



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

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U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations Testimony of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

WASHINGTON, D.C. . The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday held a hearing on the Bush Administration's request for nearly \$100 billion in additional funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Two key Administration officials testified at that hearing, including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The Secretary's prepared testimony is below.

Chairman Byrd, Senator Cochran, Members of the Committee: It is a pleasure to appear before you today in support of the President's FY 2007 supplemental appropriations request for International Affairs. I appear today at a time when the Congress has just completed work on the FY 2007 continuing resolution. I appreciate the work which this committee, and the entire Congress, has done to ensure adequate funding for the global HIV/AIDS program; for resources to combat malaria; for the U.S. contributions to international peacekeeping activities; for the foreign military financing program; and for both the regular and the emergency migration and refugee assistance programs. In a tight fiscal year, these are not small accomplishments, and we look forward to implementing these programs which Congress has funded.

At the same time, we face very pressing needs that must be addressed by prompt Congressional action on the 2007 supplemental.

The Administration has requested a total of \$5.99 billion dollars for international affairs programs in this supplemental to support urgent requirements that are not funded in the annual budget. Let me address a number of the most significant funding requests that are contained within the FY 2007 supplemental. Chief among these, of course, is funding to continue our operations and programs in Iraq.

IRAQ

Before I discuss our specific request for Iraq, I would like to take this opportunity to announce a new diplomatic initiative relating to Iraq's future. I am pleased to tell Members of Congress that there is now being formed a neighbors conference to support Iraq. This conference is being spearheaded, and properly so, by the government of Iraq. Invitees will include Iraq's immediate neighbors, as well as representatives from other regional states, multilateral organizations, and the UN Permanent Five (the U.S., France, Britain, Russia and China). I would note that both Syria and Iran are among Iraq's neighbors invited to attend.

An initial preparatory meeting of the neighbors conference will occur at the ambassadorial level in Baghdad on or around March 11. This will be followed, perhaps as early as the first half of April, by a ministerial level meeting with the same invitees, plus the G-8.

I am pleased that the government of Iraq is taking this step. The violence occurring within Iraq has a decided impact on Iraq's neighbors. Iraq's neighbors have a clear role to play in helping Iraq to move forward, and this conference will provide a needed forum in order to do just that.

The Administration has requested a total of \$3.2 billion for Iraq. This request is vital to the government of Iraq's efforts to stabilize the country, bolster the economy, and achieve national reconciliation. It is a critical component of the USG civilian surge, expanding the presence of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) and enabling USG agencies to decentralize and diversify their civilian presence and assistance to the Iraqi people.

This request includes \$824 million for the operation of the U.S. Mission in Iraq, including the extraordinary security measures which we must undertake in order to protect our diplomats and other personnel who are advancing our agenda of freedom and stability.

The request includes \$720 million in Economic Support Funds for programs critical to the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), including \$400 million for a civilian equivalent to DOD's successful Commanders Emergency Response Program (CERP), a key component of the President's "New Way Forward" in Iraq. We seek to expand the number of PRTs in Iraq from the ten which are currently deployed to twenty. This will include new PRTs in Baghdad and Anbar where the stakes are now highest. Civilian and military personnel will work side by side in these PRTs, in which the State Department will have the lead in all staff recruiting and hiring. PRTs work with Iraq's provincial and local governments to improve governance, support moderate Iraqi leaders, and address local needs at a community level. Competent and capable provincial and local government officials, who pursue their interests peacefully and under the rule of law, will be an essential element of a secure, unified, and federal Iraq.

The \$720 million in PRT program funding is part of the Administration's \$2.07 billion request in Economic Support Funds (ESF) for Iraq under this supplemental. We have learned from our experience in Iraq that the most effective use of funds is to provide direct assistance at the local level. The request before you embodies this approach. It does not fund large-scale reconstruction projects, for which American funding is ending under the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF). In addition to the \$720 million in program funding for the PRTs, the Administration has requested \$534 million for programs coordinated by PRTs which create jobs and support businesses at the local level, necessary steps to bring stability to areas that have been cleared of insurgents. We also propose a program to jump start employment in the agriculture sector, Iraq's second largest employer. Our request provides \$293 million to support the continued improvement in the core capacities of Iraq's ministries, particularly in budgeting, and policy and regulatory reforms, and \$200 million to strengthen Iraq's judicial processes, criminal justice system and anti-corruption initiatives. It also includes \$428 million for democracy programs to support greater engagement with political parties, civil society organizations, and national political institutions, such as parliament.

