

Global Vision

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GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD UNITE:

Opening of the 64th United Nations General Assembly

REPORTING BY DR. JEFFREY BRADFORD

New York City in September plays host annually to the official opening of the United Nations General Assembly. The event brings together many of the world's heads of state in one city creating an array of diplomatic challenges and security challenges – all amidst a city oblivious to the event and indeed more focused on their beloved New York Yankees baseball team's chances in the World Series.

Prior to the opening event months of frenetic activity amongst the world's diplomatic corps craft and refine an agenda acceptable to, literally, the nations of the world. This agenda is then adopted and considered for the next several months by delegates, choices weighed and decisions put forward to better the state of the planet and its people. The opening of the sixty-fourth General Assembly was marked by speeches from recently elected US President Barack Obama and attracting wide attention were speeches from the Libyan and Iranian Premiers Col. Muammar Abu Minyar al-Qadhafi and President Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad. The new US President spoke at length about the challenges faced by the world community, and that the destiny of the United Nations reflects in many ways what its members choose to do, "Now it falls to us -- for this institution will be what we make of it. The United Nations does extraordinary good around the world -- feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, mending places that have been broken. But it also struggles to enforce its will, and to live up to the ideals of its founding."

The Libyan leader attended the United Nations opening session for the first time, in a period when his country holds a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council and is

acting as President of the current General Assembly session. Col. al-Qadhafi expressed concern about the economic and food crisis and in particular the need for the continent of Africa to possess a permanent presence at the United Nations Security Council.

The President of Iran was keen to address efforts to remedy the economic crisis as being unreal, "It is no longer possible to inject thousands of billions of dollars of unreal wealth into the world economy simply by printing worthless paper". His discussion of Iran's civil nuclear program was overshadowed by further revelations concerning the

existence of Uranium enrichment plants – used exclusively for the manufacture of weapons-grade nuclear materiel. The opening session sets the agenda for the coming year of United Nations diplomatic business. The agenda is organised into nine areas (of which one is the not unimportant discussion list of administrative related issues) and contains some previous issues as well as newer ones. Some of the more substantive and interesting issues on the agenda for the coming session include;

- Maintenance of international peace and security
- Promotion of sustained economic growth
- Development of Africa
- Promotion of Human Rights
- Coordination of humanitarian assistance
- Promotion of justice and international law
- Disarmament (principally weapons of mass destruction although also small arms)
- Drug control, crime prevention
- Administrative matters



MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD, PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, ADDRESSES THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AT UN HEAD-QUARTERS IN NEW YORK



MUAMMAR AL-QADHAFI, LEADER OF THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, ADDRESSES THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ADDRESSES THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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