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REMARKS BY
AMBASSADOR JAMES F. MORIARTY

DHAKA, NOVEMBER 17 -- U.S. Ambassador James F. Moriarty made the following remarks at the Signing Ceremony of the Megaports Initiative MOU at the Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka today:

(Begin Text)

Secretary Musharraf, Assistant Deputy Administrator Huizenga, officials from the Ministry of Shipping, the National Board of Revenue and the Chittagong Port Authority; thank you for your contribution to this important agreement. The Megaports Initiative marks the beginning of a new chapter in our joint efforts to counter terrorist activity and enhance economic development.

America's bilateral relations with Bangladesh are based on three pillars, which I refer to as the three D's: democracy, development, and denial of space to terrorists. The Megaports Initiative plays a crucial role in denying space to terrorists.

In today's world, terrorism is not limited to particular countries. Terrorists and their sympathizers transit through all countries, including freedom-loving countries like the United States and Bangladesh. A single terrorist act often involves individuals and materials from several countries. Just as globalization affects world commerce, terrorism also knows no geographic boundaries. It is increasingly imperative, therefore, to detect and prevent dangerous materials from crossing international borders and passing through maritime ports.

Through the Megaports Initiative, the U.S. Department of Energy will provide technical assistance and training to detect and interdict nuclear and other radioactive material at the Port of Chittagong, Bangladesh's gateway to the world.

The Megaports Initiative currently operates at 19 major ports across the world and is in the planning stage at numerous other ports. Shipping companies will gravitate to these ports, confident in the secure and efficient handling of their cargo. The Megaports Initiative, therefore, not only mitigates terrorist activity, but also encourages trade - further enhancing economic development.

I applaud the vision of the Megaports Initiative to make a more secure and prosperous world. I applaud the Government of Bangladesh for their commitment to keeping terrorists and their dangerous cargoes away from Bangladesh's shores. And I am proud to be here today for the launch of this important program.

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** As prepared for delivery*

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