



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

21 May 2010

RELEASE IN FULL

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Majority Leader,

As the Congress moves to finalize the budget for FY 2011, I want to offer my strong support for fully funding the Department of Defense and related agencies. I also want to reinforce the views expressed in Secretary Gates' letter of April 21 and Secretary Clinton's letter of April 20 (copies attached) to Senator Kent Conrad, requesting full funding of the Department of State and USAID. We are living in times that require an integrated national security program with budgets that fund the full spectrum of national security efforts, including vitally important pre-conflict and post-conflict civilian stabilization programs.

Diplomatic programs are critical to our long-term security. I have been on record many times since 2005 expressing my views of the importance of fully funding our diplomatic efforts. As Chief of Naval Operations, I said that I would hand over part of my budget to the State Department, "in a heartbeat, assuming it was spent in the right place." Diplomatic efforts should always lead and shape our international relationships, and I believe that our foreign policy is still too dominated by our military. The diplomatic and developmental capabilities of the United States have a direct bearing on our ability to shape threats and reduce the need for military action. It is my firm belief that diplomatic programs as part of a coordinated strategy will save money by reducing the likelihood of active military conflict involving U.S. forces.

I am told that the Senate Budget Committee reduced the international affairs budget by \$4 billion, and I respect and appreciate the tough choices the committee had to make. I would ask that as you finalize the spending outlines for FY 2011, you underscore the importance of our civilian efforts to the work of the Defense Department, and ultimately, to our Nation's security. Because of the increasingly integrated nature of our operations, a \$4 billion decrement in State and USAID budgets will have a negative impact in ongoing U.S. military efforts, leading to higher costs through missed diplomatic and developmental needs and opportunities. A fully-integrated foreign policy requires a fully-resourced approach. Our troops, Foreign Service officers and development experts work side-by-side in unprecedented and ever-increasing cooperation as they execute our strategic programs. We need to continue to

grow the important capabilities that are unique to our non-military assets, ensuring they have the resources to enhance our security and advance our national interests, in both ongoing conflicts as well as in preventative efforts.

As always, I appreciate your strong support of our men and women in uniform, and appreciate your considering my perspective as you finalize the FY 2011 budget.

The more significant the cuts, the longer military operations will take and more lives are at risk!

Sincerely,



M. G. MULLEN
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Copy to: Senator Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader

Attachments
As stated



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

APR 21 2010

The Honorable Kent Conrad
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to express my strong support for full funding of the President's FY 2011 foreign affairs budget request (the 150 account) which, along with defense, is a critical component of an integrated and effective national security program.

I understand this year presents a challenging budget environment, with competing domestic and international pressures. However, I strongly believe a robust civilian foreign affairs capability, coupled with a strong defense capability, is essential to preserving U.S. national security interests around the world.

State and USAID partners are critical to success in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq. Our military and civilian missions are integrated, and we depend upon our civilian counterparts to help stabilize and rebuild after the fight. As U.S. forces transition out of war zones, the U.S. government needs our civilian agencies to be able to assume critical functions. This allows us, for example, to draw down U.S. forces in Iraq responsibly while ensuring hard-fought gains are secured. Cuts to the 150 account will almost certainly impact our efforts in these critical frontline states.

In other parts of the world, the work performed by diplomatic and development professionals helps build the foundation for more stable, democratic and prosperous societies. These are places where the potential for conflict can be minimized, if not completely avoided, by State and USAID programs – thereby lowering the likely need for deployment of U.S. military assets.

In formulating his request for FY 2011, the President carefully considered funding needs for the budget accounts for both foreign affairs and national defense, taking into account overall national security requirements as well as economic conditions. I believe that full funding of these two budget accounts is necessary for our national security and for ensuring our continued leadership in the world. I hope you will take this into account when acting upon the President's FY 2011 budget request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Gates".



cc:
The Honorable Judd Gregg
Ranking Member



THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

April 20, 2010

The Honorable Kent Conrad, Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am asking your help in supporting the State and USAID budget request for FY 2011. I appreciate the difficult budget environment that confronts the Congress, but I strongly believe this budget request is critical to advancing U.S. national security and our interests around the world.

Our request totals \$52.8 billion -- a \$4.9 billion increase over 2010. Of that increase, \$3.6 billion goes directly to "frontline states" -- Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq. All other State and USAID funding grows by \$1.3 billion or a 2.7 percent increase, and allows us to tackle the transnational problems of poverty, food insecurity, climate change, and disease that pose serious threats to American interests.

Our diplomatic and development tools enhance American leadership, strengthen our alliances, and build new partnerships to confront pressing global challenges. Full funding in FY 11 will allow us to continue making tangible progress in securing the hard fought gains achieved in Iraq, and to continue supporting and deploying hundreds of civilians in Afghanistan and Pakistan to help stabilize dangerous but improving situations.

The recent attacks on United States personnel and facilities from Juarez, Mexico, to Peshawar, Pakistan, reinforce what we already know -- America's diplomats and development professionals are on the front lines, protecting, and securing our vital national security interests around the world.

Congress has rightly demanded that we use all the tools in our national security tool belt; that we put more diplomats and development experts on the ground, shoulder-to-shoulder with our troops; and that we do everything possible to secure America's interests around the world. We are doing our part at the State Department and USAID, but we need your help with the FY 11 request. Our

missions are increasingly integrated with those of our Defense Department counterparts, as we have seen demonstrated time and again in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world. Cuts to the civilian components can no longer be seen in isolation or having little impact on our national security strategy.

Our investments in development and diplomacy are smart, cost-effective, and squarely in the best interests of American taxpayers and our national security. They are also relatively small compared to the cost of active military engagement, and they can end up delivering impactful savings. In Iraq, for example, our \$2.6 billion request for State and USAID will allow the Defense Department budget to decrease by about \$16 billion – a powerful illustration of the return on civilian investments.

I ask for your strong support of our budget request and you have my pledge that we will work diligently to ensure that this funding is used as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hillary Rodham Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Hillary Rodham Clinton