

INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

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Our Quarterly Newsletter includes websites from the Electronic Documentation Service, a mechanism for identifying and delivering authoritative but often hard-to-locate and soon-out-of-print reports by a number of different government agencies and private think tanks.

DEMOCRACY

ARGENTINA-UNITED STATES BILATERAL RELATIONS. AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

Cynthia J. Arnson, editor

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Latin American Project. December 2003

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/LAP_argentina.pdf

On March 5, 2003, the Wilson Center's Latin American Program and the Cold War International History Project held a conference on "Argentina-United States Bilateral Relations: An Historical Perspective and Future Challenges." The first panel dealt with the current Argentina-US bilateral relations and the future challenges. The panelists discussed the US-Argentina tight alliance during the Carlos Menem Administration, its effects on the country's position in international affairs, and possible internal and foreign policies to increase Argentina's relevance in the international arena. The second panel evaluated a new perspective on Argentina-US bilateral relations, given the declassification of 4677 documents about the dirty war period that were kept in the US Embassy in Buenos Aires. The declassification was ordered by the State Department on August 20, 2002.

CUBA. ONE YEAR TOO MANY: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE FROM THE MARCH 2003 CRACKDOWN

Amnesty International (AI). March 16, 2004

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/print/ENGAMR250052004>

This new report by Amnesty International reveals the current state of 75 prisoners of conscience arrested during the March 2003 crackdown when scores of Cuban dissidents were detained in a series of targeted sweeps. Some were subsequently released, but many were subjected to hasty and manifestly unfair trials and sentenced to long prison terms. The dissidents were accused of activities such as publishing articles critical of economic, social or human rights issues in Cuba; being involved in unofficial groups considered by the authorities to be counter-revolutionary or having contacts with individuals viewed as hostile to Cuba's interests. This report provides details of the current status of the majority of the dissidents. The report also details the conditions in which the detainees are held.

ELECTIONS 2004

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/elec2004.html>

Every presidential election in the United States gives rise to greater legions of so-called "spin doctors", and a number of pundits offering their opinions on the chances of each candidate who has thrown their hat in the ring. Fortunately, the University of Michigan Documents Center has developed this helpful and informative website that culls together hundreds of useful websites about the upcoming presidential election of 2004. From the homepage visitors can look through a number of helpful sections devoted to listing sites dedicated to such topics as Policy Issues, Candidates, and Campaign.

IRAQ: ONE YEAR AFTER

Thomas R. Pickering, Eric Schwartz and James R. Schlesinger

Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), Independent Task Force on Post-Conflict Iraq. March 9, 2004

http://www.cfr.org/pdf/Iraq_yearafter.pdf

While noting "significant progress" in the post-conflict reconstruction and political transition effort, the Task Force reports that the planned transfer of sovereignty on June 30, combined with U.S. troop reductions from Iraqi cities and uncertainty about long-term U.S. funding, has created doubts about U.S. staying power. To avoid destabilizing the effort and demoralizing Iraqis, the Task Force urges the Bush administration, the Democratic nominee for president, and Congressional leaders to:

- * declare that coalition forces will continue to provide essential security in Iraq until the Iraqi security forces can do so on their own;
- * emphasize that the transfer of sovereignty does not signal a diminished U.S. commitment to supporting stability, reconstruction and a peaceful political transition;
- * affirm that the United States is prepared to sustain a multi-billion dollar commitment to Iraq for at least the next several years; and
- * ensure broad involvement of Iraqis, and promote a leading role for the United Nations in the political transition process.

UNITED NATIONS: OBSERVATIONS ON THE OIL FOR FOOD PROGRAM. TESTIMONY OF JOSEPH A. CHRISTOFF, BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, U.S. SENATE. [GAO-04-651T]

United States General Accounting Office (GAO). April 7, 2004

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04651t.pdf>

The Oil for Food program was established by the United Nations and Iraq in 1996 to address concerns about the humanitarian situation after international sanctions were imposed in 1990. The program allowed the Iraqi government to use the proceeds of its oil sales to pay for food, medicine, and infrastructure maintenance. The program appears to have helped the Iraqi people. From 1996 through 2001, the average daily food intake increased from 1,300 to 2,300 calories. From 1997-2002, Iraq sold more than \$67 billion of oil through the program and issued \$38 billion in letters of credit to purchase commodities. However, GAO estimates that from 1997-2002, the former Iraqi regime attained \$10.1 billion in illegal revenues from the Oil for Food program, including \$5.7 billion in oil smuggled out of Iraq and \$4.4 billion through surcharges on oil sales and illicit commissions from suppliers exporting goods to Iraq. This estimate includes oil revenue and contract amounts for 2002, updated letters of credit from prior years, and newer estimates of illicit commissions from commodity suppliers.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

2004 NATIONAL TRADE ESTIMATE [NTE] REPORT ON FOREIGN TRADE BARRIERS

Executive Office of the President. Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). April 1, 2004

<http://www.ustr.gov/reports/nte/2004/fulltext.pdf>

This is the latest USTR annual report documenting foreign trade barriers to U.S. exports and U.S. efforts to reduce and eliminate those barriers. The NTE includes a list of barriers and unfair trade practices to U.S. exports of goods, services, and farm products. In addition to limiting commercial opportunities for U.S. businesses, these barriers undermine the substantial potential gains from trade among developing countries Administration's monitoring program and information provided from the public and private sector trade advisory committees. The NTE covers 58 major trading partners in each region of the world and profiles policies that restrict market access. As required by the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, USTR prepares the NTE Report in close consultation with other U.S. Government agencies, based on the Administration's monitoring program and information provided from the public and private sector trade advisory committees.

2004 TRADE POLICY AGENDA AND 2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE TRADE AGREEMENTS PROGRAM

Executive Office of the President. Office of the United States Trade Representative. March 2004

<http://www.ustr.gov/reports/2004.html>

The 2004 Trade Policy Agenda and 2003 Annual Report of the President of the United States on the Trade Agreements Program are submitted to the Congress pursuant to Section 163 of the Trade Act of 1974, as

amended (19 U.S.C. 2213). The document includes, in Chapter II, the Annual Report on the World Trade Organization in accordance with Sections 122 and 124 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act. In addition, the report also includes an annex listing trade agreements entered into by the United States since 1984.

COINS AND CURRENCY: HOW THE COSTS AND EARNINGS ASSOCIATED WITH PRODUCING COINS AND CURRENCY ARE BUDGETED AND ACCOUNTED FOR. [GAO-04-283]

United States General Accounting Office (GAO). April 23, 2004

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04283.pdf>

The U.S. government produces billions of coins and currency notes each year. Coins are made by the U.S. Mint and issued by the Treasury Department. Currency notes are made by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and issued by the Federal Reserve System (Fed). The Fed buys coins from the Mint at face value but pays the Bureau only the costs of printing currency. Coins on the books of the Fed are assets that are issued by the Mint, and notes are liabilities of the Federal Reserve Banks. In recent years congressional hearings have highlighted the confusion over differences in the budgetary and accounting treatment of coins and currency. In addition, the Treasury Inspector General and others have reported problems with Mint and Bureau operations. GAO was asked to review (1) how the costs and earnings from coins and currency are budgeted and accounted for and (2) whether any operational problems at the Mint and Bureau need further action.

