic Iraq that is sovereign and stable and self-reliant.

And as we end the war in Iraq, though, we are pressing forward in Afghanistan. Six months ago, I came to West Point to announce a new strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan. And I stand here humbled by the knowledge that many of you will soon be serving in harm's way. I assure you, you will go with the full support of a proud and grateful nation.

We face a tough fight in Afghanistan. Any insurgency that is confronted with a direct challenge will turn to new tactics. And from Marja to Kandahar, that is what the Taliban has done through assassination and indiscriminate killing and intimidation. Moreover, any country that has known decades of war will be tested in finding political solutions to its problems, and providing governance that can sustain progress and serve the needs of its people.

So this war has changed over the last nine years, but it's no less important than it was in those days after 9/11. We toppled the Taliban regime -- now we must break the momentum of a Taliban insurgency and train Afghan security forces. We have supported the election of a sovereign government -- now we must strengthen its capacities. We've brought hope to the Afghan people -- now we must see that their country does not fall prey to our common enemies. Cadets, there will be difficult days ahead. We will adapt, we will persist, and I have no doubt that together with our Afghan and international partners, we will succeed in Afghanistan. (Applause.)

Now even as we fight the wars in front of us, we also have to see the horizon beyond these wars -- because unlike a terrorist whose goal is to destroy, our future will be defined by what we build. We have to see that horizon, and to get there we must pursue a strategy of national renewal and global leadership. We have to build the sources of America's strength and influence, and shape a world that's more peaceful and more prosperous.

Time and again, Americans have risen to meet and to shape moments of change. This is one of those moments -- an era of economic transformation and individual empowerment; of ancient hatreds and new dangers; of emerging powers and new global challenges. And we're going to need all of you to help meet these challenges. You've answered the call. You, and all who wear America's uniform, remain the cornerstone of our national defense, the anchor of global security. And through a period when too many of our institutions have acted irresponsibly, the American military has set a standard of service and sacrifice that is as great as any in this nation's history. (Applause.)

Now the rest of us -- the rest of us must do our part. And to do so, we must first recognize that our strength and influence abroad begins with steps we take at home. We must educate our children to compete in an age where knowledge is capital, and the marketplace is global. We must develop clean energy that can power new industry and unbound us from foreign oil and preserve our planet. We have to pursue science and research that unlocks wonders as unforeseen to us today as the microchip and the surface of the moon were a century ago.

Simply put, American innovation must be the foundation of American power -- because at no time in human history has a nation of diminished economic vitality maintained its military and political primacy. And so that means that the civilians among us, as parents and community leaders, elected officials, business leaders, we have a role to play. We cannot leave it to those in uniform to defend this country -- we have to make sure that America is building on its strengths. (Applause.)

May 27, 2010

As we build these economic sources of our strength, the second thing we must do is build and integrate the capabilities that can advance our interests, and the common interests of human beings around the world. America's armed forces are adapting to changing times, but your efforts have to be complemented. We will need the renewed engagement of our diplomats, from grand capitals to dangerous outposts. We need development experts who can support Afghan agriculture and help Africans build the capacity to feed themselves. We need intelligence agencies that work seamlessly with their counterparts to unravel plots that run from the mountains of Pakistan to the streets of our cities. We need law enforcement that can strengthen judicial systems abroad, and protect us here at home. And we need first responders who can act swiftly in the event of earthquakes and storms and disease.

The burdens of this century cannot fall on our soldiers alone. It also cannot fall on American shoulders alone. Our adversaries would like to see America sap its strength by overextending our power. And in the past, we've always had the foresight to avoid acting alone. We were part of the most powerful wartime coalition in human history through World War II. We stitched together a community of free nations and institutions to endure and ultimately prevail during a Cold War.

Yes, we are clear-eyed about the shortfalls of our international system. But America has not succeeded by stepping out of the currents of cooperation -- we have succeeded by steering those currents in the direction of liberty and justice, so nations thrive by meeting their responsibilities and face consequences when they don't.

So we have to shape an international order that can meet the challenges of our generation. We will be steadfast in strengthening those old alliances that have served us so well, including those who will serve by your side in Afghanistan and around the globe. As influence extends to more countries and capitals, we also have to build new partnerships, and shape stronger international standards and institutions.

This engagement is not an end in itself. The international order we seek is one that can resolve the challenges of our times -- countering violent extremism and insurgency; stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and securing nuclear materials; combating a changing climate and sustaining global growth; helping countries feed themselves and care for their sick; preventing conflict and healing wounds. If we are successful in these tasks, that will lessen conflicts around the world. It will be supportive of our efforts by our military to secure our country.

