FY10 International Affairs Budget Fact Sheet

✓ The International Affairs request represents only 1.4% of the U.S. Federal Budget

✓ The requested increase of $4 billion is only 8% above the total FY09 enacted and estimated spending

Only 1.4% of the Budget

✓ The International Affairs Budget request represents less than 7% of the overall “national security budget”, which also includes Defense and Homeland Security

✓ For the first time since 9/11, the request includes foreign assistance and State operations total estimated spending for Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan

✓ In past years, recurring emergency supplemental spending bills included as much as 25% of total annual spending for the International Affairs Budget

Hill Calls for Freeze or Cut

In Billions

FY09 Estimated $49.80
FY10 House Budget Committee $48.50
FY10 Senate Budget Committee $49.80

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Why are some people interpreting the FY10 International Affairs Budget request as a significant increase?

The Administration set out to be transparent by incorporating funding for programs that had previously been presented in supplemental requests. Therefore, Congress needs to compare “apples-to-apples” to understand the actual increase for the FY10 request. The Congressional Budget Office’s figure for FY09 spending of $42.7 billion – $38.2 billion in base appropriations plus $4.5 billion in bridge and stimulus funding – does not include the pending $7.1 billion supplemental request. The Administration’s calculation, however, of $49.8 billion includes the estimated $7.1 billion supplemental request. By excluding the estimated supplemental from the base calculation for FY09, the FY10 request appears far greater than the actual requested increase of a mere 8%.

What is the difference between the Administration’s approach to the FY10 International Affairs Budget request and those made in previous years?

In past years, as much as 25% of total annual spending for the International Affairs Budget was included in recurring emergency supplemental spending bills not requested in the base budget. For the first time since 9/11, the Administration’s $53.8 billion FY10 Budget request incorporates total funding for State Department operations and foreign assistance, which includes funds previously approved in multiple emergency supplemental requests for assistance to Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan and several humanitarian accounts. The Administration has stated that it would request an FY10 supplemental only for extraordinary and truly unanticipated contingencies.

Why it Matters to America

Protecting our National Security – The International Affairs Budget funds America’s “smart power” tools of diplomacy and development vital to our nation’s national security. These programs help stabilize fragile states, combat terrorism and deter threats before they reach America’s shores, while building global stability and advancing our national interests.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates: “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.”

Stabilizing Global Markets – The International Affairs Budget supports initiatives critical to expanding global economic opportunities, promoting U.S. business interests and creating stable markets abroad. Given the ongoing financial crisis and global economic uncertainty, increased investments in the International Affairs Budget are essential to promote economic prosperity at home and abroad.

World Bank President Robert Zoellick: “What began as a financial crisis has become an economic crisis and is now becoming an unemployment crisis; and without concrete action, it will become a human crisis on a global scale. Not stepping in to assist developing countries will be shortsighted in another sense, because the developing countries could help to provide a growth platform to pull us out of this crisis, and if you take away that platform, you’re removing one of the vital planks for a global recovery.”

Restoring America’s Image – The International Affairs Budget demonstrates our commitment to America’s humanitarian values and renews our global leadership role by alleviating poverty, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases, fighting global hunger and famine, and strengthening democratic institutions.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell: “Give the people of the world a better chance at having a healthy life for themselves and for their children; the alleviation of poverty, the alleviation of hunger, all of these are things the United States can do – and by so doing, we influence the world to move in a better direction and we improve our standing in the world.”

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