

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
May 27 - June 3, 2010

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1. [Clinton: Security Crucial to United States, India](#) (06-03-2010)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — Both India and the United States have seen their cities and their people targeted by violent extremists, which makes security more than a priority, it is an imperative, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says.

Security was a prime topic during talks between Clinton and Indian External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna June 3 as part of the four-day U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue.

The dialogue, which brings together senior officials from the two governments, is covering a range of subjects from security and counterterrorism to education and health care. Under Secretary of State William Burns said that during these meetings there will be 18 dialogues among officials.

“Minister Krishna and I discussed the importance of India’s leadership to promoting security, stability and prosperity across Asia and beyond,” Clinton said in a joint press conference at the State Department. “We are collaborating on a counterterrorism cooperation initiative to improve information-sharing and capacity-building, and we agreed to expand cooperation on cybersecurity.”

“We are deepening our already extensive military-to-military partnership,” she said.

Terrorists struck the United States on September 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 people in New York City, at the Pentagon outside Washington, and in a plane crash in southeastern Pennsylvania. Terrorists struck India's largest city, Mumbai, November 26–29, 2008, in 10 coordinated shooting and bombing attacks killing at least 164 people and injuring another 308.

“We have a common interest in advancing security and stability across Asia,” Krishna told reporters. “We share our perspectives on South and Central Asia, East and Southeast Asia, the Middle East and the Indian Ocean region.”

“Our dialogue has further increased our understanding on the nature and source of terrorism that threatens both of our societies,” Krishna added. He said they also discussed efforts to deepen defense and security cooperation, including defense trade and collaboration.

Krishna said India and the United States have a convergent goal of a stable, peaceful, pluralistic and democratic Afghanistan, which protects its people and threatens no others in the region.

Clinton thanked Krishna for India's contributions to security efforts in Afghanistan through numerous development projects.

The [U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue](#) provides participation among senior officials; briefings by the co-chairmen to members of both administrations; and an opportunity for direct talks between U.S. and Indian officials. The dialogue is not limited to the two governments; it includes the private sector and academia. The Obama administration increasingly has begun using “strategic dialogues” to show its commitment to broader relations with key nations.

“We meet at a pivotal moment,” Clinton said at the start of the talks. “For nearly two decades, India and the United States have worked intensively to build a strong, positive relationship, one that has delivered benefits to Indians, Americans and people worldwide.”

Clinton told reporters that she discussed with Krishna how best to take advantage of the doubling of trade between the two countries over the last five years. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports from India in 2009 totaled \$21.2 billion and exports totaled \$16.5 billion.

“U.S. and Indian Cabinet secretaries and ministers will meet on June 22 in Washington with members of the U.S.-India CEO Forum to hear recommendations on specific steps our two governments can take to expand trade and investment,” Clinton said. Coupled with that are efforts to examine broad bilateral economic policies, financial-sector reforms, and infrastructure financing, she said.

The United States and India, both members of the Group of 20 advanced economies, have been leading efforts to create a more balanced global economy that lessens the sharp swings that culminated in the most recent global recession, the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Krishna said he and his delegation had discussed at length bilateral economic cooperation, high technology exports, cooperation in higher education, health care, science and technology, empowerment, agriculture, and climate change and energy.

Clinton said it is a crucial challenge for India and the United States to develop a secure and sustainable energy future. “I'm pleased that we have completed a nuclear reprocessing agreement

nearly six months ahead of schedule, underlying our commitment to the civil nuclear accord of 2008,” she said.

India and the United States are at work on a plan for shale-gas cooperation that will be part of the talks President Obama holds with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh when the president goes to India later this year. And new talks have begun on climate change issues in an effort to continue progress achieved during international climate talks in Copenhagen in December 2009, Clinton said.

2. New U.S. Cooperation for International Criminal Court (06-02-2010)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — Although the United States is not a party to the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Obama administration is looking for ways to cooperate with the international body to increase its effectiveness while also encouraging increased capacities in local judicial systems to prosecute atrocities and human rights violations.