More than anything else, though, our success will be claimed by who we are as a country. This is more important than ever, given the nature of the challenges that we face. Our campaign to disrupt, dismantle, and to defeat al Qaeda is part of an international effort that is necessary and just.

But this is a different kind of war. There will be no simple moment of surrender to mark the journey's end -- no armistice, no banner headline. Though we have had more success in eliminating al Qaeda leaders in recent months than in recent years, they will continue to recruit, and plot, and exploit our open society. We see that in bombs that go off in Kabul and Karachi. We see it in attempts to blow up an airliner over Detroit or an SUV in Times Square, even as these failed attacks show that pressure on networks like al Qaeda is forcing them to rely on terrorists with less time and space to train. We see the potential duration of this struggle in al Qaeda's gross distortions of Islam, their disrespect for human life, and their attempt to prey upon fear and hatred and prejudice.

So the threat will not go away soon, but let's be clear: Al Qaeda and its affiliates are small men on the wrong side of history. They lead no nation. They lead no religion. We need not give in to fear every time a terrorist tries to scare us. We should not discard our freedoms because extremists try

to exploit them. We cannot succumb to division because others try to drive us apart. We are the United States of America. (Applause.) We are the United States of America, and we have repaired our union, and faced down fascism, and outlasted communism. We've gone through turmoil, we've gone through Civil War, and we have come out stronger -- and we will do so once more. (Applause.)

And I know this to be true because I see the strength and resilience of the American people. Terrorists want to scare us. New Yorkers just go about their lives unafraid. (Applause.) Extremists want a war between America and Islam, but Muslims are part of our national life, including those who serve in our United States Army. (Applause.) Adversaries want to divide us, but we are united by our support for you -- soldiers who send a clear message that this country is both the land of the free and the home of the brave. (Applause.)

You know, in an age of instant access to information, a lot of cynicism in the news, it's easy to lose perspective in a flood of pictures and the swirl of political debate. Power and influence can seem to ebb and flow. Wars and grand plans can be deemed won or lost day to day, even hour to hour. As we experience the immediacy of the image of a suffering child or the boasts of a prideful dictator, it's easy to give in to the belief sometimes that human progress has stalled -- that events are beyond our control, that change is not possible.

But this nation was founded upon a different notion. We believe, "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." (Applause.) And that truth has bound us together, a nation populated by people from around the globe, enduring hardship and achieving greatness as one people. And that belief is as true today as it was 200 years ago. It is a belief that has been claimed by people of every race and religion in every region of the world. Can anybody doubt that this belief will be any less true -- any less powerful -- two years, two decades, or even two centuries from now?

And so a fundamental part of our strategy for our security has to be America's support for those universal rights that formed the creed of our founding. And we will promote these values above all by living them -- through our fidelity to the rule of law and our Constitution, even when it's hard; even when we're being attacked; even when we're in the midst of war.

And we will commit ourselves to forever pursuing a more perfect union. Together with our friends and allies, America will always seek a world that extends these rights so that when an individual is being silenced, we aim to be her voice. Where ideas are suppressed, we provide space for open debate. Where democratic institutions take hold, we add a wind at their back. When humanitarian disaster strikes, we extend a hand. Where human dignity is denied, America opposes poverty and is a source of opportunity. That is who we are. That is what we do.

We do so with no illusions. We understand change doesn't come quick. We understand that neither America nor any nation can dictate every outcome beyond its borders. We know that a world of mortal men and women will never be rid of oppression or evil. What we can do, what we must do, is work and reach and fight for the world that we seek -- all of us, those in uniform and those who are not.

And in preparing for today, I turned to the world -- to the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes. And reflecting on his Civil War experience, he said, and I quote, "To fight out a war you must believe in something and want something with all your might. So must you do to carry anything else to an end worth reaching." Holmes went on, "More than that, you must be willing to commit yourself to

a course, perhaps a long and hard one, without being able to foresee exactly where you will come out.”

America does not fight for the sake of fighting. We abhor war. As one who has never experienced the field of battle -- and I say that with humility, knowing, as General MacArthur said, “the soldier above all others prays for peace” -- we fight because we must. We fight to keep our families and communities safe. We fight for the security of our allies and partners, because America believes that we will be safer when our friends are safer; that we will be stronger when the world is more just.

So cadets, a long and hard road awaits you. You go abroad because your service is fundamental to our security back home. You go abroad as representatives of the values that this country was founded upon. And when you inevitably face setbacks -- when the fighting is fierce or a village elder is fearful; when the end that you are seeking seems uncertain -- think back to West Point.

