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TELEVISION PROGRAM TO "CBS NEWS' FACE THE NATION. "***

CBS News

FACE THE NATION

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GUESTS: CONDOLEEZZA RICE
Secretary of State

HOWARD DEAN
Chairman, Democratic
National Committee

ELISABETH BUMILLER
Reporter, The New
York Times

MODERATOR: BOB SCHIEFFER - CBS News

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FACE THE NATION - CBS NEWS
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BOB SCHIEFFER, host:

Today on FACE THE NATION: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the head of the Democratic Party, Howard Dean; Muslims protesting cartoons all over the world; Iran defies the world and says it will press on with its nuclear program; Russia breaks with the West over how to deal with Hamas, the terrorist group that now holds sway over the Palestinians.

Those are just a few of the problems on Secretary Rice's plate. We'll ask her about all of them. And do the Democrats have a better answer? We'll ask Howard Dean about that. Elisabeth Bumiller of The New York Times will join in the questions. And I'll have a final word on old Brownie and the problems with managing disasters. But first, Secretary of State Rice on FACE THE NATION.

Announcer: FACE THE NATION with CBS News chief Washington correspondent Bob Schieffer. And now from CBS News in Washington, Bob Schieffer.

SCHIEFFER: Good morning again. And with us this morning, the secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice. She's in the studio. Joining in the questioning, Elisabeth Bumiller of The New York Times.

Madame Secretary, welcome. I want to get right to this controversy about these cartoons that have set off these riots, literally, around the world. You said last week that you believe Iran and Syria are using these riots to basically stir up anti-American feelings around the country, and you said the world ought to call them on it. How do you call them on it? What do you do?

Secretary of State CONDOLEEZZA RICE: Well, first of all, this has been a very difficult period of time for everybody. While we certainly understand that there is genuine outrage, there are people who were genuinely offended by the cartoons--many many people found them offensive; I found them offensive--but, obviously, there's also a press freedom involved here, but a press responsibility involved. Now, that said, whatever your views of this, the violence and going into the streets and burning embassies and killing innocent people is totally unacceptable. And there are leaders in the Muslim world who have spoken out against that. Like the Grand Ayatollah Sistani in Iraq. You got a different response in Iran, for instance, where they said, 'Well, all right, we'll just print anti-Holocaust there--we'll print Holocaust cartoons that are offensive to Jewish people to stir up and to continue,' the president of Iran out on the streets inciting people. In Syria last weekend when the embassy of Norway was burned, we said to the Syrian government directly, 'These are incited riots, and they need to be controlled.' And so it's a question of how governments have responded to this, not a question of how people ought to respond to the cartoons.

SCHIEFFER: Well, is there anything really in the end that we can do about it? I mean, you say you have spoken to this--the Syrian government. Obviously, we don't have relations with Iran. Is there anything beyond just you speaking out on FACE THE NATION that can be done about this?

Sec. RICE: I think it's just very important to draw a distinction between people who go out and protest peacefully, as people might do in any place if they're offended by something that appears in a newspaper, from the incitement to violence that is really beyond the pale, and we have to draw that distinction. I'm hopeful that more and more governments and more and more leaders are going to speak out for the need for calm. I think that the Danish prime minister has said that he understands the feelings of people. But this just reminds us that we are in a world in which we need to have tolerance and understanding of each other. And that it's in short supply.

SCHIEFFER: One other question, I would just note that Coif Annan of the UN says that he sees no evidence that Syria and Iran are taking part in this.

Sec. RICE: Well, I think we understand the nature of the Syrian and Iranian regimes. You don't just go out in the streets of Iran and protest spontaneously, and in the streets of Syria and protest spontaneously. The Syrian and Iranian governments have very good control of these things. There were plenty of...

SCHIEFFER: Well, why wouldn't he...

Sec. RICE: ...Syrian intelligence around at the time that this happened.

SCHIEFFER: I don't want to spend the whole program on this, but why would Kofi Annan say something of that nature?

Sec. RICE: I'm not going to get into an argument with the secretary-general about this. I think we both have the same view, which is that governments need to tamp down, not stir up. I would just remind people that when a government says, 'Our response ought to be to tell our newspapers to print anti--to print Holocaust cartoons,' that's not tamping down the situation, that's incitement.

