

Who is the winner in the end? Our constituents, our economy, our innovators. I thank Chairman BARTON and Chairman UPTON for their leadership on this issue.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5522, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 851 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5522.

□ 1322

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5522) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, with Mr. THORNBERRY in the Chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased today to present to the House of Representatives H.R. 5522, the fiscal year 2007 appropriation bills for foreign operations, export financing and related programs. And I might say, Mr. Chairman, that I am pleased to have

you back in the Chair for I am not sure how many of the consecutive years since I have been doing this bill that you have been there, but it feels very good to have you back with us.

Before I turn to the bill, let me just mention that this is the last appropriations bill that I will be bringing to the floor, at least the last regular foreign operations appropriations bill.

As with nearly every other foreign operations bill over the last 6 years, this bill is a product of bipartisan cooperation, something I could not have done without the support and cooperation of my esteemed ranking member, Mrs. LOWEY, or my vice chairman, Mr. SHERWOOD and every member of the subcommittee.

I am proud of this bill. I can honestly say it has probably been one of the more difficult ones that we have put together. The bill before you totals \$21.3 billion. While this level is \$597 million above the amount provided in fiscal year 2006, not counting supplementals, it is fully \$2.4 billion below the amount requested by the President. In other words, by reducing the allocation by \$2.4 billion, we have freed up that amount for pressing domestic needs.

The bill includes increases for three priorities, the war on terror, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and international health spending, priorities which lie at the core of the United States interests abroad. For the war on terror, this bill includes \$962.3 million for Afghanistan. This amount is \$137 million below the President's request, but \$85 million over fiscal year 2006.

As with last year's bill, this bill continues a provision that withholds \$385 million until the Afghan government, both at national and local levels, fully cooperates with our efforts against narcotics production and trafficking. I want to be clear that I appreciate the support of the government of Afghanistan in the war on terror. However, that government must take difficult but necessary measures to fight narcotics production and trafficking, measures that it has so far been unwilling or unable to take.

The bill also includes \$521.9 million for Iraq. While below the President's request, it represents a very large increase of \$461 million over what we provided in fiscal year 2006. That is because last year we required the administration to fund Iraq programs from unexpended relief and reconstruction funds that were in the very original supplemental appropriation. Now, however, these funds are nearly all expended.

This bill would normalize Iraq and Afghanistan assistance programs, moving them away from emergency supplementals that exceed budget limits.

The bill contains no funding in the economic support fund for West Bank and Gaza programs. Although the President's requested \$150 million for this purpose, the request was made be-

fore Hamas was elected to lead the Palestinian Authority. The subcommittee believes that humanitarian assistance must continue to the Palestinian people, a view, I might add, that is shared by the Israeli government and by the administration.

Such funding is not affected by this bill. It does contain humanitarian pro democracy funding with restrictions and safeguards that have been included in the past.

For international health, the bill contains the President's requested amount of \$3.4 billion for the emergency plan for AIDS relief, and increase of \$751.6 million. Within this sum, we more than double the President's request for a contribution to the global fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, to attain last year's level of \$444.5 million.

At the same time, I am pleased that the bill maintains last year's funding levels for other health programs, including an increase for malaria programs of \$243 million. For several years now the President's budget request has included deep cuts to international health programs. We have worked hard to restore them to at least the level of the previous year.

In order to bring these accounts back up, we have had to cut some other programs that are also priority programs. We provide \$2 billion for the Millennium Challenge Corporation, but that is \$1 billion below the request of the President. It is \$248 million above the amount that we provided in 2006.

This is a difficult decision for me, but I saw no way to move forward with a bill that gave the full amount that the President asked for the Millennium Challenge Corporation. My goal was very simple, I wanted to send a clear message that Congress supports the MCCs innovative, accountable approach to help countries move away from reliance on donor funding. I think a \$248 million increase does send that very clear message, while it frees up funds above that level that enables us to bring before you today a bipartisan bill.

The bill contains two important innovations. First, it includes a Trade Capacity Enhancement Fund which consolidates trade capacity funding from a variety of accounts. This new account includes \$522 million, virtually all of what is spent for trade capacity by agencies and accounts that are under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee. And it is about half of the \$1.3 billion that is spent on a government-wide basis.

Since we will now require a coherent strategy for the use of these funds, it is my hope and my belief that this new account will provide a strong incentive for countries to liberalize their trade regimes.

This bill would also restructure assistance to Colombia, formerly provided only through the Andean Counterdrug Initiative, or ACI. I want to be very clear about one point. This

bill does not cut funding from the President's request for Colombia.

□ 1330

It simply reallocates the funds requested and appropriated to regular assistance accounts. It begins to treat Colombia as we treat other strategic partners.

I think it should be clear to all of us by this time that Colombia has made significant progress in the war on drugs. They are now bringing guerilla forces in from the jungle, they are prosecuting those who are implicated in serious crimes, and they are reintegrating others back into society. Coca interdiction, although not eradication, but interdiction, continues to improve. I spoke with Speaker HASTERT, who years ago fathered the legislation creating the ACI, about this reformulation of assistance. It has his support. The Colombian government also supports this move. It is time to recognize both successes of Colombia and its strategic importance to the region.

Finally, this bill includes the President's full request for Israel and for Egypt, our two partners of longstanding in the Middle East. Report language from previous years is continued directing \$50 million of Egypt Economic Support Fund assistance to be used for democracy and another \$50 million for education. Other language, again the same as last year, would withhold expenditures until Egypt implements financial sector reforms. Importantly, this bill would also rescind \$200 million from unexpended balances made available for Egypt in previous years.

In closing, let me say, again, it has been a great pleasure to work with my distinguished colleague, ranking member on the minority side, Mrs. LOWEY, who I have the greatest respect and af-

fection for. It has been a pleasure to work with her and with her staff, with Beth Tritter and Nisha Desai. And I don't want to neglect mentioning the fine work of the majority staff, Betsy Phillips, Rob Blair, Craig Higgins, Delia Scott, and Lori Maes, and also Todd Calongne, a USAID fellow working on my personal staff. They are all competent, professional, and a joy to work with. The work that we have accomplished together, and I want to underscore the word "together," has helped make America more secure. It has improved the lives of millions throughout the world.

We have accomplished much over these last 6 years. My colleagues have often heard me say that foreign assistance is a vital component of United States economic and security interests, to say nothing of the humanitarian imperative. And while two significant initiatives were begun under my watch, the Emergency Plan For Aids Relief and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the changes we have implemented in 6 years of appropriations run even deeper. We have worked to direct our nonsecurity foreign assistance around three primary issues, which I believe are at the heart of global development: Health, trade, and governance. This bill continues that direction.

In 2001, international HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis spending from these accounts was \$535 million. Today, just 5 years later, we are at \$3.4 billion. With these steady increases, we have provided life-saving medicines to hundreds of thousands of people in the developing world, people who are still alive to take care of their children and be productive members of their economies, thanks to the antiretroviral drugs that we are now providing to them and other important therapies. As importantly, these are people who

now live with hope, and I believe that people with hope are less likely to be attracted to crime and violence.

The New Trade Capacity Enhancement fund will place trade where it belongs, at the center of our international development agenda. Without trade, sustained global development is simply not possible. This new account will provide further incentives for countries to enter constructive trade agreements with the United States and others. It will also help to ensure that the right programs and policies are in place to make sure the poor are not left behind as economies improve.

Finally, the bill provides further support, as I mentioned, to the Millennium Challenge Corporation, which I see as our best hope for weaning countries from foreign assistance. The MCC provides another set of incentives to countries to make the correct policy decisions, policies which improve rule of law and economic policies, investments in the health and education of people.

I am proud to have served in this institution, and I am especially proud of the work of this committee and this subcommittee. The package of foreign assistance before you is built on a solid basis of experience, funds programs that are more accountable and transparent, and, most importantly, helps to protect U.S. security at home and abroad. It is an example of the good that can be accomplished with a bipartisan effort, and I can think of no arena more important for a unified American voice than in foreign affairs.

Mr. Chairman, fellow members, I am pleased to submit this bill and urge your favorable consideration.

Mr. Chairman, I include the following for the RECORD.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS- EXPORT FINANCING- AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS- 2006 (H.R. 5522)
(Amounts in thousands)

| | FY 2006 Enacted | FY 2007 Request | Bill | Bill vs. Enacted | Bill vs. Request |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| TITLE I - EXPORT AND INVESTMENT ASSISTANCE | | | | | |
| EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES | | | | | |
| Subsidy appropriation..... | 99,000 | 26,382 | 26,382 | -72,618 | --- |
| Administrative expenses..... | 72,468 | 75,234 | 75,234 | +2,766 | --- |
| Inspector General..... | 990 | 988 | 988 | -2 | --- |
| Negative subsidy..... | -35,000 | -45,000 | -45,000 | -10,000 | --- |
| Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-148) (rescission)..... | -25,000 | --- | --- | +25,000 | --- |
| Total, Export-Import Bank of the United States.. | 112,458 | 57,604 | 57,604 | -54,854 | --- |
| OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION | | | | | |
| Noncredit account: | | | | | |
| Administrative expenses..... | 41,851 | 45,453 | 45,453 | +3,602 | --- |
| Insurance fees and other offsetting collections... | -240,000 | -258,000 | -258,000 | -18,000 | --- |
| Subsidy appropriation..... | 20,073 | 20,035 | 20,035 | -38 | --- |
| Total, Overseas Private Investment Corporation.. | -178,076 | -192,512 | -192,512 | -14,436 | --- |
| FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT | | | | | |
| Trade and development agency..... | 50,391 | 50,300 | 50,300 | -91 | --- |
| Total, title I, Export and investment assistance | -15,227 | -84,608 | -84,608 | -69,381 | --- |
| TITLE II - BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE | | | | | |
| FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT | | | | | |
| United States Agency for International Development | | | | | |
| Child survival and health programs fund..... | 1,569,150 | 1,433,000 | 1,565,613 | -3,537 | +132,613 |
| (Transfer out)..... | (-5,940) | --- | --- | (+5,940) | --- |
| Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-148)..... | 75,200 | --- | --- | -75,200 | --- |
| Development assistance..... | 1,508,760 | 1,282,000 | 1,294,000 | -214,760 | +12,000 |
| (Transfer out)..... | (-20,790) | (-21,000) | (-21,000) | (-210) | --- |
| (By Transfer)..... | --- | --- | (135,000) | (+135,000) | (+135,000) |
| International disaster assistance..... | 361,350 | 348,800 | 348,800 | -12,550 | --- |
| Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-148)..... | 56,330 | --- | --- | -56,330 | --- |
| Subtotal, Disaster assistance..... | 417,680 | 348,800 | 348,800 | -68,880 | --- |
| Transition Initiatives..... | 39,600 | 50,000 | 40,000 | +400 | -10,000 |
| Development Credit Authority: | | | | | |
| (By transfer)..... | (20,790) | (21,000) | (21,000) | (+210) | --- |
| Administrative expenses..... | 7,920 | 8,400 | 8,400 | +480 | --- |
| Africa House and Infrastructure Facility..... | --- | 5,000 | --- | --- | -5,000 |
| Subtotal, Development assistance..... | 3,618,310 | 3,127,200 | 3,256,813 | -361,497 | +129,613 |
| Payment to the Foreign Service Retirement and Disability Fund..... | 41,700 | 38,700 | 38,700 | -3,000 | --- |