Note: Appendix II of this report, "History of Money in the United States", is a very good 4-page summary of the history of the U.S. monetary system.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: ACHIEVING POOR COUNTRIES' ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEBT RELIEF TARGETS FACES SIGNIFICANT FINANCING CHALLENGES. [GAO-04-405]

United States General Accounting Office (GAO). April 16, 2004

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04405.pdf>

The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, established in 1996, is a bilateral and multilateral effort to provide debt relief to poor countries to help them achieve economic growth and debt sustainability. Multilateral creditors are having difficulty financing their share of the initiative, even with assistance from donors. Under the existing initiative, many countries are unlikely to achieve their debt relief targets, primarily because their export earnings are likely to be significantly less than projected by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). GAO assessed (1) the projected multilateral development banks' funding shortfall for the existing initiative and (2) the amount of funding, including development assistance, needed to help countries achieve economic growth and debt relief targets.

FINANCING LONG-TERM CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

United States Congress. Congressional Budget Office (CBO). Web-posted April 26, 2004

<ftp://ftp.cbo.gov/54xx/doc5400/04-26-LongTermCare.pdf>

Over the next several decades, the population of U.S. seniors—people aged 65 and older—is expected to grow rapidly, more than doubling by 2040 while the population as a whole grows by about one-third. That surge will probably produce a similar increase in the demand for long-term care (LTC) services—the personal assistance that enables people who are impaired to perform daily routines such as eating, bathing, and dressing. Today, seniors finance such services from a variety of sources, including personal savings, care donated by friends and family, private insurance, and public programs such as Medicaid and Medicare. This Congressional Budget Office (CBO) paper—prepared at the request of the House Budget Committee—summarizes the current state of financing for long-term care, identifies some of the issues affecting it both now and in the future, and considers policy alternatives that address the mix of private and governmental sources of financing for LTC costs. In keeping with CBO's mandate to provide objective, impartial analysis, this report contains no recommendations.

FOUNDATION GROWTH AND GIVING ESTIMATES

Loren Renz and Steven Lawrence

The Foundation Center. April 5, 2004

http://www.fdncenter.org/research/trends_analysis/pdf/fgge04.pdf

Three consecutive years of stock market losses and a sluggish and uneven economic recovery caught up with foundations in 2003. Giving by the nation's nearly 65,000 grant-making foundations declined an estimated 2.5 percent to \$29.7 billion last year, down from just over \$30 billion in 2002 and 2001, according to this new report from the Foundation Center. This decline is smaller than might be expected, given the 10.5 percent loss in

foundation assets between 2000 and 2002. Looking ahead, the beginning of a recovery in the stock market in 2003 will encourage modest overall growth in 2004 foundation giving.

GLOBAL CORRUPTION REPORT 2004 [GCR 2004]

Transparency International (TI). March 25, 2004

<http://www.globalcorruptionreport.org/download.htm>

The GCR 2004 includes reports on: the regulation of political finance worldwide; the disclosure of money flows in politics; the enforcement of political finance laws; the practice of vote buying; the role of the private sector, with a special focus on the arms and oil sectors; efforts to repatriate wealth looted by politicians. It also includes: analysis of the UN Convention against Corruption and EU expansion; detailed assessments of the state of corruption in 34 countries; TI's new Standards on Political Finance and Favors; TI's league table of the world's top 10 embezzlers; TI's key to the best and worst laws regulating politics; TI's assessment of developments in immunity from prosecution.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AT A CROSSROADS: REPLACING THE G-7 WITH THE G-20. [Policy Brief No. 131]

Colin I. Bradford, Jr. and Johannes F. Linn

Brookings Institution. April 2004

<http://www.brookings.edu/dybdocroot/comm/policybriefs/pb131.pdf>

Finance ministers representing the Group of 7 (G-7) industrialized countries met in Boca Raton, Florida, in early February amid concerns about the weakening of the U.S. dollar. One factor in the dollar's decline is the U.S. trade deficit, which is partly due to the undervalued Chinese yuan. Bradford and Linn assert that the involvement of China, which is not a G-7 member, illustrates both the glaring gap in global governance and the increasing economic and policy interdependence between industrial countries and major emerging market economies (EMEs). The authors suggest that policymakers should upgrade the G-20 to head-of-state level and use it to replace the increasingly ineffective G-7 for several reasons: future demographic and economic changes will further shift the balance away from G-7 countries and toward the large EMEs; globalization presents new challenges that require more representative global governance approaches; and EMEs have played a key role in the origin, impact, and solutions of recent global economic crises.

"OFFSHORING" SERVICE JOBS: BANE OR BOON AND WHAT TO DO? [Policy Brief No. 132]

Lael Brainard and Robert E. Litan

Brookings Institution. April 2004

<http://www.brookings.edu/dybdocroot/comm/policybriefs/pb132.pdf>

U.S. workers worry that the economy is permanently shedding jobs and compressing wages, not only in manufacturing but also now in services once assumed immune to foreign competition. The digitization of information and expanded bandwidth abroad are enabling companies to outsource to low-wage countries services ranging from routine call center work to higher-value software programming, medical diagnosis, and research and analytical activities. The offshoring debate comes during a recovery with unusually low job creation, causing anxiety about employment and trade. Concern runs across political and demographic lines, prompting calls for measures to slow down or even halt offshoring.

REPORT TO CONGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND EXCHANGE RATE POLICIES

United States Department of the Treasury. April 15, 2004

<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/js1335.htm>

This report reviews developments in international economic policy, including exchange rate policy, focusing on the second half of 2003. The report is required under the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, which states that: "The Secretary of the Treasury shall analyze on an annual basis the exchange rate policies of foreign countries, in consultation with the International Monetary Fund, and consider whether countries manipulate the rate of exchange between their currency and the United States dollar for purposes of preventing effective balance of payments adjustments or gaining unfair competitive advantage in international trade." After reviewing developments in the United States, the report examines exchange rate policies in major economies across five regions of the world: (1) the Western Hemisphere, (2) Europe and Eurasia, (3) Africa, (4) the Middle East and South Asia, and (5) East Asia.

RESTRICTING TRADEMARK RIGHTS OF CUBANS: WTO DECISION AND CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE. [RS21764]

Margaret Mikyung Lee

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service (CRS). March 9, 2004

http://www.ipmall.info/hosted_resources/crs/RS21711_040305.pdf

Congress enacted § 211 of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1998 effectively to prohibit Cuban nationals or their non-Cuban successors in interest from protecting certain trademarks or trade names in the United States. Congress did so partly as a result of a dispute between two claimants to the "Havana Club" trademark for a brand of rum, one of whom (Bacardi & Company, Ltd.) was a successor to the interest of the original trademark owner (Jose Arechabala, S .A.), who at one point apparently abandoned the trademark, and the other (Havana Club Holding, S.A.) a successor/partner to the interest of the Cuban Government in the expropriated trademark. Under § 211, unless the original owners have expressly consented, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is prohibited from accepting or renewing the registration of a trademark, trade name or commercial name by, and U.S. courts are prohibited from considering or enforcing the trademark claims of, Cuban nationals (or their successors in interest) who acquired the trademark or trade name from the Cuban Government, where the trademark or trade name had been used in connection with property confiscated on or after January 1, 1959, without compensation to the original owners. This provision was challenged by the European Community in the World Trade Organization as being inconsistent with U.S. obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement). Federal courts have held that § 211 and related Cuban-embargo provisions bar infringement suits by successors-in-interest to a Cuban corporation.

