

CNN Turk. This is also a matter of debate within Turkey itself but whenever an argument is brought it is not the time to have a close relations with Iran and with Syria at juncture of history. Some come up and say that they are our neighbors, when I mean some, they are officials following Islam, they are our neighbors it's very natural that we would have these kinds of relationships. And look the American Secretary of State goes to visit Syria and historically the American Secretary of States like they are one of them, Warren Christopher visited 22 times, never stepping his foot in Turkey. So if this kind of an argument comes, we and Turkey feel that there are different signals coming from Washington. Which kind of signal we have to be the recipient more than the other?

Wolfowitz. I'm sorry I think there's one signal with respect to Syria. This Secretary of State—I'm not going to talk about previous ones—this Secretary of State went to Syria and delivered a very tough message about how Syria needs to shape up and stop supporting terrorism and stop interfering with Iraq. That's the message that ought to come through and I think anything, that Turkey does what Syria or does with Iran should fit into an overall policy with us, of getting those countries to change their bad behavior. In the meantime, it seems to me, I know this an American view but, if I were Turk I'd believe I would say in spite of whatever has gone wrong in the last year, Turkey's strongest friend in the world is the United States. Turkey's real interests lie with the United States and when we look at our neighbor to the south this newly liberated country called Iraq, we have the same interest the Americans do in keeping it a unified country and making it a democratic country and helping to change the economy from this sort of Stalinist structure that the Iraqis have lived under for 30 years, into the kind of free enterprise economy that's going to be a huge boon to Turkey and all the neighbors.

CNN Turk. So in a way, you are not against Turkey's having relations with Syria and Iran but you want the same message to go to those (inaudible).

Wolfowitz. Absolutely, I mean of course they are your neighbors. But you want them to behave as neighbors. You don't want to suggest that well they can ignore the message of the Secretary of State of the United States because our powerful Turkish friend is ignoring it also. I think it's very important that we be coordinated.

CNN Turk. We need to discuss some misunderstanding as well for the time being and for the future of Iraq between two countries, two allies, Turkey and the United States and they are recently. We have two different interpretations about an incident that took place in Northern Iraq near Kirkuk between the American forces and the Turkish Special Forces. According to the American media the Turkish Special Forces were trying to bring weapons into (inaudible) Kirkuk they were intercepted by the American military there and then escorted back to Turkish frontier. Why would Turkish Foreign Minister say it was an humanitarian aid convoy which was assisted by some security personnel so they were there to secure the free travel of the Humanitarian aid convey. So what's the interpretation since we are speaking here in the Pentagon? What happened?

Wolfowitz. Well I don't think I want to get into it. You want to do history I want to do the future. What happened shouldn't have happened. And it was clearly something that was done ignoring everything that we have said. But it was fixed. I don't think it'll happen again, I think Secretary Powell and Foreign Minister Gul had a very good clear dis-

cussion about it and hopefully we are on a better track now. But that's a good example I think, of where, whatever Turkey does in the north, and we understand Turkey has important interest in the north. It's got to be coordinated now through the coalition, through General Franks. We can't any longer have unilateral action in Northern Iraq.

CNN Turk. Why the question for the future then? On the same issue there is a small Turkish military presence in Northern Iraq.

They had to record it with the coalition forces you are saying right?

Wolfowitz. Well as long as they are there, yes.

CNN Turk. And the short coming future?

Wolfowitz. The goal ought to be, they shouldn't be needed in the long run. But let's in the meantime . . .

CNN Turk. That's what I'm after, I mean now there's a Kurdish authority—kind of a self-rule in Northern Iraq. Who happened to become America's close allies in the last war effort there? So in the coming future if they come up and say that we don't need anymore, the Turkish military presence despite it's small (inaudible) military personnel. In such a case, by being the real leader to the element in the area, in Northern Iraq what (inaudible)?

Wolfowitz. The real military elements in Northern Iraq are the coalition forces. We now have very substantial heavy American forces up north and that is the real military element and everybody better listen to the instructions of General Franks including any armed groups, any Kurdish groups. But I think the goal has got to be a free and democratic Iraq where Northern Iraq is never again a sanctuary for terrorists to be attacking Turkey. We've got to find a way to make sure that doesn't happen again. When we are confident about it then there is absolutely no reason for any Turkish presence. But if there's going to be a presence as long as it's there it clearly has got to be under the direction and control of the coalition. . . .