The State Department’s ambassador-at-large for war crimes issues, Stephen Rapp, and legal adviser Harold Hongju Koh are leading the U.S. observer delegation to the May 31-June 11 conference in Kampala, Uganda, reviewing the 1998 Rome Statute that established the ICC. They told reporters June 2 that the United States strongly supports accountability for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Koh said that after years of resistance to the ICC, the U.S. push to cooperate with the court under the Obama administration can be seen as part of President Obama’s broader agenda to [increase its engagement with international institutions](#), also exemplified by U.S. participation in the December 2009 climate change conference in Copenhagen and its election to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Rapp said the United States supports international justice “focused on atrocity crime,” but wants to ensure that U.S. and international assistance can also be targeted “to strengthen national systems and to have these cases prosecuted close to the victims and the affected communities.”

The ICC is a “court of last resort,” he said. It should be used “only when there is no will or capacity” on the local or national level, “and then only for the most serious offenders, with the national system being reinforced to handle the rest of the accountability issue.”

But in the future, “when it comes to situations where mass atrocities are committed and where there is no possibility of achieving justice at the national level and you need to go to an international level to have accountability, it’s the ICC where that will happen,” Rapp said. “For that reason we want to look for ways to engage with the ICC to make sure that it’s effective.”

For example, the ambassador pointed to recent African conflicts such as in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan where “it was far more dangerous to be an innocent woman or child than it was to be a soldier.”

Koh said that in its approach to the ICC, the United States has a “long-term commitment to promoting accountability by supporting the responsible development of international mechanisms of criminal justice.”

The United States signed the Rome Statute in 2000, but the treaty requires ratification by the U.S. Senate before the country can be bound by the agreement.

Rapp said the United States “takes a long time when it comes to international treaties and conventions, and studies things very carefully” before a president of either party will submit a treaty for Senate approval. “We’re nowhere near that point,” he added, but the Obama administration is “looking for ways to support this court constructively” as one of the Rome Statute’s observer nations.

Rapp said the United States has been participating in the Rwanda Tribunal and the Special Court for Sierra Leone. For the war crimes trials covering killings and abuses that occurred in the former Yugoslavia during the 1990s, Rapp said, the United States has paid one-quarter of the tribunal’s costs and provided it with assistance for law enforcement, intelligence sharing and victim assistance.

“Whether we can provide all of that in regard to the ICC is a matter of study under our law, but we’re going to work to try to find ways that we can ... support these prosecutions to make sure that the people who are committing these mass atrocities are held to account,” Rapp said.

3. North Korea Persists in 59-Year-Old Disinformation (06-02-2010)

Washington — It is the disinformation story that refuses to die. North Korea persists, after 59 years of futile efforts, in trying to convince the world that the United States used chemical and biological weapons during the Korean War.

The North Korean claims are false, and documents discovered in the Soviet archives in the 1990s reveal that the Soviets knew the charges were fraudulent as long ago as 1953. But North Korea continues to try to spread its disinformation, and reputable news organizations occasionally err in giving it credence, often citing as a source Japanese professor Masataka Mori, who has made four trips to North Korea. In 2002, 2005, and 2010, reputable news organizations gave credence to North Korean disinformation based largely on Mori’s “investigations.”

The false North Korean claims, first made in 1951 but promoted most vigorously in 1952, are that the United States used biological warfare, also referred to as bacteriological warfare, during the Korean War.

SOVIET ARCHIVES REVEAL MORE OF STORY

Documents uncovered in the Soviet archives demonstrate that North Korean, Chinese, and Soviet authorities cooperated to fabricate bogus “evidence” in an attempt to bolster these false charges. The cooperation included infecting North Korean prisoners with naturally occurring plague and cholera, some of which was obtained from China.

The Soviet documents first were reported in the January 8, 1998, issue of Japan’s Sankei Shimbun by its Moscow-based reporter Yasuro Naito and have been deemed credible by historians. Milton Leitenberg, a longtime expert on biological weapons, writes that the documents and publications

written about them “were made available to the most knowledgeable living Russian specialists on the Soviet-era archival records dealing with the Korean War, and there have been no demurrals to date; nor have any denials been made by Russian or Chinese officials.” [“The Korean War Biological Warfare Allegations: Additional Information and Disclosures,” *Asian Perspective*, 24:3 (2000), pp. 159–172.]