Here, in this peaceful part of the world, you have drilled and you have studied and come of age in the footsteps of great men and women -- Americans who faced times of trial, and who even in victory could not have foreseen the America they helped to build, the world they helped to shape.

George Washington was able to free a band of patriots from the rule of an empire, but he could not have foreseen his country growing to include 50 states connecting two oceans.

Grant was able to save a union and see the slaves freed, but he could not have foreseen just how much his country would extend full rights and opportunities to citizens of every color.

Eisenhower was able to see Germany surrender and a former enemy grow into an ally, but he could not have foreseen the Berlin Wall coming down without a shot being fired.

Today it is your generation that has borne a heavy burden -- soldiers, graduates of this Academy like John Meyer and Greg Ambrosia who have braved enemy fire, protected their units, carried out their missions, earned the commendation of this Army, and of a grateful nation.

From the birth of our existence, America has had a faith in the future -- a belief that where we're going is better than where we've been, even when the path ahead is uncertain. To fulfill that promise, generations of Americans have built upon the foundation of our forefathers -- finding opportunity, fighting injustice, forging a more perfect union. Our achievement would not be possible without the Long Grey Line that has sacrificed for duty, for honor, for country. (Applause.)

And years from now when you return here, when for you the shadows have grown longer, I have no doubt that you will have added your name to the book of history. I have no doubt that we will have prevailed in the struggles of our times. I have no doubt that your legacy will be an America that has emerged stronger, and a world that is more just, because we are Americans, and our destiny is never written for us, it is written by us, and we are ready to lead once more.

Thank you. May God bless you. And may God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

---

## **6. U.S. Urges Iran to Release Three American Hikers (05-21-2010)**

**State Department pleased mothers were able to visit their children**

By Jane Morse  
Staff Writer

Washington — The United States is pleased that the mothers of three American hikers detained by Iranian authorities were able to visit their children in Tehran this week, but the visit doesn't change the U.S. position that the three are being held unjustly.

“We were obviously pleased to see pictures of the mothers of the three hikers as they visited their children for the first time since they were detained in Iran almost 10 months ago,” P.J. Crowley, assistant secretary of state for public affairs, said at a State Department briefing May 20. But he added: “It is time for Iran to do the right thing by releasing these three young Americans and allowing them to go home and be reunited with their families.”

He repeated Secretary of State Hillary Rodham [Clinton's April 23 statement](#) that said the three Americans were “innocent tourists” in Iraq's Kurdistan region when they were apprehended and detained by Iran. The three have been “unjustly held for almost nine months without formal charge or access to legal representation,” Crowley said. Sarah Shourd, Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal have denied Iran's allegations that they were spying when they inadvertently crossed the unmarked border into Iran in July 2009.

Last week, Iran granted visas to their mothers for a widely televised visit held May 20 in a hotel in that country's capital.

When asked about any agreement with the Iranian government for the release of the three hikers, Crowley said: “We're not contemplating any kind of prisoner swap.” And in a May 20 interview with the MSNBC television network, Crowley explained that although Iranian authorities have raised questions about Iranian citizens in U.S. jails, the United States does not see “an equivalence between those who have been tried and convicted of arms smuggling, for example, and these three hikers.” He added that the United States would be happy to facilitate family meetings for Iranian citizens in U.S. custody at Iran's request.

The United States, which does not have diplomatic relations with Iran, has been working via the Swiss government for the release of the American hikers. “We have pressed repeatedly for Iran to release these three young people on humanitarian grounds,” Crowley told MSNBC. “They are not spies; they are just young Americans, and they should be released.”

---

## **7. Clinton Warns North Korea of Consequences of Attacking Ship (05-21-2010)**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — The United States and its allies Japan, China and South Korea are discussing measures to take after international investigators confirmed that a North Korean submarine fired a torpedo that sunk a South Korean naval vessel, killing 46 sailors, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says.

“The evidence is overwhelming and condemning. The torpedo that sunk the Cheonan and took the lives of 46 South Korean sailors was fired by a North Korean submarine,” Clinton said at a May 21 press conference in Tokyo with Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada.

“We cannot allow this attack on South Korea to go unanswered by the international community. This will not be and cannot be business as usual,” Clinton told reporters.

Clinton warned the North Korean regime that there will be an international response, not just a regional one. For its part, the North Korean regime has denied involvement.

On March 26, an explosion ripped the 1,200-ton South Korean corvette in half and it sank in about 40 meters of water near the countries’ disputed western sea border, according to news reports. Fifty-eight sailors were rescued, but 46 were killed.

A panel of experts from South Korea, the United States, Britain, Sweden and Australia conducted an inquiry to determine the cause of the explosion. Fragments of a torpedo propeller with North Korean markings were found by South Korean fishermen near the site of the sinking on the ocean floor, and investigators found traces of the explosive RDX, which is used in sea mines and torpedoes.

