



**U.S. GLOBAL  
LEADERSHIP  
CAMPAIGN**

February 12, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As a group of former top military commanders across all of the armed services, we urge your support for a robust FY10 International Affairs Budget that sufficiently invests in “smart power” – elevating our non-military tools of global development and diplomacy alongside a strong defense. Investing in our non-military tools is essential to ensuring our national security, building global economic prosperity and demonstrating American moral values.

As you said, “the security and well-being of each and every American is tied to the security and well-being of those who live beyond our borders.” America cannot rely solely on our military power to secure our national interests. The global realities of the 21st century require the United States to utilize the full range of non-military tools as a fundamental pillar of our national security. Strong U.S. leadership is essential to strengthen democratic governance, alleviate global poverty, improve human conditions, and harness economic potential.

In times of humanitarian crisis, our military power can provide the logistics and organization to get help fast to those in need, but the military cannot build sustainable societies. Investments in our civilian international affairs programs are critical to bolstering our national security by addressing transnational threats such as terrorism, infectious diseases and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and stabilizing weak and fragile states. The military can only help create the conditions necessary for our diplomatic, development and humanitarian programs to effectively address these issues.

This view is shared by Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who has said, “America will be grappling with a range of challenges to the international system and to our own security – from global terrorism to ethnic conflicts, to rogue nations and rising powers. And as I have said before, they will require devoting considerably more resources to non-military instruments of national power.”

Despite modest increases over the last eight years, the International Affairs Budget remains under-funded, representing only 1.2 percent of all federal spending and remaining 11 percent below Cold War levels. This hinders the ability of our civilian foreign affairs agencies to meet our foreign policy and national security goals, and places greater burdens on the military. Robust investments in our civilian international capabilities will keep us safer by reducing our vulnerability to threats from destabilizing forces, reaffirming America’s tradition of moral leadership and improving America’s image abroad.

We must ensure that our nation is fully equipped to face the global challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century. As you prepare the FY 2010 federal budget, we urge you to request a robust International Affairs Budget and we look forward to working with you.

**List of Signatories Attached**

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**U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN  
NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
LETTER TO PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA**

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FULL LIST OF SIGNATORIES

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