

**House Report 107-142 - FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT  
FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2002**

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## **ADDITIONAL VIEWS**

In the recent past the initial 302(b) allocation for the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs appropriations bill has been significantly below the Administration's request. Fortunately that pattern was broken this year with an allocation at the request level. This enabled the Committee to produce a bipartisan bill which incorporates many of the initiatives important to subcommittee members from both parties, and which funds most programs at or above the Administration's request level. While funding for some programs is still below adequate levels, the bill as a whole does give us the ability to respond to and confront ongoing development and security challenges around the world. In particular, the bill has increased significantly the amounts for child survival, maternal health, HIV/AIDS, basic education and other infectious diseases.

Of fundamental disagreement, however, are the policies imposed by the President on family planning programs. The bill provides \$425,000,000 for family planning programs, which is at the request level, but 29% below the FY 1995 level of \$541,600,000. The bill is silent regarding the Mexico City policy, which was imposed by executive order in January of 2001. This policy violates universal standards of medical ethics, forcing doctors to withhold critical health information from their clients. It also requires overseas NGOs to forfeit their right to free speech as a condition of receiving United States family planning assistance. Similar requirements would be unconstitutional if applied to United States-based organizations, and it is disingenuous to promulgate them abroad. I am disappointed that language designed to repeal the Mexico City policy was not included in the bill.

Another area of concern is the continued imbalance in the implementation of Plan Colombia. During the debate on the initial funding of Plan Colombia last year, members were assured that the `push into southern Colombia' would include economic and alternative development programs in conjunction with the military assistance and training and aerial fumigation. There were also assurances that the bulk of funding for `Plan Colombia' would come in the form of economic assistance and that our European allies would participate.

Neither of these assurances has come to pass. A massive fumigation campaign commenced last December in southern Colombia before any alternative development programs were in place. By March, 2001, not one grain of rice, nor one seed, had been delivered to communities that had agreed to voluntary eradication. As of today, fully a year after funds were made available, only two of the 29 communities that have signed alternative development pacts have received any assistance. Meanwhile, military

training and the provision of equipment have proceeded rapidly, and all three of the counter-narcotics battalions have been trained. The impact of our 'push into southern Colombia' thus far has been further disruption and disillusionment of the population on the prospects for an end to the conflict. Aerial fumigation should cease until programs designed to give communities the opportunity to voluntarily eradicate coca are operating effectively.

Unfortunately, the billions in additional economic assistance for Colombia have not materialized. Our European allies have chosen not to participate in a significant way in Plan Colombia. It is therefore time to slow the pace of the military assistance while a workable economic assistance plan is developed with the support of our allies and people in Colombia most affected by the drug war.

With respect to the assistance to help El Salvador recover from two devastating earthquakes, the bill does include a designation of \$100,000,000 from within existing and prior year resources for recovery. However, this is far from adequate given the fact that 175,000 homes were destroyed, leaving over one million people homeless, and that over one-third of the nation's schools were destroyed along with numerous hospitals, roads and other infrastructure.

While the assistance designated in the bill is appreciated, the Administration has disappointed many by refusing to submit a request for additional resources to meet urgent needs. Unfortunately, many of our allies followed our miserly lead at the recent donor conference. The tragic result will be that El Salvador will need to incur significant debt to finance its recovery. This tragedy occurred just as the economy of that country was showing signs of permanent recovery from the civil war. Given the nature of our involvement in El Salvador's internal affairs, not to mention the investment of over \$6 billion in U.S. assistance, it is astonishing that the new administration has not been more forthcoming.

*NITA M. LOWEY.*