RESULTS OF 2004 SECTION 1377 REVIEW OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRADE AGREEMENTS

Executive Office of the President. Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). April 7, 2004

<http://www.ustr.gov/sectors/industry/Telecom1377/2004/1377report.pdf>

This is USTR's 2004 annual review of foreign compliance with telecommunications trade agreements (the "Section 1377 Review"). The report identifies global barriers facing U.S. consumers and businesses in the estimated \$1.3 trillion dollar telecommunications services and equipment market. Three key barriers identified this year that impede access to foreign telecommunications markets include: (1) proposed exclusionary standards for equipment and services in China and Korea; (2) high interconnection rates for mobile and wire-line networks in Europe and Asia; and (3) restrictions on accessing wholesale transmission capacity in Germany, India, Switzerland, and Singapore. In addition, at least two countries (Mexico and South Africa) have been slow in implementing their commitment to permit U.S. suppliers to resell basic telecommunications services in their markets. And, as in past years, the lack of fully independent regulators continues to weaken the competitive landscape in numerous countries.

SMALL ENTERPRISES AND ECONOMIC POLICY. [Carnegie Paper No. 43]

Anders Åslund and Simon Johnson

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP). March 2004

<http://www.ceip.org/files/pdf/CarnegiePaper43.pdf>

Recent experience in Eastern Europe, East Asia, and South America supports the idea that institutions—such as an effective judiciary, protection of property rights, and more specific laws—are key to both long-term economic development and recovery from crises. Developing good institutions is generally viewed as a desirable goal, but there is no agreed road map for such changes. Åslund and Johnson suggest, at least for former communist countries, the right way to begin strengthening institutions is by lowering the barriers to entry for new small businesses and the costs of running these firms by switching to a simple low lump-sum tax. This policy has economic advantages, but its most important effect is to change the political equilibrium, creating a powerful force for further institutional improvement.

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE 108TH CONGRESS [IB10123]

Ian F. Fergusson and Lenore M. Sek

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated March 26, 2004

<http://www.house.gov/htbin/crsprodget?IB10123/site=collinpeterson.house.gov>

For over 50 years, U.S. trade officials have negotiated multilateral trade agreements to achieve lower trade barriers and rules to cover international trade. In the past two decades, U.S. officials also negotiated four free-trade agreements with neighboring countries or strategic partners. Currently, the Bush Administration is making bilateral and regional free trade agreements more important elements of its trade policy. The multilateral arena

is no longer the only means, or perhaps even the principal means, by which the United States is pursuing the benefits of trade.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

<http://stats.bls.gov/home.htm>

For anyone looking for very detailed up-to-date statistics on just about any facet of the U.S. labor market and economy, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics web page should be the first place to look. The site contains information on inflation and consumer spending, productivity, occupations, industries, business costs, and demographics. Of course, within each broad topical division, there are numerous other more specific subtopics, such as those offering data on employment costs, the consumer price index, and foreign labor. Some of the highlights of this site include the 2004-05 edition of the Occupational Outlook Handbook and a number of the Bureau's in-house publications, such as the Occupational Outlook Quarterly. For quick information, visitors will want to take a look at the At a Glance Tables area, which allows visitors easy access to economic and labor data (such as unemployment) at the state and metropolitan area levels. Finally, visitors may also send in their own queries, or take a look at answers to queries that have recently been asked by other users of the site.

GENERAL

ANNUAL ENERGY OUTLOOK 2004 WITH PROJECTIONS TO 2025 (AEO2004)

United States Department of Energy. Energy Information Administration (EIA). January 2004

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/pdf/0383\(2004\).pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/pdf/0383(2004).pdf)

Outside OPEC, the major sources of growth in crude oil production in the AEO2004 forecast are Russia, the Caspian Basin, non-OPEC Africa, and South and Central America. U.S. dependence on imported oil has grown over the past decade, with declining domestic oil production and growing demand. This trend is expected to continue. Net imports, which accounted for 54 percent of total U.S. petroleum demand in 2002—up from 37 percent in 1980 and 42 percent in 1990—are expected to account for 70 percent of total U.S. petroleum demand in 2025 in the AEO2004 forecast, higher than the Annual Energy Outlook 2003 (AEO2003) projection of 68 percent.

BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE, PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES OF CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE: 2001

Brian Kleiner, Mary Jo Nolin, and Chris Chapman

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Web-posted April 13, 2004

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2004/2004008.pdf>

This report provides insight into the complex and varied ways children in kindergarten through eighth grader in the United States spend their time out of school. Some spend time in with relative or a non-relative in a home setting. Others spend time in center- or school-based programs or organized activities that are aimed toward their enrichment or enjoyment. Still others are responsible for themselves during out-of-school time. Children also experience patchworks of arrangements in order to meet the contingencies of availability, cost, etc. Data used for this report come from the Before- and After-School Programs and Activities Survey of the 2001 National Household Education Surveys Program. Overall, 20 percent of children in kindergarten through eighth grade had regularly scheduled non-parental arrangements for before-school care in 2001 (table A), and 50 percent had non-parental arrangements after school. The three most common after-school arrangements for children were center- or school-based programs (19 percent), relative care (17 percent), and self-care (13 percent). Fewer kindergarten through eighth-grade children were in the care of a non-relative (6 percent) or in extracurricular activities used for supervision (7 percent) after school.

BUDGET PROCESS: LONG-TERM FOCUS IS CRITICAL. (Testimony of Comptroller General David M. Walker before the Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process, Committee on Rules, House of Representatives) [GAO-04-585T]

United States General Accounting Office (GAO). March 23, 2004

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04585t.pdf>

The structure of the budget process can help ensure that budget decision makers are presented with the information and choices for timely and informed decision-making. GAO's long-term budget simulations show that, absent substantive entitlement reform and/or dramatic changes in tax and spending policies, we will face large,

escalating, and persistent deficits. A budget process incorporating new metrics and mechanisms that better signal the long-term commitments and promises made by the government will help concentrate decision makers' efforts on long-term sustainability.

COMBATTING TERRORISM: FEDERAL AGENCIES FACE CONTINUING CHALLENGES IN ADDRESSING TERRORIST FINANCING AND MONEY LAUNDERING. TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CAUCUS ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL, U.S. SENATE (GAO-04-501T)

United States General Accounting Office (GAO). March 4, 2004

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04501t.pdf>

In this testimony, GAO addresses (1) the challenges the U.S. government faces in deterring terrorists' use of alternative financing mechanisms, (2) the steps that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have taken to implement a May 2003 Memorandum of Agreement concerning terrorist financing investigations, and (3) whether the annual National Money Laundering Strategy (NMLS) has served as a useful mechanism for guiding the coordination of federal efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

COMMUNITY-BASED PUBLIC FOUNDATIONS: SMALL BEACONS FOR BIG IDEAS

Rick Cohen

http://www.ncrp.org/PDF/CBPF_Report.pdf

National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP). Web-posted February 9, 2004

[Note: NCRP is an independent nonprofit organization that works to strengthen the nonprofit sector and improve its ability to represent and serve individuals politically, economically, or socially disadvantaged, by promoting greater philanthropic openness and accountability.]