FOREIGN OPERATIONS- EXPORT FINANCING- AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS- 2006 (H. R. 5522)
(Amounts in thousands)

| | FY 2006 Enacted | FY 2007 Request | Bill | Bill vs. Enacted | Bill vs. Request |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ----- | | | | | |
| Operating expenses of the U.S. Agency for International Development..... | 623,700 | 678,826 | 646,000 | +22,300 | -32,826 |
| Emergency supplemental (P.L. 108-106)..... | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (By transfer)..... | (5,940) | --- | --- | (-5,940) | --- |
| Subtotal, Operating expenses..... | 623,700 | 678,826 | 646,000 | +22,300 | -32,826 |
| Capital Investment Fund..... | 69,300 | 131,800 | 105,300 | +36,000 | -26,500 |
| Operating expenses of the U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General.... | 35,640 | 38,000 | 39,000 | +3,360 | +1,000 |
| Total, USAID..... | 4,388,650 | 4,014,526 | 4,085,813 | -302,837 | +71,287 |
| ----- | | | | | |
| Other Bilateral Economic Assistance | | | | | |
| Economic support fund: | | | | | |
| Israel..... | 237,600 | 120,000 | 120,000 | -117,600 | --- |
| Egypt..... | 490,050 | 455,000 | 455,000 | -35,050 | --- |
| Other..... | 1,880,010 | 2,639,470 | 2,075,740 | +195,730 | -563,730 |
| Economic support fund (P.L. 108-106)..... | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (Transfer out)..... | (-5,000) | --- | --- | (+5,000) | --- |
| (Transfer out)..... | --- | --- | (-135,000) | (-135,000) | (-135,000) |
| Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund (by transfer) | (5,000) | --- | --- | (-5,000) | --- |
| Subtotal, Economic support fund..... | 2,607,660 | 3,214,470 | 2,650,740 | +43,080 | -563,730 |
| International Fund for Ireland..... | 13,365 | --- | 10,800 | -2,565 | +10,800 |
| Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States.... | 357,390 | 273,900 | 227,900 | -129,490 | -46,000 |
| Assistance for the Independent States of the former Soviet Union..... | 508,860 | 441,000 | 371,280 | -137,580 | -69,720 |
| Trade Capacity Enhancement Fund..... | --- | --- | 522,000 | +522,000 | +522,000 |
| Total, Other Bilateral Economic Assistance..... | 3,487,275 | 3,929,370 | 3,782,720 | +295,445 | -146,650 |
| ----- | | | | | |
| INDEPENDENT AGENCIES | | | | | |
| Inter-American Foundation | | | | | |
| Appropriation..... | 19,305 | 19,268 | 19,268 | -37 | --- |
| African Development Foundation | | | | | |
| Appropriation..... | 22,770 | 22,726 | 22,726 | -44 | --- |
| Peace Corps | | | | | |
| Appropriation..... | 318,780 | 336,700 | 324,587 | +5,807 | -12,113 |
| Millenium Challenge Corporation | | | | | |
| Appropriation..... | 1,752,300 | 3,000,000 | 2,000,000 | +247,700 | -1,000,000 |

FOREIGN OPERATIONS- EXPORT FINANCING- AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS- 2006 (H.R. 5522)
(Amounts in thousands)

| | FY 2006 Enacted | FY 2007 Request | Bill | Bill vs. Enacted | Bill vs. Request |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Department of State | | | | | |
| Global HIV/AIDS initiative..... | 1,975,050 | 2,894,000 | 2,772,500 | +797,450 | -121,500 |
| Democracy Fund..... | 94,050 | --- | --- | -94,050 | --- |
| International narcotics control and law enforcement... | 472,428 | 795,490 | 703,600 | +231,172 | -91,890 |
| Subtotal, Narcotics control..... | 472,428 | 795,490 | 703,600 | +231,172 | -91,890 |
| Andean Counterdrug Initiative..... | 727,155 | 721,500 | 506,850 | -220,305 | -214,650 |
| Migration and refugee assistance..... | 783,090 | 832,900 | 750,206 | -32,884 | -82,694 |
| United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund..... | 29,700 | 55,000 | 30,000 | +300 | -25,000 |
| Nonproliferation, anti-terrorism, demining and related programs..... | 405,999 | 449,430 | 425,010 | +19,011 | -24,420 |
| Conflict response fund..... | --- | 75,000 | --- | --- | -75,000 |
| Subtotal, Department of State..... | 4,487,472 | 5,823,320 | 5,188,166 | +700,694 | -635,154 |
| Department of the Treasury | | | | | |
| International Affairs Technical Assistance..... | 19,800 | 23,700 | 23,700 | +3,900 | --- |
| Debt restructuring..... | 64,350 | 182,799 | 20,000 | -44,350 | -162,799 |
| Subtotal, Department of the Treasury..... | 84,150 | 206,499 | 43,700 | -40,450 | -162,799 |
| ===== | | | | | |
| Total, title II, Bilateral economic assistance.. | 14,560,702 | 17,352,409 | 15,466,980 | +906,278 | -1,885,429 |
| Appropriations..... | (14,429,172) | (17,352,409) | (15,466,980) | (+1,037,808) | (-1,885,429) |
| Emergency appropriations..... | (131,530) | --- | --- | (-131,530) | --- |
| (By transfer)..... | (31,730) | (21,000) | (156,000) | (+124,270) | (+135,000) |
| (Transfer out)..... | (-31,730) | (-21,000) | (-156,000) | (-124,270) | (-135,000) |
| TITLE III - MILITARY ASSISTANCE | | | | | |
| FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT | | | | | |
| International Military Education and Training..... | 85,877 | 88,900 | 88,000 | +2,123 | -900 |
| Foreign Military Financing Program: | | | | | |
| Grants: | | | | | |
| Israel..... | 2,257,200 | 2,340,000 | 2,340,000 | +82,800 | --- |
| Egypt..... | 1,287,000 | 1,300,000 | 1,300,000 | +13,000 | --- |
| Other..... | 910,800 | 910,900 | 814,900 | -95,900 | -96,000 |
| Subtotal, Grants..... | 4,455,000 | 4,550,900 | 4,454,900 | -100 | -96,000 |
| (Limitation on administrative expenses)..... | (41,600) | (43,500) | (42,500) | (+900) | (-1,000) |
| Total, Foreign Military Financing..... | 4,455,000 | 4,550,900 | 4,454,900 | -100 | -96,000 |
| Peacekeeping operations..... | 173,250 | 200,500 | 170,000 | -3,250 | -30,500 |
| Subtotal, Peacekeeping operations..... | 173,250 | 200,500 | 170,000 | -3,250 | -30,500 |
| ===== | | | | | |
| Total, title III, Military assistance..... | 4,714,127 | 4,840,300 | 4,712,900 | -1,227 | -127,400 |
| Appropriations..... | (4,714,127) | (4,840,300) | (4,712,900) | (-1,227) | (-127,400) |
| Emergency appropriations..... | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (Limitation on administrative expenses)..... | (41,600) | (43,500) | (42,500) | (+900) | (-1,000) |
| ===== | | | | | |

FOREIGN OPERATIONS- EXPORT FINANCING- AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS- 2006 (H.R. 5522)
(Amounts in thousands)

| | FY 2006 Enacted | FY 2007 Request | Bill | Bill vs. Enacted | Bill vs. Request |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ----- | | | | | |
| TITLE IV - MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE | | | | | |
| FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT | | | | | |
| International Financial Institutions | | | | | |
| World Bank Group | | | | | |
| Contribution to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development: | | | | | |
| Global Environment Facility..... | 79,200 | 56,250 | 56,250 | -22,950 | --- |
| Contribution to the International Development Association..... | | | | | |
| ..... | 940,500 | 950,000 | 950,000 | +9,500 | --- |
| Contribution to Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency..... | | | | | |
| ..... | 1,287 | --- | --- | -1,287 | --- |
| (Limitation on callable capital subscriptions).... | (8,127) | --- | --- | (-8,127) | --- |
| ----- | | | | | |
| Total, World Bank Group..... | 1,020,987 | 1,006,250 | 1,006,250 | -14,737 | --- |
| Contribution to the Inter-American Development Bank: | | | | | |
| Contribution to the Enterprise for the Americas Multilateral Investment Fund..... | | | | | |
| ..... | 1,725 | 25,000 | 23,000 | +21,275 | -2,000 |
| Inter-American Investment Corporation..... | | | | | |
| ..... | 1,725 | --- | --- | -1,725 | --- |
| ----- | | | | | |
| Total, Inter-American Development Bank..... | 3,450 | 25,000 | 23,000 | +19,550 | -2,000 |
| Contribution to the Asian Development Bank: | | | | | |
| Paid-in capital..... | | | | | |
| ..... | --- | 23,750 | --- | --- | -23,750 |
| Contribution to the Asian Development Fund..... | | | | | |
| ..... | 99,000 | 115,250 | 115,250 | +16,250 | --- |
| ----- | | | | | |
| Total, Asian Development Bank..... | 99,000 | 139,000 | 115,250 | +16,250 | -23,750 |
| Contribution to the African Development Bank: | | | | | |
| Paid-in capital..... | | | | | |
| ..... | 3,602 | 5,018 | 5,018 | +1,416 | --- |
| (Limitation on callable capital subscriptions).... | | | | | |
| ..... | (88,334) | (78,622) | (78,622) | (-9,712) | --- |
| Contribution to the African Development Fund..... | | | | | |
| ..... | 134,343 | 135,700 | 135,700 | +1,357 | --- |
| ----- | | | | | |
| Total, African Development Bank..... | 137,945 | 140,718 | 140,718 | +2,773 | --- |
| Contribution to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development: | | | | | |
| Paid-in capital..... | | | | | |
| ..... | 1,006 | --- | --- | -1,006 | --- |
| (Limitation on callable capital subscriptions).... | | | | | |
| ..... | (2,250) | --- | --- | (-2,250) | --- |
| Contribution to the International Fund for Agricultural Development..... | | | | | |
| ..... | 14,850 | 18,000 | 18,000 | +3,150 | --- |
| ----- | | | | | |
| Total, International Financial Institutions..... | 1,277,238 | 1,328,968 | 1,303,218 | +25,980 | -25,750 |
| International Organizations and Programs | | | | | |
| Appropriation..... | 326,163 | 289,000 | 327,570 | +1,407 | +38,570 |
| ===== | | | | | |
| Total, title IV, Multilateral economic assistance..... | 1,603,401 | 1,617,968 | 1,630,788 | +27,387 | +12,820 |
| (Limitation on callable capital subscript)..... | (98,711) | (78,622) | (78,622) | (-20,089) | --- |
| ===== | | | | | |

FOREIGN OPERATIONS- EXPORT FINANCING- AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS- 2006 (H.R. 5522)
(Amounts in thousands)

| | FY 2006 Enacted | FY 2007 Request | Bill | Bill vs. Enacted | Bill vs. Request |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ----- | | | | | |
| TITLE V - GENERAL PROVISIONS | | | | | |
| Expenditure transfer (Sec. 540)..... | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sec. 6084 Security in Asia..... | 9,900 | --- | --- | -9,900 | --- |
| Sec. 577..... | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sudan (Sec. 569)..... | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Rescission..... | --- | --- | -388,100 | -388,100 | -388,100 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| Total, title V, General Provisions..... | 9,900 | --- | -388,100 | -398,000 | -388,100 |
| Appropriations..... | (9,900) | --- | --- | (-9,900) | --- |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| Grand total..... | 20,872,903 | 23,726,069 | 21,337,960 | +465,057 | -2,388,109 |
| Appropriations..... | (20,766,373) | (23,726,069) | (21,726,060) | (+959,687) | (-2,000,009) |
| Emergency appropriations..... | (131,530) | --- | --- | (-131,530) | --- |
| Contingent emergency appropriations..... | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Rescissions..... | (-25,000) | --- | (-388,100) | (-363,100) | (-388,100) |
| (By transfer)..... | (31,730) | (21,000) | (156,000) | (+124,270) | (+135,000) |
| (By transfer emergency appropriations)..... | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (Transfer out)..... | (-31,730) | (-21,000) | (-156,000) | (-124,270) | (-135,000) |
| (Transfer out emergency appropriations)..... | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (Limitation on administrative expenses)..... | (41,600) | (43,500) | (42,500) | (+900) | (-1,000) |
| (Limitation on callable capital subscript)..... | (98,711) | (78,622) | (78,622) | (-20,089) | --- |
| (Emergency Supplemental (P.L. 108-106))..... | (131,530) | --- | --- | (-131,530) | --- |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |

