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U.S. Embassy Welcomes Ambassador Laura E. Kennedy to Turkmenistan

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U.S. Embassy Welcomes Ambassador Laura E. Kennedy to Turkmenistan



New U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan Laura E. Kennedy arrived in Ashgabat on October 4 to take up her new duties. She met with President Niyazov the next day to present her credentials and has continued to make introductory calls on governmental officials and community leaders. In an October 1st ceremony at the Department of State, Secretary of State Colin Powell officially swore in Ambassador Kennedy

and expressed his confidence in her ability to broaden American-Turkmen relations, which he characterized as very strong. Secretary Powell noted in his comments that the U.S. has been and will remain a strong supporter of Turkmen independence, committed to helping Turkmenistan develop its political, human, and natural resource potential. Ambassador Kennedy has previously served in Vienna, Yerevan, Ankara, and Moscow, and in a variety of Washington assignments. While Director for Central Eurasia and Caspian energy issues, Ambassador Kennedy visited Turkmenistan from 1995 to 1997. She also traveled through parts of Central Asia with cultural exhibition programs while assigned to Embassy Moscow. Ambassador Kennedy is married to Foreign Service Officer John Feeney and is the mother of two children, Martin and Patrick Feeney.

(Please see page 6 for text of Ambassador Kennedy's remarks at Swearing-In Ceremony)

Secretary of State Colin Powell Addresses the Turkmen People on Independence Day



U.S. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell sent the following message to the people of Turkmenistan on the occasion of Independence Day:

On behalf of the United States of America, I congratulate Turkmenistan as it celebrates its tenth anniversary of independence. I also thank the Turkmen government and people once more for the sympathy and support we have received following the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11.

(Continued on Page 2)

International Coalition Builds in Response to Terrorist Attacks: More Aid is Delivered to the Afghan People

The international coalition against terrorism continues to build in response to the September 11 terrorist strikes against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Countries around the globe are uniting to stop the al-Qaida terrorist network and its affiliates through all available means: diplomatic, military, and financial. Hand-in-hand with this are ever-increasing shipments of humanitarian aid to the Afghan people.

Military strikes against terrorist camps in Afghanistan are aimed to bring to justice the terrorists of al-Qaida and their Taleban protectors, who were responsible for the deaths of more than 5,000 civilians -citizens of over 80 countries-on September 11. U.S. military forces are taking extraordinary measures to avoid civilian casualties. President Bush has made very explicit America's stance that "our enemy is not the Afghan people nor Islam..." The U.S. is targeting only military and terrorist sites, such as camps, airfields, radar sites, and communication facilities. America is joined in this effort by British forces, and other nations, including Turkey, France, and Germany have also pledged military support. Meanwhile, NATO planes are patrolling the skies above America as part of NATO's common defense policy.

As the coalition forces maintain their military operations in Afghanistan, the United States in conjunction with the UN presses on with its enhanced humanitarian aid to suffering Afghans inside the country and in the border areas of neighboring countries. By November 1, teams of Air Force C-17s had airdropped a total of 1,099,800 humanitarian daily rations (HDR) for Afghans facing starvation. These packets contain balanced and nourishing meals prepared carefully to provide Afghans with adequate dietary rations, plus medical supplements. The United States has been the single largest donor of humanitarian aid for Afghans for the past several years. On October 4, President Bush announced a new contribution of \$320 million in humanitarian assistance to Afghans. The assistance includes food, medicine, blankets and shelter. U.S. humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people derives from a somber awareness of the plight of the Afghan people and a genuine concern to help them in their time of need and adversity. Nine special military C-17 planes will land in Turkmenistan November 6-10 carrying additional American aid to be delivered into Afghanistan overland by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).



Secretary Powell's Independence Day Address, *continued from pg. 1*

The attacks on New York and Washington were not only attacks on America. They were attacks on civilization. The death of thousands of innocents has wounded us all, but together the nations of the world can and will restore what has been lost. United States was an early and strong supporter of Turkmen independence. In 1991, we were one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with newly independent Turkmenistan as it emerged from over 100 years of foreign domination. We believed then, and still do today, that Turkmenistan is a country with great potential. From the outset, the United States stood ready to help Turkmenistan make the transition to democracy and free-market economy and to develop its rich resources to create a just, stable, and prosperous society.

