

**House Report 107-663 - FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2003**

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF HON. NITA M. LOWEY

While I believe that the FY 2003 Foreign Operations bill represents a reasonable, bipartisan compromise, there are several areas of disagreement that need comment. I commend the Chairman for working with me and for accommodating most of my priorities. I intend to work diligently with him, but will seek necessary changes as this bill moves through the House floor and to Conference.

The bill provides a total of \$16.59 billion, more than \$1.2 billion above the FY 2002-enacted level. We have achieved a significant increase in overall assistance levels in this bill. However, it should come as no surprise that I still believe that the U.S. foreign assistance program is underfunded. We must provide enough resources to respond to critical national security challenges, including fighting the war on terrorism, rebuilding Afghanistan, combating global HIV/AIDS, and reducing poverty. While I support the elements of the Administration's budget amendment request for \$350 million, it arrived the day before our subcommittee markup, had no offsets to pay for it, and came at a point in the process when it was all but impossible to secure additions to the Committee's overall allocation. The Committee had no choice but to take funding from other subcommittees to pay for a portion of this request. The budget amendment followed closely on the heels of the President's decision to reject \$5.1 billion in Emergency Supplemental Appropriations, which had included all the elements of this request.

I am also concerned that the Administration's proposal for the Millennium Challenge Account for FY 2004 will put all new resources into a lump sum account, and not into core development accounts. I want to make clear now that I view these accounts as the bread and butter of our programs around the world, and will continue to push for increases in them.

The bill provides nearly \$800 million for HIV/AIDS, an increase over the President's request, and a significant increase over the FY 2002 level. This total includes \$250 million for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and additional amounts for bilateral programs, including mother-to-child transmission and treatment and care initiatives. While this may be the best we can do under the current allocation, I believe that we should make a more dramatic commitment to combating this pandemic.

I am particularly proud of what we were able to achieve in the area of basic education. The Chairman and I worked closely to provide a total of \$250 million for these initiatives, a significant increase over last year's levels, and

a 250 percent increase over the FY 2001 level. We have also mandated that programs in the Middle East and Central Asia for basic education be increased.

I have a few other specific concerns.

Despite the ongoing and growing needs for reconstruction in Afghanistan, the Administration has failed to request funding for reconstruction needs there. The United States recently committed to fund expensive infrastructure projects and provide Presidential security, which are in addition to pledges made to fund ongoing development programs. Congress added an additional \$134 million above the President's request for Afghanistan in the FY 2002 Supplemental bill, but the President rejected this when he failed to designate the funding emergency spending.

The President has committed the U.S. to be the major donor for reconstruction of the road network in Afghanistan, which will cost at least \$260 million, an expense for which there has been no request. The Committee has also been informed that DOD will no longer pay security costs for the protection of President Karzai, which will add another \$50 million to our bill's obligations. In addition, the government of Afghanistan will incur a deficit in excess of \$350

million this year, at least half of which remains unfunded by international donors.

While the Administration continues to ignore the needs of Afghanistan, the Committee cannot. The Chairman and I agreed to earmark a total of \$296 million for these needs. I believe we had no option but to designate this funding to meet our commitments, and provide real resources in a timely fashion so that reconstruction can continue. We cannot allow OMB's narrow-mindedness to prevent us from providing adequate resources to what should be our highest priority.

The bill before us contains authority to resume full military training for Indonesia. In subcommittee, I offered an amendment to limit that training to 'Expanded IMET' only. This would have allowed civilian and military authorities in Indonesia the opportunity to participate in U.S.-sponsored programs to discuss much-needed reform and military respect for civilian authority, something which is sorely lacking at the moment. The murky circumstances surrounding the recent killing of two American employees of the Freeport Mac Moran mining operation in Papua, and the continued detention of an American citizen without U.S. consular access, vividly demonstrates the need for a cautious approach to resuming training. It is my intention to offer an amendment when the bill reaches the House floor to limit military training for Indonesia.

With respect to international family planning, I am pleased that the bill earmarks funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and I appreciate the Chairman's hard work in crafting language laying our clear conditions under which funding to UNFPA may resume. The Administration's recent decision on FY 2002 funding for UNFPA is fundamentally flawed and violates the spirit of the agreement reached on that bill. I believe strongly that Congress should earmark a higher level of funding than is currently in the bill, and that we must alter the Kemp-Kasten language in FY 2003. The Senate bill includes \$50 million for UNFPA, and makes significant changes to Kemp-Kasten, which I support. Additionally, I am disappointed that the \$425 million provided in the bill for bilateral family planning is a cut of \$21.5 million from last year's enacted level, and that this funding is still subject to the Mexico City policy.

With respect to Colombia, Congress agreed to provide expanded authority to furnish counter-terror assistance for Colombia in the FY02 Supplemental, provided that the new Colombian President committed to us in writing to formulating comprehensive policies on combating drugs, reforming the armed forces and increasing revenues from within Colombia. Those assurances have not been forthcoming. I will therefore reserve judgment on whether I will support extending these authorities for 2003.

Finally, It is my hope that this bill will reach the floor of the House of Representatives before Congress adjourns for the year. The full House should have the opportunity to work its will, and, more importantly, the bill should be enacted into law. It contains many new and important programs, the implementation of which will be severely hindered by having to operate under a long-term continuing resolution.

NITA LOWEY.