FOREIGN OPERATIONS- EXPORT FINANCING- AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS- 2006 (H.R. 5522)
(Amounts in thousands)

| | FY 2006 Enacted | FY 2007 Request | Bill | Bill vs. Enacted | Bill vs. Request |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ----- | | | | | |
| CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RECAP | | | | | |
| Scorekeeping adjustments: | | | | | |
| Emergency appropriations..... | -131,530 | --- | --- | +131,530 | --- |
| ATB adjustment..... | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total, adjustments..... | -131,530 | --- | --- | +131,530 | --- |
| ----- | | | | | |
| Total (including adjustments)..... | 20,741,373 | 23,726,069 | 21,337,960 | +596,587 | -2,388,109 |
| Amounts in this bill..... | (20,872,903) | (23,726,069) | (21,337,960) | (+465,057) | (-2,388,109) |
| Scorekeeping adjustments..... | (-131,530) | --- | --- | (+131,530) | --- |
| Prior year outlays..... | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ===== | | | | | |
| Total mandatory and discretionary..... | 20,741,373 | 23,726,069 | 21,337,960 | +596,587 | -2,388,109 |
| Mandatory..... | (41,700) | (38,700) | (38,700) | (-3,000) | --- |
| Discretionary..... | (20,699,673) | (23,687,369) | (21,299,260) | (+599,587) | (-2,388,109) |
| ===== | | | | | |
| RECAP BY FUNCTION | | | | | |
| Mandatory..... | 41,700 | 38,700 | 38,700 | -3,000 | --- |
| Prior year outlays..... | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total, Mandatory..... | 41,700 | 38,700 | 38,700 | -3,000 | --- |
| ----- | | | | | |
| Discretionary..... | 20,699,673 | 23,687,369 | 21,299,260 | +599,587 | -2,388,109 |
| Prior year outlays..... | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total, Discretionary..... | 20,699,673 | 23,687,369 | 21,299,260 | +599,587 | -2,388,109 |
| ===== | | | | | |
| Grand total, Mandatory and Discretionary..... | 20,741,373 | 23,726,069 | 21,337,960 | +596,587 | -2,388,109 |
| ===== | | | | | |
| DISCRETIONARY 302(b) ALLOCATION | | | | | |
| 302(b) allocation..... | 20,937,000 | --- | 21,300,000 | +363,000 | +21,300,000 |
| Over/under allocation..... | -237,327 | 23,687,369 | -740 | +236,587 | -23,688,109 |

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it as well. Our 302(b) allocation, which was nearly \$2.4 billion below the President's requested level, presented us with several challenges. Within this sharply reduced allocation, we were compelled to fit dramatic increases in presidential priorities such as the Millennium Challenge Account and the President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief, as well as increased funding for Afghanistan and Iraq.

I generally agree with Chairman KOLBE on the spending levels recommended within the reduced allocation. We worked closely together as always to ensure that, in the face of devastating cuts, we at least level funded child survival and health and development assistance priorities. The bill provides the President's request of \$3.4 billion for HIV/AIDS, increasing the overall amount for HIV/AIDS and TB by \$751 million over the fiscal year 2006 enacted levels, and more than doubling the President's request for the global fund to fight AIDS, TB, and malaria to the fiscal year 2006 enacted level of \$444.5 million. Although I know we both wish we could have done more for the global fund, I believe we are doing the best we can with the resources we have.

The bill maintains level funding for basic education in the development assistance account at last year's level of \$365 million. And I am pleased that we have been able to increase non-DA funds for basic education in the bill for a total of \$550 million. We also continue the U.S. reconstruction program in Afghanistan, fully fund the requested levels for Liberia, Haiti, and Sudan, and fully fund our strategic commitments in the Middle East. I am pleased that we have also restored deep cuts the President requested in family planning and reproductive health programs. The bill substantially increases family planning funding and the child survival and health account from the President's request, fully restores bill-wide bilateral funding to \$432 million, the fiscal year 2006 House-passed level, and earmarks \$34 million for the United Nations population fund.

I am also pleased that the bill restores funding for several key U.N. agencies, including UNICEF; UNDP, UNIFEM, and the UNIFEM Trust Fund.

I want to commend the chairman for his willingness to take a critical look at the Andean Counternarcotics Initiative, and specifically how the continuation of a special program aimed primarily at eradication of coca is consistent with the myriad U.S. foreign policy goals in the Andean region. I do believe that our overemphasis on the drug war has caused us to neglect many of the critical objectives throughout Latin America, and it is

my hope that the changes made by the chairman in the allocation of funds in this bill are the first steps toward a wholesale reevaluation of our foreign aid program in the region.

I want to point out a few specific concerns I have with the bill. Our shamefully low allocation required us to make cuts from the requests in several key areas, including Migration and Refugee Assistance, peacekeeping, programs for Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, key Economic Support Fund programs, and Congo debt relief. It is my hope we will be able to restore these cuts and even provide increases where warranted, in conference, in addition to providing funding for many of these priorities in the supplemental conference report expected on the House floor tomorrow.

I also hope that we can restore full funding for the United States commitment to the Global Environmental Facility. The President's requested level granted in this bill is more than \$20 million less than what we had pledged. In light of the GEF's adoption just this week of a number of U.S. initiated matters and reforms, I believe we have a particular responsibility to fully fund our commitment to this organization.

I am disappointed that this bill places no conditionality whatsoever on U.S. military assistance to Indonesia and Guatemala. Despite constructive language on Indonesia included in the FY 06 bill, this bill fails to send the message that the United States does expect Indonesia to continue on the path of achieving true civilian control over the military and accountability for human rights abuses. Again, I hope this is something we can remedy in conference.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chairman KOLBE for his hard work this year and every year throughout his tenure in creating a bipartisan environment for examining our foreign aid policy priorities and addressing the funding needs of our foreign assistance program. The chairman has shown tremendous leadership in steering our subcommittee, setting an example of bipartisan cooperation and collaboration that, unfortunately, is too rare in Congress today, and, Chairman KOLBE leaves behind an impressive legacy as he prepares to retire.

Chairman KOLBE has overseen the largest increases in the foreign aid budget post-Cold War, understanding implicitly the key role foreign aid plays in maintaining United States national security. Under his stewardship, funding in the bill to combat HIV/AIDS has increased from \$485 million in FY 02 to \$3.43 billion in the mark before us today. Basic education has increased more than five-fold. I know he is particularly proud of his work on trade capacity building, as well as on shaping and promoting the Millennium Challenge Account.

Today, the last time Chairman KOLBE will manage the Foreign Operations bill during floor consideration, I

do hope we can all take a moment to express our appreciation for the chairman's leadership and his friendship. This Congress and the American people are richer for his service to this body, and his departure will leave a void of intelligence, expertise, professionalism and decency that will not easily be filled.

Chairman KOLBE, you are really a great Member and a great friend. I think I speak for many of my colleagues when I say that it has been an honor and a pleasure to work with you.

I look forward to continuing to work with the chairman and with our Senate counterparts as the bill moves into conference. However, I think the bill before us today is a good product. I appreciate the chairman's leadership, the involvement of all of our subcommittee members and associate staff, of course, the hard work of our staff, as exemplified by Nisha Desai and Betsy Phillips celebrating their birthday here in this Capitol at about 1 or 2 in the morning. So we all say happy birthday. Happy birthday, Betsy.

We thank Beth Tritter, Craig Higgins, Rob Blair, Delia Scott, Lori Maes, Kevin Hernandez and Todd Calongne for their hard work in crafting this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased today to rise in support of H.R. 5522, the Foreign Operations appropriations bill for fiscal year 2007. This is the seventh of 11 bills the committee plans to bring to the House floor before the 4th of July break.

I, too, want to take a moment to express my appreciation for the work of Mr. KOLBE, as well as Ms. LOWEY. These two people working together are a demonstration of the way Congress ought to work. The two of them working together does demonstrate for all of us that the best way to get this done is to set aside partisan differences where it is possible, but, most importantly, to promote the thought that the place works a lot better by working together.

I want to take a moment to give very special tribute to JIM KOLBE, as Ms. LOWEY did. JIM is presenting his last bill. It is a very, very impressive product, most impressive because it demonstrates truly one of our fabulous Members working on behalf of all of us and the country. JIM KOLBE is as fine a member as the Appropriations Committee has ever had.

The bill addresses critical issues, including the AIDS pandemic, global trade and commerce, anti-narcotics programs, and the Global War on Terrorism.

□ 1345

Specifically, this bill provides a total of \$3.4 billion in global assistance funds

to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, \$752 million above last year's level, and the same as the President's request.

The bill provides \$445 million for the U.S. contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. These accounts are more than double the amount that was requested by the President.

The legislation also provides a record level of funding for the President's signature foreign assistance initiative, the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Total funding is \$2 billion, \$248 million above last year. That represents a budget increase in a very tight budget circumstance.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is really important for us to recognize the role that this bill has played on the global war on terror. We would not have been as successful as we have been in that effort if it had not been for the work of this subcommittee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3½ minutes to the very distinguished member of the committee, Ms. KILPATRICK.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, to Chairman KOLBE and to my ranking member, NITA LOWEY, who has shepherded this bill through the many years that I have been on the committee, through several chairmen and ranking members, I just want to say thank you very much for your leadership and for your cooperation, because it makes it easier for all of the subcommittee members when our Chair and ranking member work together. I want to thank you for that.

To Chairman KOLBE, as you enter your next life, sir, I just want to say thank you for your leadership, your compassion and your working togetherness that you have demonstrated as I have worked with you over these last many years. We are going to miss you in this body. I am sure your next opportunities will also enhance this body. So congratulations and good luck to you.

I stand in support of this bill. It is a bipartisan effort that we have worked together on for several months now. If we had more money, we could have done better. But we did the best with what we had.

Mr. Chairman, I am happy that the HIV account is probably funded higher than it has been ever under Chairman KOLBE and Ranking Member LOWEY's leadership and direction. HIV/AIDS is a pandemic in the world, and the U.S. is certainly doing our part. And I want to thank the administration as well as the Members of this Congress, both House and Senate, for standing by and making available treatment options so that people can have fuller, better lives.

Our Child Survival Account, which is not at the level that I would like to see it, but continues to help with malaria and TB and other kinds of illnesses across this world. We thank you for that. The assistance that this bill gives

Liberia, as well as the Sudan, we had the President from Liberia here not long ago, President Sirleaf, who has demonstrated a new wave in Liberia. I am happy that this bill will continue to assist them.

The Darfur debacle that is currently under way in the Sudan, we have got to do more there. We have got to rise up as a Nation and offer the leadership of the United States to bring this decimation of millions of peoples and their lives and children to a rest.

I do not want to really get into it here, but there will be much debate about Egypt. I want to talk about it just a moment. I was able to go to Egypt a couple of weeks ago with our Chair and ranking member; I have been in that region before.

I come from the State of Michigan. Michigan has the largest amount of Arab Americans and Arabs in America in our part of the world through four of the Members of this Congress. Congressman DINGELL, CONYERS, KNOLLENBERG and myself share that population of Arab Americans in our districts, have been living with them for decades, and they are a part of our family and our population in southeastern Michigan, where two-thirds of the population of our State lives.

Egypt, the leading country in that part of the Middle East, is a friend of America. President Mubarak is the best friend we have in the region. There will be much debate about Egypt as we go forward. I do not want to get into the specifics right now, but I do want to say thank you to the chairman, there is a rescission of \$200 million in the budget that was not spent.

So there is some attention paid to what is happening in Egypt. Egypt needs to be our partner, and they need to know that we support them. The rescission that the Chairman offered has now been ratified by the subcommittee and the full committee. It is a step to say that we are watching you, we are working with you.

Democracy in our region of the world is not the same as it is all over the world. I believe President Mubarak and his administration are doing what they can to maintain the stability in the region. So I believe this is a good bill.

And as we go throughout the day to debate the 20-plus amendments, pay particular interest to what is happening in the world. We are a leader. We deserve it. And we look forward to your support.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG).

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5522, the fiscal year 2007 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act.

First, I want to extend my best wishes to Chairman KOLBE for all of the work that he has done. He has done some tremendous work, extraordinary work. I think he has been an invaluable resource for the foreign operations end of things. So I just want to say, in ad-

dition he has always been receptive, been very responsive to Members' input on a very, very difficult bill.

Mr. KOLBE, I really appreciate having you around. I also want to wish you the very best in the future in whatever you decide to move into.

I also want to commend the ranking member, Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. KOLBE and Mrs. LOWEY, I think, have been a great team for this particular committee. I convey my best. You are not leaving obviously, Mrs. LOWEY, so can you stick around. But I convey the very best to her and the work that she has done.

We found common ground on a variety of issues, and together I think we achieved some pretty important results. I look forward to continuing that in the future.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the subcommittee staff for the hard work that they have performed in addressing the many issues in this bill. It is a testament to them that the bill runs through the process so smoothly every year despite the number of demands and challenges that they face.

Once again, Chairman KOLBE, his staff, Ranking Member LOWEY have crafted an excellent bill that balances all of the many priorities the United States has around the world. Our foreign assistance fosters democratic and transparent governments, promotes human rights and helps millions of people in need.