SCHIEFFER: Which is--which is what the Iranians did.

Sec. RICE: Which is what the Iranian government said. If that's not incitement, I don't know what is.

SCHIEFFER: Elisabeth:

Ms. ELISABETH BUMILLER (The New York Times): Let me go to Iran. A number of people in your administration have said, as you know, that there's not much we can do ultimately to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. So what--moving ahead, what is your strategy for dealing with that probability?

Sec. RICE: Well, let me say that I don't know--yes, maybe some people are saying this anonymously. It's certainly not our view, certainly not the view of the president, certainly not my view. Our view is that if there is a robust international response to Iran in the Security Council, if there's the kind of unity that has been demonstrated in the recent weeks when the entire permanent five--China, Russia, the United States, Great Britain and

France--are united with countries like Brazil and India and others, to say to the Iranians, 'Yes, you can have peaceful nuclear power, but you cannot have technologies that might lead to a nuclear weapon'--if we have that kind of robust response, that kind of unity, I think we can prevent Iran from having a nuclear weapon.

Ms. BUMILLER: Would you not say, though, that right now, that pressure seems to be pushing Iran into a corner, and it's reacting by being even more insistent that it pursue its nuclear ambitions?

Sec. RICE: Well, what's pushing Iran into a corner is Iran's own behavior. Everybody has tried to give Iran a way out. If I could just review, back in--more than a year ago, when I first went to Europe, I remember thinking that somehow people thought the United States was the problem, not Iran, that we weren't prepared to really support the EU3 negotiations. We came out and supported them completely. We came out and supported the Russian proposal completely. And that has demonstrated to the world that it is Iran that is isolating itself.

Now, Iran has a way out. And I want to say it's not the Iranian people, it's the Iranian regime that is isolating Iran, because they can take any of the proposals on the table which would not give them access to these dangerous technologies, they can have a path to peaceful nuclear energy, and they can be back in the community of responsible states. But they've taken a different path thus far. We now have to remain united so that they realize there isn't another path.

SCHIEFFER: Let me ask you this, Madam Secretary, and it has to do with Mr. Putin of Russia. When you moved this to the United Nations, it's my understanding that you slowed down the UN taking any action on it for a month or so, at the request of the Russians. More and more, we see Putin taking positions that are different than those of the United States. On Hamas, when they took over and won the parliamentary elections in Israel, Mr. Putin says he's going to invite them to come to Moscow. Israel says that's a stab in the back, because everybody and others in the West are saying, you know, 'We're not going to give them any aid until they announce that Israel has a right to exist,' and so on and so on. What's going on with President Putin of Russia? Are you satisfied with the way he's handling things these days?

Sec. RICE: Well, let me make a general point. In general, I think we have very good relations with Russia, probably the best relations that have been there for quite some time. We cooperate in the war on terror, we cooperate in a number of areas. Obviously, we have some differences, too. But on the Iranian situation we've actually had very good cooperation with the Russians.

Sometimes in order to have everybody come on board, you have to give a little and they have to give a little. They did not think that it was quite time to go to the Security Council, because they wanted to have time to explore their proposals, they wanted to have time to get further reports from the IAEA. We said, 'It has to be in the Security Council now, but we will wait until there's another final report from the IAEA and until you've fully explored

your proposals with the Iranians.' That has given us unity on the Iran cause.

On Hamas: Yes, the Russians make the point that they, unlike us, have not listed Hamas as a terrorist organization. Let me be very clear, Hamas is a terrorist organization for us and for the European Union. But Russia is signed on to a quartet statement, the quartet being the UN, the United States, the EU and Russia--that is the sort of guardian of the road map process in the Middle East. That the quartet has signed on to a statement that says a Palestinian government must recognize Israel's right to exist, must give up violence, must accept the two-state solution and so on. The Russians assure us, after President Putin's comments, that anything that they say to Hamas will simply be to reinforce that message.