For the text of the documents and an analysis of them, see “[Deceiving the Deceivers: Moscow, Beijing, Pyongyang, and the Allegations of Bacteriological Weapons Use in Korea](#),” by Kathryn Weathersby, published by the Cold War International History Project.

The Soviet documents are dated 1952 and 1953.

Document number 2, written by a former Soviet adviser to North Korea’s Ministry of Public Security to Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Lavrenty Beria, dated April 13, 1953, states:

“The Koreans stated that the Americans had supposedly repeatedly exposed several areas of their country to plague and cholera. To prove these facts, the North Koreans, with the assistance of our advisers, created false areas of exposure. ... Two false areas of exposure were prepared. In connection with this, the Koreans insisted on obtaining cholera bacteria from corpses which they would get from China.”

Document number 4, written by Lieutenant General V.N. Razuvaev, the Soviet ambassador to North Korea, written April 18, 1953, states:

“With the cooperation of Soviet advisers a plan was worked out for action by the North Korean Ministry of Health. False plague regions were created, burials of bodies of those who died and their disclosure were organized, measures were taken to receive the plague and cholera bacillus. The adviser of MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] DPRK [Democratic People’s Republic of Korea] proposed to infect with the cholera and plague bacilli persons sentenced to execution ... the North Korean minister of health was sent to Beijing for the bacillus. However, they didn’t give him anything there, but they gave it to him later in Mukden. Moreover, a pure culture of cholera bacillus was received in Pyongyang from bodies of families who died”

The Soviet ambassador also states that he had found no evidence of use of chemical weapons by the United States in Korea:

“Moreover, the Chinese also wrote that the Americans were using poison gas in the course of the war. However, my examinations into this question did not give positive results. For example, on 10 April 1953 the general commanding the Eastern Front reported to North Korean leader Kim Il Sung that 10-12 persons were poisoned in a tunnel by an American chemical missile. Our investigation established that these deaths were caused by poisoning from carbonic acid gas released into the tunnel, which had no ventilation, after the explosion of an ordinary large caliber shell.”

Document number 8 is a Resolution of the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers addressed to Chinese leader Mao Zedong, dated May 2, 1953. It states:

“The Soviet Government and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union CPSU were misled. The spread in the press of information about the use by the Americans of bacteriological weapons in Korea was based on false information. The accusations against the Americans were fictitious.

The document notes that, “Soviet workers responsible for participation in the fabrication of the so-called ‘proof’ of the use of bacteriological weapons will receive severe punishment.”

As Leitenberg notes in his Asian Perspective article, despite the Soviet claim that they were shocked to discover the false nature of the biological warfare charges, there is “very substantial reason to suspect that the more likely instigator of the charges was Moscow,” which played a dominant role in North Korean affairs at the time, as the documents and other historical knowledge indicate. Nevertheless, the Soviets eventually decided to abandon these false charges. North Korea still persists in attempting to spread them.

NUMEROUS DENIALS

At that time these false claims were first made, the United States, United Nations and officials from other countries categorically denied them on numerous occasions.

