

Statement by Mr. David A. Traystman, United States Advisor (19 April 2005)

The United States congratulates the new Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Motoc of Romania, and the other members of the bureau on their election. The United States welcomes Mr. Tharoor's comprehensive statement of April 18th and would like to thank him for his able leadership of the Department. My delegation commends all members of the Department for their hard work during this past very busy year. I pledge United States support for the Department's efforts. My delegation looks forward to working with all members of this committee in a constructive manner as we consider the important issues before us.

On Tuesday, May 3rd, World Press Freedom Day will be commemorated at headquarters and at other UN offices. A cornerstone of American democracy is freedom of the press, enshrined

statistics on the number of overall page views of the UN web site in 2003 and 2004, sorted by official language, as well as the number of page views of the News Centre page and other sections of the site on which language parity has been achieved, such as the General Assembly and Security Council pages, also sorted by official language.

Commenting further on the UN web site, my delegation commends the Department for ensuring that persons with disabilities, including those with visual and hearing disabilities, are able to access the top layers of the UN web site. My delegation would like to ask the Department to clarify which pages are considered top-level pages. For instance, are all press releases accessible to persons with disabilities? My delegation would also like to know the

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Group (A/AC.198/2005/5). We note that representatives from 36 UN agencies attended the Group's annual meeting in June of 2004. As one of the key vehicles for inter-agency decision-making on the communications challenges facing the Organization, the United States looks forward to the Group's full involvement in the process of implementing the Secretary-General's reform proposals.

My delegation would also like to commend DPI for:

- Timely distribution of digital images of UN meetings and UN events;
- Live webcasting of Security Council meetings and the General Assembly's general debate, and for;
- Working closely with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in ensuring the effective deployment and ongoing functioning of public information components in peacekeeping missions.

In closing Mr. Chairman, the United States notes that the Department has a number of important campaigns on its agenda, including the Millennium + 5 Summit and the Observance of the 60th Anniversary of the UN. We wish all members of the Department well in carrying out these and other important responsibilities.

Thank you.