NEWS ADVISORY

Committee on International Relations

U.S. House of Representatives Henry Hyde (R-IL), Chairman

Contact: (202) 225-5021 Thursday, December 07, 2006

For IMMEDIATE Release

Hyde Praises Department of Defense Support for Drug Enforcement Administration Efforts in Afghanistan

Ride-along policy essential to thwart growing threat from narco-terrorism

WASHINGTON, D.C. –U.S. Rep. Henry J. Hyde (R-IL), Chairman of the Committee on International Relations, praised news from the Department of Defense that it will formally support his proposal which allows Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents to ride along with the military on missions in Afghanistan which are clearly drug-related. Hyde urged the Department to permit the joint operation, which he views as essential to thwart the growing threat of narcoterrorism in Afghanistan.

Hyde said, "I welcome the support from our Department of Defense for my initiative to allow DEA law enforcement agents ride along on some military operational missions in Afghanistan when there is a clear nexus to illicit drugs and trafficking. Now we can better target the narco-terrorism which threatens Afghanistan today."

###30###