

SUPPLEMENT TO WEEKLY READER

WORLD

News from the U.S. Department of State



SCENE

WHO REPRESENTS YOU IN THE WORLD?



What's inside...



WHAT WE DO AT STATE



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE SECRETARY?



INSIDE AFGHANISTAN



At WORK in

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE



You're in Bangkok, Thailand, you've lost your passport and you need to get back to the U.S. by tomorrow. Who do you turn to?

What government agency is in charge of working with governments around the world to solve important problems?



The answer to all of the above: **The U.S. Department of State**

The State Department has a big job. The U.S. Department of State works with about 180 countries in the world in order to reach important goals. Some of those goals include protecting Americans at home and abroad, preventing wars, improving living conditions around the world, and helping others to understand the United States and our values.

Today, some of the most important issues the U.S. Department of State is working on are:

- Helping Afghanistan and Iraq to be independent, peaceful and healthy nations.
- Working with Israelis and Palestinians to bring peace in the Middle East.
- Keeping dangerous weapons out of dangerous hands.
- Helping people affected by HIV/AIDS around the world to get the care they need.



U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC



Meet the U.S. Secretary of State

Hi, I'm **COLIN L. POWELL**, the U.S. Secretary of State. I lead the U.S. Department of

State and advise President George W. Bush on foreign affairs — how we interact with countries around the world. Every day, I work with leaders around the world on important issues, such as the war in Iraq, rebuilding Afghanistan, and the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. It's a challenging job — and a fascinating one.

I was born and raised in New York, where my parents moved after coming to the U.S. from Jamaica. After college, I joined the U.S. Army and

Find out more about the Department of State and about countries around the

the WORLD

Where
in the World
is the Secretary?

Who works to help
improve children's
education and health
in foreign countries?



Secretary Powell travels all over the world for his job. Since 2001, he has traveled over 527,000 miles – more than 20 times the distance around the earth! In 2004, the Secretary will visit many more countries.

Follow the directions below to keep track of some of his travels.

What you need: Computer with Internet, a world map, world atlas, and a red marker

Directions:

1. Go to www.future.state.gov to print out a copy of the world map.
2. Read the clues below. Use an atlas and world map to find the six countries.
3. Once you find the answer, put a star in that country.
4. Each month visit www.future.state.gov for new clues!

Clues:

- ★ The Sinai Peninsula is part of this country.
- ★ People who live in this country are often called “Aussies.”
- ★ This country's flag is red with a white plus sign (+) in the middle.
- ★ This country is at the very southern tip of Africa.
- ★ Buenos Aires is the capital of this country.
- ★ The population of this country is the largest in the world.

Where would you go if you were Secretary of State? Why would you go there? You can track your own travels, too. Have you ever traveled to another city, state or country? Get a map of the U.S. and mark the cities and states that you have visited!

Every day, the U.S. Department of State also helps Americans get passports to travel overseas, issues visas to people from other countries who wish to visit the U.S., and helps Americans with international adoptions and many other issues.

Americans from all over the United States work for the Department of State. Many are based at the Department's headquarters in Washington, D.C., while others work at the 260 U.S. “posts” (embassies and other offices) all over the world. Each post also employs people from the country where that post is located.

served in Vietnam in the 1960s. Later in my military career, I became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and oversaw the 1990-1991 Gulf war.

I've learned a great deal in my years serving our country. One of the most important lessons I've learned is the importance of young people like you. You truly are America's future. So learn as much as you can about the world around you and do what you can to help make it a better place.

Inside Afghanistan

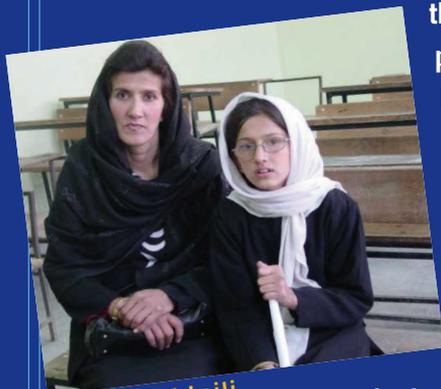


“Boys and girls have returned to school. Women who one year ago were prisoners in their homes are now pursuing their professions... For the first time in over two decades, the men and women of Afghanistan can look to a future of hope.”

*– Colin L. Powell,
U.S. Secretary of State*

Back to School...in Afghanistan

Eleven-year old Laili finally gets to go to school. Under Taliban rule in Afghanistan, she and other girls were not allowed to attend school. “I want to be an agronomist (a person who studies farming) and a doctor,” said Laili, whose mother, Karima, is a teacher at Mariam Lyceum girls’ school in Kabul, where Laili is a student. When the Taliban were in power, women like Karima were not allowed to work, not even as teachers.



Karima and Laili

The Mariam Lyceum girls’ school was in bad shape after years of fighting in Afghanistan. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), a partner

agency of the State Department, worked with the Afghan Ministry of Education to repair the school. Laili now goes to school with 8,200 other students. Students work on science projects in the new science lab, check out books from the library, and get health care in the clinic.



Students at Mariam Lyceum School

Today the U.S. is working with the Afghan Government to rebuild hundreds of schools around the country, helping students like Laili pursue an education.

Fast Facts About Afghanistan

- Capital:** Kabul
- Size:** 252,000 square miles — almost as large as Texas
- Population:** 22 million - 28.7 million (estimate)
- Languages:** Dari (Afghan Persian) and Pashto
- Religions:** Most Afghans are Sunni Muslim. Smaller numbers of Afghans belong to other religions.

Afghanistan is a country in South Asia. It has had a long and sometimes troubled history. In the mid-1990s, the Taliban, an extremist group, came to power. They violated human rights, prevented women from working outside the home and banned girls from schools. The Taliban also supported terrorist organizations, including Osama bin Laden's group, al Qaeda, which was involved in the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. In October 2001, a coalition of countries, including the U.S., attacked terrorist, military and political locations in Afghanistan. The Taliban lost power and a new government, now called the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan, was created. Today, the U.S. and other countries are working to help Afghanistan become an independent, peaceful nation.