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EDITOR'S NOTE

Happy New Year! Despite all the issues continuing to trouble us, there is considerable good news to report in this issue. The last U.S. troops have left Iraq, hopefully concluding a long and difficult war of counter-insurgency and sectarian strife. The separation of Sudan and the creation of a new South Sudanese nation, though beset with some local violence, has occurred without the major war that many feared. The government of Myanmar has reduced political restrictions and allowed democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi to return to public life. U.S. free trade agreements with Korea, Panama, and Columbia, long stalled, have finally been ratified.

It would be wonderful if the United States' foreign policy concerns were all resolved so well. Yet concerns about the Euro and the lack of a final agreement to reinforce the weaker Eurozone economies still weigh on global growth; conflict in Afghanistan and terrorism in Pakistan continues to claim lives; and transnational networks for smuggling drugs, people and other contraband continue to spread their disruption in Latin America, west Africa, and south Asia.

All these issues drew attention from U.S. foreign policy makers, as detailed in this issue. In the year ahead, we hope to continue to have the good news outweigh the bad. Follow it all, here in the pages of *Foreign Policy Bulletin*.

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