This report focuses on "community-based public foundations" or CBPFs, a subsector within philanthropy committed to funding grassroots social-change organizations and promoting long-term social change. The NCRP report studied 192 community-based public foundations that raised more than \$202 million and gave out more than \$94 million in grants and assistance in fiscal year 2001. Two-thirds of the surveyed CBPFs identified civil and human rights as their top priorities for grant-making followed by community organizing, poverty and inequality, and gender issues. Nearly 4 out of 5 CBPFs use social investment screens for their investment portfolios and more than half devoted 100 percent of their assets to socially responsible corporate investments.

FBI INTELLIGENCE REFORM SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001: ISSUES AND OPTIONS FOR CONGRESS.

[RL32336]

Alfred Cumming and Todd Masse

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service (CRS). April 6, 2004

<http://www.fas.org/irp/crs/RL32336.html>

The Intelligence Community, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), has been criticized for failing to warn of the attacks of September 11, 2001. In a sweeping indictment of the FBI's intelligence activities relating to counter-terrorism and September 11, the Congressional Joint Inquiry Into the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001, singled out the FBI in a significant manner for failing to focus on the domestic terrorist threat; collect useful intelligence; analyze strategic intelligence; and to share intelligence internally and with other members of the Intelligence Community. The Joint Inquiry concluded that the FBI was seriously deficient in identifying, reporting on, and defending against the foreign terrorist threat to the United States.

FEDERAL AID TO LIBRARIES: THE LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT. [RL31320]

Gail McCallion

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated December 17, 2003

http://www.ipmall.info/hosted_resources/crs/RL31320_031217.pdf

Legislation reauthorizing the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as Title II—Library Services and Technology, of the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003, was signed into law (P.L. 108-81) on September 25, 2003. H.R. 13 (Hoekstra), the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003, was passed by the full House on March 6, 2003. In the Senate, S. 888 (Gregg), also titled the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003, was incorporated into H.R. 13 and passed by the full Senate in lieu of S. 888 with an amendment by unanimous consent, on August 1, 2003.

FY 2003 REPORT TO CONGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE E-GOVERNMENT ACT

Executive Office of the President. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). March 8, 2004

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov/fy03_egov_rpt_to_congress.pdf

As part of the institutionalization of the President's Management Agenda, and the continuing support of citizen-centric service delivery, President Bush signed the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347, 44 U.S.C. Ch. 36) into law on December 17, 2002. E-Government is the use of information technology (IT) and the Internet, together with the operational processes and people needed to implement these technologies, to deliver services and programs to constituents, including citizens, businesses and other government agencies. E-Government improves the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of government services. This report includes a summary of federal agencies' compliance with goals and provisions of the Act; details the operation of the E-Government Fund, and summarizes the E-Government information reported to OMB by agencies in December 2003. Beginning on page 39 of the report is an agency-by-agency summary of E-government initiatives and how they are being implemented.

JOURNEY TO WORK: 2000. CENSUS 2000 BRIEF

United States Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. March 2004

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/c2kbr-33.pdf>

Commuting data are essential for planning highway improvements and developing public transportation services, as well as designing programs to ease traffic problems during peak hours, conserve energy, and reduce pollution. These data are used by state departments of transportation and more than 350 metropolitan planning organizations responsible for comprehensive transportation planning activities required by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA21). Public transit agencies use these data to plan for transit investments, identify areas in need of better service, determine the most efficient routes, and plan for services for people with disabilities. Police and fire departments use data about where people work to plan emergency services in areas of high concentration of employment. Results from the 2000 Census reveal that among the 128.3 million workers in the United States in 2000, 76 percent drove alone to work. In addition, 12 percent carpooled, 4.7 percent used public transportation, 3.3 percent worked at home, 2.9 percent walked to work, and 1.2 percent used other means (including motorcycle or bicycle).

LEGAL ISSUES RELATED TO PRESCRIPTION DRUG SALES ON THE INTERNET. [RS21711]

Jody Feder

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service (CRS). Updated March 5, 2004

http://www.ipmall.info/hosted_resources/crs/RS21711_040305.pdf

This report provides a brief legal analysis of issues related to the sale and purchase of prescription drugs via the Internet, with attention paid to the issue of doctors who prescribe medications online, without a physical examination. In the 108th Congress, several bills related to these issues have been introduced, including: H.R. 616, H.R. 2652, H.R. 2717, H.R. 3870, and H.R. 3880. [Note: See also related CRS report, Item 04AD518]

OLDER AMERICANS AND THE INTERNET

Pew Internet & American Life Project. March 25, 2004

http://www.pewinternet.org/reports/pdfs/PIP_Seniors_Online_2004.pdf

According to this report, the percent of seniors who go online has jumped by 47% between 2000 and 2004. In a February 2004 survey, 22% of Americans age 65 or older reported having access to the Internet, up from 15% in 2000. That translates to about 8 million Americans age 65 or older who use the Internet. By contrast, 58% of Americans age 50-64, 75% of 30-49 year-olds, and 77% of 18-29 year-olds currently go online. The study also finds that wired seniors are often as enthusiastic as younger users in the major activities that define online life such as email and the use of search engines to answer a specific question. Also, wired seniors are as likely as younger users to go online on a typical day. Communication and information searches attract wired seniors. There has been sharp growth in the number doing key Internet activities such as health searches, e-shopping, and online banking. Email is equally popular among Internet users age 65 or older and their younger counterparts. Fully 94% of wired seniors have sent or received email, compared to 91% of all Internet users.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG IMPORTATION AND INTERNET SALES: A LEGAL OVERVIEW. [RL32191]

Jody Feder

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service (CRS). January 8, 2004

http://www.iom.int//DOCUMENTS/PUBLICATION/EN/mrs_15_2003.pdf

In July 2003, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2427, a bill that would allow wholesalers, pharmacists, and consumers to import certain prescription drugs from 25 different countries, including Canada, where drug prices are often lower than in the United States. Although H.R. 2427 passed the House, the provisions allowing drug importation faced opposition in the Senate and were not included in the conference agreement on Medicare prescription drug benefits. Instead, the final Medicare bill, H.R. 1, modified a provision of existing law that authorizes the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to allow the importation of prescription drugs if the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies that implementing such a program is safe and reduces costs, a determination that no Secretary has made in the years since a similar certification requirement was established in 2000.

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISERS' TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES: A BRIEF OVERVIEW. [RL31351]

Harold C. Relyea

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. April 5, 2002

<http://www.fas.org/irp/crs/RL31351.pdf>

The currently-convened National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States ("the 9/11 Commission"), a bi-partisan commission investigating various facets of the U. S. intelligence community before the attacks of September 11, 2001, has been conducting a series of briefings with officials from the current administration as well as previous ones. Although President Bush's National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice has presented testimony in closed sessions with the 9/11 Commission, there has been pressure from both political parties and the media to have her testify in public sessions under oath. Citing historical precedent, the White House had previously invoked the historical principle of "executive privilege" and would not allow Dr. Rice to provide public testimony. On March 30, the White House reversed its previous position and agreed to let Dr. Rice testify publicly before the commission. Her testimony may be given as soon as next week.

