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# *Foreign Policy Bulletin*

*The Documentary Record of United States Foreign Policy*

*Volume 21 Issue 2, June 2011*

Obama Administration Commends Egypt for Orderly Transition

Japan Thanks U.S. for Assistance After Historic Earthquake

U.S. Applauds Successful Southern Sudan Referendum, Rebukes Cote d'Ivoire Former President Laurent Gbagbo for Violence

Obama and Biden Extol Improved Relations with Russia, Support Investments, Normalization of Trade and Russian WTO Accession

Security Transition Begins in Afghanistan

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# Foreign Policy Bulletin

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

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Last year, everyone's main concern was whether the international financial system was finally on the road to a stable recovery. We also worried whether violence would arise in Cote d'Ivoire following the contested results of its Presidential election, and whether Sudan's division into north and south would go smoothly. On the positive side, we looked forward to continuing the 'reset' with Russia, improving relations with China, and progress on international trade agreements.

Most of these have gone as expected, for better or worse. The international financial system has not gone into a 'double-dip' nor have we had major state bankruptcies. This good news means there is no major US action in this regard in this issue of FPB. However, Cote d'Ivoire, as I write, has indeed slipped into violence. On the plus side, the Southern Sudanese referendum went smoothly. You will find US responses to both events in this issue.

Work on improving relations with China and Russia, and extending trade agreements, has made progress, and we expect more agreements in the near future (Panama and Colombia are on Congress's agenda).

However, the last few months have also seen unexpected disasters and miracles. In Japan, a 9.0 quake and 125 ft. Tsunami killed at least 25,000 people and crippled one of Japan's largest nuclear facilities, with damage to four reactors and radiation leaks from spent fuel storage areas. In Tunisia and Egypt, pro-democracy revolts led to the departure of long-standing dictators that were previously thought to be bedrocks of stability – Zine el Abidine ben Ali and Hosni Mubarak. Popular protests followed and spread from Morocco to Oman, with Saudi Arabia intervening in Bahrain and the U.S. particularly worried about Syria and Yemen. We have added special sections on Japan and Egypt this issue, in addition to our regular Middle East section, to cover US official responses to these events.

Finally, in Libya, a popular revolt turned into a civil war that prompted intervention from NATO, thus pulling the US into a third military theatre, in addition to Iraq and Afghanistan. A special section on the negotiations that led to a no-fly zone over Libya fills out this issue.

It has been a momentous first quarter for foreign policy in 2011. I wouldn't expect to be saying this, but I actually hope we have less to cover in our next issue. Follow the U.S. responses to these events, and see what lies ahead, by following FPB.

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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