While less than 1 percent of our entire annual budget, foreign assistance serves as a main pillar of our foreign policy and is an integral part of our national security.

As always, assistance to the Middle East is the central part of this bill. It provides the full amount that the President requested for Israel, including both economic and security assistance.

It also provides \$40 million for refugee resettlement in Israel. Just as importantly, it lays down the groundwork for this program in the future. It also provides no direct funding for the Hamas-infected Palestinian Authority.

However, it does provide limited humanitarian assistance under strict guidelines and checks to ensure absolutely no funding reaches Hamas.

Additional funding for Lebanon, Egypt and other Middle East countries is important to support reform efforts. It is particularly important to note the continued funding for the Middle East Partnership Initiative which further reforms the region.

Mr. Chairman, I am also particularly pleased that the bill provides \$62 million in economic assistance to Armenia. I look forward to working with Chairman KOLBE to ensure that the final bill includes adequate funding for Armenia. This funding is especially important since Turkey and Azerbaijan continue to obstruct transportation and infrastructure routes into and out of Armenia with the intention of forcing Armenia into economic isolation.

The bill maintains parity in U.S. military assistance to Armenia and Azerbaijan, which is critical to the overall policy toward the South Caucasus.

There is also no chance in section 907 language with respect to Azerbaijan. The bill includes other important funding, such as \$2 billion for the Millennium Challenge Corporation, which provides foreign assistance to specific countries if and only if they meet specific criteria. It also includes substantial funding to fight the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Chairman, this is a responsible bill. It is the result of significant oversight. It is fiscally sound and it focuses funding on the priorities that will advance our interests. For all of those reasons, I strongly support the bill. I urge all of my colleagues to join in supporting this bill on the floor today.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Chairman, I want to talk for a moment about a radio station in Iraq called Radio Al Mahaba, which is giving Iraqi women a taste of freedom of speech. It is the first and only station for women in the entire Middle East and the only politically and religiously independent radio station in Iraq.

This station started in April 2005 using a \$350,000 grant from the United Nations Development Fund for Women. As we know, under Saddam Hussein, women lost not only vast employment opportunities, but also educational opportunities. The illiteracy rate of Iraqi women rose to a high of 75 percent, according to UNICEF estimates.

The recent changes in the social and political structure of Iraq have also been difficult on Iraqi women. The radio station was created in order to empower and educate women. When they started, they were broadcasting throughout Iraq, including in isolated areas discussing issues important to women, and also discussing the goals of freedom and democracy.

Unfortunately, insurgent attacks knocked out their main transmitter. In spite of that and a shoestring budget, the people who worked at the station continued on broadcasting in Baghdad. Last week their remaining transmitter, which was rented, failed.

However, with the help of the Iraqi Civil Society Program implemented by America's Development Foundation and funded by the U.S. Agency For International Development, it looks as though they may be able to rent another transmitter and get back on the air soon.

Of course, a more permanent solution is needed. They need a transmitter so they can again broadcast throughout Iraq and have a goal of reaching places like Iran. Iraqi women are fortunate to have this radio station, and it plays an important role toward achieving a free and democratic Iraq.

Mrs. LOWEY. I thank the gentlewoman for her interest in the issue, and I understand that Radio Al Mahaba has given Iraqi women the opportunity to exercise freedom of expression during a very confusing and dangerous time in their country.

I will look forward to working with my colleague from New York to support the continued operation of this vital resource. And I thank the gentlewoman for bringing it to our attention.

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for her willingness to engage us in a colloquy.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire about the remaining time.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Arizona has 11 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from New York has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I thank my good friend for yielding me time and thank him for the job he has done on this very important legislation.

Mr. Chairman, this morning I had the privilege of joining First Lady Laura Bush, Ambassador Tobias, Dr. Kent Hill at an event announcing Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Senegal as the newest countries to be added to the President's Malaria Initiative, \$1.2 billion over its 5-year program. Mrs. Bush also announced Admiral R. Timothy Ziemer as the new U.S. Malaria Coordinator.

I think Members should be aware if they are not already that every 30 seconds an African child dies of malaria moreover about 1.2 million people die each year, mostly in Africa, from this preventable disease.

The President's Malaria Initiatives (PMI) goal is to cut malaria deaths by 50 percent in 15 African countries and hopefully to also mitigate morbidity. The plan includes disseminating insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor residual spraying, life-saving drugs called ACTs, and treatment for pregnant women known as intermittent preventive treatment or IPT.

The money in this bill will advance this initiative and will now include four new countries. Let me also thank the chairman and the committee for modestly upping the amount of money to try to effectuate cures for those women suffering obstetric fistula.

The amount has now risen to \$7.5 million. My hope is, and perhaps in conference, we can bump that up even further to \$10 million. Two million women suffer from this debilitating condition, the result of which is incontinence. I have visited hospitals in Africa, and seen that for a mere \$150 a woman's life can be given back to her through a surgical repair.

Obviously, there is also prevention, but there are these 2 million women who have a fistula today, and it seems to me we need to do even more to try to end their misery.

□ 1400

Having met with many of these women, to see the smiles on their faces, having gotten their lives back, going back to their villages knowing that they will no longer be ostracized because incontinence obviously is not just a health hazard and leads to sickness, it results in very serious odor as well.

Let me remind my colleagues that anywhere from 50,000 to 100,000 new cases occur every year, and certainly if we were to increase our effort on obstetrical services, especially midwives in Africa, such an effort would go a long way to preventing this condition when an obstructed delivery or some kind of sexual trauma causes obstetric fistula.

I would hope the chairman would try to increase that number even further, and I thank him for what he has done.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. KOLBE. The gentleman has identified a problem that we think is absolutely of critical importance. We have moved from, I believe, no money just in 2003 to 1 million to 5 million to \$7 million in this year, so I think we are moving very substantially in this area.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to respond to the gentleman from New Jersey. I appreciate your advocacy on this very critical issue. Many of us in the Congress on both sides of the aisle understand the urgency, and I do hope we can work together on the next step because these young women come there with this terrible, terrible problem and then they are repaired. And without contraceptive coverage, without family planning, they come back again and again and again. So I look forward to continuing the dialogue and I thank you for your advocacy.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN).

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity to engage in a colloquy with Ranking Member LOWEY and Chairman KOLBE.

The report accompanying H.R. 5522, the Foreign Options Appropriations Act, includes language encouraging the consideration of a proposal from the Gift of Life International for Project Iraqi Hearts, a program that will provide life-saving open heart surgery to Iraqi children that they cannot get at home.

I have been an advocate of the Gift of Life Program since 1983 when I worked with then-First Lady Nancy Reagan, to arrange for a young boy and girl from South Korea to come to the United States by way of Air Force One for a life saving open heart surgery.

Supported by 50 Rotary Districts every year, the Gift of Life International transports to the United States and surgically operates on over

a thousand children from all over the developing world. Through the efforts of our military personnel serving in Iraq, the Gift of Life has now identified at least 1,500 children that have been diagnosed as suffering from congenital heart defects that will be fatal if left untreated.

The Gift of Life has a terrific track record on our Nation's reputation in Iraq. It could certainly use a little boost from a program like this. While specific funds have not been set aside in the text of the bill, I would like the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee to confirm their interest in the program and to reiterate their support through consideration of this initiative by the Department of State and USAID.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ACKERMAN. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. KOLBE. The report accompanying H.R. 5522 does indicate the committee's awareness of the Gift of Life International's Project Iraqi Hearts. It is an initiative that should be thoroughly explored. The ranking minority member and I are both committed to working with the gentleman from New York to ensure that this proposal gets careful consideration from the Department of State and USAID. Specific funds have not been set aside, but if review by State and AID show the program can deliver results that save lives, it would have the committee's strong support.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ACKERMAN. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I certainly agree that this program should be thoroughly considered by the Department of State and USAID. It can save lives that would otherwise be lost, and advance our national interest by demonstrating the compassion of the American people. It deserves a chance to go forward. I look forward to working with the Chair and the gentleman from New York to ensure that Project Iraqi Hearts gets the attention and consideration it deserves.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the Chair and ranking member for their commitment to this initiative and I look forward to working with them to see if we can save some Iraqi children's lives through the Gift of Life Program.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD), the distinguished vice chairman of the subcommittee, a very important Member who has contributed much to the work of this subcommittee.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the foreign operations bill for 2007. The legislation before us is a fair and fiscally responsible bill that sensibly promotes U.S. foreign policy.

I would like to commend Chairman KOLBE on a job well done. He is an ef-

fective leader with a strong work ethic, a balanced approach and a remarkable knowledge and command of the subject matter. I have learned a great deal from you, Mr. Chairman, as a member of your subcommittee. As you leave Congress, I wish you the kind of success and respect that you have earned here in the House of Representatives.

This foreign operations bill is a solid bipartisan piece of legislation that helps our government meet our objectives abroad and in turn make America more secure. The bill is \$2.4 billion below the President's request, but in light of the many domestic needs here in the U.S., I agree with the chairman that the allocation is fair. Tough choices had to be made to fund our international priorities, and I believe he has made the right choices in setting these priorities.

The bill provides reasonable increases in assistance to our allies in the war on terror, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and international health objectives that fight the spread of diseases such as AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. It provides funds for Afghanistan, including nearly \$300 million for illegal drug interdiction and law enforcement. The increase in poppy production in Afghanistan is of particular concern to the subcommittee, and these funds are crucial in curbing this very real drug problem.

The bill also includes assistance for Iraq. I know it is a priority of the chairman to fund Iraq and Afghanistan assistance programs in regular appropriations bills and less in supplementals. We are one step closer to doing that in this bill. This bill before us is an important measure that successfully fulfills our commitments abroad and as a result makes America stronger and more secure. I ask for its full support.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN).

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank my ranking member and my friend from the State of New York for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, as a member of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, I want to thank our distinguished chairman, Mr. KOLBE from Arizona. It has been a great honor and privilege to work with you, sir, all of these years. We are going to miss you, your wisdom and your kindness and your sense of fairness. Thank you, sir, for all you have done for us and for our work. And to Ms. LOWEY, our ranking member, thank you for your leadership as the ranking member for bringing our priorities to the floor and our values. You are a tireless and effective advocate.

Mr. Chairman, despite an allocation from the Budget Committee that was lower than what we had hoped, we I believe on our subcommittee have accomplished a great deal and in a bipartisan way, such as providing funds for critical programs such as global AIDS and

HIV programs, basic education worldwide, and economic and military assistance for many of our allies.

This assistance to our allies is important for three reasons: One, it improves strategic relations with important countries around the world who help guarantee America's security and the perpetuation of democracy and western values, countries such as the State of Israel, Armenia and Cyprus. It also provides humanitarian assistance for nations in need such as in the Sudan, Liberia and Haiti. It keeps our trade relations strong, promoting cooperation between nations that help us solve global problems and feed the world.

With regards to the environment, Mr. Chairman, I am concerned that the United States may not be doing enough under this bill to contribute to the international programs that protect the environment. The Global Environment Facility, or the GEF, is the single largest source of funding for programs that conserve and protect biodiversity and preserve habitats in countries around the world, from Bangladesh to Brazil.

In the roughly 15 years since its creation, the U.S.'s funding to the GEF has leveraged at least \$14 for every \$1 we have contributed, \$14 for every \$1 we have contributed. International conservation issues, Mr. Chairman, know no national boundaries; and I think the funding model of the GEF where our funding is matched many times over by other donors to solve problems that impact us all, is a smart, fair, and effective approach. Given the importance of the GEF to the global environment, I am concerned about the level of funding for the GEF in this fiscal year 2007 bill.

The administration requested \$56.25 for the GEF in this year's budget, which the committee funded at the request level. But this is a 48 percent cut compared with the administration's own request last year. In the meantime, as our distinguished chairman knows, just this past Tuesday, the GEF adopted all of the reforms proposed by the Treasury Department associated with the fourth replacement of the GEF.

The U.S. negotiators have now committed our country to providing \$80 million to the GEF in fiscal year 2007. An increase of \$23.75 million over the President's budget. I certainly hope that in the conference, our distinguished chairman, our ranking member and the other people participating in the conference, will work to have this full \$80 million committed by the Treasury in the conference report. This is vitally important to our Nation's and our world's environment.