REORGANIZING CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE IN RESPONSE TO FOCUSING EVENTS: LESSONS OF THE PAST, PORTENTS FOR THE FUTURE

Donald R. Wolfensberger

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, The Congress Project. 2004

<http://wwics.si.edu/topics/docs/reorgcong.pdf>

Wolfensberger's initial premise is that representative democracy usually faces its biggest tests when sudden, major events thrust new policy and structural challenges onto a system not built for efficiency or efficacy. The immediate reaction of both the executive and legislative branches is to move forward with immediate policy fixes while resisting more permanent structural changes that could disrupt, destabilize, and even destroy the systems' equilibria. The purpose of this paper is to look at the current homeland security organizational challenge in the House, which is trying to revamp its own committee system, in the context of three other focusing events that led to major proposals for national policy and structural changes in Congress and the executive branch.

STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES: FISCAL YEAR 2002

Barbara Holton, Elaine Kroe, Patricia O'Shea, Cindy Sheckells, Suzanne Dorinski, and Michael Freeman
United States Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). March 24, 2004

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2004/2004304.pdf>

This report provides a statistical profile of state library agencies in the 50 states and the District of Columbia for state fiscal year 2002. The report includes information on staff, revenue, expenditures, services to libraries and systems, public service hours, service outlets, service and development transactions, collections, allied operations, and electronic services. The data were collected through the State Library Agencies Survey conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

THE STATE OF THE NEWS MEDIA 2004: AN ANNUAL REPORT ON AMERICAN JOURNALISM. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Project for Excellence in Journalism [Columbia University School of Journalism]. March 15, 2004

<http://www.stateofthenewsmedia.org/index.asp>

This report is the first of what is planned as an annual report on the state of the U.S. news media. The study was funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts. Among the findings of the study are:

- * Daily newspaper circulation has fallen 11 percent since 1990;
- * Network evening news ratings have declined 34 percent since 1993;

- * The audience for cable television news has remained flat since 2001.
- * Many U.S. newsrooms are seeing significant cutbacks. There are one-third fewer network TV correspondents than in 1985. There has been a 3 percent decline in news and editorial employees at newspapers since 1990 and a drop of 44 percent in full-time radio newsroom employees between 1994 and 2001.
- * Three categories of news — online, alternative and ethnic — are growing.
- * Traffic to the 26 most popular news web sites grew 70 percent from May 2002 to October 2003, according to Nielsen/NetRatings;

GLOBAL ISSUES

ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS DRUG RESISTANCE IN THE WORLD - THIRD GLOBAL REPORT

World Health Organization (WHO). March 17, 2004

Part I (the study itself):

http://www.who.int/gtb/publications/drugresistance/2004/drs_report_1.pdf

Part II (survey data, by country):

http://www.who.int/gtb/publications/drugresistance/2004/drs_report_2.pdf

Part III (profiles of TB control programs, by country):

http://www.who.int/gtb/publications/drugresistance/2004/drs_report_3.pdf

Executive Summary:

http://www.who.int/gtb/publications/drugresistance/2004/drs_report_exec.pdf

WHO surveyed 55,779 patients around the world to assess resistance to one or more drugs used to treat tuberculosis. Prevalence of numerous cases of multiple drug-resistant (MDR) strains are particularly worrisome to public health officials, since these cases are by definition difficult to treat, and may spread very rapidly. Prevalence of MDR ranged from 0% in eight countries to 14.2% in Kazakhstan (51/359) and Israel (36/253) (median = 1.1%). The highest prevalences of MDR were observed in Tomsk Oblast (Russian Federation) (13.7%), Karakalpakstan (Uzbekistan) (13.2%), Estonia (12.2%), Liaoning Province (China) (10.4%), Lithuania (9.4%), Latvia (9.3%), Henan Province (China) (7.8%), and Ecuador (6.6%). Tomsk Oblast (Russian Federation), and Poland reported significantly increased prevalences of MDR. Decreasing trends in MDR were observed in Hong Kong SAR, Thailand, and the USA.

A RACE AGAINST TIME: THE CHALLENGE OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IN DEVELOPING ECONOMIES

Stephen Leeder, Susan Raymond, Henry Greenberg, Hui Liu, and Kathy Esson

Columbia University, Earth Institute. April 26, 2004

http://www.earth.columbia.edu/news/2004/images/raceagainstime_FINAL_0410404.pdf

This report suggests that heart disease and stroke are far more urgent threats to global health than is commonly appreciated. While cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are often portrayed in the West as diseases of affluent and older people, CVD mortality rates among working age people in India, South Africa, and Brazil are one-and-a-half to two times that of the United States. Cardiovascular disease is an often-unrecognized cause of impaired health among women. In South Africa, for example, the report notes that "despite the predominance of HIV/AIDS, the proportion of deaths occurring among people aged 35-44 due to chronic disease, mainly CVD, is 12% for men, and an amazing 17.2% for women."

AT WHAT AGE? . . . ARE SCHOOL-CHILDREN EMPLOYED, MARRIED AND TAKEN TO COURT? SECOND EDITION

Angela Melchiorre

Right to Education Project. April 20, 2004

[Note: The Right to Education Project (RTE) is a public access human rights resource, "the only such site in the world devoted solely to the right to education."]

http://www.right-to-education.org/content/age/age_new.pdf

Being aware of the legal situation of children around the world is necessary for designing effective measures to improve it. Based on States Parties' reports under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and therefore reflecting States' representations of their own practice, this report brings to light problems that are not effectively addressed: at what age do children become adults and lose their protection under the Convention on the Rights

of the Child? This publication analyzes national legislation on the duration of compulsory education and legal safeguards against adult responsibilities infringing on children's education. What it shows is that children's right to education is currently under threat from early marriage, child labor and imprisonment. States have not adapted their legislation in favor of the right to education, and they do not have agreed standards for the transition from childhood to adulthood either internationally or nationally.

BREAKING THE CYCLE: ENSURING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HIV TREATMENT FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Janet Fleischman

Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS). February 2004

http://www.csis.org/africa/0402_breakingcycle.pdf

Recent international initiatives to provide antiretroviral (ARV) treatment in resource-poor countries have changed the landscape of the HIV/AIDS debate and signal an unprecedented new phase in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. With an estimated 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS and 14,000 new infections every day, access to treatment is a challenge of global proportions. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, almost 4.5 million people need antiretroviral treatment, yet only 100,000 currently receive it. To develop effective treatment programs, national governments, international donors, and community stakeholders should ensure equitable access to HIV treatment and care, notably for acutely vulnerable populations such as women and girls. In the worst affected countries of sub-Saharan Africa, women and girls account for 58 percent of those living with HIV/AIDS, and girls ages 15 to 19 are infected at rates up to four to seven times higher than boys.

CAN EXPANDING THE USE OF COMPUTERS IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF SMALL MINORITY- AND WOMEN-OWNED ENTERPRISES?

Robert I. Lerman, Caroline Ratcliffe, Harold Salzman, Douglas A. Wissoker, and Jennifer Gaudet
Urban Institute. March 17, 2004

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/310971_Computers.pdf

Computers are tools that can assist business adoption of modern management practices. Although businesses are diverse, they all participate in such tasks as paying workers and suppliers, accounting and tax reporting, and interacting with customers. Applying computers to these tasks is nearly universal in large businesses but not necessarily in small firms. This study focuses on differences among small enterprises in the application of computers to administrative and core business activities, not simply on differences in the presence of computers. The study also reveals several findings about the use of computer technologies by small firms.

