

Council Highlights



NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL ADVANCING GLOBAL COMMERCE

April / May 2006 Issue

Word From the President

This piece may be a test of whether anybody out there actually reads these things, since I'm going to go off-topic a bit and write about the surveillance flap that has had the inside-the-Beltway crowd all a twitter. Mind you, I'm not a legal scholar and, although I had some national security responsibilities when I was in the government, you could hardly consider me an expert on this subject. Thus, I write more as a citizen than anything else, and as such, I'm concerned – not so much with the immediate consequences but with the long term changes this could bring to our polity.

While the action the president has taken (authorizing surveillance of calls one end of which is domestic without FISA review or approval) will probably end up in the Supreme Court sooner or later, it seems clear to me that he has exceeded his legal authority. Ironically, it is also likely that Congress would have approved his actions had he asked for permission. And therein lies the truly worri-

some problem: in the absence of thorough debate and Congressional action, we risk slowly moving down a path where our rights and liberties are being circumscribed in the name of a higher priority – fighting terrorism. Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures.

Of course, we've heard that before, in the Red Scare of the early 1920s and then again from Joe McCarthy in the 1950s. The parallels are not exact, but in both those cases we overreacted to a dangerous enemy and treated some Americans very badly in the process.

We survived, just as we will survive this time around as well. When we do, it will be because concerned people stood up and said something, just as they did in the past. That is not the politically correct thing to do right now. Those that do stand the risk of being labeled as unpatriotic or worse, soft on terrorism. But the danger of silence is that of an ever-more intrusive government security apparatus in

our lives, monitoring our phone calls and emails in the name of fighting terrorism.

This is not comforting to me and it should not be comforting to you because of what happens when this responsibility is turned over to law enforcement and security people. This is done without adequate policy supervision by elected officials or the judicial branch. The job of law enforcement is to catch bad guys and minimize future risks. It is not their job to protect your rights or worry about your privacy. That is why we have political management of these functions and a judicial branch to settle the resulting arguments. When elected officials do not exercise oversight and when judges acquiesce in determined efforts to keep these issues out of the courts, our rights erode.

That, I fear, is the process that we are witnessing right now. Maybe it will right itself on its own, but history suggests that this is one way democracy erodes. It is not with soldiers in the streets but with the best of intentions in the name of a higher cause, and with a round of applause from the people.

Congressmen Meeks, Kolbe Honored at USA*Engage Annual Meeting

USA*Engage held its annual meeting on March 16, honoring Representatives Gregory Meeks (D-NY) and Jim Kolbe (R-AZ) for their support of global engagement and international trade.

Both Kolbe and Meeks have voted consistently in favor of opportunities for expanded U.S. international trade and cultural and humanitarian assistance, and have opposed efforts to either impose or continue counterproductive and ineffective unilateral U.S. sanctions USA*Engage held its annual *(continued on page 2)*

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U.S.-South Africa Business Council Submits Comments on Black Economic Empowerment Code for Multinationals;

After extensive discussion among member companies, on March 29 the U.S.-South Africa Business Council submitted its comments on the black economic empowerment “code of good practice for multinational corporations” to the South African Department of Trade and Industry. Having strongly opposed a requirement to sell 25% of equity in companies’ subsidiaries to local empowerment groups, the Council praised the flexibility the government is now showing and urged further clarification of acceptable alternatives to the sale of equity.

On April 5, the Business Council met with Deputy USTR Karan Bhatia to discuss the status of the U.S.-SACU FTA. After several months of working with South African private sector organizations, the Business Council succeeded in arranging a meeting on March 21 between South African business leaders and Robert Davies, the South African Deputy Minister of Trade to support the FTA. Bhatia and Davies meet in Pretoria on April 18 to discuss the future of the negotiations. Contact Dan O’Flaherty at doflaherty@nftc.org or Matt Mullin at mmullin@nftc.org for more information.