We are undertaking a broad review of the Iraqi refugee situation, including both refugees who have fled from Iraq and those who are internally displaced within Iraq. There are an estimated 1.5 million Iraqi refugees living outside Iraq, mainly in Jordan and Syria. There is a rapidly growing number of internally displaced persons in Iraq as well, owing to the increase in sectarian violence over the past year. We have requested \$60 million

for State Department and USAID programs in this supplemental to address the growing humanitarian needs in Iraq. This funding is the bare minimum necessary to address the pressing and growing problem of Iraqi refugees, internally displaced, and conflict victims.

The request also includes \$7 million to continue humanitarian demining in Iraq, one of the most heavily mined countries in the world.

AFGHANISTAN

The Administration has also requested a total of \$751 million in 150 account funds for Afghanistan. These funds complement the parallel request in the military supplemental for Afghanistan. They include \$53 million for additional security for State Department and USAID personnel who are on the front lines in Afghanistan.

Let me stress two points. First, as our military leaders in Afghanistan will testify, these foreign assistance funds are a vital part of our overall strategy in Afghanistan. We cannot secure Afghanistan in the long term by military means alone; we need to be able to address the pressing needs for reconstruction and economic development if we are to succeed. Among these needs are the construction of high priority roads in the southern and southeastern portions of Afghanistan; a more stable, long term source of power supplies to Kabul and elsewhere; and an expansion of alternative livelihood programs to counter the cultivation of opium poppies.

Second, I convened a conference in Europe several weeks ago in which I pressed our NATO allies to do more in Afghanistan. We seek, of course, to reduce or eliminate the so-called caveats on what other NATO members' military forces will and will not do in Afghanistan. But we also seek multinational contributions of additional resources to address Afghanistan's very pressing economic problems. This request before you in the 2007 supplemental represents our commitment to that shared goal.

LEBANON

At the recent Paris donors' conference for Lebanon, the United States pledged a total of \$770 million to assist in addressing the security and reconstruction needs of Lebanon. I made clear there, as I do now, that honoring this request depends upon the provision of these funds by the Congress. Inspired in part by our demonstration of support for the Lebanese people, other donors at the Paris Conference gave quite generously, resulting in a total of \$7.6 billion pledged to support Lebanon. The funds requested in this supplemental . including peacekeeping, security and economic reconstruction funds . represent the American pledge, and I am hopeful you will provide these funds in order to encourage others to join in an economic and security package that will give Lebanon's democratically elected government and the Lebanese people the assistance they require.

Economic support to the legitimate Government of Lebanon is vital to providing long-term peace, stability and economic opportunity. These funds will support a broad economic reform agenda, an agenda which will dovetail with the post-conflict reconstruction of Lebanon, while putting Lebanon on the path to fiscal stability. On the security side, the funds we are requesting will assist the Lebanese Armed Forces, which require a substantial infusion of equipment and expanded training. Their responsibilities will include providing security at Lebanon's ports, airports and borders, and being on the

front lines of interdicting the movement of terrorists and their armaments into and out of Lebanon.

The request also includes \$184 million for the U.S. share of costs for the UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

KOSOVO

The Administration also requests a total of \$279 million for Kosovo. We have made great progress in stabilizing the Balkans. As we move toward lasting political reconciliation and permanent political structures, these funds for Kosovo are crucial. These funds will support the settlement of Kosovo's status which we anticipate will be completed early this year. I would note that the European Union and international financial institutions will bear the lion's share of the post-settlement costs, which could run as high as \$2 billion. The U.S. contribution will leverage these and other donor contributions and could enable a quicker reduction of U.S. forces in Kosovo.

SUDAN

The Administration also requests a total of \$362 million for programs to address the continuing crisis in Sudan. These funds will be used for two purposes: to provide food and other disaster assistance and to provide enhanced peacekeeping operations for Darfur. I know that Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle are moved by the suffering and the horrors experienced daily by so many people in Sudan. The funds we have requested for International Disaster and Famine Assistance and P.L. 480 Title II will allow us to continue to help the populations affected by the violence in Darfur, including internally displaced persons, and helping to feed affected populations in Darfur and Chad.

Included in the \$362 million, we are requesting \$150 million to support peacekeeping in Darfur, including support for the African Union mission (AMIS) there. We continue to work toward the expansion of these forces and for a transition of AMIS to a United Nations peacekeeping force.