COUNCIL FOR AID TO EDUCATION

<http://www.cae.org/>

Based in New York City, the Council for Aid to Education (CAE) is a national nonprofit organization that was initially created in 1952. Operating as a part of the RAND corporation since 1996, CAE's primary goals are to advance corporate support of education and on improving higher education and quality. Additionally, CAE recognizes the best corporate gifts to education through its annual Leaders for Change awards program. As might be expected, the publications and resources area of the site contains a number of helpful documents that will be of interest to persons researching the field of higher education administration and policy. Some of the full-length works available here include Intelligent Giving: Insights and Strategies for Higher Education Donors, Breaking the Social Contract: The Fiscal Crisis in Higher Education, and Measuring the Difference College Makes.

FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2004. GAINS FOR FREEDOM AMID TERROR AND UNCERTAINTY

Freedom House. December 2003

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/survey2004.htm>

In the midst of global terrorism and international efforts to fight it, freedom and democracy continued to make overall progress worldwide in 2003, according to this annual survey by Freedom House. The global survey, Freedom in the World, shows that 25 countries demonstrated forward progress in freedom, while 13 registered setbacks. The ratings reflect global events from January 1, 2003 through November 30, 2003. This year's survey also revealed that freedom and liberty are not restricted to the world's wealthy countries. Many poor and developing nations boast strong records of respect for political rights and civil liberties. Real gains outnumbered setbacks by nearly a two-to-one margin, continuing a trend from last year. In the two years since the beginning of the global war on terrorism, freedom and democracy have made demonstrable gains, with 51 countries showing overall progress versus 27 that have registered setbacks.

FREE PRESS: BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO MEDIA REFORM

<http://www.mediareform.net/>

Started in 2002 by author and professor Robert W. McChesney, the Free Press website is a clearinghouse of online material about the U.S. media reform movement. Some of the highlights of the site include profiles of all the organizations active in media reform, a detailed Learn About Media section with annotated background information, and original editorial content. One section that visitors will definitely want to take a close look at is the Media Policy area. Here users can receive current news information about the debates over media ownership as reflected by policy making decisions within the FCC, and also throughout the United States, and across the globe. The section dedicated to organizations is quite well developed, and allows visitors to learn about various specific organizations interested in media reform, and how they may become involved with their work.

GLOBAL EDUCATION DIGEST 2004: COMPARING EDUCATION STATISTICS ACROSS THE WORLD. UNESCO. April 22, 2004

http://www.unesco.org/education/docs/EN_GD2004_v2.pdf

This new edition of the Digest, published by UNESCO's Institute for Statistics, presents the latest global education indicators, one example of which is school life expectancy (SLE), or the number of school years that a child, on average, is likely to spend in the education system. It shows that children in Europe, South America and Oceania spend the most time in education, with an average school life expectancy from primary to secondary of over 12 years. North American children follow with just over 11 years, while children in Asia can expect to spend, on average, nine years in school. In Africa, the average is 7.6 years. The lowest school life expectancy in the world of just over two years for the 2001/02 school year is in Afghanistan. Despite the gaps between countries and regions, the figures show a marked increase in participation in primary and secondary education over the past decade all over the world.

GLOBAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS 2004

International Labor Organization (ILO). January 2004

<http://kilm.ilo.org/GET2004/DOWNLOAD/trends.pdf>

This is the ILO's second annual report on employment trends across the globe. Global employment performance did not improve in 2003 despite a pick-up in economic growth after a two-year slowdown. Total unemployment grew slightly despite a worldwide growth in GDP of 3.2 per cent and a slight increase in trade after a weak 2002 (3.0 per cent in 2003 compared with 2.5 per cent in 2002, WTO 2003). The ILO estimate for 2003 of 185.9 million individuals without work and looking for work showed a slight rise over the 2002 revised estimate of 185.4 million. This is the highest level ever recorded. The increase was most pronounced among young people, escalating the world youth unemployment rate to 14.4 per cent, over twice as high as the world unemployment rate of 6.2 per cent. Although the world headcount of female unemployment decreased minimally between 2002 and 2003, women generally remain among those groups most strongly affected by unemployment.

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE: ANNUAL REPORT 2004

World Economic Forum. Global Governance Initiative (GGI). April 20, 2004

http://www.weforum.org/pdf/Initiatives/GGI_Annual%20Report%2004.pdf

The first annual report of the World Economic Forum's Global Governance Initiative (GGI) represents a year-long independent analysis by seven groups of some of the world's leading experts in the areas of peace and security, poverty, hunger, education, health, environment and human rights. In September 2000, at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, leaders from 189 countries endorsed a set of objectives in these areas, many with a specific deadline of 2015. This report provides a 'benchmark' on efforts to tackle these goals. As well as comprehensive analysis, the report also marks efforts by the international community on a scale of 0 to 10 on such issues as poverty, health, hunger, security, education, the environment and human rights. The report finds that during 2003 in no single area did the international community warrant more than a score of 4 on a scale of 0 to 10 measuring the level of effort and cooperation necessary to achieve the goals.

GLOBAL POPULATION PROFILE: 2002

United States Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. March 29, 2004

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/prod/wp02/wp-02.pdf>

In 2002, global population stood at 6.2 billion and was growing at 1.2 percent per annum. This is equivalent to a net addition of about 200,000 people per day, about 74 million people per year, and about 371 million people

over a 5-year period (or nearly the size of all of Western Europe in 2002). Over the next five decades, the absolute number of children is expected to remain relatively stable, but their number relative to total global population is expected to decline to 20 percent. The number of women in their childbearing years is expected to increase by more than 25 percent between 2002 and 2050; however, their proportion of total population slowly decreases (from 26 percent to 23 percent). The population of labor force age is expected to grow steadily while its proportion of the total stays approximately the same. The world's elderly population, on the other hand, is projected to grow considerably in both absolute and relative terms. The elderly are projected to be more than three times as many in 2050 as today, and to comprise nearly 17 percent of global population, compared with 7 percent in 2002.

GLOBAL TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL [2004]: SURVEILLANCE, PLANNING, FINANCING

World Health Organization (WHO). March 23, 2004

http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/2004/en/full.pdf

This is the 8th WHO annual report on global tuberculosis (TB) control. It includes data on case notifications and treatment outcomes from all national TB control programs that have reported to WHO, together with an analysis of plans, budgets, expenditures, and constraints on DOTS expansion for 22 high-burden countries (HBCs). The DOTS strategy comprises five main elements: 1) political commitment, 2) diagnosis of TB patients through sputum microscopy, 3) directly observed treatment of patients taking their anti-TB drugs, 4) access to adequate supplies of quality drugs, and 5) monitoring and accountability for every patient diagnosed. All 22 HBCs had formulated an overall plan for DOTS expansion by the end of 2003. Detailed plans for major improvements in DOTS coverage, case detection and program quality had been made by several countries, including India and Indonesia. However, strategic planning to overcome the constraints to TB control remains weak in several countries with low case detection or cure rates. The report analyzes major constraints to expansion of DOTS programs.