Congressmen Meeks, Kolbe Honored at USA*Engage Annual Meeting

(continued from page 1) meeting on March 16, honoring Representatives Gregory Meeks (D-NY) and Jim Kolbe (R-AZ) for their support of global engagement and international trade.



Congressman Jim Kolbe (R-AZ) rises to address the audience at USA*Engage’s annual lunch.

Both Kolbe and Meeks have voted consistently in favor of opportunities for expanded U.S. international trade and cultural and humanitarian assistance, and have opposed efforts to either impose or continue counterproductive and ineffective unilateral U.S. sanctions.

As NFTC President Bill Reinsch mentioned during the meeting, Representative Kolbe, who serves as Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, was present at USA*Engage’s introductory press conference in 1997 and has been a strong supporter of U.S. engagement throughout his years in Congress. He received this year’s award as he plans for his retirement

at the end of this session of Congress.

Meeks, who is on the House International Relations Committee, has a strong personal commitment to international trade and development issues. He has taken principled stands in support of free trade in recent months. In accepting his award, Meeks noted that, “People with common sense and business sense must utilize the instruments and vehicles available to them to keep our country engaged with global economic and commercial processes.”

USA*Engages commented, Jim Kolbe and Gregory Meeks as superb examples of how Republicans and Democrats can work together to advance the best interests of our country.



USA*Engage Co-Chair Bob Haines looks on as Congressman Gregory Meeks (D-NY) speaks at USA*Engage’s annual lunch.

...Jim Kolbe and Gregory Meeks as superb examples of how Republicans and Democrats can work together to advance the best interests of our country.

NFTC Pursues Potential Lawsuit over State Sudan Sanctions

On March 20 the NFTC held a meeting in Chicago and is holding another in New York on April 20 of companies interested in supporting a federal lawsuit to overturn state capital market sanctions on companies with direct or indirect business ties to Sudan. This lawsuit is based on the precedent of the 2000 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Crosby v. NFTC* in which the Supreme Court ruled that if the federal government had imposed sanctions, states could not pass sanctions that go beyond them. That was the case with the Massachusetts Burma law and it is the case with the laws currently being passed by states with respect to Sudan. The NFTC expects to choose a law firm to litigate the case during May. For additional information on this, contact Dan O'Flaherty at doflaherty@nftc.org.

USA*Engage Raises Concerns Over Iran Sanctions Renewal

USA*Engage called for "careful and thorough consideration" of Iran sanctions as Congress seeks to renew and expand sanctions measures that are set to expire this year. The group held a press briefing on April 7 to raise concern over the timing of the renewal (which coincide with rumored U.S. talks with Iran over Iraq) and substantive problems that limit the administration's ability to conduct foreign policy. USA*Engage also highlighted practical considerations. They point to difficulties groups such as Mercy Corps has had in renewing its license to offer humanitarian assistance in Iran.

In a March 31 press release, NFTC President and USA*Engage Co-Chair Bill Reinsch pointed to other concerns including good governance issues. He noted that the bill removes the sunset provision of the sanctions meaning that they would not expire until acted on by Congress. Such a provision is essential to ensure thoughtful and regular evaluation of the usefulness of sanctions.

The House International Relations Committee reported its Iran Sanctions Act, H.R. 282, out of committee on March 15. A companion bill in the Senate has not been acted upon as of this writing. There is speculation that the Senate bill could be taken up as early as this spring. For more information, contact Jake Colvin at jcolvin@nftc.org.

NFTC Weighs on Foreign Investment Review Legislation

In the wake of the Congressional reaction to the Dubai Ports World transaction, the NFTC has mounted a pro-active advocacy effort in Congress. Their goal is to ensure U.S. business views are taken into account on pending legislation to revise the government's national security review process of foreign investment by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). In addition to testifying on the current CFIUS process, the NFTC has sent letters to Members of Congress and worked closely with other business groups to ensure a united front on common principles to guide national security, among other legislative activities.