- On March 4, 1952, U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson said, “I would ... like to state categorically and unequivocally that these charges are entirely false; the U.N. forces have not used, and are not using, any sort of bacteriological warfare. ... The inability of the Communists to care for the health of the people under their control seems to have resulted in a serious epidemic of plague. The Communists, not willing to admit and bear the responsibility that is theirs, are trying to pin the blame on some fantastic plot by U.N. forces.” [Department of State Bulletin, March 17, 1952, pp. 427-428.]
- On May 7, Acheson stated at a press conference, with regard to “false Communist charges that we have waged bacteriological warfare in Korea. ... These charges have been flatly denied by American authorities, by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and by authorities of other nations having forces in Korea. ... Although not permitted to make an on-the-spot investigation, competent scientists in many parts of the world have examined the ‘evidence’ submitted by the Communists and, as a result, have pronounced the charges an obvious and clumsy hoax.” [Department of State Bulletin, May 19, 1952, p. 777.]
- General Matthew Ridgway, former commander of the U.N. forces in Korea, stated before the U.S. Congress on May 22, 1952: “I am constrained at this point to refer again to the officially propagated allegations of Communist leaders that the United Nations command in Korea has employed both germ and gas warfare. I wish to reiterate what I have repeatedly stated publicly, that these allegations are false in their entirety; that no element of the United Nations command has employed either germ or gas warfare in any form at any time.” [Department of State Bulletin, June 9, 1952, p. 926.]
- Ridgway stated in Rome on June 17, 1952: “As former Commander-in-Chief of United Nations forces in Korea, and as God is my witness, I tell you that no element of that Command employed any form of germ warfare at any time, and that all of the so-called ‘proof,’ including photographs, was manufactured by the Communists themselves.” [Department of State Bulletin, July 28, 1952, p. 158.]
- On July 1, 1952, Ernest A. Gross, the deputy U.S. representative to the United Nations, said, in a statement to the U.N. Security Council, “I now repeat and reaffirm Acheson’s March 4, 1952 denial. Similar flat denials were made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, by the U.N. Commander-in-Chief, by the Secretary of Defense of the United States, and by numerous other responsible officials of other U.N. members, including those contributing forces to the repulsion of

aggression in Korea. ... Independent scientists, including at least 10 Nobel prize winners, have publicly expressed complete skepticism of the charges.” [Department of State Bulletin, July 28, 1952, pp. 154, 157.]

During 20 years of “research” on this issue, Mori, the Japanese professor, gives credence only to long discredited North Korean disinformation claims, never the facts that have proved the claims to be wrong.

4. Obama Supports U.N. Call for Investigation of Flotilla Incident (06-01-2010) **President expresses deep regret over loss of life**

President Obama supports the U.N. Security Council's call for a full investigation of the May 31 flotilla incident.

Washington — President Obama supports a U.N. Security Council statement that condemns the acts that led to civilian deaths on a humanitarian aid flotilla and calls for a full investigation, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs says.

At a White House briefing June 1, Gibbs said the president spoke three times with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on May 31 about the incident. The president also expressed “deep regret” at the loss of life and of those wounded, he said.

Gibbs added that the United States and international community support the U.N. Security Council statement that said: “The Security Council deeply regrets the loss of life and injuries resulting from the use of force during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the convoy sailing to Gaza. The council in this context condemns those acts, which resulted in the loss of at least 10 civilians and many wounded, and expresses its condolences to their families. The Security Council requests the immediate release of the ships, as well as civilians held by Israel.”

And Gibbs also said “the statement that I read calls for an investigation that is prompt, impartial, credible and transparent, conforming to international standards, of exactly what happened. And we're obviously supportive of that.”

Early on May 31, a flotilla of six cargo ships and passenger boats carrying humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip was intercepted by the Israeli military after repeated warnings. After Israeli commandos boarded the Turkish ship Mavi Marmara, at least 10 civilians were killed, according to news accounts.

“The president also expressed the importance of learning all the facts and circumstances around this morning’s tragic events as soon as possible,” the [White House said in a May 31 summary](#) of a telephone conversation between Obama and Netanyahu. Netanyahu had been scheduled to meet with Obama May 31 in Washington on a number of issues before the incident.

State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said that the United States is working to ascertain the facts and expects that the Israeli government will conduct a full and credible investigation.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu held talks with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton at the State Department June 1, and had told reporters ahead of their meeting that Turkey wanted a strong statement from the United States.

The United States has worked closely with the Israeli government, the Palestinian Authority, international nongovernmental organizations and the United Nations to provide adequate access for humanitarian goods, including reconstruction materials, through established border crossings while recognizing security concerns, Crowley said.

“However, Hamas’ interference with international assistance shipments and work of nongovernmental organizations, and its use and endorsement of violence, complicates efforts in Gaza,” Crowley said.