GUIDELINES FOR REDUCING FLOOD LOSSES

United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR). 3/22/04

<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/library/isdr-publication/flood-guidelines/Guidelines-for-reducing-floods-losses.pdf>

Floods have the greatest damage potential of all natural disasters worldwide and affect the greatest number of people. On a global basis, there is evidence that the number of people affected and economic damages resulting from flooding are on the rise at an alarming rate. This report argues that society must move from the current paradigm of post-disaster response. Plans and efforts must be undertaken to break the current event-disaster cycle. More than ever, there is the need for decision makers to adopt holistic approaches for flood disaster management. These guidelines, published on World Water Day, are oriented to the needs of the decision-maker and provide a description of the range of mitigation options that need to be considered when making efforts to reduce losses from flooding.

HIV/AIDS AS A SECURITY ISSUE IN AFRICA: LESSONS FROM UGANDA. [ICG Issues Report No. 3]

International Crisis Group (ICG). April 16, 2004

http://www.crisisweb.org//library/documents/issues/03_lessons_from_uganda.pdf

This report focuses on the destructive interplay between HIV/AIDS and violent conflict, on the disease within armed forces, refugees and displaced persons, and on how well international peace operations are meeting the challenge. The pandemic contributes to instability and thus to conflict, and conflict in turn complicates prevention, care and treatment. One in four African countries presently suffers the effects of armed conflict, and UNAIDS estimates that some 2.5 million Africans will die of AIDS this year alone. Too often, armed forces are not incorporated into either national or international AIDS cooperation programs.

ILLICIT DRUG POLICIES AND THE GLOBAL HIV EPIDEMIC: EFFECTS OF UN AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT APPROACHES

Daniel Wolfe and Kasia Malinowska-Sempruch

Open Society Institute (OSI). March 2004

http://www.soros.org/initiatives/ihrd/articles_publications/publications/cnd_20040316/Illicit%20Drug%20Policy%20for%20web%20FINAL.pdf

Effective HIV prevention includes not only the provision of tools such as condoms to help block HIV transmission, but also recognition of the ways in which HIV risk is shaped by and reduced through the engagement of multiple sectors of society. The HIV epidemic also offers more bitter lessons about the consequences of failure to support

HIV prevention. While HIV transmission through contaminated injection equipment is well documented, less attention has been paid to the ways that illicit drug policy and related issues, such as patterns of arrest of drug users or government stance toward provision of sterile injection equipment, shape global trends in HIV infection. This report examines the intersection of global and national drug policy and HIV trends, with particular attention to those countries where the use of contaminated injection equipment is the primary mode of HIV transmission.

ISSUES IN THE REGULATION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology. April 1, 2004

<http://pewagbiotech.org/research/regulation/Regulation.pdf>

This report notes that current agricultural biotechnology products have been widely adopted without evidence of food safety or environmental problems, but the potential complexity of future products may challenge the ability of the existing Coordinated Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology (administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)) to continue to protect public health and the environment and maintain public trust. The report also examines the extent to which agency regulatory practices are transparent, clear, and open to public participation— all procedural elements that will help build confidence in the integrity of the regulatory system. While the report does not contain recommendations, each chapter analyzes the current legal authorities used by agencies to oversee a particular product, examines the issues future products may raise for that review process, discusses differing policy perspectives and outlines policy options to address those issues.

IS TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS DEMAND DRIVEN? A MULTI-COUNTRY PILOT STUDY

Bridget Anderson and Julia O'Connell Davidson

International Organization for Migration (IOM). 2003

http://www.iom.int//DOCUMENTS/PUBLICATION/EN/mrs_15_2003.pdf

This pilot research stems from the ASEM [Asia-Europe Meeting] Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2001) that has stressed the need to encourage research on the demand for the most common forms of exploitation of trafficked women and children. The multi-country study assessed attitudes of employers of domestic workers in Sweden, Thailand, India and Italy and clients of sex workers in Denmark, Thailand, India and Italy. The report suggests that three related factors are key to explaining the exploitative conditions experienced by many migrant domestic and sex workers: (a) The unregulated nature of the labor market segments in which they work; (b) the abundant supply of exploitable labor and (c) the power and malleability of social norms regulating the behavior of employers and clients. The continued expansion of any unregulated market is likely to require and facilitate the exploitation of vulnerable labor. Both paid sex and domestic work are peculiar market segments in the sense that there is both political and social unease regarding those who buy and sell in them as workers or consumers/employers. In both sex and domestic work, the absence of effective regulation is one of the factors that help to create an environment in which it is possible and profitable to use unfree labor.

IT'S IN OUR HANDS: STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Amnesty International (AI). March 5, 2004

[http://web.amnesty.org/aidoc/aidoc_pdf.nsf/Index/ACT770012004ENGLISH/\\$File/ACT7700104.pdf](http://web.amnesty.org/aidoc/aidoc_pdf.nsf/Index/ACT770012004ENGLISH/$File/ACT7700104.pdf)

(Note: Amnesty International has launched a major new campaign to stop violence against women. Besides the report noted in this record, on March 5 AI published a number of country-specific "Stop Violence against Women" documents, including reports about the issue in Belgium, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Poland, Spain, the UK, the USA, and many others. These reports, as well as related posters and other documents, are available at: <http://web.amnesty.org/mav/actforwomen>).

Whether in times of peace or war, women are subjected to atrocities simply because they are women. Millions of women are beaten, raped, murdered, assaulted, mutilated and even denied the right to ever exist. At least one in three women in the world will suffer serious violence in their lifetime. This report reveals the multiple causes of violence from armed conflict to family violence and harmful traditional practices that seek to control women's sexuality.

NEUROSCIENCE OF PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE USE AND DEPENDENCE: SUMMARY

World Health Organization (WHO). March 18, 2004

[Note: The entire publication (283 pages) is available for \$45.00 from WHO. See:

<http://www.who.int/bookorders/anglais/detart1.jsp?sesslan=1&codlan=1&codcol=15&codcch=520>]

http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/publications/en/Neuroscience_E.pdf

This new WHO report provides an authoritative summary of current knowledge of the biological basis of substance use behaviors, including their relationship with environmental factors. The report focuses on a wide range of psychoactive substances, including tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs. New developments in neuroscience research are discussed (e.g., mechanisms governing craving, tolerance, neuroadaptation, immunotherapies and the concept of dependence) as well the ethical implications of these developments. As the product of consultations with and contributions from many international experts and partners, the best available evidence is provided from the various schools of thought and areas of research in the field of neuroscience. While the full report Neuroscience of Psychoactive Substance Use and Dependence is targeted at individuals with more than a basic knowledge of neuroscience, the summary (urls below) will be of interest to health care workers, clinicians, social workers, university students, science teachers and informed policy makers.

THE PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY PLAN FOR AIDS RELIEF. U.S. FIVE-YEAR GLOBAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY

United States Department of State. Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator. February 23, 2004

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/29831.pdf>

The foundation for the U.S.'s five-year global HIV/AIDS strategy is President Bush's commitment to provide \$15 billion over five years to fund the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. This document is intended to define the strategic direction of those activities – in-the-focus countries and around the world. The strategy takes into account the pragmatic necessity that annual funding requests within that commitment will ramp up as effective implementation capabilities are put in place and expanded. It outlines ongoing work in implementing integrated prevention, treatment and care programs through bilateral programs as well as the significant role that will be played by multilateral partners such as the Global Fund.

