



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement of the United States Working Session II 2006 Annual Security Review Conference

As delivered by Sharon White
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Thank You, Mr. Chairman.

This delegation always looks forward to the constructive discussions that take place during this meeting. We had the opportunity to address concepts, analyses, and recommendations during the High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar conducted in February of this year, and we feel that event provides a useful foundation for our discussions today.

In that vein, we are pleased to welcome back to the OSCE two of the Military Doctrine Seminar's distinguished keynote speakers, Dr. Tomas Ries and General Bernardo Alvarez del Manzano. Both speakers provide very interesting and thought-provoking presentations in the context of this annual security review. General Alvarez del Manzano's observations call to mind a remark made by Secretary Rice earlier this year, that "the diplomacy of the twenty-first century requires better jointness, between our soldiers and our civilians."

Indeed, we must work together as we aim to bring about a common appreciation of threats. Secretary Rice's Transformational Diplomacy emphasizes this point. As we recognize the changing nature of diplomacy and warfare, the United States puts new emphasis on our relationship with regional partners, such as the OSCE. In the 21st century, geographic regions are growing ever more integrated economically, politically and culturally. This creates new opportunities, but it also presents new challenges, especially from transnational threats like terrorism, weapons proliferation, drug smuggling, and trafficking in persons and disease.

One of the themes that the Military Doctrine Seminar consistently addressed was technology. Technology can be both a help and hindrance to security, depending on who uses it and how it is used. General Smith described in his remarks during the Military Doctrine Seminar that the United States relied successfully on technology to ensure our collective security for many years, but we are now faced with a variety of very fluid factors that are different from years past.

Secretary Rice has said that technology is collapsing the distance that once clearly separated "right here" from "over there." Asymmetric warfare is becoming more and more sophisticated. With access to new technology it can achieve disproportionate strategic effects. For example, terrorists and extremist groups use information age networks to foster unrest and discontent through targeted information campaigns, and this unrest is viewed globally.

We have to make technology useful to us as we work together to address these new challenges. However, Ambassador Alyson Bailes pointed out during the Military Doctrine Seminar that each

use of advanced technology brings its own potential vulnerabilities, malfunctions and resource trade-offs. Its very existence may have an impact on the international atmosphere.

Interoperability is the key to effective multinational operations and it hinges on technology. We must ensure that we can operate in an environment of ever increasing joint multi-national and multinational interagency operations. We recognize that our forces will operate in the multilateral environment alongside other coalition partners, and in close cooperation with international organizations, national, and non-governmental organizations.

We must also address new threats and challenges through better surveillance of borders to prevent smuggling and trafficking, better use of biometric technology in passport control and travel documents, and better use of detection technology to monitor containerized shipping. We have already begun to look at these very important issues within the OSCE, and we should continue to work together to find solutions to these and other challenges.

Mr. Chairman, the politico-military dimension does make a difference in our quest for collective security. We have an important record and acquis that, in general, are serving our interests well. The Forum for Security Cooperation also continues to make useful contributions that address new challenges to security, for instance, with our activities in the areas of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition.

The Forum for Security Cooperation took important decisions concerning export controls over MANPADS, end-user certificates for small arms and light weapons, and on brokering controls for small arms and light weapons. Information from the Military Doctrine Seminar can be considered for possible follow-up activity by the Forum for Security Cooperation. We must continue to work together on common solutions to not so common security threats. We look forward to working with others in this vitally important common endeavor as we, to recall our delegation's opening remarks, face threats generated "less by fleets and armies than by catastrophic technologies in the hands of the embittered few."

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.