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#### STEMMING THE SPREAD OF CARGO THEFT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a problem that has been below the Federal radar screen for far too long. Every year tens of billions of dollars are lost to cargo theft. This epidemic has plagued the United States for over 30 years, with little being done to stem its spread. With the prevalence of cargo theft today, insurance companies have placed a heavy burden on the trucking industry. The costs associated with investigation and insurance payments are only exacerbating what is already an industry crisis.

Typical targets for cargo theft often include shipments of clothing, prescription drugs, computers and jewelry. A truckload of computer and microprocessors can be worth millions. A truckload of cigarettes, another common target, can be worth up to \$2 million. The high value to volume ratio of high-tech goods has encouraged criminals previously involved in drug deal-

ing to move into this area of activity where they run less risk of detection and suffer less severe penalties if caught.

The National Cargo Security Council wants to see an increase in criminal penalties for cargo theft as well as employment of more trained cargo theft task forces. The Council reported that cargo worth \$12 billion is stolen in the United States every year, and yet the penalties for cargo theft are lower than that for selling drugs.

Cargo thieves employ creative means to prey upon cargo carriers and have managed to stay one step ahead of the authorities. Thieves know what they want and where they can find it. Striking cargo containers at ports, at trains and 18-wheelers, hijackers pry open the doors, remove the goods and replace them with bags of sand so that there is no change in weight. They will then proceed to put new pins in the hinges so the crime is not noticed until the containers are opened upon arrival.

This manner of theft is known as "leakage," in that thieves attack intermodal containers by defeating the integrity of the security seal. This practice often confounds investigators, since they have no idea at what point the cargo was stolen.

Eighteen-wheeler cargo carriers now experience approximately 85 percent of theft. Thieves will either roll the dice, stealing containers with unknown contents, or they will go as far as camping outside of distribution centers. This method, called "full-load truck theft," involves monitoring shipments out of distribution centers that are known for putting out expensive goods. The thieves will then follow the trucks in rental cars, waiting for the right time to pounce. This will often occur at truck rest stops where the driver leaves the vehicle. The process can amazingly take but a few minutes. These professional criminals are usually licensed truck drivers who can hotwire a truck quickly and efficiently.

Once goods are successfully stolen, they will be moved to port warehouses where they will wait to be exported. Depending upon where the goods are to be shipped, they will most likely be shipped to ports in Miami, Los Angeles or New York. The stolen cargo changes hands several times in what is a form of cargo laundering. By the time the cargo is ready for export, it is most likely to be seen as a legal shipment. Authorities have found it difficult to track outgoing cargo since outbound shipments are not checked, due to the fact that they are not subject to U.S. tariff laws.

Mr. Speaker, Members in this Chamber need to be aware of this problem. It is time that we got aggressive and made our highways again safe for commerce. This country is in dire need of harsher criminal penalties, and this need can be proven by the fact that criminals are turning to cargo theft in hordes. Many criminals are abandoning

the drug trade for a crime just as lucrative but with lenient penalties.

This body must make an example out of cargo thieves. We must let them know that they will not get away with just merely a slap on the hand. As sheriff's departments begin integrating special cargo theft task forces, we must arm them with the ability to prosecute criminals with stiffer penalties. Until we strengthen these laws, this 30-year-old crime wave will persist, threatening our ports, our roads and raping our economy of billions and billions of dollars.

#### MCGOVERN-DOLE PROGRAM CAN HELP ARAB STATES EDUCATE GIRLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last week the United Nations issued a report that some eight million primary school age children remain out of school in the Arab states, and 5 million of them are girls. The report also found that, when given the opportunity to go to school, the girls tend to have to repeat grades less often than boys and to complete their primary and secondary schooling more often.

The report covered 19 countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and the Palestinian Territories.

The report also reviewed overall literacy rates in these countries and found that one-third of the men and one-half of the women are still illiterate in the Arab states.

Iraq had the highest overall illiteracy rate of 61 percent, and Jordan was the lowest. The countries where female illiteracy are the highest are Iraq, at 77 percent, Yemen with 76 percent, Mauritania with 71 percent, and Morocco at 65 percent.

Mr. Speaker, we have long known that there is no greater key to economic development, lower birth rates and strengthening democracy than the education of girls. This result has been well documented by the World Bank, USAID and independent education and development organizations.

As part of our reconstruction efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the Persian Gulf and the Arab world, the United States and the international community must emphasize the education of girls and the involvement of women in development decisions.

A proven method of increasing the numbers of girls who enroll and attend school is to provide meals in schools. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a program with a proven track record of success in this area, the

George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education Program, formerly known as the Global Food for Education pilot program.

