

BIPARTISAN PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION CALLS FOR A 'NEW DIPLOMACY'

From U.S. Information Agency

■(WASHINGTON) America needs a new diplomacy rooted in the Information Age and designed to engage increasingly powerful foreign publics, the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy said in its report to the President and Congress.

The Commission said America's foreign affairs agencies have yet to take advantage of the growing role of foreign publics and the revolutionary advances in technology.

"We have an immense edge in a world where people and information matter more," said Chairman Lewis Manilow. "To ignore this edge would waste an incredible opportunity. To exploit this edge requires a complete rethinking of U.S. foreign affairs agencies."

The report urges foreign affairs agencies to engage publics outside foreign ministries through wider personal contacts and by creative use of the Internet, the World Wide Web, and digital video conferencing. The Commission recognizes the effectiveness of non-governmental organizations with those publics and urges diplomats to seek out ways to work together with the non-governmental organization (NGO) sector.

The Commission also recommended:

- Building a global, high-speed interactive digital network for communication within and between Washington agencies and U.S. missions abroad, and with NGOs and populations worldwide.

- Increasing polling and research studies to gain a better understanding of foreign attitudes; making these studies more broadly available to policymakers.

- Installing "firewalls" in the budgeting process so that foreign affairs agencies will not compete with domestic programs for funding.

- Decreasing foreign language radio broadcasting; plowing the savings into interactive digital communications.

- Institutionalizing inter-agency coordination on public diplomacy efforts; building a surge capacity that would allow inter-agency teams of public diplomacy experts to act quickly in crisis areas.

The bipartisan United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy is an independent, presidentially appointed citizens panel created by Congress to advise the President, Secretary of State, and U.S. Information Agency Director.

Commission members are Chairman Lewis Manilow of Chicago, Illinois; Vice Chairman William J. Hybl of Colorado

Springs, Colorado, President, United States Olympic Committee; Walter R. Roberts of Washington, DC, Diplomat-in-Residence, The George Washington University; Pamela J. Turner of Arlington, Virginia, Vice President for Government Relations, National Cable Television Association; Harold C. Pachios of Portland, Maine, partner in the

law offices of Preti, Flaherty, Beliveau and Pachios; Maria Elena Torano of Miami, Florida, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, META; and Charles H. Dolan, Jr. of Arlington, Virginia, Senior Vice President, Cassidy and Associates.

The full text of the report is available at <http://www.usia.gov> on the Internet.

FAA OFFERS HOLIDAY TRAVEL TIPS

From Federal Aviation Administration

■(WASHINGTON) Thanksgiving and December holidays, traditionally the busiest time of the year for the nation's airlines and airports, are fast approaching. With heightened security levels still in effect, the FAA this week issued seven simple suggestions to help passengers avoid delays as they travel.

- ✓ Arrive early. Large holiday crowds coupled with heightened security measures may increase the time you need to check in.

- ✓ Do not leave your car unattended in front of the terminal, it may be towed.

- ✓ Bring picture identification with you. You will be asked to show it. If you do not have a photo ID, make sure you have two pieces of identification, one of which must be issued by a government authority. However, minor children will not require identification.

- ✓ Put your name on your bags, and be prepared to answer questions about who packed your bags and whether you left them unattended. Keep an eye on your bags, and

do not accept packages from strangers.

- ✓ Carry-on as well as checked bags are subject to being hand-searched, so it's a good idea not to wrap your presents until after you arrive at your destination. If airport security cannot determine by X-ray the contents of a package, they can and will open it to be sure.

- ✓ Do not joke about having a bomb or firearm in your possession. Penalties can be severe, including the possibility of time in prison and/or fines.

- ✓ Be prepared to turn on electronic devices such as tape players or computers to verify they are what they seem.

Also, keep in mind it is against the law to bring a loaded gun or hazardous materials aboard an airplane, so leave your firearms at home, and do not pack fireworks, flammable materials, household cleaners, or pressure containers.

If you are flying domestically and want to find out if there are any special travel advisories in effect, call the Department of Transportation Travel Advisory Line at 1-800-221-0673.

