

G8 focus on nukes and terrorists

By MATTHEW LITTLE
Epoch Times Staff

GATINEAU, Quebec—Nuclear disarmament and global security dominated the G8 meetings at the Chateau Cartier hotel that concluded Tuesday afternoon but it was comments on abortion from U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that stole the show.

Foreign ministers of the eight attending countries—the United States, Canada, Germany, Russia, Japan, Italy, Britain, and France—announced plans to bolster economic development in the volatile border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and renewed their commitment to nuclear disarmament.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said it was a “frank and productive discussion on the key issues affecting global security.”

“We all agreed that the threat to global security from nuclear proliferation is grave but in 2010 we have an opportunity to make progress,” Cannon said.

“The nuclear programs of Iran and North Korea were of very great concern to us all, as they both present serious challenges to global security.”

Although there was no announcement on a unified call for sanctions against Iran, the ministers agreed on a two-pronged strategy to try to engage the country while applying pressure for it to stop its nuclear program.

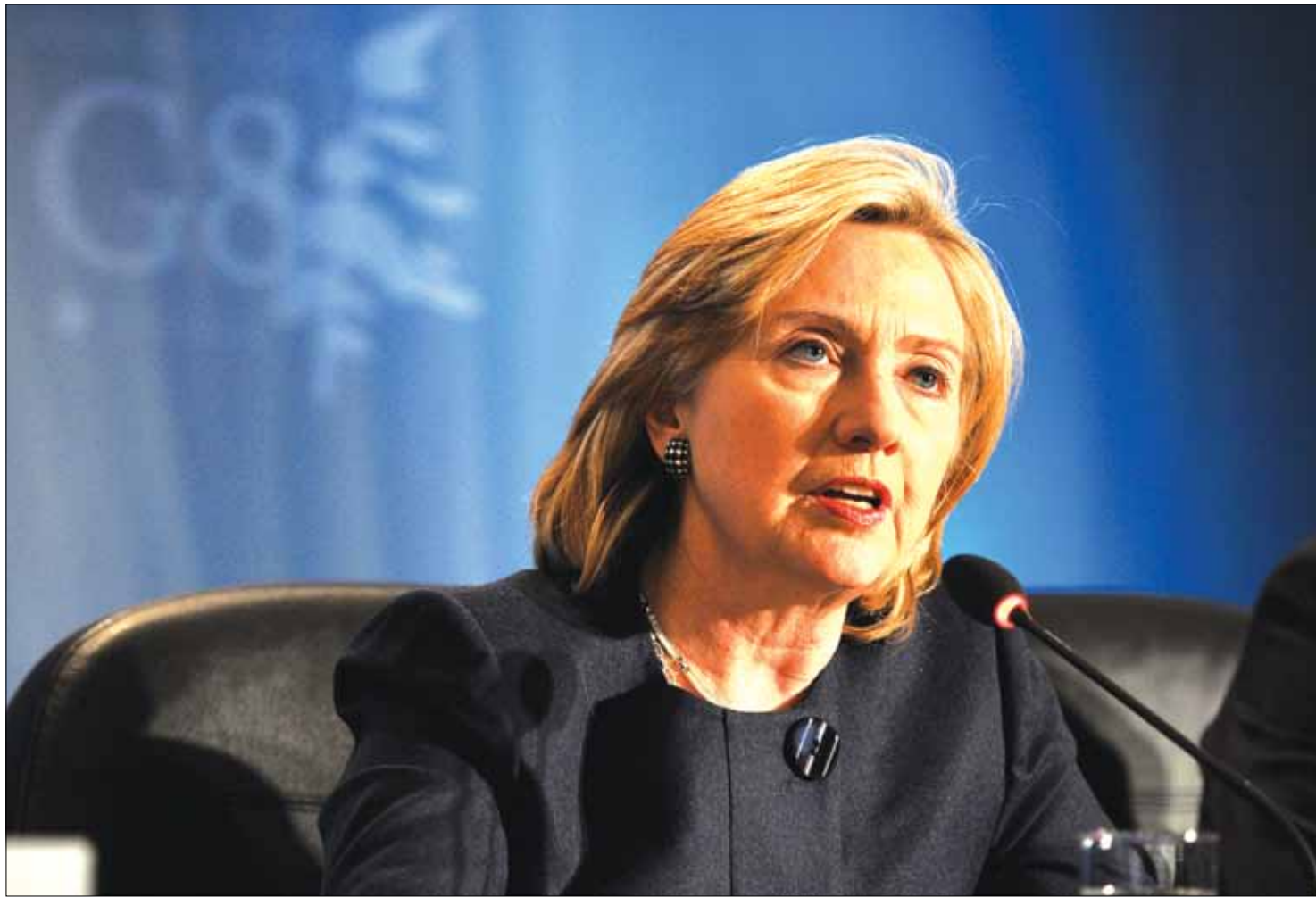
Guido Westerwelle, Germany’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, said it wasn’t the G8’s place to come up with a plan for sanctions, but rather an opportunity for member countries to unify their stances on such issues. Cannon said the United Nations Security Council was the appropriate place for a decision on sanctions.

