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Obama Announces U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership

Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement Talks Productive, Conclude with Breakthrough Treaty

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EDITOR'S NOTE

2010 ended on some positive notes, and 2011 opens with grounds for optimism. At the end of last year, the U.S. Congress approved the new START treaty for nuclear arms control between Russia and the U.S., restoring the world's most important bilateral arms agreement. The escalating crisis on the Korean Peninsula seems to have calmed down, with China playing a stabilizing role. The crisis of the Euro has been contained, for the moment, and the global economy as a whole is showing modest but clear signs of recovery. The U.S. withdrawal from active military operations in Iraq has continued, and that country has finally formed a new government. Extensive preparations are being made for a pivotal election in the Sudan, and for U.S. forces to end their combat role in Afghanistan by 2014.

Yet in this issue, we present documents highlighting some still worrying threats. Chief among these is the outcome of the elections in Cote d'Ivoire, where incumbent president Laurent Gbagbo has refused to accept the internationally recognized victory of his opponent, Alassane Ouattara. Hundreds have already died in post-election violence, and whether the result will be civil war or international intervention is still unclear. At the same time, regional alliances – the OSCE, ASEAN, and NATO – are reorganizing and developing new strategies to cope with the impacts of the global recession and the greater economic role of developing nations. Negotiations between Israel and Palestinian leaders have again stalled, and violence in Afghanistan is still increasing as concerns rise about the ability of the Karzai government to maintain order without foreign assistance. Global efforts to counter illegal trafficking and counterfeiting have increased, in response to greater volumes of illegal activity.

We hope that 2011 will bear out our optimism, and that threats to peace and prosperity will be contained. But the year is also certain to offer surprises. We hope you will follow all of the relevant pronouncements here in the pages of *Foreign Policy Bulletin*.

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