

110TH CONGRESS }  
*1st Session*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{ REPORT  
110-60

MAKING EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL  
APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

[TO ACCOMPANY H.R. 1591]

together with

MINORITY VIEWS



MARCH 20, 2007.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on  
the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

*National Capital Development (NCD).*—Within the amount provided in ESF for Iraq, \$160,000,000, a reduction of \$20,000,000 from the request, is provided for NCD. The Committee recommendation includes \$40,000,000 for a training program for 10 key ministries; \$12,000,000 for a scholarship program; \$8,000,000 for anti-corruption program; \$25,000,000 for public management advisors in key ministries; \$3,000,000 for self-assessment capacity development; \$26,000,000 to support a national training center; \$31,000,000 for support to four regional training centers; and \$15,000,000 for assistance to Iraqi universities to establish public administration program.

*Policy, Subsidy, Legal, Regulatory & Transparency Reforms.*—Within the amount provided in ESF for Iraq, \$90,000,000, a reduction of \$20,000,000, is provided for Policy, Subsidy, Legal, Regulatory & Transparency Reforms. The Committee recommendation includes \$35,000,000 for Financial Management Information System (FMIS) and SBA; \$35,000,000 is for assistance drafting laws and regulations; and \$20,000,000 is for the establishment of an investment promotion agency and WTO activities.

*Democracy and Civil Society Activities.*—The Committee recommendation provides \$388,000,000, a reduction of \$40,000,000 from the request for Democracy and Civil Society activities. The Committee directs that the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, in consultation with the Committee, submit a spending plan and strategy no later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act. The spending plan shall include the specific amounts intended for nongovernmental organizations and the proposed activities. The plan shall also provide a detailed strategy for democracy and civil society activities in Iraq with objectives and benchmarks to measure success.

The Committee is encouraged by the Secretary of State's announcement on February 27, 2007, of a new diplomatic initiative relating to Iraq and its immediate neighbors. The Committee agrees with the stated desire that all governments seize this opportunity to improve relations with Iraq and work for peace and stability in the region. The Committee strongly encourages the Administration to apply this diplomatic initiative to all aspects of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

The Committee notes that the January 2007 National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq concludes that a "bottom-up approach", including working more directly with neighborhood watch groups and establishing grievance committees, could help to reverse Iraq's continued instability. The Community Action Program, the Community Stabilization Program, rule of law, and democracy programs aim to foster such localized developments. However, the Committee recognizes that several ongoing contracts predate the explosion of sectarian violence a year ago. The Committee strongly recommends that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of State evaluate whether current programs adequately reflect the growing inter-sectarian and inter-communal violence. Where appropriate, USAID and the Department of State should strengthen alternative dispute resolution mechanisms between tribal and religious groups.

The Committee is concerned regarding reports of U.S. reconstruction and relief assistance in Iraq not reaching all segments of the

Iraq population, particularly minority populations. The Committee has heard reports of villages in the Nineveh Plain region not receiving assistance. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of State to report no later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act on the ethnic and geographic distribution of U.S. assistance programs and specifically a report on all U.S. assistance reaching the Nineveh Plain region.

“NEW DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE” FOR IRAQ AND THE REGION

Along with the redeployment of United States Armed Forces provided for in section 1904, the Committee expects the President to pursue the diplomatic strategy, entitled “The External Approach: Building an International Consensus,” recommended by the Iraq Study Group in its December 2006 report on Iraq. This strategy calls upon the United States to pursue a comprehensive “New Diplomatic Offensive” designed to build an international consensus and support structure for stability in Iraq and the surrounding region. The “New Diplomatic Offensive” is to engage all of Iraq’s neighbors, and address all the “key issues” in the Middle East, including not just the situation in Iraq, but also in Lebanon, Syria, and Iran, as well as the Israel-Palestine conflict. Importantly, as part of the “New Diplomatic Offensive”, the United States is to initiate a constructive diplomatic engagement with Iran and Syria.

The Committee supports this recommendation of the Iraq Study Group and urges the President to pursue it aggressively.

AFGHANISTAN

The Committee recommends funding for Afghanistan programs at \$743,000,000, which is \$90,000,000 above the request. The Committee notes that the increase is provided to PRTs and rural development. Funds are appropriated as follows:

[Dollars in thousands]

Activity	Request	Committee Recommendation	Change from request
Roads .....	342,000	292,000	– 50,000
Power .....	40,000	40,000	0
Rural Development .....	120,000	160,000	40,000
Agriculture .....	13,000	13,000	0
Governance Capacity Building .....	21,000	21,000	0
Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs)/Provincial Governance .....	117,000	217,000	100,000
Total, ESF .....	653,000	743,000	90,000

The Committee is concerned that Taliban and Al Qaeda backed insurgents have stepped up the frequency and intensity of attacks in Afghanistan. Recent years have brought record harvests of opium poppies, proceeds of which finance terrorist groups in Pakistan. The Committee is increasing support for PRTs and for rural development in Afghanistan as two mechanisms for extending the reach of government and providing assistance in the provinces. While the Committee understands that expanding the network of roads is a central component of the United States strategy for reconstruction and stabilization, the Committee believes there should be greater investment by other donors in infrastructure programs.