I look forward to working with the chairman and the ranking member on this issue as we move forward towards the conference.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT), a member of the committee.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman from Arizona yielding to me for the purpose of a colloquy. I would also like to thank him for his service to the country. In his 22 years in the Congress, he has been a great subcommittee chairman and we appreciate his leadership.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to thank him for his foresight and inclusion for the Tiahrt amendment violation report language. I also appreciate his hard work as chairman of the subcommittee on this bill, which I support. As the author of this important amendment, which has been in law since 1998, I have grave concerns about the violations that took place in Guatemala, the confirmed fact that the violations went on for 3 years, and the amount of time it took USAID to notify Congress of the violations.

The purpose of this report language is to send a strong message to USAID that the law has been ignored and that Congress will not stand by and watch. We must be able to provide proper oversight. In order to do that the agencies that receive taxpayer dollars under the child survival and health programs fund, must adhere to the specifications of the law.

USAID has confirmed that bonus payments were paid to 12 referral agents at APROFAM, the Family Welfare Association of Guatemala, which is an international Planned Parenthood federation affiliate. Each agent had a target of bringing in 25 women for sterilization. The bonus payments were paid to the agents when certain quotas were met, and for some their salaries were almost doubled as a result. This violates two parts of the language of the law.

USAID found out about the violations and the bonus was stopped. However, the length of time concerns me. It took them 9 months to get the information from Guatemala to USAID to Washington, then another 60 days to get it to Congress.

We ought to be horrified that no less than 900 women that were sterilized by APROFAM over the span of 3 years, the bonus payment system was in place.

Mr. Chairman, I have heard of other possible amendment violations to the Tiahrt amendment in other countries, and I implore USAID to act quickly to investigate these in a proper and timely manner and to report to Congress.

I want to thank again the chairman for engaging in this colloquy and for his service to the committee and to the country.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleague from Kansas for his discussion on this very important subject, and certainly as the subcommittee was crafting this bill, we acknowledge how important these issues are.

□ 1415

I want to assure the gentleman that the committee will continue to pay close attention to the reports from

USAID of possible and confirmed violations of this amendment. We also will work with the USAID to ensure the timely reporting of violations if, and when, they occur.

I thank the gentleman.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank our ranking member, Mrs. LOWEY. I want to commend her and Chairman KOLBE for their hard work and leadership on this bill, and I am particularly pleased that the subcommittee called for a higher allocation to Armenia than requested by the administration and would like to personally thank him for maintaining and providing the needed assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh.

The President's budget request called for 20 percent more military aid to Azerbaijan than to Armenia. That request was a clear breach of an agreement struck between the White House and Congress in 2001 to maintain parity in U.S. military aid to Armenia and Azerbaijan. Given the fact that relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan continue to be tenuous, it is imperative that the U.S. maintain a balanced approach. I am happy to see that the committee maintained that parity agreement despite the administration's request.

Unfortunately, the administration's budget also called for drastic cuts in economic assistance to Armenia, a nearly 33 percent decrease in humanitarian aid. Again, I was pleased to see the committee provided \$62 million in U.S. aid for Armenia, representing a \$12 million increase over the President's budget. The subcommittee also allocated \$5 million for Nagorno-Karabakh.

I am also very pleased that the subcommittee rejected efforts by Azerbaijani's advocates to weaken section 907 restrictions on U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan. Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act remains a fundamental element of U.S. policy toward the South Caucasus. Because Azerbaijan continues its blockade of Armenia, section 907 is essential.

As the co-chair of the Armenian Caucus, I strongly believe that technical and developmental assistance and investment is essential to Armenia. This funding is imperative to democratic stability and economic reform. The dual blockades of Armenia by Azerbaijan and Turkey continue to impede Armenia's economic well-being.

Despite these blockades, Armenia continues to successfully implement economic and democratic reforms. However, as long as Armenia suffers from blockades on its east and west borders, continued and robust U.S. assistance to Armenia will be needed to help minimize their impact.

Thank you again to the committee and the subcommittee.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gen-

tleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), a member of the House International Relations Committee for the purposes of a colloquy.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to engage the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. KOLBE, in a colloquy.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, on Tuesday the administration successfully concluded negotiations for the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, the GEF. These have been long and detailed negotiations that had been scheduled to be concluded last year. The GEF is an important international institution for protection of the global environment, and we should be pleased that negotiations have come, frankly, to a very successful resolution.

The Treasury Department, which conducted the negotiations on behalf of the United States, got, in essence, all of the reforms it demanded. These include the items mentioned on the report language accompanying the bill, including the two major changes proposed by the U.S.: first, plans to apply a resource allocation framework to the entire GEF portfolio of new projects by 2010; second, enhanced fiduciary standards for agents that the GEF works with, including a prohibition of new funding to agencies that do not meet the standards.

The agreement also resolved the other outstanding issues to our satisfaction: removal of language regarding arrears that were objectionable to the United States; a provision regarding expanding the number of agencies the GEF works with; a provision on institutional effectiveness; and a firm target for satisfactory outcome ratings for GEF projects.

Based on this outcome, the United States negotiators pledged a total of \$320 million in U.S. contributions to the GEF over the next 4 years, \$80 million a year, starting in fiscal year 2007.

I support the administration's new commitment to the GEF, and I urge the chairman to help the administration live up to this promise that has been made to the other donors to provide \$80 million for the GEF in the bill that is ultimately sent to the President. The bill before us underfunds this commitment by \$23.75 million and, as it stands, represents a 26 percent decrease in U.S. commitment to the GEF.

Mr. Chairman, we engaged, you and I, in a colloquy last year on the GEF, and you committed to work to secure funding at conference for the GEF if it completed reforms associated with the previous replenishment. The GEF did complete those reforms, and I want to thank you right now for your support last year.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROYCE. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona for a response.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California for the statement you have just made and

your commitment to the international environment.

As you pointed out, I have in the past supported the mission of the GEF. I had the opportunity to sit down with the CEO of the GEF, Mr. Good, to engage in some very good discussions about their reforms and also on their programs in the past.

I have in the past been concerned about the pace of reform at the GEF. Last year, the House withheld funding for the GEF because it had not completed reforms associated with the third replenishment when our bill came to the floor. There were subsequent agreements that allowed us, in the end, to fund the GEF fully last year.

It is my understanding the GEF has now adopted the reforms sought by the committee and the administration for the fourth replenishment. We will certainly take this into consideration when we meet with the Senate in conference on this bill. In order to facilitate this, I urge the administration to consider a budget amendment requesting additional funds should they decide that is appropriate.

I thank the gentleman again for his commitment to GEF and the environment and will work with him as the bill moves through the process.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, since the time has expired, I will just say that I will be happy to work with him, too.

Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), my good friend.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman, and my friend and mentor, from New York for yielding me this time; and I want to thank her and Chairman KOLBE, another good friend, on another good bill coming out of this committee and proving once again, when it comes to the issue of foreign aid, we can work in a very bipartisan way.

This bill is of particular importance because it is the last for Chairman KOLBE, and I would like to commend Chairman KOLBE for his steadfast support of foreign aid and for what I believe will become your greatest legacy, the creation of a Trade Capacity Enhancement Fund. Time does not allow me to go into it in further detail, but I want to thank you for that.

This bill also includes \$34 million to the United Nations Population Fund, but it has become a norm under this administration that restrictions on providing this important funding will not be released by the administration. The administration seems determined to hinder the health of women and children around the world.

While remaining troubled that this detrimental policy continues, there is much good in this bill, particularly when it comes to the issue of the Middle East.

I strongly support the funding included in this bill for Israel's foreign military financing and economic aid.

We need to continue to ensure that our close allies are able to protect themselves and remain a strong and viable state.

While I support our ally Egypt, there are issues that we in Congress must address. I understand that the Egyptians are concerned about how we disburse the aid to them, but it is important for them to understand what we expect of our partner.

The government of President Mubarak has shown that it is quite quick to throw dissidents into jail, discriminate against the Coptic minority, tolerate anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism in the official press, throw gay Egyptians into jail.

The United States must do more to help end this dangerous mix, and before the problem becomes more unstable.

There is more I would like to say about the issue of Egypt that time does not permit, but also the country of Pakistan, another country I have been concerned about for quite some time; and I am glad the Appropriations Committee recognized the internal problems within Pakistan. The reductions in ESF and FMF should send a strong message to Pakistan that it cannot use the war on terror as an excuse to repress their people.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support this worthy legislation.

Many of us in Congress have strong concerns about our partners in the developing world's capacity to handle free trade agreements with the United States and this new fund will help to solve many of those issues.

This new fund will provide the much needed assistance to our FTA partners who need increased assistance with labor and environmental standards.

My hope is that this new fund will create the environment where we will not have to repeat the divisive CAFTA battle.

We should all be doing what we can to support free trade to benefit these emerging democracies.

We must recognize that building stable societies must start at the grassroots level and that is why I was pleased to see that this new section of the program will receive \$6 million.

We need to redouble our efforts to make sure while we move peace along at the top levels we don't forget to focus on the people who will truly make a lasting peace.

Egypt has been a strong friend and ally and has done much to help bring about a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict but we cannot allow that to cloud our judgment.

Egypt should expect more from themselves, if they want to compete in today's world and move forward with the reforms they have outlined.

Pakistan is another country I have been concerned about for quite some time and I am glad the appropriations committee recognized the internal problems with Pakistan.

The reductions in ESF and FMF should send a strong message to Pakistan that they cannot use the war on terror as an excuse to repress their people.

This is a strong bill that will help our friends and allies and I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gen-

tleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) who has been one of the strongest advocates for clean water in the world, and we thank you for your important work.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentlewoman's courtesy in permitting me to speak and for her kind words and for the work that she and Mr. KOLBE have done in this important bill, fashioning, I think, something that is very, very good, given the minimum amount of money they have been given.

Across the world, this bill will enable the United States to cooperate with other donors, to partner with people in extreme poverty to improve their lives and well-being; but, Mr. Chairman, I am hopeful that we can do a little modification to make this difficult bill a little better.

During consideration here, I will be offering an amendment with the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) to increase the Development Assistance Account by \$250 million in order to support these smart investments to reduce poverty of the 1 billion people around the world who live on less than \$1 a day, the children who will die every 15 seconds because they do not have access to clean water and sanitation.

The proposed increase would be offset by a reduction in equal amount from unearmarked funds in the Foreign Military Financing Account. This will not affect the almost \$4 billion that is set aside for Israel, for Egypt, Jordan, or Colombia.

Mr. Chairman, the American people overwhelmingly support these investments to fight against global poverty. Recently, the Program on International Assistance Policy Attitudes found that 65 percent of the American public would support significant increases in U.S. assistance to fight poverty and disease.

This amendment will represent an all-too-rare occasion in this Chamber for bipartisan cooperation to shift money away from what are largely repressive regimes for unnecessary military assistance and put it where it will make a difference, saving the lives of poor families and especially their children around the world.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and today I rise in strong support of the 2007 foreign operations appropriations bill.

I want to acknowledge the fine work done by the chairman, Mr. KOLBE, who I had the honor to travel to Indonesia with as part of the House Democracy Assistance Commission and also the superb work done each and every day by our ranking member, NITA LOWEY. We are very grateful for your fine work.

There is a lot to applaud in this bill, and I want to recognize a couple of

areas worthy of specific mention, funding in Darfur and funding for the state of Israel among others; but before I do, I want to express my regret and concern about the fact that this bill is still \$2.38 billion below the President's request. That significant cut in foreign assistance, given all the problems around the world, should be concern to all of us. Some of the areas of particular significance that have been cut: refugee assistance is being reduced; debt relief is being cut; peacekeeping is being reduced. The Peace Corps funding is being reduced. Funding for democratization efforts in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union countries is being reduced. Global environmental facility funding and economic support funds, all those are being reduced from the President's proposed budget at a cumulative cost in cuts in those areas and others of \$2.3 billion; and that is, I think, a considerable concern.

In other areas, I want to acknowledge and applaud the work that we are doing in Darfur and the Sudan. More needs to be done. At least 300,000 people are estimated to have died in Darfur in what has remained a largely neglected tragedy and genocide. Currently, more than 3.5 million Darfurians depend on international aid for survival. Another 2 million have been driven from their homes. The \$450 million in humanitarian relief efforts to the Sudan provided in this bill will help meet this rapidly growing need and lend credibility to American calls for other countries to follow our example.

I also applaud the legislation for the groundwork it does for vital improvements in global health and AIDS funding which also are very significant.