After your ten years of independence as a nation, it is a good time to pause and celebrate. It is also a good time for those who care about Turkmenistan's future, and I am one, to take stock. Turkmenistan has made progress on a variety of fronts in transforming its economy and its society. In particular, Turkmenistan has drawn upon its rich past and developed a renewed sense of pride in its language, culture, and history. And in the spirit of inclusion, your country has participated in key international organizations such as the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Turkmenistan had been victimized for decades by a system that was the antithesis of a democracy. The damage it did to the people of Turkmenistan was considerable and will take time to heal. We hope to see Turkmenistan accelerate its progress in creating a truly democratic society, and we will help in every way we can.

Turkmenistan has been a source of stability in Central Asia, a regional role that will only continue to grow in importance. It can also be a source of progress and prosperity. The United States stood ready in 1991, and still stands ready today, to help Turkmenistan overcome its past legacy, join the family of democratic nations, and realize its great potential as an important contributor to world peace.

American Government Sponsors Preservation of Mosque, a Sign of Respect to Islam and the Turkmen People

The Governments of Turkmenistan and the United States officially opened a restoration project at the 15th-century Seit Jemmalatdin Mosque in Annau on October 11, 2001. With support from the U.S. Government, local archeologists and historians will reconstruct the unique mosaic tile of the mosque, build tourist walkways and strengthen the foundation of the ruins. U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan Laura E. Kennedy and Turkmenistan's Minister of Culture Orazgely Aydogdiyev opened the project by joining two pieces of the ancient mosaic, which both said was symbolic of the two countries' cooperation and friendship



The event marked the one-month anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks in America, as well as the 53rd anniversary of the earthquake of 1948 that destroyed Ashgabat and the mosque. At the opening ceremony, Ambassador Kennedy said that this day "marks the opening of a project with significant religious, historic and artistic value, as well as with profound symbolism for both the United States and Turkmenistan... Turkmenistan and the United States will begin the process of putting back together the beautiful mosque and restoring it to the people of Turkmenistan. And also today, together with Turkmenistan and our other friends, we are piecing back together the fabric of the modern world, restoring to us all a sense of security and humanity after the tragic events of September 11."

Minister Aydogdiyev noted that the Annau mosque is considered one of the holiest sites in the country and is a place of pilgrimage of many Turkmen Muslims. He and Minister of Foreign Affairs Rashid Meredov praised Turkmen-American cooperation, which in Annau dates to 1904 and continues today.

Ambassador Kennedy also noted that "U.S. involvement in this project symbolizes our profound respect for Turkmen culture and our continuing support for Turkmen independence, the

tenth anniversary of which we celebrate in a few days. It also symbolizes our respect for Islam, a great world religion. America is also a nation of Islam. Millions of our citizens are Muslims."



Ruslan Muradov, Vice-President of the Turkmen Union of Architects and manager of the project, hopes to complete work within one year and display the reconstructed mosaic tile in a museum on site in Annau. For more details or to view photographs of the event, please visit the embassy's website at www.usemb-ashgabat.rpo.at.

U.S. Caspian Envoy Ambassador Steven Mann Resumes Turkmen-American Energy Dialogue

Ambassador Steven R. Mann, the U.S. Senior Advisor on Caspian Basin Energy Diplomacy, visited Turkmenistan October 18-22, 2001. In his remarks at the annual Turkmen International Oil and Gas Conference, he stressed that U.S. policy on Caspian energy issues is "directed toward the economic development and mutual benefit of all the nations of the region that were once part of the Soviet Union..."



Ambassador Mann also met with President Niyazov and discussed with him possible ways of resuming Turkmen-American dialogue and cooperation in the energy field. "I come here with no plans, programs or projects in my pocket... (but) with an open mind and with the willingness of my government to work together with Turkmenistan and see how we might start some more productive cooperation," said Ambassador Mann in his speech.

Before assuming his new position five months ago, Steven R. Mann served as the U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan.