The first major legislative action was on March 30 with the 20-0 approval of legislation by the Senate Committee on Banking. While the NFTC has strong concerns with certain provisions in the bill including a new country ranking system, burdensome notification requirements and certain extended review periods, the original bill was amended in constructive ways due to active business community lobbying. Importantly, the inclusion of mandatory investigations of critical infrastructure is now related to national security and there is no congressional veto over CFIUS decisions. Other changes to current law include codifying the CFIUS process, allowing the 30-day review period to be extended by any one member of CFIUS, and adding several new congressional reporting and notification requirements.

The National Foreign Trade Council is a leading business organization advocating an open, rules-based global trading system. Founded in 1914 by a broad-based group of American companies, the NFTC now serves hundreds of member companies through its offices in Washington and New York.

International Trade and Finance

NFTC Leads 10-member Delegation Visit to Geneva

International Trade and Finance

During the week of March 19, members of the NFTC Doha Round Working Group participated in the group's eighth visit to Geneva since the Doha Round was launched in 2001. The 10-member delegation had an intensive three days of meetings with senior WTO Secretariat officials and numerous WTO Ambassadors, including the Chairs of the various negotiating groups on agriculture, goods, services, rules and intellectual property rights. The visit was timed to provide key NFTC positions on the current state of play in the negotiations as critical deadlines approach at the end of April and July.

The core NFTC messages delivered were continued support for an ambitious outcome and the vital importance of meeting the so-called "modalities" and other deadlines on agriculture, goods and services. These deadlines provide for the conclusion of negotiations by the end of 2006, in time for the agreement to be considered by Congress before the expiration of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). Other important issues of major concern were discussed, such as the ongoing consultations on the relationship between the TRIPS agreement on intellectual property rights and the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and proposals to extend Geographical Indications (GIs). On industrial market access, a key NFTC message was that the true test of a successful outcome would be meaningful and effective new market access in leading developing country markets, i.e., reducing and/or eliminating applied tariff rates through an ambitious Swiss harmonizing formula and a robust sectoral package. These and other findings from the delegation visit were highlighted in a recent presentation by NFTC Vice President, Mary Irace, at a joint NFTC and GBS public forum on the Doha modalities.

Many ambassadors agreed that an ambitious outcome was the only way forward for the Doha Round, but that political breakthroughs were necessary to get to that stage. Three major next steps were viewed as critical: the EU opening up its agriculture markets, the United States further reforming its domestic support for agriculture, and advanced developing countries, particularly Brazil and India opening up their markets for goods and services. There was also a view that the

Ex-Im Authorization Hearings Move Forward in the Senate

The Ex-Im Bank reauthorization process moved forward in March with two congressional oversight hearings in the Senate Banking Committee. The most recent hearing focused on the highly-charged issue of the economic impact review process at the Bank. Both the steel and semiconductor industries testified in support of major reforms of the existing procedures. Another issue likely to garner ongoing attention as the reauthorization process moves forward is the Bank's support of small business exporters. The NFTC will continue to work with other business groups to ensure the Ex-Im Bank is reauthorized before its charter expires on September 30.

New Member

Loeffler Tuggey Pauerstein Rosenthal LLP, founded by former Congressman Tom Loeffler (R-TX), is a national law firm that combines legal skills with business development and government affairs capabilities to develop and implement strategies for securing competitive advantages for its clients. Loeffler LLP is headquartered in San Antonio with offices in Austin and Washington, D.C. Michael P. Daniels, Partner, represents the firm in its NFTC general membership. Mr. Daniels is Chairman of Loeffler's International Trade Group and member of the Government Affairs Group. www.loefflerllp.com.

Loeffler Tuggey
Pauerstein Rosenthal LLP
Joins NFTC

House Ways and Means Holds Hearing on US-Oman FTA

Following Senate Finance Committee hearings on the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement in early March, the House Ways and Means Committee took up the agreement on April 5. Labor issues outside the agreement remain the biggest issue for Congress despite significant additional reform efforts taken by Oman in the last several weeks. The remaining concerns will likely be dealt with during the congressional Spring recess. A "best case" scenario has agreement on track to be voted on by Congress before the Memorial Day recess. The US-Middle East Free Trade Coalition is working with House members to build support for the Oman accord.