Ambassador Alejandro Wolff, deputy permanent U.S. representative to the United Nations, [said during an emergency session of the U.N. Security Council](#) May 31 that this incident underscores the need to move ahead quickly with talks that can lead to a comprehensive peace in the region. The United States has been conducting [indirect talks](#) with the Israelis and Palestinians aimed at restarting direct Middle East peace talks.

“The only viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an agreement, negotiated between the parties, that ends the occupation that began in 1967 and fulfills the aspirations of both parties for independent homelands through two states for two peoples, Israel and an independent, contiguous and viable state of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security,” Wolff said.

[5. NPT Review Conference Affirms Obama’s Nonproliferation Agenda \(06-01-2010\)](#) U.S. to co-sponsor proposed 2012 conference on WMD-free Mideast

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — U.S. officials lauded the agreement resulting from the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in New York as furthering President Obama’s vision of a world without nuclear weapons where all countries can enjoy access to peaceful nuclear energy.

“The NPT must be at the center of our global efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons around the world, while pursuing the ultimate goal of a world without them,” President Obama said [in a May 28 statement](#).

The 28-page agreement, which was approved by all 189 participating countries after four weeks of discussions, “includes balanced and practical steps that will advance nonproliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which are critical pillars of the global nonproliferation regime,” Obama said.

The president first outlined his vision of stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and reducing nuclear weapons stockpiles in an [April 5, 2009 speech in Prague](#). The United States has since taken several steps in support of that goal.

- On September 24, 2009, under President Obama’s chairmanship, the U.N. Security Council adopted [Resolution 1887](#), which sets a framework to guide nations in halting the spread of nuclear weapons and reducing global nuclear dangers.
- On April 6, President Obama unveiled a revised [Nuclear Posture Review](#) that reduces the role of nuclear weapons in the overall U.S. national security strategy, maintains the U.S. moratorium on

nuclear testing, and pledges not to use nuclear weapons on nations that are in compliance with the NPT and their nuclear nonproliferation obligations.

- The United States and Russia signed the [New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty \(START\)](#) on April 8, under which both countries agree to reduce their nuclear weapon stockpiles by 30 percent.
- President Obama hosted the [April 12–13 Nuclear Security Summit](#), which embraced the goal of preventing nuclear terrorism by securing all of the world’s vulnerable nuclear materials within four years.
- To promote nuclear transparency and strengthen global arms control, the [United States revealed that it has 5,113 operational warheads](#) in its nuclear arsenal on May 3, coinciding with the opening of the NPT Review Conference.

The review conference is held every five years and is aimed at strengthening the “three pillars” of the 1970 treaty by which nations without nuclear weapons agree not to acquire them, nuclear-armed countries agree to move toward their elimination, and all countries are given the right to develop peaceful nuclear energy.

President Obama said the agreement resulting from the May 3–28 discussions “reaffirms many aspects of the agenda that I laid out in Prague, and which we have pursued together with other nations over the last year, and underscores that those nations that refuse to abide by their international obligations must be held accountable.”

In her [closing statement at the conference May 28](#), Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Ellen Tauscher described the agreement’s action plan as “forward-looking and balanced.”

Along with recognizing steps that the United States and other countries have taken to advance nuclear disarmament, the document encourages “the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the urgent need to get on with long-delayed talks on a fissile material cutoff treaty.”

It also affirms enhanced nuclear safeguards that are verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as called for under the treaty’s Additional Protocol. The protocol “represents the enhanced standard” for verifying NPT compliance and is essential for the IAEA’s efforts to carry out its international safeguards responsibilities, Tauscher said.

The agreement emphasizes that “peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be made available to all parties in conformity with the NPT’s nonproliferation provisions, and recognizes the importance of multilateral mechanisms for assurance of nuclear supply and related fuel-cycle services,” Tauscher said.

Countries that violate the NPT and then withdraw from the treaty to avoid punishment will be held accountable for those violations, she said.