Turkmen Trainers Recognized for Their Contribution in Business Education

On October 12, 2001, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Pragma Corporation named Ms. Sofia Shaihullina the "Local Business Trainer of the Year" and the Consulting Bureau "Expert" as the "Local Training Provider of the Year". These awards marked the outstanding contribution of these business-training professionals in educating Turkmen entrepreneurs. Through Pragma's Small and Medium Enterprise Development Project, local training partners receive technical support, including instruction in interactive teaching methodology and new course content. The award ceremony in the Nissa Truva Restaurant gathered representatives of Turkmenistan's Ministry of Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Senagat Bank, Garashsyzlyk Bank and USAID. The exemplary contribution of top trainers and organizations was recognized not only with a plaque and a ceremony, but also with complementary training equipment and a financial award.

Since its launch in September 2000, this program has grown into a regional effort for all Central Asian nations.



In Turkmenistan, the Pragma Corporation carries out accounting training and business skills development training. There is a clear benefit to project participants and a growing impact on the Turkmen community.

For more information on how Pragma may be able to serve you, your business, or community, please contact the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Project at (99312) 35-45-17; 39-24-93; 35-74-45; 35-28-75; 39-58-17; e-mail: gatadjanov@online.tm

American Embassy Helps Children of Buzmein Orphanage

On October 16, 2001 representatives of the U.S Embassy visited the Buzmein orphanage and presented kids with supplementary warm winter clothing, foodstuff, medical and school supplies. These gifts were purchased with of charity money collected during the American Film Festival held in Ashgabat in May with support of the Four Points Ak-Altyn. USAID's Counterpart Humanitarian Assistance Program also contributed warm jackets to the children.



Eric T. Schultz, Deputy Chief of the U.S. Mission, and Valerian Menezes, General Manager of Sheraton Grand Turkmen and Four Points Ak-Altyn hotels officially handed the children the items. Mr. Schultz told the children and orphanage directors, "I am pleased that we can help. This kind of people to people connections is what our work is all about."

There are about 100 children in the Buzmein orphanage who attend school from first to tenth grades. On October 29, a group of alumni of American exchange programs organized and held a Halloween party with the kids of the orphanage.

CHAP's Turkmen Partners Distribute Aid from U.S.

Two containers of clothing, footwear and household items valued at \$285,000 arrived in Ashgabat on October 24 and 28, 2001. This assistance was delivered from the U.S. for distribution in Turkmenistan by Counterpart International Humanitarian Assistance



Program (CHAP) as part of the cooperation program between the U.S. and Turkmen governments in the humanitarian field. The National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan will distribute a portion of the clothing, footwear and household items to the elderly, orphans, disabled and large families. The Turkmen Blind and Deaf Society will distribute the remaining clothing and shelters to the blind and deaf.

CHAP has been working with the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan for more than two years. It has also been supporting local NGOs in Turkmenistan engaged in social protection, rehabilitation and social integration of disadvantaged groups for about three years. Since 1999 TRCS and local NGOs have received from CHAP and distributed \$4,750,000 worth of assistance throughout the country. With new coming shipments of tents and tent liners expected in November, CHAP and its local partners will continue the effort to benefit the Turkmenistan people.

Information Resource Center: Resources and Services

At the Information Resource Center of the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy, we offer both traditional and electronic resources. Our library is a good source of information about the U.S. government and its policies and about American society, economy and culture. The books in our library are in English, Russian and Turkmen. You can also browse in our office and as well as borrow CD-ROMs about the United States in English and Russian. We have information about teaching English and civics; economy, literature, and current events. Also explore our website and its links for good information.

We carry out specialized information searches on American society, U.S. government, American economy and culture through the Internet and the databases to which we subscribe. We are starting a news group offering daily updates in English and Russian on the War on Terrorism. Please call or e-mail to sign up!

We have also developed a series of workshops on building core skills needed to access Internet. We can offer such workshops as Introduction to Internet and Browsers and Internet Search Engines. If you are interested in locating resources in a specific topic, we can tailor our workshops to meet your needs. Currently we are also designing a series of workshops on introduction to web design and creating web pages.

In addition, you are always welcome to visit our office if you are not quite sure about the information in your hand or just to get some advice about what sources you could turn to in locating needed materials.