SCHIEFFER: Well, Israel says it's a stab in the back, is how it just said. Do you think that somehow Russia is trying to re-establish itself, and try to regain the position that it once held in the Middle East? Because it doesn't have much of a say in what goes on there anymore, and there was a time when it did. Is that what this is all a part of?

Sec. RICE: Well, the Russians have decided on their own course, that perhaps it would be helpful for them to have contact with Hamas because they don't recognize it as a terrorist organization. What we're concentrating on is making certain that the message to Hamas is a consistent one, and that message simply has to be that the right to Israel exist cannot be in question--the right of Israel to exist cannot be in question. How can you have a peace process, how can you have a two-state solution if you believe in violence and you don't recognize the right of one of the parties to exist?

Ms. BUMILLER: Dr. Rice, did President Bush misjudge Mr. Putin when he said that he had looked into his eyes and seen his soul? I mean, he has been--there's been a lot of troubles in behavior and developments since then from Russia.

Sec. RICE: Well, Russians--we certainly have had our differences, we've certainly had our commonalties as well. I think the president retains a very good relationship with President Putin. Obviously, we are very concerned, particularly about some of the elements of democratization in Russia that seem to be going in the wrong direction. This is not the Soviet Union, let's not overstate the case. I was a Soviet specialist. I can tell you that Russia bears almost no resemblance to the Soviet Union. But clearly, the law on nongovernmental organizations is a problem. Clearly, the use of energy in the way that it was used concerning Ukraine is a problem. And Russia is about to--it is now the president of the G8 process. We would hope for behavior that is befitting the president of the G8 process.

SCHIEFFER: Well--and this will be the last question, but let me just ask you this because there are a lot of people saying they have no business being the host of the G8 Summit, as you're well aware. Do you, at this point, think that Mr. Putin shares the values of the other members of the G8?

Sec. RICE: Well, I do believe that Vladimir Putin is a Russian patriot who

believes in a more open Russia than certainly the one that was the center of the Soviet Union, and we see that. I think the question is open as to where Russia's future development is going. But I don't see that there is anything positive to be gained by the isolation of Russia from institutions where those values are demanded of its members, from institutions where those values are practiced by those members, and so we have a choice. We can say, 'All right, it's all gone bad in Russia, and therefore we're just going to go back to the old days and isolate them from these institutions, like the NATO-Russia Council or the G8.' Or we can continue to say to the Russians, 'Yes, we want you in these institutions but we expect behavior that is consistent with the values of those institutions,' and indeed challenge not just Vladimir Putin, but Russia as a--as a whole, Russia as a polity, the Russian people to fully integrate those values into their future.

SCHIEFFER: Madame Secretary, it's always a pleasure to have you. Thank you for coming.

We'll be back in a moment with the Democratic Party chairman, Howard Dean.

(Sponsorship of segment)

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: And we're back now with Howard Dean, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Mr. Dean, welcome. Let me ask you something. We talked a lot about Iran and the threat that it poses to the United States in the interview we just had with the secretary. What would you do if the administration came to the American people and said, 'There's no other way. We think they've got a nuclear weapon and we're going to have to take military action.' What would the Democratic response to that be?

Mr. HOWARD DEAN (Chairman, Democratic National Convention): First, I'd be amazed because this president I think has been weak on defense, not strong. He's been in the White House for five years. We have nuclear weapons in North Korea, nothing's been done about it; making little progress in Iraq, it's been five years sending our troops abroad with no body armor; misleading the American people about why we're in Iraq; on and on it goes. I have long thought and said publicly that this president sent us to Iraq without justification because the real problem is Iran.

Iran is a terrorist government. We cannot permit them to have nuclear weapons under any circumstances. The president has said, properly so, that no option can be taken off the table, and I think that's true.

SCHIEFFER: Elisabeth:

Ms. BUMILLER: Let me go to politics, domestic politics. Senator Chris Dodd told The New York Times last week that the Democrats seemed to be losing their voice when it comes to the basic things that people worry about. I mean,

you're the chairman of the party, do you agree with that assessment?

