



# United States Mission in Turkmenistan

Pushkin Str. 9, Ashgabat  
744000 Turkmenistan

Phone: (993-12) 35 00 45 Fax: (993-12)39 26 14  
Website: www.usemb-ashgabat.rpo.at

Issue 4

Monthly Newsletter

August-September 2001

## In Wake of Terrorist Attacks, America Thankful for Support, Calls on World to Fight Terrorism

### In This Issue:

- 2 U.S. and Turkmenistan Sign Bilateral Agreement on Anti-Narcotics Measures
- 2 New Tuberculosis Lab Opens in Turkmenbashi
- 3 President Niyazov Praises ACCELS
- 3 FLEX Alumni Raise \$2,500 for School of Visually Impaired
- 4 Recruitment Begins for Educational Programs
- 4 U.S. Alumni Gather for National Reunion
- 5 Journalist Tells About Public Relations Program
- 5 "Parents and Schools" Charity Project
- 5 English Immersion Camp
- 5 U.S. Aid for Balkan Velayat

### President Bush Addresses Congress - and the World - in Aftermath of Tragedy

On September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon, and four airliners, killing over 6,000 people. On September 20, President George W. Bush addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress in response to this tragedy:



"We have seen the unfurling of flags, the lighting of candles, the giving of blood, the saying of prayers -- in English, Hebrew, and Arabic... And on behalf of the American people, I thank the world for its outpouring of support. America will never forget the sounds of our National Anthem playing at Buckingham Palace, on the streets of Paris, and at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate...

"What is at stake is not just America's freedom. This is the world's fight. This is civilization's fight. This is the fight of all who believe in progress and pluralism, tolerance and freedom. We ask every nation to join us... The United States is grateful that many nations and many international organizations have already responded with sympathy and support. Nations from Latin America, to Asia, to Europe, to the Islamic world... They understand that if this terror goes unpunished, their own cities, their own citizens may be next... We're not going to allow it."

### Chargé d'Affaires of U.S. Embassy Addresses the Turkmen People

"On behalf of the American people and my colleagues at the American Embassy in Turkmenistan, I would like to thank the Turkmen people and their government for the outpouring of support and sympathy we have received at this most difficult time in our nation's -- and the world's -- history.

The flowers laid in front of our embassy, the many eloquent and heart-felt condolences we have received, and the numerous offers of assistance, have moved and heartened us as a nation more than I can express.

As the world enters the 21st century and Turkmenistan celebrates its 10th year of independence, I wish your people and your nation strength, peace, and good fortune as we stand together to ensure that the human tragedy that unfolded in New York and Washington can never be repeated.

Again, my heartfelt thanks for your sympathy and support.

Eric T. Schultz, Chargé d'Affaires



## U.S. and Turkmenistan Sign Agreement in the Fight Against Narcotics Trafficking

On September 21, 2001, the Government of the United States and the Government of Turkmenistan signed a bilateral agreement for the provision of law enforcement training and forensic laboratory equipment to Turkmenistan. The project is designed to improve the capability of Turkmen law enforcement agencies in efforts against narcotics trafficking and organized crime. The training and equipment package has a value of over \$1,100,000. American trainers will share their expertise with Turkmen law enforcement officers, in particular training them in the analysis of physical evidence gathered during the conduct of criminal investigations.



In recent years, the United States and the Government of Turkmenistan have enjoyed mutually beneficial cooperation in the area of counter-narcotics and law enforcement liaison, and the completion of this agreement marks an important step towards expanding this cooperation. This is a program of the U.S. Government offered to only a handful of countries worldwide.

## New Tuberculosis Lab Opens in Turkmenbashi

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) together with Turkmenistan's Ministry of Health opened a new tuberculosis laboratory in Turkmenbashi. The Rayon Tuberculosis Laboratory, opened August 1, 2001, is located in the TB Department of the City Multiprofile Hospital of Turkmenbashi. This is the second laboratory of its kind in Turkmenistan. The project is being implemented by USAID partners Project Hope and the Center for Disease Control in cooperation with the Tuberculosis Department of Turkmenbashi. This laboratory responds to a critical need in Turkmenistan to provide healthcare to people affected by tuberculosis. Last year, the Ministry of health and USAID formally agreed to implement a short course on treatment. This led to the establishment of the first pilot laboratory in Ashgabat. Project Hope will provide the new laboratory with equipment and supplies, as well as office equipment for the Learning Center. Project Hope also supplied TB prevention drugs for 250 patients and clinical skills training TB physicians and family practitioners of Turkmenbashi



City Polyclinic. The Center for Disease Control will provide training of the laboratory technicians from the TB Department of Turkmenbashi.