President Obama pledged his support to South Korean President Lee Myung-bak in a telephone call following the attack, White House press secretary [Robert Gibbs said in a statement](#) May 19.

Clinton was on the first stop of a three-nation East Asia mission that takes her from Tokyo to Shanghai for the 2010 Shanghai World Expo and then to Beijing for two and a half days of talks at the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue. She concludes her trip in Seoul with intensive talks with South Korean officials over the incident with North Korea and what the next steps will be. South Korea is expected to take its formal complaint to the U.N. Security Council.

While in Tokyo, Clinton discussed efforts to relocate the U.S. Marine Air Station at Futenma on Okinawa and its 2,000 Marine personnel. In a 2006 agreement, the facility was to be relocated to a less populous site on Okinawa, but a suitable site has not been agreed to. Efforts are under way to find a new location by May 31.

“We both seek an arrangement that is operationally viable and politically sustainable,” Clinton told reporters. “We have committed to redoubling our efforts to meet the deadline that has been announced by the Japanese government.”

Clinton, who also met with Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, emphasized during the joint press conference the critical and strategic importance of the U.S.-Japanese political and economic partnership. The United States has the largest economy in the world and Japan has the second largest. But the partnership is also the linchpin to Northeast Asian security.

“We agreed, at a time when tension is increasing in Northeast Asia ... that the Japan-U.S. security alliance is important and this is the year to deepen such ties,” Hatoyama told reporters after meeting with Clinton. “I want to explain frankly to the Japanese people that the presence of U.S. troops in Japan is indispensable to Japan’s security and to the peace and stability of the region in the current security environment.”

---

**8. U.S. Response to French Secretary Lellouche on European Security (05-20-2010)**  
**Outlines steps to enhance common, comprehensive security measures**

United States Mission to the OSCE Response to French Secretary of State for European Affairs, Pierre Lellouche, as delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly to the Permanent Council, Vienna.

Mr. Lellouche, we are pleased to welcome you here to the Permanent Council. We certainly agree with our Russian colleague that France is extremely well represented by Ambassador Alabrune and his team who contribute very actively to the debate that we have in this organization. We thank you for your very interesting and thought provoking address and inspiring ideas for strengthening European and Eurasian security. We agree that security must be based on the principles of the Helsinki Act and the Charter of Paris.

We welcome this opportunity to provide an outline of our overarching approach to strengthening European security. With discussions on NATO's Strategic Concept, the OSCE's Corfu Process, and conventional arms control discussions underway in capitals across Europe and Eurasia, we would like to offer our thoughts on the overall U.S. approach on guiding principles to strengthening European security.

The United States remains committed to working with all OSCE participating States to strengthen European security. Our first step should be to discuss real steps that would enhance our common comprehensive security, rather than to focus on the modalities and institutions for doing so. The United States does not believe new treaties or institutions are required, but we believe that several of the ideas that Russia has put forward for enhancing European security merit careful consideration. In that context, we believe we should explore whether we can work together in five concrete areas.

First, we need to work together to broaden our commitments to reciprocal transparency on all military forces in Europe, including conventional forces, nuclear forces, and other defense assets in Europe, including missile defenses.

Second, we should explore reciprocal limitations on the size and location of conventional forces – both permanent and temporary deployments – that are relevant to the world of today and tomorrow, rather than to yesterday's world. We should also be steering our militaries away from basing their exercises on scenarios that bear little resemblance to reality.

Third, we should work together to plan for real threats that could undermine the security of all states from Vancouver to Vladivostok – North Americans, Europeans, Eurasian, Central Asians and partners from the Caucasus – especially those threats that emanate from outside the OSCE area, such as terrorism, WMD and ballistic missile proliferation, drug trafficking, piracy, and cyber attacks.

Fourth, we need a more effective conflict-prevention, conflict-management, and conflict-resolution mechanism that is aimed at defusing crises before they escalate and finding diplomatic solutions that obviate the use of force. We believe that the OSCE should play a central role in this, and support the creation of an OSCE crisis prevention mechanism to prevent crises before they start.

Fifth and finally, we need to affirm the principle of the indivisibility of security in Europe, the importance of sovereignty and territorial integrity for all countries in Europe, respect for democratic principles and human rights, and the right of all states to choose their own security alliances. In keeping with these points, we need to actively advance our common effort to strengthen European

*May 27, 2010*

security. We will work with all of our Allies and partners in developing a common approach at NATO, in the OSCE, and through the discussions we have recently launched on finding a way forward on the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE).

---