Incoming US Ambassador to Oman, flanked by the MEFTA Coalition's US-Oman FTA Task Force Co-Chairs Ian Davis, Occidental Petroleum and Diana Keegan, AIG, meets with Coalition Members before Leaving for Muscat

Saudi Ambassador Addresses MEFTA Coalition

Saudi Ambassador to the United States, H.R.H. Prince Turki Al-Faisal discussed the importance of Saudi-U.S. relations with members of the U.S.-Middle East Free Trade Coalition on March 30 in Washington. Prince Turki noted that the foundation of Saudi-US relations was based on business interests before political ties were established, and that the business community plays an important role in maintaining this relationship.

Prince Turki discussed the steps Saudi Arabia is taking to boost its economy and promote foreign investment. These steps, Prince Turki said, are having a significant positive impact on the Saudi economy.

In a question and answer session following his remarks, Prince Turki discussed a wide range of topics including the importance of improving education in the Kingdom and the important role of the business sector in expanding education opportunities in the country.



H.R.H. Prince Turki Al-Faisal, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United States addresses the U.S.-Middle East Free Trade Coalition

UAE FTA Negotiations on Track for 2006 Conclusion

With several chapters of the FTA already concluded, the investment teams of both the United States and Emirati trade negotiators are meeting in late April-early May to focus on remaining issues. In a late March visit to Washington, DC, H.E. Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi reiterated the U.A.E. commitment to move forward with the negotiations and the strengthening of the economic relationship. Coalition members maintain contact with Members of Congress, underscoring the importance to the United States or the bilateral economic relationship where the United States enjoyed a \$7 billion trade surplus in 2005.

US-Bahrain FTA Anticipates July 1st Entry into Force

The Kingdom of Bahrain has introduced IPR regulations into its parliament which put Bahraini law into compliance of the terms of the FTA. Those measures, along with promised labor reforms, are currently working their way through the Bahraini parliament. The next likely target date for the agreement to enter into force is July 1, 2006.

NFTC Deeply Concerned about the Current Status of the Doha Round

The NFTC issued a statement expressing the organization's disappointment that WTO negotiators have been unable to reach agreement on modalities for negotiations in agriculture and industrial products in the Doha Round of WTO talks. An April 30th deadline for this stage of the negotiations was set during the December Hong Kong ministerial.

"Without agreement in a very few weeks on these basic approaches for finishing the negotiations, the entire Doha Round will be in jeopardy," said Mary Irace, NFTC Vice President. "However, settling for a mediocre outcome is not an option for the American business community," Irace added.

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International Human Resource

Staff Profile: Laura Morales Jarquin



Laura Morales Jarquin's background in event planning and legal research have served her well as the National Foreign Trade Council's Manager of Administration in the New York City office. In addition to running the everyday operations of the New York City office, Laura also oversees the logistics for NFTC's various International Human Resources conferences, seminars and working committees. In addition, she provides assistance to both the Vice President and the Director of IHR Services.

A past resident of Costa Rica, Laura has put her Spanish fluency to service while being the primary contact for IHR Services members. She joined the NFTC in 2005, the same year she earned her associates degree in Business Administration. She is currently working full time while also pursuing her bachelor's degree full-time.

Successful International HR Conference Held In Houston

On March 1-2, 2006 the NFTC hosted its fifth annual international human resource management conference in Houston. The conference was opened by the NFTC Board member Don Deline, Vice President-Government Affairs, Halliburton Company, who shared some of his company's experiences from a human resource and risk management perspective with regard to Iraq and Afghanistan. Other companies on the faculty and in the audience also have employees in both countries. The major lesson was ensuring that assignees fully understand the risks as well as the rewards of assignments.