# President Niyazov Praises FLEX High School Exchange Program; Students Take Off for Study in America

On August 27, 2001, forty-four Turkmen high school students from across Turkmenistan left for the United States on a one-year program to study in American high schools and live with American families. President Niyazov had personally approved their study and praised the program for its effective selection process and its fine winners. The students won a country-wide competition funded by the U.S. government and administered by ACCELS, an American non-profit educational organization. The selection process is rigorous, and winners are chosen based on not only on their academic strengths but their ability to adapt to life in America and represent Turkmenistan in a positive way.

In his remarks at the farewell ceremony, Chargé d'Affaires of the United States in Turkmenistan Eric T. Schultz said to the students, "This is a great opportunity for you, but also an obligation. It will be your job to share your culture with Americans. I believe you are all fine representatives of Turkmenistan, and I believe you will do a terrific job. I thank President Niyazov for his constant support of this program and of the work of ACCELS in Turkmenistan." President Niyazov had praised the American group in his Cabinet of Ministers meeting earlier that week for their selection process: "They know all our schools very well...The kids they have selected are excellent both mentally and physically."

This was the ninth group of high school students from Turkmenistan to study in the U.S. on the FLEX program. Since its inception in 1993, more than 250 high school students have participated. These young people,

considered "alumni" of the program, are now working for the Turkmen government, private businesses and non-government organizations in Turkmenistan.

## FLEX Alumni Raise \$2,500 to Build Playground for the School for the Visually Impaired

Alumni of the FLEX high school exchange program raised over \$2,500 at a Charity Ball to support the building of a playground and sports complex at the School for the Visually Impaired in Ashgabat. The Charity Ball was held in the Ak-Altin Plaza Hotel on August 10, 2001, and was attended by both local and foreign community members.

"We are very happy that we were able to collect so much money to help these kids become a more integral part of society," said Lalita Elen-Nur, one organizer of the project. "Thanks so much to the companies and others who contributed to the event and made it a success." The group plans to begin construction of the playground project in November 2001.

Alumni of the FLEX program have been volunteering their time with the School for the Visually Impaired for the last three years by teaching English, leading various sport activities and acquainting them with American culture and traditions. The American Council for International Education (ACCELS) helped support the organizing of the ball.



## Ninth Year of American Educational Exchange Programs Launched in Turkmenistan

The U.S. Embassy announced the opening of recruitment season for nine academic exchange programs for citizens of Turkmenistan in the 2002-2003 academic year. Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. in Turkmenistan Eric T. Schultz, along with representatives of ACCELS and IREX, presented them in a press conference at the American Center on September 20, 2001. All are fully sponsored by the United States Government.



Mr. Schultz expressed his conviction that these programs have advantages both for America and Turkmenistan. "Alumni of our programs serve as ambassadors of Turkmen culture in the U.S. and American culture in Turkmenistan. They return and apply their new talents and skills to help Turkmenistan in its further development."

The American Center also hosted an Educational Fair on Sunday, September 23, 2001, which featured complete information on all opportunities being offered this year. Programs are available for undergraduate students, graduate-level students seeking a Master's degree, academicians, new and experienced professors of higher educational institutions,



high school students and high school English teachers, as well as professionals in various fields. This is the ninth year of these exchanges in Turkmenistan. During the past eight years, close to 600 Turkmen citizens have successfully completed their studies via these programs in the United States.