The United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China, who constitute the five leading nuclear powers, committed to speed up their efforts to reduce their nuclear arsenals and reduce the importance of nuclear weapons in their security strategies. The agreement said all five would report their progress on these efforts in 2014, ahead of the next NPT Review Conference in 2015. The State Department released a [May 28 fact sheet](#) with further details on the final agreement.

CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS-FREE MIDDLE EAST

The final conference document calls for convening a conference in 2012 to discuss establishing the Middle East as a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. The [United States has previously indicated its support for such a zone](#), but the Obama administration has said it believes that a comprehensive peace is a necessary precursor to such a conference, as well as the need for all countries in the region to be fully compliant with their arms control and nonproliferation obligations.

In a [May 28 statement](#), President Obama's national security advisor, General James Jones, said a WMD-free Middle East is "a long-term goal," and said the United States would co-sponsor the conference with the United Kingdom, Russia and the U.N. secretary-general.

For the conference to be effective, Jones said, all countries in the region must participate, and the conference's agenda must include regional security issues, verification and compliance, and all categories of WMD as well as their delivery systems.

"In addition, we will insist that the conference operate only by consensus by the regional countries, to include agreement on any possible further discussions or follow-up actions, which will only take place with the consent of all the regional countries," he said.

Jones said the United States deplored the decision to single out Israel in the NPT document's Middle East section while failing to mention Iran or its continued violations of the NPT and U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Iran "poses the greatest threat of nuclear proliferation in the region and to the integrity of the NPT," Jones said.

The United States remains committed to Israel's security, he said, and the decision to single Israel out in the document reduces the prospects of all key states participating in the conference. Those prospects are "now in doubt and will remain so until all are assured" that the conference can operate in an "unbiased and constructive way," Jones said.

6. Clinton: Diplomacy, Development Critical to National Security (05-28-2010)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says diplomacy and economic development are integral parts of President Obama's security strategy and have equal status with military force in protecting the American people.

The White House released the president's National Security Strategy May 27. It relies heavily on diplomacy and engagement, economic development and other methods of influence, along with U.S. military capabilities with global reach and unsurpassed resources.

Every president since Harry Truman has developed a national security strategy, and while they tend to build on the work of previous administrations, each president also seeks to carve out his mark on

U.S. foreign policy and global relations while shaping an international agenda that reflects his goals.

“This is a comprehensive National Security Strategy that integrates our strength here at home, our commitment to homeland security, our national defense and our foreign policy,” Clinton said May 27 at the Brookings Institution, a Washington-based policy research center.

“In a nutshell, this strategy is about strengthening and applying American leadership to advance our national interests and to solve shared problems,” she said.

Clinton said the approach by Obama, who assumed office 16 months ago, is to build on the diverse sources of American power at home and shape the global system with all of its flaws so that it becomes conducive to meeting overriding U.S. objectives — security, prosperity, the explanation and spread of American values, and an international order that is just and sustainable.

“We do this against the backdrop of a changed and always changing global landscape, and a difficult inheritance — two wars, a struggling economy, reduced credibility abroad, international institutions buckling under the weight of systemic changes and so much more,” Clinton said.

While preserving U.S. military preeminence, the Obama administration also emphasizes diplomatic engagement and multilateral coalition-building, she said.

General James Jones, the president’s national security adviser, told reporters at the Washington Foreign Press Center May 27 that after 16 months, one of the things the president and his administration have learned is that they must deal with the world as it is.

“This is a time of sweeping change. Two decades since the end of the Cold War, the free flow of information, people and trade continues to accelerate at an unprecedented pace,” Jones said. “Events far beyond our nation’s shores now impact our safety, our security and prosperity.”

Jones said the strategic approach is based on several elements: rebuilding the nation and recognizing that national security begins at home, comprehensive engagement and recognizing that no one nation can meet global challenges alone, promoting international order, and strengthening and integrating national capabilities.

Senator John Kerry, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Obama’s strategy restores a reality-based approach to meet U.S. security imperatives.

“The president recognizes we can’t achieve the world we want if we don’t recognize the world as it is today, and that combination of idealism and realism is the foundation of his strategy,” Kerry said.