THE WORLDWIDE THREAT 2004: CHALLENGES IN A CHANGING GLOBAL CONTEXT. TESTIMONY OF DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE (DCI) GEORGE J. TENET BEFORE THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). February 24, 2004

http://www.cia.gov/cia/public_affairs/speeches/2004/dci_speech_02142004.html

The Senate Intelligence Committee recently held its annual hearings on the overall global threats facing the U.S. This perspective from DCI Tenet includes updates on al-Qa'ida, the current situation in Iraq, nuclear proliferation around the globe, as well as brief regional overviews.

UN-HABITAT: THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN ON URBAN GOVERNANCE

<http://www.unhabitat.org/campaigns/governance/>

Launched in 1999 by the UN-HABITAT group, the Global Campaign on Urban Governance was designed to support the implementation of the Habitat Agenda goal of "sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world." Specifically, the Campaign is dedicated to increasing the capacity of local governments around the world to practice good urban governance, with specific attention paid to the excluded urban poor. The Campaign works through a number of strategies, including normative debate, advocacy, capacity-building, and developing a number of toolkits. At the website, visitors can learn about the group's various flagship products, which include the good urban governance index, national and local campaigns, and policy papers, which deal with such timely topics as urban governance in Africa. Along with these materials, visitors will want to take a look at the toolkit (available in a number of formats) titled, Tools to Support Participatory Urban Decision Making.

VITAMIN & MINERAL DEFICIENCY: A GLOBAL PROGRESS REPORT

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). March 24, 2004

<http://www.unicef.org/media/files/vmd.pdf>

According to this new report, up to a third of the world's people do not meet their physical and intellectual potential because of vitamin and mineral deficiencies, and without urgent action to fortify and supplement foods children in developing nations will remain at risk of underachieving, according to a new United Nations report released today. The report concludes that unless action against vitamin and mineral deficiencies moves to a new level, the UN will not achieve its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of eradicating extreme poverty, improving maternal health and reducing child mortality by two-thirds by 2015.

WORLD REPORT ON ROAD TRAFFIC INJURY PREVENTION

World Health Organization (WHO). April 7, 2004

http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2004/infomaterials/world_report/en

WHO estimates that 1.2 million people are killed on roads every year and up to 50 million more are injured. These casualties of the road will increase if action is not taken. If current trends continue, the number of people killed and injured on the world's roads will rise by more than 60% between 2000 and 2020. Most of these injuries will occur in developing countries where more and more people are using motorized transport. In these countries, cyclists, motorcyclists, users of public transport, and pedestrians are especially vulnerable to road traffic injuries. This publication highlights the fact that there are solutions to the road safety problem. A wide range of effective interventions exist, and experience in countries with long histories of motorized travel has shown that a scientific, "systems approach" to road safety is essential to tackling the problem. This approach addresses the traffic system as a whole and looks at the interactions between vehicles, road users and the road infrastructure to identify solutions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT / ILLEGAL DRUGS

CONFRONTING THE "ENEMY WITHIN": SECURITY INTELLIGENCE, THE POLICE, AND COUNTER-TERRORISM IN FOUR DEMOCRACIES

Peter Chalk and William Rosenau

RAND. Web-posted April 10, 2004

<http://www.rand.org/publications/MG/MG100/MG100.pdf>

Since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, critics have charged that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, while qualified to investigate terrorist incidents after the fact, is not well equipped enough to adequately gather and assess information to prevent attacks. More intrinsically, many believe that given a predominant and deeply rooted law enforcement and prosecutorial culture, the bureau may not be able to change operational focus toward dedicated counter-terrorism intelligence gathering and analysis. To better inform debate, Chalk and Rosenau analyzed the domestic security structures of four allied countries — the United Kingdom, France, Canada, and Australia — and weighed both their positive and negative aspects.

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL STRATEGY REPORT (INCSR). VOLUME I: DRUG AND CHEMICAL CONTROL; VOLUME II: MONEY LAUNDERING AND FINANCIAL CRIMES

United States Department of State, Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. 3/1/2004

Volume I: Drug and Chemical Control

<http://www.state.gov/g/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2003/vol1/>

Volume II: Money Laundering and Financial Crimes

<http://www.state.gov/g/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2003/vol2/>

The Department of State's International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR) has been prepared in accordance with section 489 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "FAA," 22 U.S.C. § 2291). The 2004 INCSR, published in March 2004, covers the year January 1 to December 31, 2003.

PROTECTION WITHOUT PROTECTIONISM: RECONCILING TRADE AND HOMELAND SECURITY [Trade Policy Analysis No. 27]

Aaron Lukas

Cato Institute. April 8, 2004

<http://www.freetrade.org/pubs/pas/tpa-027.pdf>

For decades, criminals have used cargo containers, trucks, and train cars to illegally bring narcotics, weapons, and people across U.S. borders. The vulnerabilities that smugglers exploit are also available to terrorists. The Department of Homeland Security has begun implementing programs and procedures designed to safeguard the transportation and supply chains. States, shippers, port authorities, exporters, manufacturers, and foreign governments all have important roles to play in that effort. The author argues that federal rules and regulations are necessary but should be as open-ended as possible. "They should set security goals and verify how well the private sector meets them, rarely mandating specific technologies or processes. Securing the trading system against terrorism is a regrettable but real cost of doing business internationally, and consumers and companies should not be insulated from those costs."

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD FOR 2003

International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). March 3, 2004

<http://www.incb.org/e/ar/2003/index.htm>

[Note: The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is the independent and quasi-judicial control organ for the implementation of the United Nations drug conventions]

This new report emphasizes the "micro-social level" of drug trafficking and its relationship to crime and violence, in contrast to the INCB's 2002 report, which focused on the macroeconomic aspects of trade in illegal drugs. The 2003 report proposes a strategy of social and economic intervention to combat drug trafficking's negative impacts on individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities. Also troubling to the INCB is the rapid increase of global internet trade in prescription drugs, often targeted to addicts.

THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY (2004)

Executive Office of the President. Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). March 2004

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/policy/ndcs04/2004ndcs.pdf>

The President's National Drug Control Strategy for 2004 focuses on three core priorities: stopping use before it starts; healing U.S. drug users; and disrupting the market. Among the focal points:

* The Strategy reports progress toward meeting the President's goals of reducing drug use by 10 percent over two years, and 25 percent over five years, highlighted by an 11 percent drop in drug use among young people, exceeding the two-year goal.

* The non-medical use of prescription drugs has emerged in the last decade as a major problem. The Strategy highlights the importance of prescription monitoring, and physician training, and education programs to curb the abuse of prescription drugs.

* The 2004 Strategy also highlights a \$23 million funding increase to support schools in their design and implementation of student drug testing, assessment, referral, and intervention programs.

UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT OF 2004 OR "LACI AND CONNER'S LAW". [H.R. 1997]

United States Congress. Signed into law April 1, 2004

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108_cong_bills&docid=f:h1997enr.txt.pdf

This legislation states that anyone found guilty of intentionally causing the death or injury of a fetus will be liable under U.S. law for the same penalties that would accrue from intentionally causing the death or injury of any human person.

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