A major challenge facing major energy, energy services, and engineering and construction companies is the growing shortage of skilled technical and craft talent. This issue is especially important at this time when exploration and production is happening in more remote places both onshore and offshore. Joe Mongrain, Director-Personnel, Schlumberger Data & Consulting Service and Ian Clark, Director-Compensation & Benefits Transocean Offshore Deepwater Drilling, shared their experiences in addressing these staffing challenges.

Skill shortages were also witnessed to by Skip Schipper, General Manager-Human Resources, Microsoft and Bill McClelland, Director-International Human resources, Qualcomm. In these cases, talent sourcing is very active in China and India as not enough computer science students are graduating from American colleges and universities.

Another topic of interest is the potential disruptions to supply chains and business processes that may occur if the Avian Pandemic occurs to a major degree. Dr. Laminack of CIGNA International Expatriate Benefits, along with Dr. Conte the Medical Director at Halliburton and Julie McCashin of International SOS shared how employers can prepare for the potential 30 - 50% absentee rates and reminded the audience how international business travelers and expatriates may be at risk from a personal security perspective in countries where there a poor public health systems.

Cynthia Jackson of Baker & McKenzie, Glen Collins of Bearing Point and Ray Pascuzzi of KPMG presented on the increasingly complex issues surrounding corporate governance in a global business context.

These topics, and others from the Houston conference, will be carried into the upcoming IHR conferences in New York City on June 14-15 and in Santa Clara on July 26-27. See the NFTC website for more details on these programs or contact Laura Morales at lmorales@nftc.org.

International HR Conferences-New York City & Santa Clara

The NFTC will be hosting international human resource conferences in New York City (June 14-15, 2006) and in Santa Clara (July 26-27, 2006).

The conference theme is on Strategic Global Workforce Management, the program will include sessions led by senior corporate human resource executives and other subject-matter experts from major accounting and law firms as well as from international insurance companies. Topics include:

- Global Corporate Governance: Ignorance Is Not Bliss
- BPO and HRO: Offshoring and Multishoring
- Global Total Rewards: Issues and Answers
- The Avian Flu Pandemic: Understanding & Preparing for Global Disruption
- Updates on China and India
- Sourcing, Recruiting and Retaining Global Business Talent
- Managing Business-Sponsored Immigration
- IHR Issues in Hot & Cold Places (Asia, Central Europe, the Middle East, Russia...)
- Global Mobility Management-Policy, Process and Program Management-Lessons Learned
- IT and IHR-What is Available Today?

The agendas for these two conferences are being developed at this time. For updates see the NFTC website or contact Laura Morales at lmorales@nftc.org

International Tax

NFTC 2006 Tax Treaty Survey Analysis

Thank you to everyone that responded to the 2006 NFTC Tax Treaty Survey. The survey continues to be an important tool for NFTC members to communicate their tax treaty country wish list and issues to the U.S. Treasury and the IRS. An overview of the survey responses follows.

Country Priorities

While there was little change in the ranking of the most significant countries to NFTC member companies who responded to the survey ("respondents"), a few new countries surfaced as significant. As has happened in the past, the countries that rank in the top two tiers (those that were selected by most respondents) were clustered in groups of three or four; thereafter, a significant drop in votes per country occurs.

The countries that were identified as the most important to respondents with 58-79% of the votes (these countries were also most frequently listed as the first or second most important country by respondents) are: Canada, Brazil, and China (all results will be listed in order with those receiving the most votes listed first). The negotiation items that were listed as most significant in each country are: Canada, an overwhelmingly number of respondents listed dividend withholding as the most important item followed closely by interest withholding; Brazil, interest, royalty, and dividend withholding were all significant, followed closely by permanent establishment; and China, reducing withholding rates on interest, royalties, and dividends were uniformly important.