Mr. DEAN: It's certainly not true. I can tell you--I can tell you what our agenda is for the '06 elections, which we have agreed to go with Senator Reid, Leader Pelosi and others. One, we want honesty and openness back in government again. Two, we want a strong national defense, first of all, based on telling the truth to our citizens and our soldiers before we send troops abroad to defend America. Three, we want American jobs that will stay in America using energy independence as a new industry to create millions of construction and manufacturing jobs. Four, we want a health-care system that works for everybody, just like 36 other countries have in the world. And, five, we want a strong public education system so we can have optimism and opportunity back in America. I think that's a pretty good agenda, and I think it's one that can win it for us in '06.

Ms. BUMILLER: Do--do you think you've had trouble getting traction on this agenda?

Mr. DEAN: Nope.

Ms. BUMILLER: I mean, do--I mean, there seems to be a lot of dismay in the party about its ability to, you know...

Mr. DEAN: Well, I don't think one senator's dismay qualifies dismay in the party.

Ms. BUMILLER: Well, I think there's more than one.

Mr. DEAN: Well, there may be some, but I think, you know, Senator Reid has worked hard inside his caucus to get agreement on this agenda. We've for the first time in a long time had mayors, governors, the Congress and the House and the DNC all sitting at the same table. We think this is a real agenda for change.

We're going to win a majority in the House and maybe the Senate if we are the party of change, and that's what we need to be. We do not need to behave like the Republicans. We need to be very clear that we want fundamental election reform and ethics reform. That we're going to turn around our posture on defense and really be vigorous about the real problems which are North Korea and Iran and strategically redeploy our troops so they're out of harm's way in Iraq. We need to reverse the downslide that's happened to this country under President Bush, and we will.

SCHIEFFER: The chairman of the Republican National Committee, your counterpart, and the vice president say they believe that this election ought to be about national security. The vice president suggested last week that the debate over eavesdropping should be a political issue, basically, in the coming election. In other words, he said, 'We need to put this on the table. We're trying to protect America, and the Democrats don't seem to understand that.'

Mr. DEAN: Bob, as you know, there was testimony this week leaked from the grand jury that it may be the vice president that leaked security information in a time of war in order to discredit political opponents. I don't think the vice president has any credibility on national security whatsoever, and I think he's in deep trouble. If it turns out that Scooter Libby, who said this week that his superiors ordered him to leak the information for political reasons, then this vice president may not be vice president very much longer.

SCHIEFFER: And just to make sure everyone understands what we're talking about, this is that leak investigation about who disclosed that--an administration...

Mr. DEAN: Right.

SCHIEFFER: ...critic Joe Wilson's wife was an undercover operative for...

Mr. DEAN: Right.

SCHIEFFER: ...the Central Intelligence Agency. And just to make sure everyone understands what we're talking about, this is that leak investigation about who disclosed that...

Mr. DEAN: Right.

SCHIEFFER: ...an administration critic Joe Wilson's wife...

Mr. DEAN: Right.

SCHIEFFER: ...was an undercover operative for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. DEAN: President promised two years ago that he would fire the leaker. He hasn't kept his promise. Karl Rove is not only still working in the White House, but he has security clearance. Now it turns out that the vice president of the United States may have been responsible for those leaks for political reasons. That is the kind of thing that has not been done to my knowledge since Aaron Burr was vice president.

SCHIEFFER: Well, what's the remedy here? Should--if it turns out that the vice president was the one who leaked that information. So far there's been no indictment.

Mr. DEAN: That's correct.

SCHIEFFER: Are you suggesting indictment or would you suggest impeachment as a recourse?

Mr. DEAN: Well, I would suggest that we find out if it's true or not.

SCHIEFFER: Well, if it is, what?

Mr. DEAN: If it is true, the president can't remain in office.

SCHIEFFER: The vice president.

Mr. DEAN: The vice--excuse me. The vice president cannot remain in office. If that's true, the vice president cannot remain in office. And it turns out if what Scooter Libby's testified, that his superior--and he has only one. If you're the chief of staff to somebody, that is your superior. Scooter Libby testified to the Grand Jury that his superior ordered him or suggested that he leak the information to the press in order to discredit one of their political opponents, if that happened in a time of war, that--the vice president cannot sit in the office he now occupies.

Ms. BUMILLER: What does that mean specifically? Are you asking him to step down? Or are you saying there should...