We are requesting \$20 million for security for high threat protection for Department officials in Sudan, including in Juba and Darfur, as well as security support for the Special Envoy and others. To continue to support diplomatic efforts in Sudan, we are requesting \$1.9 million for diplomatic operations.

AVIAN FLU

The Administration also requests a total of \$161 million to support efforts to enhance preparedness and communication, and improve surveillance and detection to respond more quickly to H5N1 outbreaks wherever they occur. Given the bird flu outbreaks in a number of countries in recent months, we must address the urgent need to expand operations in the field. Existing funds to support emergency field operations will be fully spent by summer of 2007, and we must maintain continuity of these efforts if we are to be successful. A substantial portion of this funding will be focused on high-risk African countries with additional funds enabling responses to the spread of the disease in South Asia, the Near East, and Eastern Europe.

At international pledging conferences in 2006, the U.S. pledged \$434 million in assistance for regional disease detection sites, stockpiles of non-pharmaceutical supplies, wild bird surveillance, building vaccine production capacity and other purposes.

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

The Administration requests a total of \$71.5 million to address refugee emergencies in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Palestinian territories. This funding will also address the needs of Iraqi refugees and conflict victims, as I previously mentioned. We are also requesting an additional \$30 million to respond to unanticipated emergency refugee and migration needs in places such as Somalia, Sri Lanka, Chad, and the West Bank and Gaza.

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The Administration also requests \$20 million in public diplomacy funds to counter ideological support for terrorism, especially in critical countries. Some of these funds will be used to fund international information programs to engage Muslim communities, promote democracy and good governance, refute the idea that the West is at war with Islam, and isolate and discredit terrorist leaders and organizations. Countering ideological support for terrorism and undermining the ability of terrorist groups to attract new recruits are a critical part of our counterterrorism efforts. These new funds will provide for a significant expansion of existing, effective programs as well as the launching of new initiatives designed to reach more vulnerable groups, especially youth. These initiatives seek to build new bridges of understanding, increase tolerance and respect for other cultures and religions, and de-legitimize terrorism and discredit terrorist leaders and their ideology.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

The Administration is requesting \$20 million in exchanges funding for the critical countries to confront the increasing prevalence of violent extremism. Our experience in exchanges-- whether they are academic exchange programs to encourage English language instruction or professional or cultural exchanges that promote bilateral and multilateral dialogue in a common realm like art or athletics-- has shown that extremist messages of hatred toward the United States take root more readily among those walled off from Americans by barriers of language and or lack of exposure to the breadth of our culture. Increased support for English language instruction and the exchange of people in such diverse fields as art and culture, sports, and interfaith dialogue, are central to lessening these barriers.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Administration also requests \$10 million for the Middle East Broadcasting Networks. As part of the Administration's strategy to counter violent extremism, Alhurra television will launch a signature three-hour daily program. The three-hour daily program capitalizes on Alhurra's unique perspective in a growing market of over 200 channels by giving viewers a reason to turn to Alhurra as a primary information source, providing a format and information mix unavailable in the region today. This format is a proven broadcast technique for developing audience loyalty and will enable Alhurra to reach a large listening area that crosses several time zones in the Middle East. The three-hour original production will provide the means to focus the agenda for news and

information in the region. The new show will focus on the news of the day, discuss compelling social issues, broadcast investigative reporting and a spectrum of information not presented anywhere else.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Finally, the Administration requests \$350 million for the provision of worldwide food assistance. The funds are urgently needed for Sudan, especially in Darfur; for refugees in Chad; and for drought relief in Afghanistan which have already been mentioned. The request also includes emergency funds to enable a timely response to emerging food shortages and to prevent famine in southern Africa, Somalia and elsewhere in the Horn of Africa.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman, there are many additional pressing needs for assistance beyond the ones I have addressed here. Some of these can be addressed with the funds provided in the FY 2007 continuing resolution; others are addressed in our FY 2008 budget request. What is before you in the current supplemental, however, represents the most urgent requirements -- requirements that are appropriate to be considered within the framework of a supplemental appropriations bill.

I am mindful that all such requests are ultimately not requests of this or other committees, but of the American people. For that reason, we have thoroughly and closely considered the requests which are before you in this supplemental. For that reason, too, I pledge our careful stewardship of the funds which are provided to us. Thank you for your thoughtful and prompt consideration of this request.

I would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have.