Again, I congratulate our Chair and our ranking member for their superb efforts.

□ 1430

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) 1 minute.

Mr. KIND. Will the chairman be kind enough to yield to me his 30 seconds?

Mr. KOLBE. If I am correct, I think I have 30 seconds remaining, and I will yield the balance of my time to the gentleman.

Mr. KIND. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I rise to enter into a colloquy with the chairman.

I rise to express appreciation for the very clear direction provided in the committee's report to the Agency for International Development with regard to the continuation of the East Central European Scholarship program in Albania and Macedonia. Over the last several years, I have become very familiar with this highly effective program because for more than a decade, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, through this program, has been able to provide training to some 300 financial managers from all the participating program countries.

The program has provided the managers training with bank risk manage-

ment, financial management, and supervision of financial institutions, all of which are critically important to stable market economies. This training has helped create financial sectors with improved protections against corrupt and fraudulent activities and has facilitated integration by these economies with the broader European economy.

As the chairman may be aware, however, USAID has not been responsive to the committee's views with regard to the program, as laid out in recent earlier reports. With that in mind, I would appreciate getting the chairman's assurance that the subcommittee will follow up on this excellent report language to impress upon the agency the seriousness of our congressional intent here.

Mr. KOLBE. I appreciate the gentleman from Wisconsin's comments and strong support for ECESP. We will have those discussions with USAID to emphasize the importance of continuing ECESP activities in Albania and Macedonia this fiscal year to shape future utilization of ECESP's expertise.

Mr. KIND. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that; and I, too, want to echo the sentiments and the appreciation for the gentleman's many years of fine service to this body, this institution.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that he has printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I have made this point several times before during the appropriations cycle, and I want to put Members on notice one more time. I think the record is pretty clear that the minority has cooperated at every step of the way on every appropriation bill before this House so far this year. We have facilitated time agreements, we have persuaded our own Members to stifle themselves and reduce the amount of time they take on amendments, we have asked numerous people not to introduce duplicative amendments, and we have, in general, worked as a willing partner with the majority to see to it that this House proceeds in an orderly fashion.

I have had only one requirement. I do not believe that major issues affecting the expenditure of taxpayers' dollars should be decided in the dead of night, and I do not believe that this House has any business voting on these major issues at 11, 12, or 1 o'clock in the morning. It is clear to me that that is what is going to happen on this bill.

I intend to support this bill, unless two amendments that are pending do

not pass. But if that happens, I intend to support this bill. But I do not believe that it serves the interests of this country to be passing this legislation or dealing with major amendments thereto in the midnight hours.

So I want to put every Member on notice. I am perfectly willing to agree to a unanimous consent agreement that enables us to get a substantial way through the consideration of this bill. I would love to see it finished tonight. If it can, by a reasonable hour, no one will be happier than I. But I do not intend to cooperate in a process which pushes all of these votes into 11, 12 or 1 o'clock votes.

We saw that on prescription drugs, we saw that on major tax bills, we have seen that on several appropriation bills last year, and I do not intend to allow that to continue without doing everything I can to prevent it. We can either proceed in an orderly fashion, in a way which is reflective positively on what is supposed to be the world's greatest deliberative body, or we can run a death march where we hide most of our major actions after midnight.

I don't intend to participate in the latter. I will be happier to cooperate in the former.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read. The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5522

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I—EXPORT AND INVESTMENT ASSISTANCE
EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$988,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I won't take that much time, but let me just respond to the gentleman from Wisconsin and let me just say that he has been very cooperative, and I appreciate very much his cooperation in trying to work out some time limitations so that we could work our way through this bill in an orderly fashion, and hopefully in a timely fashion, and get everybody home at a reasonable hour.

With the number of amendments that we have, it does not appear that we can get any kind of a unanimous consent agreement that would allow us to finish the bill by the time that the gentleman has said that he would prefer us to be out and not considering major issues of appropriations of taxpayers' dollars after the hour of 10 o'clock at night.

So it is beyond my pay grade at this point to decide how we proceed, whether or not we do agree to a unanimous

consent agreement to have some limitation on the time of amendments and stop at a reasonable time tonight, or whether we simply plunge on through without any kind of agreement and get as far as we can tonight, which will certainly be much shorter, but we will not get nearly as far or nearly as fast.

So I am hoping the leadership, that is not on this floor at this time, will shortly be able to come back to us with some understanding of how we are going to proceed, and I hope we can just move on and do the reading, and we will get to amendments as we can here.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read. The Clerk read as follows:

PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Export-Import Bank of the United States is authorized to make such expenditures within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to such corporation, and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations, as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act, as may be necessary in carrying out the program for the current fiscal year for such corporation: *Provided*, That none of the funds available during the current fiscal year may be used to make expenditures, contracts, or commitments for the export of nuclear equipment, fuel, or technology to any country, other than a nuclear-weapon state as defined in Article IX of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons eligible to receive economic or military assistance under this Act, that has detonated a nuclear explosive after the date of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 1(c) of Public Law 103-428, as amended, sections 1(a) and (b) of Public Law 103-428 shall remain in effect through October 1, 2007.

SUBSIDY APPROPRIATION

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees, insurance, and tied-aid grants as authorized by section 10 of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended, \$26,382,000, to remain available until September 30, 2010: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such sums shall remain available until September 30, 2025, for the disbursement of direct loans, loan guarantees, insurance and tied-aid grants obligated in fiscal years 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or any prior Act appropriating funds for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for tied-aid credits or grants may be used for any other purpose except through the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated by this paragraph are made available notwithstanding section 2(b)(2) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, in connection with the purchase or lease of any product by any Eastern European country, any Baltic State or any agency or national thereof.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan and insurance programs, including hire of passenger motor vehicles and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, and not to exceed \$30,000 for official reception and representation expenses for members of the Board of Directors, \$75,234,000: *Provided*, That the Export-Import Bank may accept, and use, payment or serv-

ices provided by transaction participants for legal, financial, or technical services in connection with any transaction for which an application for a loan, guarantee or insurance commitment has been made: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 117 of the Export Enhancement Act of 1992, subsection (a) thereof shall remain in effect until October 1, 2007.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LYNCH

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. LYNCH:

Page 4, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 38, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to accept the amendment being offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts, if the gentleman would be prepared to proceed in that way.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes on his amendment.

Mr. LYNCH. First of all, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Mr. KOLBE for his great work on this bill, and also Ranking Member LOWEY. I will not take the 5 minutes that I am allowed under the amendment process, but I do want to take a few minutes just to talk about what is going on here.

Mr. Chairman, the amendment that I have offered proposes to confront the related threats posed by improvised explosive devices, also known as IEDs, as well as land mines, which are being used against our men and women in uniform and against innocent civilians in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

My amendment seeks to accomplish this by dedicating \$5 million for the State Department account for non-proliferation, anti-terrorism, demining, and related programs. This \$5 million will be offset by shifting the same amount from the Export-Import Bank's administrative expense account, which is currently funded at \$72 million.

Mr. Chairman, like a lot of Members on both sides of the aisle, I have recently returned from my fifth visit to our troops in Iraq and I have also spent some time in Afghanistan. On all of my visits to the region, I have been accompanied by strong representation from both parties, and one issue that has emerged and has grown more lethal is the threat to our men and women in the military, to nongovernmental agencies, to coalition contractors, to the press, and to innocent Afghani and Iraqi citizens is the threat posed by these so-called improvised explosive devices, or IEDs.

While some IEDs are triggered remotely with basic electronics, such as portable phone stations or garage door openers, in many other cases, we are finding that these IEDs are being triggered by a simple contact strip concealed within a narrow section of split holes that is concealed in cracks in the

roadway or have been covered by a thin layer of dirt just below the surface of local roads. They can be detonated by pressure of a passing vehicle or with as little pressure as a child's footstep. These latter types of devices are much more similar in their nature and use to land mines.

Moreover, as time goes on and as the casualties grow, we are finding that many of the land mines previously planted by Saddam Hussein and the Taliban in Afghanistan have been recovered by the insurgents and are now being retrofitted to serve as components in these more lethal IEDs.

Like most of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, I have made more than a few visits to Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital. We have all seen the devastation and the damage and suffering that these IEDs have brought to the very best Americans and their families. In my last visit with General Casey in Baghdad, he estimated that approximately 50 percent of our monthly casualties in Iraq are the result of these IEDs. So the importance of what we are doing here, reducing these threats, should be obvious to everyone.

In closing, with today's news that Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has been eliminated and the last of the new Iraqi ministers has been selected, it is my greatest hope that we have now reached a point at which we can begin to transfer governing authority and responsibility to the new Iraqi government and to bring our troops home. But regardless of the rate of progress, these armaments will still remain a lethal threat to our troops and to innocent civilians. By transferring this money, this \$5 million, we can expedite the process of recovering and disposing of these lethal land mines and potential IEDs before additional life and limb is lost.

I do appreciate the courtesy that Chairman KOLBE and Ranking Member LOWEY have afforded me, and I am thankful that they have accepted this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. MILLENDER-MCDONALD

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

Page 4, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 5, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 19, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I would just rise to say that I am prepared, if the gentlewoman will keep her remarks very short, to accept this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. I do recognize that. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. We will miss you sorely on this committee and the work that you have done, along with our distinguished ranking member.

Today I do offer this amendment that addresses one of the greatest atrocities of the 21st century, and that is the trafficking of men, women, and children for forced labor and sexual exploitation.

The Economic Support Fund operates to provide financial assistance for various developmental programs worldwide, including 266 programs to eradicate human trafficking. These programs are designed to present a multi-faceted defense against the various and varied crimes that comprise human trafficking.

We know that this year the committee has provided \$8 million for the use of this program. That is a start, but it is less than what the President has suggested in the program. Of course, I am proposing a modest increase of \$2 million. This amendment offsets the increase by those things that have been outlined in the amendment.

It is not enough that we pay lip service to this problem, we actually have to lead the 21st Century Abolitionist Movement against modern day slavery. I am very happy to present this amendment. We know that human trafficking affects an estimated 800,000 persons each year, and 80 percent of those victims are women and children.

I am happy that the ranking member joined me on the trip to the United Nations to address these atrocities, and so I am so happy that the chairman and the ranking member have accepted this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California.

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read. The Clerk read as follows:

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT
CORPORATION
NON-CREDIT ACCOUNT

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation is authorized to make, without regard to fiscal year limitations, as provided by 31 U.S.C. 9104, such expenditures and commitments within the limits of funds available to it and in accordance with law as may be necessary: *Provided*, That the amount available for administrative expenses to carry out the credit and insurance programs (including an amount for official reception and representation expenses which shall not exceed \$35,000) shall not exceed \$45,453,000: *Provided further*, That project-specific transaction costs, including direct and indirect costs incurred in claims settlements, and other direct costs associated with services provided to specific investors or potential investors pursuant to section 234 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, shall not be considered administrative expenses for the purposes of this heading.

PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, \$20,035,000, as authorized by section 234

of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to be derived by transfer from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation Non-Credit Account: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such sums shall be available for direct loan obligations and loan guaranty commitments incurred or made during fiscal years 2007, 2008, and 2009: *Provided further*, That funds so obligated in fiscal year 2007 remain available for disbursement through 2014; funds obligated in fiscal year 2008 remain available for disbursement through 2015; funds obligated in fiscal year 2009 remain available for disbursement through 2016: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation is authorized to undertake any program authorized by title IV of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 in Iraq: *Provided further*, That funds made available pursuant to the authority of the previous proviso shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

In addition, such sums as may be necessary for administrative expenses to carry out the credit program may be derived from amounts available for administrative expenses to carry out the credit and insurance programs in the Overseas Private Investment Corporation Non-Credit Account and merged with said account.

