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Global Transshipment and Enforcement Seminar:  
Synergies of Strategic Trade Controls Elements  
Bangkok, Thailand  
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Opening Remarks**

On behalf of Ambassador Boyce and the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you, in conjunction with our hosts from the Royal Thai Government, to Bangkok and to the Global Transshipment and Enforcement Seminar.

The United States and Thailand have been eager to bring together representatives of the world community especially from nations and entities with a significant transshipment trade, to address the importance of nonproliferation and strategic trade controls. Your attendance at this seminar is a clear demonstration of your country's leadership and commitment to ending the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, related technologies, and advanced conventional weapons. Your involvement in discussions at this seminar will help provide practical solutions as to how we can work together as a world community to improve national and global security.

The United States believes that halting the threat of proliferation is a critical element of every country's international security policy. Nonproliferation is integral to the security of all countries.

In fact, the international community recognized over two years ago that all responsible countries must take action to combat the proliferation threat. In April 2004, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1540, which stated that all states shall take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent proliferation, including by passing necessary laws and adopting effective enforcement methods.

UNSCR 1540 has just recently had its mandate renewed for another two years through Resolution 1673, which calls for an intensified effort on the part of all states to promote the full implementation of UNSCR 1540. This resolution encompasses (a) accountability, (b) physical protection, (c) border controls and law enforcement efforts and (d) national export and trans-shipment controls including controls on providing funds and services such as financing to such export and trans-shipment.

Turning for a moment to U.S. nonproliferation policy, we concentrate our efforts particularly on the dangerous activities of states and regimes that disregard international nonproliferation norms, whose governments are hostile to our allies and to us.

At present, the threat from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is particularly high. Many of the countries/entities represented here sit astride some of the major smuggling routes of proliferators, rouge states and terrorist organizations. You may not be proliferators or have a destabilizing weapons program, but because of your geographic location or developing international trade patterns, your country and territory may be vulnerable to being used by proliferators or those seeking to violate international nonproliferation norms.

The globalization of trade has made proliferation a truly global problem. Ever-expanding international trade markets, and technological advances allowing goods and people to move rapidly around the world. But the many benefits of globalization also carry with them new problems for law enforcement. The growing complexity of this trade has made it more

difficult to track the flow of WMD and the materials needed to produce them.

We can address this problem by working together and learning from each other. That's what we hope to accomplish at this seminar and that is why the mission of the U.S. Government's Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program, the sponsor of this event, is critical to our success in combating weapons proliferators. Programs like EXBS promote direct international cooperation to address the problem of global proliferation.

Recognizing that the supply of WMD-related items is increasing, responsible governments realize that it is no longer enough to simply monitor the sensitive goods produced in their own country -- they must also be vigilant to the flow of sensitive goods that merely transit their territory.

Many of the nations at this seminar are striving to adopt better transit and transshipment controls to keep up with increasingly sophisticated proliferation networks.

They are working to tighten their control over these goods because they recognize that it is in every nation's interests, in particular those nations whose economies depend on international commerce, to prevent proliferators from taking advantage of the legitimate trading system to acquire weapons.

In conclusion, adopting comprehensive strategic trade controls, including transshipment and brokering controls, is a concrete step that all nations can take to halt the spread of WMD and prevent terrorists from obtaining the world's most lethal weapons.

We are gathered here at this seminar, to strengthen the dialogue among like-minded partners on strategic trade controls and to find new ways to work together to address the international problem of weapons proliferation.

I would like to wish you all a productive seminar. This is an excellent opportunity to exchange new ideas and open avenues for continuing cooperation.

It is now my privilege to introduce John Clark, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, at the Department of Homeland Security to present one of the seminar's keynote addresses.

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