For details, please contact Anjela Begjanova of the Embassy's Public Affairs Section (PAS) at 35-00-45; Brendan Dallas of ACCELS (AC) at 39-53-32 or Bakhar Ataeva of IREX at 39-53-08. Deadlines for programs are as follows:

Muskie Graduate - November 3, 2001 (AC)  
Undergraduate - November 2, 2001 (AC)  
English Teachers - January 15, 2002 (AC)  
University Teachers - December 7, 2001 (AC)  
Contemporary Issues - November 23, 2001 (IREX)  
Regional Scholar - November 15, 2001 (IREX)  
Humphrey Fellowship - August 20, 2002 (PAS)  
Fulbright - November 16, 2001 (PAS)  
FLEX - deadline pending (AC)

### U.S. Alumni Gather for National Reunion

Alumni of U.S. Government-sponsored programs gathered in Chuli from August 16 to 19 for a national reunion. Their main purpose was to start brainstorming various ideas on what alumni could do together and how they can involve those living in remote places of Turkmenistan. At this reunion, alumni conducted a number of seminars including those on financing alumni education, seeking a job, developing job interview skills and writing grant proposals. They also formed an editorial group for an alumni newsletter.

This reunion was organized by the U.S. Embassy's Alumni Coordinator Aigul Kochamanova.



### **Local Journalist Passes His Training in Public Relations on to Others**

Igor Sasin, who represents Agencé France Presse in Turkmenistan, made a presentation to various initiative groups on Saturday, August 11, 2001 on how organizations can effectively interact with the media. The Global Training Project of USAID recently sponsored the participation Mr. Sasin and two other local journalists, in the Summer School of Journalism Program held at St. Petersburg State University.

According to Mr. Sasin, he learned that "public relations (PR) should be understood as something broader than only relations with people. Public relations arise between two or more sides on the basis of their common interests and needs." The function of PR is not marketing goods, as in the case with advertisement, but influencing public opinion by maintaining a consistent image of the company or organization. Mr. Sasin also said that these organizations and groups could apply PR techniques such as marketing communication more often when dealing with media, people and the government.

All three participants of the summer training program conducted a similar seminar for local journalists on September 27 in Ashgabat.

### **"Parents and Schools" Charity Project Benefits School for the Visually Impaired in Ashgabat**

The initiative group "My Right" will implement a project to help the School for the Visually Impaired in Ashgabat. The project is funded by Mobil Exploration and Producing Turkmenistan Inc., as part of its "Parents and Schools" charity program, administered with the help of Counterpart Consortium.

"My Right" will also organize and conduct regular meetings with parents, teachers and school administration and discuss effective means of satisfying the needs of the school. The school will also receive beds, bedclothes and table lamps. Counterpart Consortium, which works in Turkmenistan under USAID, and Mobil Exploration and Producing Turkmenistan Inc., have been implementing the charity project "Parents and Schools" for one year. Under this project, eleven schools and kindergartens have received \$21,600 worth of equipment and materials.

### **Summer English Immersion Camp a Success**

The Educational Center ARCA, a registered self-sustainable organization, held its annual Summer English Immersion Camp for high school students of Turkmenistan on July 27-28, 2001, in Ashgabat. The camp gathered more than 100 participants and promoted better communication and cultural understanding through use of the English Language. The camp was financed in part by the small grants program of the American Embassy.



During the camp, the participants took part in a number of workshops. One workshop focused on diversity awareness and helped them appreciate cultural, gender, age and ethnic differences. A public speaking class taught students how to speak effectively, feel comfortable in front of an audience and write speeches. They learned how to write and present various types of speeches. Students also created their own newsletter in which they included articles, crossword puzzles, pictures, and their opinions about this summer camp.

ARCA has held successful English language camps in Turkmenistan for the past seven years.

### **Balkan Velayat Gets Aid from United States**

On August 17, 2001, humanitarian assistance valued at over \$50,000 arrived in Ashgabat to be distributed in the Balkan velayat. This aid was donated by the U.S. Government as part of its cooperation program with Turkmenistan in the field of humanitarian services.

### ***Balkan Velayat Gets Aid from United States***

The project is being administered by Counterpart International Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP), in collaboration with CHAP's distribution partner - Balkan Velayat Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare of Turkmenistan. Balkan Velayat Department of Social Welfare will distribute this assistance to the Balkan Territorial Center, serving lonely and disabled elderly, as well as to orphans and large families in remote etraps of Balkan Velayat. The assistance consisted of cold weather clothing and insect net protectors.

Since 1999, the Ministry of Social Welfare has received from CHAP and distributed throughout the country

humanitarian assistance worth over \$2,000,000 provided by the U.S. Government and other donors.



If you have comments or suggestions, please  
write us at [atayevmb@iatp.edu.tm](mailto:atayevmb@iatp.edu.tm)