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 661 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, \$50,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

TITLE II—BILATERAL ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE
FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE
PRESIDENT

For expenses necessary to enable the President to carry out the provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and for other purposes, to remain available until September 30, 2007, unless otherwise specified herein, as follows:

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CHILD SURVIVAL AND HEALTH PROGRAMS FUND
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of chapters 1 and 10 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, for child survival, health, and family planning/reproductive health activities, in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes, \$1,565,613,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That this amount shall be made available for such activities as: (1) immunization programs; (2) oral rehydration programs; (3) health, nutrition, water and sanitation programs which directly address the needs of mothers and children, and related education programs; (4) assistance for children displaced or orphaned by causes other than AIDS; (5) programs for the prevention, treatment, control of, and research on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, polio, malaria, and other infectious diseases, and for assistance to communities severely affected by HIV/AIDS, including children displaced or orphaned by AIDS; and (6) family planning/reproductive health: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for nonproject assistance, except that funds may be made available for such assistance for ongoing health activities: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not to exceed \$350,000, in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes, may be used to monitor and pro-

vide oversight of child survival, maternal and family planning/reproductive health, and infectious disease programs: *Provided further*, That the following amounts should be allocated as follows: \$356,400,000 for child survival and maternal health; \$25,000,000 for vulnerable children; \$346,621,000 for HIV/AIDS; \$287,592,000 for other infectious diseases; and \$350,000,000 for family planning/reproductive health, including in areas where population growth threatens biodiversity or endangered species: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, and in addition to funds allocated under the previous proviso, not less than \$200,000,000 shall be made available, notwithstanding any other provision of law, except for the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-25), for a United States contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the "Global Fund"), and shall be expended at the minimum rate necessary to make timely payment for projects and activities: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading, may be made available for a United States contribution to The GAVI Fund, and up to \$6,000,000 may be transferred to and merged with funds appropriated by this Act under the heading "Operating Expenses of the United States Agency for International Development" for costs directly related to international health, but funds made available for such costs may not be derived from amounts made available for contributions under this and preceding provisos: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available in this Act nor any unobligated balances from prior appropriations may be made available to any organization or program which, as determined by the President of the United States, supports or participates in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this Act may be used to pay for the performance of abortion as a method of family planning or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortions: *Provided further*, That nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to alter any existing statutory prohibitions against abortion under section 104 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this Act may be used to lobby for or against abortion: *Provided further*, That in order to reduce reliance on abortion in developing nations, funds shall be available only to voluntary family planning projects which offer, either directly or through referral to, or information about access to, a broad range of family planning methods and services, and that any such voluntary family planning project shall meet the following requirements: (1) service providers or referral agents in the project shall not implement or be subject to quotas, or other numerical targets, of total number of births, number of family planning acceptors, or acceptors of a particular method of family planning (this provision shall not be construed to include the use of quantitative estimates or indicators for budgeting and planning purposes); (2) the project shall not include payment of incentives, bribes, gratuities, or financial reward to: (A) an individual in exchange for becoming a family planning acceptor; or (B) program personnel for achieving a numerical target or quota of total number of births, number of family planning acceptors, or acceptors of a particular method of family planning; (3) the project shall not deny any right or benefit, including the right of access to participate in any program of general welfare or the right of access to health care, as a consequence of any individual's decision not to accept family planning services; (4)

the project shall provide family planning acceptors comprehensible information on the health benefits and risks of the method chosen, including those conditions that might render the use of the method inadvisable and those adverse side effects known to be consequent to the use of the method; and (5) the project shall ensure that experimental contraceptive drugs and devices and medical procedures are provided only in the context of a scientific study in which participants are advised of potential risks and benefits; and, not less than 60 days after the date on which the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development determines that there has been a violation of the requirements contained in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (5) of this proviso, or a pattern or practice of violations of the requirements contained in paragraph (4) of this proviso, the Administrator shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a report containing a description of such violation and the corrective action taken by the Agency: *Provided further*, That in awarding grants for natural family planning under section 104 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 no applicant shall be discriminated against because of such applicant's religious or conscientious commitment to offer only natural family planning; and, additionally, all such applicants shall comply with the requirements of the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this or any other Act authorizing or appropriating funds for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs, the term "motivate", as it relates to family planning assistance, shall not be construed to prohibit the provision, consistent with local law, of information or counseling about all pregnancy options: *Provided further*, That to the maximum extent feasible, taking into consideration cost, timely availability, and best health practices, funds appropriated in this Act or prior appropriations Acts that are made available for condom procurement shall be made available only for the procurement of condoms manufactured in the United States: *Provided further*, That information provided about the use of condoms as part of projects or activities that are funded from amounts appropriated by this Act shall be medically accurate and shall include the public health benefits and failure rates of such use.

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of sections 103, 105, 106, and sections 251 through 255, and chapter 10 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, \$1,294,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That \$365,000,000 should be allocated for basic education: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading and managed by the United States Agency for International Development Bureau of Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, not less than \$15,000,000 shall be made available only for programs to improve women's leadership capacity in recipient countries: *Provided further*, That such funds may not be made available for construction: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading that are made available for assistance programs for displaced and orphaned children and victims of war, not to exceed \$42,500, in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes, may be used to monitor and provide oversight of such programs: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading should be made available for programs in sub-Saharan Africa to address sexual and gender-based violence: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$10,000,000 may be made available for cooperative development programs

within the Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation: *Provided further*, That not less than \$20,000,000 should be made available for rural water and sanitation projects in East Africa.

□ 1445

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. BLUMENAUER:

In the item relating to "DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE", after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by \$250,000,000)".

In the item relating to "FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM", after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$250,000,000)".

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, the amendment I am offering today, along with Mr. LEACH from Iowa, the chairman of the International Relations Subcommittee on Asia, will increase the development assistance account by \$250 million in order to fund clean water and other anti-poverty programs. This increase will be offset by an equal amount of unearmarked funds in the military foreign financing account; and as such will not, and I want to emphasize this, will not impact the military aid to Israel, Egypt, Jordan, or Colombia.

Over the last few years, it has become increasingly clear to people of every political stripe that we live in an interconnected world. How people in other countries live affects how we are secured at home, whether we are impacted by diseases like avian flu that thrive in poverty, whether our economy grows and creates more and better jobs.

By investing in poor people around the world, we invest in global economic growth, the kind of thing that will have a clear effect on our own economic future. It is also helping responsible governments get stronger, offering their own people a better future, and a smart investment in our own security from terrorism to bird flu. The capacity of responsible governments to partner with the United States in tackling these shared challenges is critical to our security at home.

Across the world, people living in extreme poverty are working, are struggling to improve their lives; but a billion of them live on \$1 a day or less. It is critical that we expand our programs to help them in this work.

There is no doubt that the record of previous development efforts, including foreign aid, has been uneven; but the fact is we are getting better at it. We know what works. There is a global partnership that has emerged that does have a measurable, positive impact on growth in poor countries.

Thankfully, we now have the very best ideas of what kinds of steps are ef-

fective in providing the best returns in fighting poverty. The best tools, luckily, are simple: targeted programs to provide clean water, health care, improve agricultural productivity, and support good governance. This is not rocket science, as they say; but these are things that work.

Time and time again we have made commitments to fight against poverty, and we must now put those commitments into action.

In 2000, we joined with over 190 countries in committing to a series of ambitious targets called the Millennium Development Goals, including cutting in half the people living in extreme poverty by 2015. There are a series of other initiatives that have taken place to try and make sure that the rich countries of this world invest 0.7 percent of their gross national product in anti-poverty programs.

Currently, there is only one country in the world of the rich, developed countries that does less than we do in this regard. We spend less than 0.2 percent. It is time for us to live up to the commitments we have made. This amendment is a simple way to do it.

In fact, this is supported by people across this country. The Program on International Policy Attitudes at the University of Maryland found that two-thirds of the American public supports significant increases for our foreign assistance. It shows majorities of both Republicans and Democrats supporting increasing our investments.

Now, there are consequences for our lack of leadership. Mr. Chairman, every 15 seconds a child dies needlessly from waterborne disease. Half the people who are sick today around the world are sick needlessly because of a lack of fresh pure water and sanitation.

This is within our capacity to make a difference, and there is no great philosophical fault line. Indeed, Girl Scout troops, churches, synagogues, your local Rotary Club may well have been involved with these efforts; and they support these approaches and can do something about it.

This amendment would allow the House to decide if \$250 million is better served by investing in people through good governments, health and economic development, or selling more weapons around the world, often to countries with questionable human rights records.

The most recent year that I surveyed showed that half the money that we gave for military assistance went to countries that the State Department ruled were not democratic. I strongly urge the adoption of this amendment to be able to realize this bipartisan objective.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, this is an example of the kind of amendment that we are going to hear a great deal about this afternoon and this evening. It is the kind of amendment that if the world were different, if we lived in a world

with unlimited resources, it would be wonderful to say "yes" to an amendment like this.

But, of course, we do not live in a world of unlimited resources. As described in general debate, the allocation for our bill is \$2.4 billion below the amount requested by the President, and certainly lower even than what all Members would like to see in the bill.

We have \$1.29 billion for development assistance. That is \$12 million above what the President requested. So in this particular area, despite the fact that we are \$2 billion below the President's request, we have actually exceeded the amount in this area. It is equal to the amount we provided in fiscal year 2006 once you adjust for the trade capacity funds that have been moved to the new account.

We have some very tough choices that we have to make in this bill, and yet we have provided at least steady funding levels for the Development Assistance Account.

Now, the difficult part of this amendment is where the money comes out of. The gentleman says it is more important to provide safe drinking water than it is to make military sales to other countries. I would agree with that statement certainly when it is phrased that way. But I think it is important, and the gentleman understands, that of the \$4 billion that we have in our bill for military assistance, foreign military financing, all but \$900 million is designated for countries. It is designated to Egypt, Israel, Jordan and some for Colombia, and a couple of other countries. But there is only \$900 million that is not designated.

The gentleman's amendment takes this money out of it, but does not touch the earmarks, of course; and so it comes out of that \$900 million that is left. What he is doing is taking the money away from a handful of countries which would absolutely decimate the handful of countries left. You would be talking about taking away the small amounts of money that we give to such countries as Armenia, the substantial amounts that we give to Pakistan, Turkey, the small amounts that we give to countries like Liberia and Ethiopia. All of it would come out of the funds that go to those countries, which money is important, very important in terms of their security, very important in terms of their international obligations. In many cases, it goes for things so those countries can meet their international obligations towards peacekeeping forces.

So the amendment is going to reduce funding out of 68 small country programs which would have to be cut by 50 percent or more in each of those cases in order to accommodate the gentleman's amendment. I think to do this would be absolutely irresponsible on the part of the House of Representatives, and we should not allow this to happen.

Let me conclude by saying what we have done on water programs in this

legislation. We have directed the U.S. Agency for International Development to provide not less than \$50 million from the development assistance accounts to build wells in rural areas and to secure water systems in urban areas of Africa and communities that lack access to fresh water.

In addition, we have language, bill language within the Development Assistance Account, that mandates \$20 million specifically for water programs in East Africa, and that of course is where we know the need is the very greatest.

These directives, these mandates, will double the fiscal year 2006 allocation for Africa in the Development Assistance Account. No one, certainly not the least of whom is me, doubts the need to provide clean, safe water for drinking around the world. I believe this bill as presented to the House helps us deliver on that promise.

Does it do everything we would like it to do? No. But in so many other areas, this bill so necessarily falls shorts, as do other appropriations bills.

This amendment is not the right way to proceed and the consequences for the small countries that rely importantly on our foreign military financing programs and are affected by this reduction would be absolutely drastic. I would urge my colleagues to defeat this well-meaning amendment, but with consequences that are quite dire to the effect of this bill.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to this amendment, and I associate myself with the remarks of Chairman KOLBE. I understand and support what the gentleman from Oregon seeks to accomplish; but I believe passage of this amendment would upset the delicate balance of funding we have achieved in this bill on a bipartisan basis.

It would also severely disrupt foreign military financing programs that are a key part of our overall national security strategy.

I was pleased that the fiscal year 2006 foreign operations bill included a \$200 million earmark for drinking water supply projects in the developing world, and I understand that USAID will indeed meet that earmark in this current fiscal year. As we have not reduced development assistance funding below the 2006 enacted level, and have not reduced disaster assistance significantly from the enacted level, I am confident this bill has room to at least meet the 2006 earmark for water supply projects.

As I said, the potential effect of the gentleman's amendment, and the chairman referred to that, would be to cut nearly in half the 68 unearmarked recipients of foreign military financing. So I am very concerned, but I hope to work with the chairman and the gentleman from Oregon in conference to ensure a high level of funding is earmarked for water supply projects.

In the meantime, I reluctantly urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I recognize that there are some problems associated with this amendment. And if it were adopted, I think there would have to be substantial rejiggering of the allocation to the subcommittee. But I just want to make an observation, nonetheless.