The countries that were in the second tier with 42 and 54% of the votes, included South Korea, Singapore, and India. This pattern repeated from last year. The 2006 responses moved Argentina and Taiwan up to this tier. The items that were selected as most important for these countries are: South Korea, royalty withholding was most important with permanent establishment, business profits, and dividend withholding following closely; Singapore, interest and royalty withholding were most frequently mentioned followed closely by permanent establishment; India, royalty withholding and permanent establishment issues had similar importance; Argentina, permanent establishment was most important, next, interest and royalty withholding received the same number of votes; and Taiwan dividend and royalty withholding were equally important items.

The countries that comprise the third tier garnered significantly fewer votes. Receiving between 24 and 29% of the votes were: Germany, Chile (new addition to this tier), Italy, Malaysia (new addition), Mexico, and Spain. The items that were selected as most important in each country were: Germany, permanent establishment, interest, and dividend withholding; Chile, dividend withholding; Italy: dividend withholding; Malaysia, dividend withholding; Mexico, interest and royalty withholding; and Spain, royalty withholding.

The next tier included the following countries in order of significance: Australia, France, Switzerland, Colombia, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. These countries received between 17 and 21% of the votes.

Question Responses

Question #1 asked respondents to expand upon any tax treaty negotiation issue that was noted in the selection of countries and items. The most frequently cited response was the enhancement of the U.S. tax treaty network to countries in which multinational companies have significant business activities. Brazil, Malaysia, Argentina, Singapore, the Middle East, and Africa were mentioned. Respondents also reiterated the importance of eliminating withholding taxes on interest, royalties, and dividends. Problems encountered in permanent establishment interpretations in Canada, India, China, the Middle East, and Africa were identified. Binding arbitration and more efficient mutual agreement procedures were also referred to in several responses (to this question and question #2). Respondents noted that significant delays were encountered in resolving examinations and that settlements were often held hostage unless taxpayers waived access to mutual agreement procedures. Recognition of U.S. LLCs in Canada was also identified as important to respondents.

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Advancing Global Commerce

The role of America in the world economy and the impact of international trade on the U.S. have never been more important. Leveraging its broad membership, expertise and influence, the NFTC is the only national business organization that exclusively advocates the international and public policy priorities of its members. From international trade, investment, tax, and export finance to human resource management, the NFTC's services and advocacy are a critical link for U.S. companies.

NFTC Deeply Concerned about the Current Status of the Doha Round

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A key representative of American business on US trade policy, the NFTC would play an important role in mobilizing companies in the legislative battle that would be needed to promote and secure the results of the Doha Round with Congress once the negotiations are completed. Commenting on this effort, Irace expressed her agreement with a recent comment by Senator Grassley in which the Senator said "... a minimalist agreement would be a bad agreement."

Irace also endorsed the sense of urgency conveyed by WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy in his remarks to WTO ambassadors earlier this week. "The NFTC welcomes the Director-General Lamy's decision to ask the Chairs of the Agriculture and NAMA groups to operate on a continuous basis and to ask all delegations to make the necessary officials continuously available over the next few weeks. However, this process will not succeed without strong political support. In this regard, we applaud Ambassador Portman's decision to travel to Geneva next week with newly-nominated USTR Susan Schwab to demonstrate the ongoing leadership and commitment of the United States to the negotiations," stated Irace. "We are on the precipice at this late stage and the choice is clear - major developed and developing countries leading the Doha Round to a successful conclusion through a big outcome that is commercially meaningful or failing to lead and missing an enormous opportunity for the Doha Round to generate solid economic growth and development in the years head," Irace stated.

International Tax

NFTC 2006 Tax Treaty Survey Analysis

(continued from page 7)

Question #2 focused on tax treaty implementation issues and asked respondents to provide details about examinations, settlement problems, and procedural issues encountered in obtaining tax treaty benefits. Onerous procedures encountered to receive reduced tax treaty withholding rates were cited most often. The countries linked to this issue were Japan, China, Portugal, and the U.K. The expansion by certain countries of what constitutes a permanent establishment and the attribution of profits to that permanent establishment (sometimes attributable to misinterpretation by tax authorities) is another issue of significant concern to respondents. The inability of the MAP and Competent Authority to resolve issues of double taxation was cited frequently with reference to Canada, Germany, Japan, and Korea. While mandatory arbitration was mentioned as an important provision to add to U.S. treaties, some respondents did not believe that it would solve the problems experienced with countries that have been problematic. Transfer pricing issues were noted as significant problems with OECD and non-OECD member countries. Canada and Australia were specifically identified.

