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THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF ASIAN RESEARCH

Strategic Asia 2002 – Final Report
U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration

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Program Activities 2002 – Final Narrative Report

The Strategic Asia Program made considerable progress over the course of 2002—the program's first year with support from the Department of Energy—and completed all its tasks on schedule and within budget. Following a planning meeting in Washington in February 2002, a team of leading specialists wrote a series of original assessments regarding the impact of September 11 on the strategic environment in Asia, examining how perceptions and strategies of countries in the region changed following the terrorist attacks. The final products, *Strategic Asia 2002–03: Asian Aftershocks* and its accompanying executive summary, were published in September 2002. The program's research findings (some of which are summarized below) were presented to policymakers in Washington and elsewhere throughout the year, and almost 2,000 copies of the book had been distributed by mid-2003.

Major Activities – Highlights

1) Research planning meeting at the Library of Congress on February 28, 2002. Members of the research team who traveled to Washington to participate included:

- Aaron Friedberg, Princeton University (Research Director)
- Richard Ellings, NBR (Program Director)
- Thomas Christensen, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (China)
- Stephen Cohen, Brookings Institution (South Asia)
- Nicholas Eberstadt, American Enterprise Institute (Korea)
- Robert Hefner, Boston University (Islam and Asian security)
- Martha Olcott, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (Central Asia)
- Richard Samuels, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Japan)
- Sheldon Simon, Arizona State University (Southeast Asia)
- William Wohlforth, Dartmouth College (Russia)

2) Publication of the second annual volume. Draft chapters were completed and underwent external review by a group of academic and government specialists in June and July. The book was published in early September. *Strategic Asia 2002–03: Asian Aftershocks* showed that the September 11 attacks did not alter underlying trends toward increasing concentration of power in Asia. It examined the risks and opportunities of the extension of U.S. power and influence across the region. Notable findings from the book included:

- Marked turnaround in U.S.-Russia relations
- Chinese policy toward the United States still being driven by the Taiwan issue
- China using proliferation to counter perceived U.S. containment
- North Korean proliferation and arms issues likely to increase significantly in 2003
- For first time, the United States a key external player in South Asia

Attachments: Copy of the executive summary. (not attached)

3) Briefings for government. Senior advisor General (ret.) John Shalikashvili and members of program's management team (Richard Ellings, Aaron Friedberg, Karolos Karnikis, and Michael Wills) in 2002 discussed the program with:

- Department of Energy (National Nuclear Security Administration): Linton Brooks, Stephen Black, and Scott Davis (Washington in February), and Scott Davis (Richland in August)
- National Security Agency: Timothy Miner, SIGINT National Intelligence Officer for East Asia (Washington in April)
- U.S. Pacific Command: Admiral Dennis Blair and General Thomas Case (Honolulu in March), and Major General Ronald Lowe and Rear Admiral William Sullivan (Honolulu in July)
- U.S. government departments and agencies: Inter-agency roundtable discussion hosted at the National Nuclear Security Administration: Trisha Dedik, Scott Davis (Washington in September)

4) Launch and development of the Strategic Asia database. The online database was formally launched in February 2002, although updates to the indicators and other system enhancements (including increased compatibility) continued through the year. Live demonstrations were conducted at government and academic institutions, as well as during NBR meetings and events. In April 2002, NBR showcased the database to hundreds of Asia specialists during the annual conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) in Washington.

5) Dissemination of the report. By mid-2003, almost 2,000 copies of *Asian Aftershocks* had been distributed to the government, the military, policymaking, and academic communities. The book was adopted as a core text at numerous colleges (especially military education establishments). Sales were up significantly compared to the first book.

6) Evaluation survey. In February and March 2003, NBR conducted an online evaluation survey among people who had received the book and/or executive summary, asking about their use and opinions of the Strategic Asia publications and database. The survey revealed high percentages of satisfaction, especially among academic and government respondents, with 91 percent rating the program's products as "good" or "excellent."

Attachments: Copy of the evaluation survey report. (not attached)

Support

Support from the Department of Energy was crucial to success of the Strategic Asia Program in 2002, and demonstrates the effectiveness of the private-public partnership model. In addition to a major grant from the Department of Energy, sponsorship came from a range of foundations and corporations, including the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, Henry M. Jackson Foundation, AOL/Time-Warner, Bank of America, Boeing, and Microsoft.