A recent evaluation of the GFEI pilot program demonstrated its success at attracting more girls to school as well as involving their parents in their education.

Once the girls are at school, clearly we need to make sure they receive a good education, which we help promote through several USAID-funded education programs, carried out by a wide array of governments and non-governmental organizations.

But, first, we must encourage families to send their daughters to school; and the McGovern-Dole program is a proven program to attract girls, as well as the boys who are not currently enrolled in school, and to help them be better prepared to learn and study by providing a daily nutritious meal in the school setting.

We all know that hungry children do not learn as well as their well-fed counterparts. We know this from our own experience here in the United States and from studies done around the world.

This is the strength of the McGovern-Dole program. It attracts children to school by offering meals, and then increases their ability to learn by providing them at least one nutritious meal at school.

I have seen first-hand in many parts of the world how this school meal is often the only food many children can count on every day and that the school may be their only stable reality in a world of chaos and uncertainty.

Mr. Speaker, I have focused my remarks today on the Arab states, but gender inequity and education and child hunger are global issues. Bad as the statistics cited for the 19 Arab countries, matters are even worse in parts of Africa and Asia, and our response must also be global.

The GFEI pilot program was initially funded at \$300 million. Last year, over 70 bipartisan members of this House and every single Member of the other body called upon the administration to provide at least this amount of funding in fiscal year 2004 for the McGovern-Dole program.

I urge my colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations to make sure that the McGovern-Dole program is fully funded at \$300 million in fiscal year 2004. I further urge the committee to provide additional funds for the McGovern-Dole program and ensure that it is an integrated part of reconstruction efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere to increase the number of girls attending school and to decrease the incidence of hunger among children.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD.

#### EDUCATION IN THE ARAB STATES: FIVE MILLION GIRLS STILL DENIED ACCESS TO SCHOOL

PARIS.—Some eight million primary school-age children remain out-of-school in

the Arab States and five million of them are girls, according to a new report published by UNESCO. However, it finds that when given the opportunity to go to school, girls tend to repeat less than boys and to complete their primary and secondary schooling more often.

Prepared by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the Arab States Regional Report surveyed education in 19 countries—Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen, as well as the Palestinian Autonomous Territories—with a total population of 270 million people, 39 percent of whom are under the age of 14.

It covers the 1999/2000 school year and consequently does not take into account the damage to education systems resulting from the conflicts in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories and Iraq, both of which, the report found, had reported relatively high levels of participation in schooling.

The report recognizes that "considerable investments" were made in education throughout the region over the past four decades and, as a result, many countries were close to the objective of getting all children into school. However, it also finds that gender parity (equal enrollment rates among boys and girls) had only been achieved in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories, Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon and United Arab Emirates. Compared to other regions, the Arab States had better gender parity in terms of access to primary school than countries in Francophone Africa.

According to the report, 35 million children, 54 percent of them boys, attended primary school in the 1999/2000 academic year. This leaves nearly one child in five of primary age (one girl in four) still out-of-school. Djibouti was at the bottom of the ladder for enrollment, with only 30 percent of its primary-age children in school. It also had the biggest gap between enrollment rates of boys and girls in primary school, with only slightly more than 35 percent of primary age boys in school and just over 26 percent of girls.

On the other hand, the report shows that in all countries except Sudan, girls are less likely to repeat grades than boys in primary school. Regionally only six percent of girls repeated a year, as against nine percent of boys, although these figures mask big differences between countries. Jordan, for example, had the lowest overall rate of repetition (one percent), and Tunisia the highest (16 percent).

More than 90 percent of primary pupils throughout the region completed the primary cycle, however, girls had a slight edge in most countries except in the United Arab Emirates, where 93 percent of boys completed primary school compared to 92 percent of girls.

At the secondary level, states the report, some 22.5 million students of all ages, or 60 percent of the population of secondary school age (approx. 12-18 years), were enrolled in the survey year. Of this total just under 10.6 million, or 47 percent, were girls. Once again, these figures masked substantial differences between countries, and the report notes that participation rates in secondary education were considerably lower than primary schooling.

According to the report, primary pupils were most likely to make the transition to secondary school in Bahrain (98 percent), Jordan (97 percent), the Palestinian Autonomous Territories (96 percent), United Arab Emirates (96 percent), and Oman (95 percent). In Algeria and Tunisia, the report found that only two out of every three pupils made the move from primary to secondary school.