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Obama Accepts Nobel Peace Prize; Lobbies for Chicago Olympics

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EDITOR'S NOTE

When President Obama entered office, foreign policy seemed a lesser concern, compared to coping with the economic crisis and his plans to reform health care. Long delays in appointing a USAID administrator, and in deliberating over his Afghan policy, reinforced this impression. Yet foreign policy has now taken center stage. The decision to commit 30,000 additional troops with supporting civilian and contract forces to Afghanistan, new initiatives in arms control, and the need to respond to the unexpected turmoil in Iran following the June elections all involve major efforts by the U.S. to respond to a threatening world. Perhaps the greatest surprise was President Obama receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, and his use of his Nobel acceptance speech to outline both his hopes for future peace and his justification for current wars.

      In this issue, we present documents regarding the Afghan decision, Obama's Nobel speech, the appointment of a new USAID administrator, and the US-Russian arms negotiations. Yet this is just the beginning; the recent attempted Christmas bombing will lead to new initiatives on security, Yemen, and anti-terrorism. Follow all of the relevant pronouncements here in the pages of Foreign Policy Bulletin.

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MISSION STATEMENT

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In addition to major addresses, statements, and other public reports and remarks of the President, Secretary of State, and Administration officials in other foreign affairs agencies, the *Foreign Policy Bulletin* includes excerpts from pivotal debates in the Congress; speeches and other statements by foreign and international officials; relevant texts and reports from international organizations; summaries and listings of treaties and other agreements to which the United States is a party; and other information of particular interest to the study of U.S. foreign relations.

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