

Fw: AFP: Clinton, staff face 'trench warfare' for smart power funds (3/5)

From: Mills, Cheryl D MillsCD@state.gov

RELEASE IN PART
B5

To: hdr22@clintonemail.com; Sullivan, Jacob J SullivanJJ@state.gov; Abedin, Huma AbedinH@state.gov

Subject: Fw: AFP: Clinton, staff face 'trench warfare' for smart power funds (3/5)

B5

Cdm

From: Lew, Jacob J
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Thu Mar 05 08:03:55 2009
Subject: FW: AFP: Clinton, staff face 'trench warfare' for smart power funds (3/5)

fyi

From: Greene, Richard L
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 7:42 AM
To: Lew, Jacob J; Campbell, Piper
Subject: FW: AFP: Clinton, staff face 'trench warfare' for smart power funds (3/5)

Good coverage of your remarks

(3/5)
Clinton, staff face 'trench warfare' for smart power funds
3 hours ago
WASHINGTON (AFP) — Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and her staff face what one of her predecessors calls "trench warfare" to win all the funds needed to carry out the planned overhaul in US foreign policy.

Former secretary of state Colin Powell, a leading senator and other public figures warn it will be especially hard to persuade lawmakers to double foreign aid when voters are losing sleep over the worst economic crisis in 70 years.

But members of the elite Washington group, speaking at a forum here on Wednesday, hoped to carry the day with a concerted push by bureaucrats backed by President Barack Obama's much vaunted powers of persuasion.

Key to the fight for Clinton's State Department is Jacob Lew, who said the proposed White House budget unveiled last week "stays on the path of doubling foreign assistance that President Obama committed to in the campaign."

The president's 3.55 trillion dollar budget provides 51.7 billion dollars for the State Department and other international programs, a 3.5 billion dollar rise over the current year.

It is still dwarfed by a proposed defense budget of 663.7 billion dollars.

In a new foreign policy built on "smart power," Clinton and Obama want to stress diplomacy and development as much as defense in order to revive the US standing in the world after eight years of president George W. Bush.

The State Department said the increased foreign aid will support "initiatives to educate children in the poorest countries, foster global food security through sustainable agriculture... and stabilize post-conflict states."

The budget also focuses on global health programs as well as efforts to stop the spread of dangerous weapons, terrorism and crime while it adds more diplomats and development experts to the payroll, it said in a statement.

"We can't ramp up the effort on foreign assistance if we don't have the people to run the programs," Lew said at the Washington gathering sponsored by the Center for US Global Engagement.

"It's critically important that diplomacy and development be right up there with defense... In the long run, the more effective we are at development and diplomacy, the less we need to turn to defense," Lew added.

He said it was also important for Washington's credibility in the world to pay its bills to the United Nations and international organizations.

"The effort to win resources for international funding is not a short or an easy one. We're in the most difficult domestic economic times of our lifetimes," Lew acknowledged.

General Powell, a Vietnam War veteran, said "it comes down to trench warfare with the Congress," as he recalled his own experience as a former secretary of state and former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

"You put your helmet on, your flak jacket and you go testify before eight committees, as I used to do every year," he said, triggering laughter.

But, in order to put pressure on Congress, "first you've got to appeal to the American people and get them to buy into the importance of these efforts," said Powell, who served for both George Bush senior and junior.

"The American people still think that foreign assistance, development assistance, is something we just give away to the rest of the world with no return on investment," he said.

Menendez, a leading advocate for foreign assistance in the Senate, said boosting living standards abroad creates new markets for US goods and services as well as fosters stability and reduces the need for military intervention.

But the senator from New Jersey said: "The president is going to have to argue for his budget provisions... to build up the State department and the development capacity.

"He is a great communicator, and right now the American people solidly support him. He needs to use that political capital to make it happen."

Copyright © 2009 AFP. All rights reserved. More »

David B. Goldberg
Director for Europe and Eurasia
Office of the Director of Foreign Assistance (F)
U.S. Department of State
Tel: 202.647.5103
Fax: 202.647.8669