Mr. DEAN: I'm saying we need find out first if this is true or not. This is an allegation that was made to the Grand Jury.

Ms. BUMILLER: But what course of action are you recommending here? I to having the vice president step down or moving toward indictment?

Mr. DEAN: The first course of action I recommend is that we find out if this is true or not. Because I don't recommend not--I'm not going to recommend a course of action.

SCHIEFFER: Right. Well, let's...

Mr. DEAN: But if it is true, then the president has to step aside.

SCHIEFFER: What--would you favor an impeachment proceeding?

Mr. DEAN: I think that's getting a little far down the road. I think first we have to find out if it's true. It's been alleged by Scooter Libby that--who has been indicted for leaking information, that his superiors ordered him to leak that information. If that's true--his superior is Vice President Cheney. If that is true, Vice President Cheney cannot remain in office.

Ms. BUMILLER: Mr. Dean, let me ask you about Ken Mehlman, the chairman of the Republican Party, said last week that Hillary Clinton was angry and--too angry, and that Americans will not elect an angry candidate. What do you say to that?

Mr. DEAN: Well, first of all I generally don't talk about 2008 because I have to be the referee in that race and if I say anything about one of them I've got to say something...

Ms. BUMILLER: Wait, we're just talking about what Mr. Mehlman said. We're not talking...

Mr. DEAN: I'm going to get to that in a minute.

Ms. BUMILLER: OK.

Mr. DEAN: So I'm going to leave the question of Senator Clinton's remarks aside. If I recall, Senator Clinton said something to the effect that this was the worst presidency we've seen. Now, the facts are that they've bungled the response to Katrina, and they--and there's more evidence now the president misled the nation about that as well, because this week we see evidence that, in fact, as he told the American people, he--the opposite of what he told the American people. He did, in fact, know how bad it was because the White House was told the night before. He misled the American people about Iraq.

Ms. BUMILLER: But let me just...

Mr. DEAN: He misled the American people about the cost of the drug benefits for seniors and made a mess of that. What has this president done right?

Ms. BUMILLER: Let me just try to get you to talk about Mrs. Clinton. What--how do you react to...

Mr. DEAN: Well, I'm not going to talk about Senator Clinton. She's running for re-election in 2008.

Ms. BUMILLER: Do you think she's too angry? Do you agree with Mr. Mehlman?

Mr. DEAN: She--I said I'm not going to talk about the 2008 race. What I do agree is that Senator Clinton has said a number of things about the president which are true and which Mr. Mehlman finds inconvenient because the president's list of accomplishments is incredibly short.

SCHIEFFER: Governor, time flies when you're on a Sunday talk show.

Mr. DEAN: Yes, it does.

SCHIEFFER: We're out of time. Thank you very much.

Mr. DEAN: Thank you.

SCHIEFFER: Back with a final word in just a minute.

Announcer: FACE THE NATION continues and is always on cbsnews.com brought to you in party by...

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: Finally today, I now declare I know all I need to know about the government bumbling after Hurricane Katrina. When I tuned in to those Senate hearings Friday, I realized it is now the hypocrisy that is at flood level, and the wind speed, forget it. There was old Brownie, the former FEMA chief who became the face of government ineptitude. Now he tells us it was everyone

else's fault. He says he called the White House early to warn it was going to be bad, talked to the president. Well, check that, he's not really sure the president was on the line. Give me a break. You called the White House and you're not quite sure you're talking to the president?

Then there are the Democrats. They blistered old Brownie when the levees broke, especially after the president said he was doing a heck of a job. But now old Brownie is blaming higher-ups, so the Democrats are portraying him as some kind of victim. Give me another break, please. I was beginning to believe one of the Democrats might actually hug old Brownie last Friday.

Here is all we need to know: Old Brownie may or may not be, well, limited, but here's the larger point, by now we know this was a failure of government at every level and that the Department of Homeland Security is a monumental flop, a bureaucracy so huge it's unable to move in spite of itself. FEMA, the disaster relief agency that Brownie ran, should be removed from homeland security, and its chief should report directly to the White House. And God help us if there is a terrorist attack.

That's it for us. We'll see you next week right here.