To arrange a visit, an appointment is not necessary. Please just walk in during our working hours. Monday to Friday, from 9:30 to 18:00/. We are located on the first floor of the National Institute of Education at 78 Magtymguly Ave. Tel: 35-00-45; E-mail: irc-ashgabat@iatp.edu.tm

Remarks by Ambassador Kennedy at Her Swearing-In Ceremony at the State Department on October 1, 2001

Mr. Secretary, Ambassador Orazov, friends and colleagues. Thank you for coming today. I am honored that the Secretary took the time out of his brutal schedule to swear me in. His participation characterizes the generous spirit and commitment to his troops that has inspired me and my colleagues in the State Department. He has made equally clear that he expects the same care and commitment from all of us. I can assure you that the welfare of the American Embassy and community in Ashgabat will be at the top of my agenda.

Thank you, Ambassador Orazov, for being here today. I look forward to meeting next in Ashgabat when Turkmenistan celebrates its first decade of independence. The Secretary spoke of my support for programs to introduce new generations of Turkmen and Americans to each other. Ambassador Orazov is the former rector of the Turkmen State University. As an educator, he recognizes the challenge and the promise of exposing young minds to broader horizons and cherished ideals. We are delighted that the United States has received many of Turkmenistan's best and brightest as participants in our official exchange programs. I look forward to working with Turkmenistan to strengthen and expand such initiatives.

As Turkmenistan prepares to commemorate its emergence as a new state, I am also deeply conscious of the history of this ancient land. I am pleased that American archeologists and institutions such as the National Geographic are working closely with their Turkmen colleagues to unlock the secrets of ancient cities. Whether it is excavation of a site thousands of years old or a project aimed at improving rural health, the U.S. is eager to assist the Turkmen people to draw on the best of the past to construct a modern, prosperous and democratic society, anchored in a world increasingly governed by the rule of law.

I first visited Turkmenistan in 1993 with a delegation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe - the OSCE. We strongly support Turkmenistan's participation in such key modern institutions as the OSCE. We are eager to develop a

network of bilateral, regional and international ties with Turkmenistan.

Such a web of relationships should benefit the United States and Turkmenistan and enhance regional stability.

Turkmenistan lives in the proverbial tough neighborhood. Increasingly, we face common strategic challenges. I will be focused in the days ahead on working with Turkmenistan to combat the global threat of terrorism as well as such related evils as the heroin trade that has emanated from Afghanistan. Afghanistan's people have been brutalized and the U.S. has responded by providing the largest amounts of humanitarian aid to these victims. We will be cooperating with Turkmenistan on humanitarian aid for these victims. government in a new round of energy diplomacy to promote mutually beneficial production and access to markets. More broadly, we are eager to assist the development of sound, free-market practices, promote American business in Turkmenistan and help link it to global financial institutions.

It will be a challenging assignment. I am therefore enormously grateful for this send-off today, especially by those out-of-towners. Among them are a strong contingent of New Yorkers. My brother Bryan and my Feeney and Claffey in-laws all work in New York's financial district. They were spared on September 11 but are still numb from those losses suffered on that horrible day. It is heartening how we as a nation have shared in this grief. As the President said in his address to Congress, there are struggles ahead and dangers to face. But this country will define our times, not be defined by them. And forgive the chauvinism, but New York will continue to set the pace for the entire country in defining our times.

Let me close by paying special tribute to my husband and boys. John like me is a lifer in this business and knew what he was getting into. Martin and Patrick are a little less convinced that the national interest requires a Vienna-Ashgabat commute but are dealing with it manfully. So my closing words are for them, keep the emails flowing and lights out by ten o'clock!

We remind you again about the deadlines for our academic exchange programs:

Regional Scholars - November 15, 2001 (IREX); **Fulbright** - November 16, 2001 (PAS); **Contemporary Issues** - November 23, 2001 (IREX); **FLEX** - deadline pending (ACCELS); **University Teachers** - December 7, 2001 (ACCELS); **High School English Teachers** - January 15, 2002 (ACCELS); **Humphrey Fellowship** - August 20, 2002 (PAS).

If you have comments or suggestions on the newsletter, please write us at:
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