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**Obama Announces Creation of Trade Enforcement Unit**

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# Foreign Policy Bulletin

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

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The Middle East again takes center stage in US foreign policy this quarter. The increasing tempo of conflict in Syria, with the Assad regime brutally attacking opponents, has forced the world to seek a response. Unfortunately, no quick answer seems likely, as UN Security Council members disagree over a course of action, and the risks that intervention will trigger even greater violence have deterred action. At the same time, tensions are rising with regard to Iran's nuclear program, with further sanctions sought against the regime.

Also noteworthy are two major shifts in the structure of America's main foreign policy institutions - the Department of State and the US Agency for International Development. The State Department has instituted a quadrennial policy review, inspired by a similar process in the Defense Department. USAID has instituted new standards to encourage efficiency, innovation, and demonstrable results. We cover some of the implications of both changes in this issue.

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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