RUSSIA-U.S. NUCLEAR DEAL

Cannon also praised the United States and Russia for bilateral agreement to reduce their own nuclear arsenals.

“This is an important step toward a world without nuclear weapons,” he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the U.S.-Russia Strategic Arms Reduction



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks at the concluding press conference of the G8 Foreign Ministers meeting in Gatineau, Quebec. MATTHEW LITTLE/THE EPOCH TIMES

Treaty, to be signed in Prague next week, is a strong signal of both countries’ commitment to decreasing their nuclear arsenal and standing against nuclear proliferation.

They would, however, need to keep in mind the threats posed by rogue regimes such as Korea and Iran throughout future talks she said.

Russia’s minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergey

Viktorovich Lavrov, went further, saying the treaty would have to address the strategic concerns of both sides and be able to neutralize the risks they each face.

PAKISTAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A second major announcement focused on the volatile region between Pakistan and Afghanistan, where extremists from both countries

have formed a stronghold, turning the area into a terrorist hotbed beyond the control of either country’s government.

Cannon said the G8 supported Pakistan’s efforts to address domestic challenges and strengthen democratic institutions while rooting out violent extremism, and would financially support efforts to develop and secure the border region.

Working with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, Cannon said the G8 will move forward with the Afghanistan Pakistan Border Region Prosperity Initiative, a plan to build trade and border infrastructure so the region would have a stable base for economic development.

Clinton said the ministers also spoke at length on Afghanistan, and that there was cause for “both optimism and caution,” in regard to progress in the country.

Causes for optimism are signs that the military and civilian efforts to develop and secure the country are working; concern was over whether that could be sustained long term.

CLINTON SIDESWIPES CANNON

Clinton didn’t directly criticize Cannon on Canada’s signature G8 initiative on maternal morality—which will leave abortion out of the package to help women and children in developing countries—but her comments were direct enough to leave no doubt as to what she thought of it.

“You cannot have maternal health without reproductive health. Reproductive health includes contraception and family planning and access to legal, safe abortion,” she said.

“I’ve also been very involved in promoting family planning and contraception as a way to prevent abortion. If you’re concerned about abortion, then women should have access to family planning.”

Pundits have already begun suggesting Clinton’s remarks were intended to embarrass the Canadian government for taking a position opposite her own passionate stance on the issue.

Last week, the Liberals had attempted to pass a motion to push the government to include abortion in its maternal health initiative but failed after members of their own party voted against it despite being told they must support it. The motion did not directly name abortion but support was implicit, said one MP who skipped the vote. The Bloc Quebecois and NDP both voted in favour of the motion, the Conservatives against.

‘Dragons’ Den’ hopefuls make pitch at GLOBE 2010

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By ANDREA HAYLEY
Epoch Times Staff

VANCOUVER—GLOBE 2010, one of the world’s largest gatherings of business leaders, NGOs, and government policymakers from around the world, on Friday wrapped up a three-day conference and trade show on the business of the environment.

The trade fair, which takes place every two years in Vancouver, provides a discussion zone and display area for eco-friendly business solutions—from corporate sustainability to clean energy to greener cities.

This year, producers from Dragons’ Den, the popular weekly series aired on CBC Television, held auditions from budding entrepreneurs for their upcoming season.

Hosted by Dianne Buckner, Dragons’ Den features entrepreneurs making pitches to “dragons”—self-made business tycoons—in hopes of winning an investment offer.

Dragon’s Den producer Mollie Duignan sees a trend in green business and thought there might be some unique businesses they could reach by holding auditions at GLOBE.

She said Den producers were happy with the pitches they got at GLOBE, albeit a small number. Another audition held at BCIT the day after GLOBE yielded 90 applicants, so they weren’t too concerned with the turnout.

“We’ve had some really dynamic, well-developed businesses apply at GLOBE, so it was quality over quantity,” she said.

In his pitch, Mark Zaturecky of CST Innovations presented his idea for a 100 percent renewable non-toxic building material that he says can replace concrete and revolutionize the building industry.

“The opportunity I have, and our business has, is so unique that I thought any investor would be interested in it. It’s something that has so much potential to be successful in North America that it is an inevitability,” Zaturecky said.

This year Dragon’s Den will produce a special green episode highlighting past entries as well as new, and culminating in the awarding of a 100,000 prize sponsored by Sun Chips for the best “greenvention.”

Duignan calls the contest “a perfect tie-in,” and an “added green incentive



At GLOBE 2010, Mark Zaturecky of CST Innovations makes his Dragons’ Den pitch for a 100 percent renewable non-toxic building material that he says can replace concrete and revolutionize the building industry. ANDREA HAYLEY/THE EPOCH TIMES

this year. So it doesn’t mean that we’re not looking for anything else but there’s sort of an extra hunt for green going on this year,” she said.