7. Obama Seeks Security Through Peace, Cooperation (05-27-2010)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — The highest priorities of U.S. national security are the safety of Americans at home and abroad and achieving a peaceful, stable world through global cooperation despite a flawed international system, President Obama says.

The White House released the president's [National Security Strategy](#) (PDF, 1.8MB) May 27. It defines the foreign policy goals of his administration in broad terms, and blends Obama's world view with the realities of the world as it is. The Obama security strategy relies heavily on diplomacy and engagement, economic development and other methods of influence, along with U.S. military capabilities with global reach and unsurpassed resources.

"As we face multiple threats — from nations, nonstate actors and failed states — we will maintain the military superiority that has secured our country, and underpinned global security, for decades," Obama said in the introduction to the document.

The strategy, mandated by Congress, is global, and identifies an array of real or potential security challenges that include: countering violent extremism and insurgency; stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and securing nuclear materials; combating climate change while sustaining global economic growth; reducing the danger of cyberthreats; helping countries feed themselves and care for their sick; ending dependence on fossil fuels; resolving and preventing conflict; and reducing destabilizing risks to economic interdependence.

Obama said the United States will take a multilateral approach to the many security challenges it faces. Acknowledging that the use of force is sometimes necessary, Obama pledged that "we will exhaust other options before war whenever we can, and carefully weigh the costs and risks of action against the costs and risks of inaction. We will seek broad international support, working with such institutions as NATO and the U.N. Security Council."

A significant characteristic of Obama's approach to foreign affairs during his first 16 months in the White House — and emphasized in the new security strategy — is engagement through negotiation, and persuasion rather than confrontation.

NATIONAL SECURITY PRIORITIES

Obama says his national security strategy begins with renewing American leadership to more effectively advance U.S. interests in the 21st century. It recognizes the fundamental connection among U.S. national security, national competitiveness, resilience and morality. "Our strategy starts by recognizing that our strength and influence abroad begins with the steps we take at home," the president wrote in the strategy's introduction.

Obama regards the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and specifically the danger posed by the pursuit of nuclear weapons by extremists and other states, as the greatest threat to the American people. It is why his administration has placed considerable attention on a [comprehensive nonproliferation and nuclear security agenda](#) that places heavy emphasis on the rights and responsibilities of nations, the document says.

The United States will continue its relentless strategy to disrupt, dismantle and defeat the transnational terrorist group al-Qaida and its affiliates. The elements of that strategy include denying them safe haven, strengthening front-line partners, securing the American homeland, pursuing justice through lasting legal methods and countering a bankrupt agenda of extremism and murder with an agenda based on hope and opportunity, the document says.

"The frontline of this fight is Afghanistan and Pakistan, where we are applying relentless pressure on al-Qaida, breaking the Taliban's momentum, and strengthening the security and capacity of our partners," the document says.

The security strategy, for the first time since modern presidents have been preparing them, includes a priority to strengthen the American economic system in the era of globalization. A key component is to advance balanced and sustainable growth on which global prosperity and stability depend, the document says. That includes taking steps domestically and internationally to prevent another sweeping economic crisis.

“We have shifted focus to the Group of 20 major economies as the premier forum for international economic cooperation, and are working to rebalance global demand so that America saves more and exports more while emerging economies generate more demand,” the document says. Bilateral and multilateral trade agreements are critical to advancing U.S. and global prosperity, the document says.

An additional facet of American national security is enhancing and supporting human rights and democratic values among nations. “We see it as fundamental to our own interests to support a just peace around the world — one in which individuals, and not just nations, are granted the fundamental rights that they deserve,” the document says.

That includes, the document adds, promoting the human dignity of all persons through support for global health, food security, and cooperative responses to humanitarian crises such as the devastation caused by the January earthquake in Haiti.

“Implementing this agenda will not be easy. To succeed, we must balance and integrate all elements of American power and update our national security capacity for the 21st century,” the document says. “We must maintain our military’s conventional superiority, while enhancing its capacity to defeat asymmetric threats.”

“Our diplomacy and development capabilities must be modernized, and our civilian expeditionary capacity strengthened, to support the full breadth of our priorities,” the document says.