Thank you again to those that took the time to respond to the *2006 NFTC Tax Treaty Survey*, your responses provided valuable information. The information has been provided to the U.S. Treasury and Internal Revenue Service officials with responsibilities in the tax treaty area.

Tricia Brown Addressed NFTC Tax Committee

Tricia Brown, Deputy International Tax Council, Treaty Affairs, U.S. Treasury, spoke to NFTC members at the April 5th, Tax Lunch Forum. She was joined by Henry Louie, International Economist, in the Treasury's Office of Tax Policy who works with Ms. Brown on tax treaty matters. The NFTC holds regular tax lunch forums to update tax committee members on current international tax topics.

Ms. Brown has an excellent track record in the tax treaty area. Her remarkable accomplishments include many significant tax agreements of importance to multi-national companies. The NFTC is thrilled to count her as a longtime friend.

Several agreements are near completion, per Ms. Brown's remarks, and could be finished in time for a tax treaty hearing before the end of this congressional session. Included in that group are Finland, Denmark, and Norway. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has committed to schedule a fall Tax Treaty Ratification hearing if the agreements are finished by early summer. Ms. Brown also noted that the U.S. Model Tax Treaty is substantially complete and could be discussed at a fall hearing.

A fall hearing would be the second to be held this year. Protocols with Sweden, France, and a tax treaty with Bangladesh were the subject of a February 2006 ratification hearing. Bill Reinsch, NFTC President, recommended early ratification of the tax agreements in his testimony. His remarks followed those of Barbara Angus, International Tax Counsel, Department of the Treasury, and Thomas Barthold, Acting Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Taxation. Those agreements were ratified by the Senate March on 31 and will come into force when the instruments of



Tricia Brown, Deputy International Tax Council, Treaty Affairs, U.S. Treasury, spoke to NFTC members at the April 5th, Tax Lunch Forum.

Council Highlights

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
May 2, 2006	First Meeting of the US-Vietnam Business Coalition	Washington, DC
May 17, 2006	Tax Steering Committee Meeting/ Tax Lunch Forum - Speaker: Barbara Felker, Chief, Branch 3, Office of the Associate Chief Counsel (International) IRS	Washington, DC
June 6, 2006	International Benefits Committee (IBC) Committee	New York, NY
June 14 - 15	Annual IHR Conference	New York, NY
June 22, 2006	Tax Steering Committee Meeting/ Tax Lunch Forum	Washington, DC
June 26-27, 2006	Board of Directors Dinner and Meeting	TBA
July 26, 2006	Tax Steering Committee Meeting/ Tax Lunch Forum	Washington, DC
July 26 -27	Annual IHR Conference	Santa Clara
August 2, 2006	Global Mobility Seminar	Cleveland, OH
August 3, 2006	Global Mobility Seminar	Detroit, MI
September 12-14, 2006	Expatriate Management Committee (EMC) Meeting	New York, NY
September 26-28, 2006	International Assignment Management Committee (IAMC) Meeting	San Francisco, CA
September 27-28, 2006	Fall Tax Committee Meeting	Washington, DC
October 12, 2006	International Benefits Committee (IBC) Meeting	New York, NY
November 2, 2006	Tax Steering Committee Meeting/ Tax Lunch Forum	Washington, DC
December 6, 2006	Tax Steering Committee Meeting/ Tax Lunch Forum	Washington, DC
Fall 2006	Annual World Trade Dinner and Award Ceremony	Washington, DC
Fall 2006	NFTC Annual Meeting	Washington, DC
Fall 2006	Board of Meeting	Washington, DC

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USA  ENGAGE



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