She believes green businesses are not so much a trend as they are solutions to real world needs. “Is it a need to save trees or is it a need to spend less or the need to leave less of a carbon footprint?”

Those familiar with Dragon’s Den may recall dragon Kevin O’Leary complaining about “earth mother hippie types.” Duignan says O’Leary isn’t against green business; what he takes exception to is “the personality behind some ecopreneurs.”

“The opportunity I have, and our business has, is so unique that I thought any investor would be interested in it.”

What is important is to find really solid business ideas to invest in, said Duignan. “The best investment that comes forward is what we’re looking for.”

Zaturecky, 23, says GLOBE was a great place for attendees to learn about new developments in green solutions both globally and locally. He said one of the other pitches he heard was about a hydrogen fuel cell that runs on salt water and does not emit hydrogen.

Participating in GLOBE was great not only because he got to pitch for Dragons’ Den, but also so that he can go back and report everything he learned to his colleagues, he said.

Duignan estimates about three of the GLOBE auditions will make it to Toronto for filming. It remains to be seen whether Zaturecky makes the cut.

Canada pledges another \$400 million to Haiti

International donors’ conference raises over US\$9.8 billion for Haiti recovery and development

By CINDY CHAN
Epoch Times Staff

OTTAWA—Canada will provide an additional \$400 million in aid and debt relief to earthquake-devastated Haiti over the next two years, International Cooperation Minister Bev Oda announced on Wednesday.

“Recovery and reconstruction will take years and Canada will stand behind these efforts supporting the Haiti Action Plan and the priorities of the Haitian Government,” she said at United Nations headquarters in New York City during the International Donors’ Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti.

“In all of our support for Haiti, we must demonstrate accountability, transparency and results to the international community, to Canadians and, in particular, to the people of Haiti.”

The Haitian government’s Action Plan for National Recovery and Development requested US\$3.86 billion over the next 18 months.

An assessment carried out by a team of some 250 Haitian and international experts estimated that US\$11.5 billion is required to cover the total cost of reconstruction.

By Wednesday evening 59 countries or international institutions had pledged more than US\$9.8 billion over the next two years and beyond.

After a 10-year reconstruction and recovery period, the goal is to turn Haiti into an emerging country by 2030.

“We commend the Government of Haiti for providing its Action Plan, and the emphasis placed on developing a more inclusive society in Haiti,” said Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon, who led the Canadian delegation at the donors’ conference.

Amid the outpouring of aid for Haiti following the January 12 earthquake, “Individual Canadians generously donated \$220 million in support of eligible Canadian charitable organizations, an amount that will be matched by the Government,” said Minister Oda.

Of the \$220 million matching fund, half will go toward the \$400 million pledge for programs to be coordinated with international partners and the Haitian government.

The Canadian International Develop-

ment Agency will direct the remaining half toward NGOs and institutions providing aid in Haiti, she said.

Canada had earlier provided \$85 million worth of immediate humanitarian aid in January. In February, Canada announced up to \$12 million to build temporary facilities for key Haitian government departments.

Canada’s contributions make the country “the largest per capita donor in the world,” said Minister Cannon at the conference.

“This is not the end of a process but the beginning of a long road with the international community towards Haiti’s long-term recovery,” he said, adding that Haitians must be in the leadership.

The World Bank announced Wednesday that it would write off US\$39 million, totally cancelling the remaining debt owed to the bank by Haiti. Finance Minister Jim Flaherty issued a statement noting that financial contributions from Canada and 13 other countries made this possible.

Canada cancelled all debt owed by Haiti to Canada last year.

Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Belleville and former U.S. president Bill Clinton, now the U.N.’s special envoy for Haiti, will co-chair a new international commission to coordinate and deploy the aid funding.

The World Bank will administer a multi-donor Haitian Reconstruction Fund to be established to ensure sound fiscal management.

Canada co-chaired the New York conference with other leading donors to Haiti that included Brazil, the European Union, France, and Spain. The United States and U.N. co-hosted the event in cooperation with the Haitian government. Representatives from some 150 countries and 15 world bodies attended.

The earthquake directly affected about 1.5 million people, representing 15 percent of the population in the impoverished country, according to the action plan. It killed more than 300,000 people while injuring a similar number and leaving 1.3 million living in temporary shelters.

“As the rains are starting and the hurricane season is approaching, the shelter needs are especially pressing,” said Helen Clark, Chair of the U.N. Development Group, at the donors’ conference.

“It is critical that the pledges made towards the [US\$]3.86 billion required over the next 18 months to get recovery going are quickly fulfilled, and are additional to the emergency response.”

“Our goal is not just to rebuild. It is to ‘build back better,’” said U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in his opening remarks to the conference.

“What we envision, today, is wholesale national renewal, a sweeping exercise in nation-building on a scale and scope not seen in generations.”



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