With the passage of the defense appropriations bill, we will have spent \$450 billion on the dumbest war since the War of 1812, that war being our involvement in Iraq.

The conferees on the supplemental two nights ago, despite the fact that there were two Senate votes and one House vote which put into that bill a declaration that the Congress was in opposition to creating permanent bases in Iraq, despite that fact, the conferees dropped all three of those.

□ 1500

So we are now in the position where the Congress of the United States will not even take a position that we don't want permanent bases in Iraq. Now, I know there are some people in this Chamber who don't want us to pull out immediately. There are a lot of people who don't want us to do that. But, certainly, the only other option isn't to stay there forever, but that is what is being implied if we accept these permanent bases in Iraq.

Imagine how our influence in the world would be transformed. Right now, since our invasion of Iraq, we are at an all time low in terms of American popularity in every region of the world. Imagine how our popularity would be transformed if we said that, instead of spending \$450 billion on a stupid war, imagine how the world would look at us if instead we said we were going to take 1/10 that amount and use it to make certain that every single one of God's creatures who we could reach in the next 10 years would finally have access to water that doesn't make them sick and doesn't make a lot of their kids die. America would be transformed, at least our image would be transformed, into actually living up to our Judeo-Christian principles. Wouldn't that be a shocker?

So I recognize that there are technical problems associated with the gentleman's amendment. But just because my heart moves me on that subject, I am going to vote for it. And if it means that somebody somewhere is not going to get all the weapons they have been planning on, isn't that too bad.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, the amendment which Mr. BLUMENAUER and I are offering is a transfer amendment. \$250 million would be taken from the unearmarked section of the Military Assistance Account which exceeds the Development Assistance Account by approximately a three to one margin. These resources

would then be applied to clean water and other poverty alleviation programs.

In our interactions with the world, the U.S. basically only has two options. We can emphasize our capacities to project military might and be a global policeman, or we can emphasize our humanitarian concerns and be a global doctor or engineer. There are times that the policeman's role may be compelling, but I am hard pressed to think anything except that in the long run, American leadership in the 21st century will be judged on whether the United States chooses to be a super-humanitarian power rather than principally a military interventionist.

One of the myths of our time is that realism is about might. Actually, realism is about the human condition. It is the human condition that must be improved if national security is to be strengthened. Impoverished nations are breeding grounds for radicalism. Where there is no hope, there is nothing to lose. There is no restraint on violence.

Thus, the approach contained in this amendment is to address the daily concerns of the 3.7 billion people in the world who lack access to clean drinking water and adequate sanitation. These people are exposed to sicknesses like giardia, guinea worm, shistosomiasis, and diarrhea on a regular basis. Hundreds of millions of people, including one in every five children in the poorest countries of the world, die simply because there is no clean water.

Mr. Chairman, our priorities must be recalibrated. It may be true that the militaries of several poor countries will not be as advantaged, but the family of man will clearly benefit.

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Let me start by saying as a member of the committee I really appreciate the work of the chairman and the ranking member. I know the very difficult choices that had to be made under an extremely tight budget and extremely tough year in making those decisions. And I rise in opposition to this amendment somewhat reluctantly because I agree with some of the prior speakers and the need to look at the priority of water and the needs of water throughout the Nation as a means of expanding United States influence in a very positive way. We do it in this bill; we do it as best we could in fitting in some of the other priorities they have.

And why I rise in opposition to this amendment is because of its effect. As has been pointed out already, it cuts everything, but from the designated funds, the earmarked funds. It cuts \$250 million that I think will critically imbalance United States relationships in some places. For example, it cuts from some of the African nations that I think desperately need the support that would be given in the MFM fund.

And as an Armenian American, I want to point specifically to the effect

it would have on Armenia and the fact that it would cut \$68 million in assistance, economic and border security assistance to Armenia, which I view in large part is in this bill in order to balance out some of the challenges that fledgling nation has with its neighbors in Turkey and Azerbaijan; and in part, in recognition, which we have failed in this Congress to do as of yet, and in this Nation, to recognize the Armenian genocide of the past century and its impact on that nation's history.

And so I want to salute the chairman and the ranking member for trying to find that delicate balance and striking it here in this bill. And while I applaud the sponsor of the amendment and his intentions and hope that we can work in future years to do even more as it relates to providing water, I think the impact of what this bill does in terms of offsetting those funds would have too detrimental an impact. Therefore, I would urge my colleagues to object.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SWEENEY. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I just want to clarify in my own mind. I heard Mr. KOLBE say that the effect of our amendment, there were about 900 million, if I heard him correctly, that was unallocated at this point. There is some report language in there that talks about where it might go.

According to the information I have, there is only \$7 million that has been identified in report language for Armenia and Azerbaijan, and there is over a quarter billion dollars that is completely undirected. So I am wondering where the \$70 million figure came from that you are citing here that our amendment would impact.

Mr. SWEENEY. Well, the amount for Armenia, as is being explained to me by the chairman, is about 7 percent. So if I said 7 million, then I misspoke out of MFM. But the total impact, as I understand it, of the taking of the 250, about 50 percent would be to lose the 68 million that was intended to be sent to Armenia for the border security.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER AND FAMINE ASSISTANCE

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for international disaster relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction assistance, \$348,800,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$30,000,000 should be for famine prevention and relief.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. OBEY

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. OBEY:

Page 14, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by \$50,000,000)".

Page 19, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$100,000,000)".

Page 20, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$100,000,000)".

Page 32, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by \$50,000,000)".

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I am offering this amendment on behalf of myself, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

For some time, Mr. Chairman, I have been troubled by the repression of political freedom in Egypt and the lack of democratic reform. But in light of the historical role that Egypt has played in the region and the continuing stability that Egypt brings to an increasingly troubled region, I have appealed for patience and moderation in efforts to alter Egypt's aid package.

I chaired this subcommittee for 10 years, and during that time I was responsible for providing over \$20 billion in military and economic aid to Egypt. In the years since, I have helped to fend off amendments that sought to cut or restrict aid to Egypt.

Last year, during the Full Committee consideration of the bill, I offered an amendment that earmarked some of Egypt's economic aid for democracy purposes, a move that allowed Congress to fend off yet another attempt to restrict the military aid. But in offering that amendment, I gave notice to the government of Egypt that my patience, and the patience of the American people, was wearing thin, and I hoped and expected that the government of Egypt would get the hint and make some moves to loosen its grip on political freedom and democratic reforms.

Instead, I am sad to say, we have gotten backsliding on municipal elections, an extension of emergency laws, repression of judicial freedoms and a crackdown on demonstrations and rallies.

Most recently, we have seen the appellate court in Egypt reject the appeal of Ayman Nour, a political opponent of President Mubarak who was conveniently arrested just prior to last year's presidential elections.

Hundreds of demonstrators have been arrested and jailed in recent weeks, many of them young kids in their teens and 20s who have been beaten and bullied. Reporters have been roughed up and intimidated.

Just this week, the government of Egypt suspended the work of the International Republican Institute in Egypt after the IRI country director criticized in an interview the pace of reform as being too slow.

Now, I am not a naive peddler of global democracy. I am not preaching that we hold elections all across the Middle East and call it a day. I understand that the very free and fair elections in the West Bank in Gaza have resulted in a disastrous consequence for the peace process through the election of Hamas.

But I do fear that Egypt is heading toward a precipice. What is happening in Egypt, Mr. Chairman, is that the government is systematically fencing in and squeezing out its moderate opposition. And if they continue to do that, they are going to wind up with the only viable opposition being the Muslim Brotherhood, the most radical of the forces in the country. That will be disastrous for Mr. Mubarak. It will be disastrous for his government. It will be disastrous for the American people, and it will be disastrous for the entire region.

I consider myself a lifelong friend of Egypt, and I have taken a lot of heat on this floor through the years for taking a number of actions that supported Egypt and the rest of the Arab world, sometimes even when I differed with my friends who were supporting various provisions for Israel.

But it seems to me that if you are a friend of Egypt, you will try to make them understand that they are endangering their ability to have a peaceful transfer of power when Mr. Mubarak leaves office.

Now, I have met Mr. Mubarak's son. I understand that Mr. Mubarak would like to see his son succeed him. I am very impressed by his son. I happen to think he would probably be a good leader. But he is not going to get the chance for very long if the moderate opposition in that country is systematically jailed, beaten up and wiped out, because then you will have only the most radical extreme elements left.

So what we are doing in this amendment is to cut \$100 million out of the Economic Support Fund, and we are moving 50 million of that to help refugees in the Sudan, and we are moving another 50 million of it to provide increased funding for the President's HIV/AIDS initiative. I am not doing this out of anger at Egypt. I am doing this out of a deep and abiding concern for the future of that country.

I respect Egypt. I think the people of Egypt are a wonderful people. And I think that Mr. Mubarak has done many constructive things that have been in the interest of peace in the region and have helped promote our own national interests as well.

□ 1515

But I am speaking as a friend, and I am saying this Congress has an obligation to recognize the problem and to act before it is too late to salvage the situation.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I do rise in opposition to this amendment, and I say so with

the greatest respect to my colleague DAVID OBEY. Often on this floor, we say things about each other and we say things because it is the oil that helps make this place move forward, but I do have the greatest respect for him and I believe he has been a great part of this institution, it has been a privilege to serve with him. We just differ on this amendment. We had a very good debate in the full Appropriations Committee on this, and I hope the debate this afternoon will be as constructive and as good as the debate that we had in the committee.

We both agree that Egypt should strive toward greater democracy and greater freedoms, and I believe the approach taken by this amendment is the wrong approach.

Mr. OBEY suggests that we would take \$100 million of funding in economic support funds from Egypt. The intent is to take these funds from the amounts that are designated as budget support for Egypt. These are the funds that are transferred to Egypt when it successfully completes certain financial sector reforms. In other words, we have put benchmarks in front and said the money can't be released until they meet these reforms. As they meet these reforms, the money is then released. This would then take the money away from that, reducing that incentive to make these kinds of reforms.

The funds that are targeted by this amendment support one of our strongest allies in this region. And I say that very carefully, one of our strategic partners, our very strong allies in this region, to help them meet the memorandum of understanding that we made in March of 2005 about these financial sector reforms.

Last month in the same kind of debate that we had in Committee, the Secretary of State said in a letter to the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, "Reducing U.S. assistance would seriously damage our partnership as well as the broader strategic interests of the United States." And she also went on to state, "We firmly believe the U.S. assistance to Egypt could continue at the full level requested by the administration, and ask your support for that request."

In the past, the ranking member Mr. OBEY has himself recognized this when he has stated on the floor his support for the funding for Egypt. Now, I recognize and he could argue quite correctly, times have changed, there are different things that have happened, and he could say this is a different source of funds perhaps from it. But nonetheless, he himself has recognized the importance of Egypt as an ally.

While it is sometimes important to dispense tough love by withholding or eliminating funds, we also have to ensure that Egypt remains allied with the United States as a leading moderate nation within the Middle East. And I believe that, in this case, any attempt to pressure Egypt into hastening its transition to democracy could push

this country away from the United States and allow another foreign power to gain a foothold in the region that could be very detrimental not only to our interests, but to the interest of peace in the region. This certainly would not be good for any of us.

Mr. Chairman, the bill that is before us today already has a \$200 million rescission in funds for Egypt in the economic support fund. So for those who want to make this claim, the bill already has sent a signal to the Egyptians, and I think this amendment just simply piles on. It is overkill, in my opinion.

As in the programs that would receive funds with the Obey amendment, he would put some of it to the global HIV/AIDS initiative. I don't believe that anybody could claim that we have not supported this program or provided all the funds that could reasonably and effectively be spent. In fact, this bill has a total of \$3.4 billion for HIV/AIDS programs. The President's request, \$750 million increase over the 2006 level, this is the largest increase in this bill, and that demonstrates how much I think all of us on this committee and in this body care about fighting the HIV/AIDS. To increase it by another \$50 million is simply not necessary and doesn't do anything more to meet in any way, certainly not as much as it detracts from the strategic interests that we have in Egypt.

The second area is in the international disaster and famine assistance, and this is a contingency count for uses when disaster strikes. In this bill there is a total of \$348 million, again, the President's request for this account. The supplemental that 2 days ago was considered by the House and Senate conferees includes an additional \$161 million for IDFA to accommodate emergencies that have recently arisen. We have done what I think is the responsible thing in this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote against the Obey-Lantos amendment.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, my friend and colleague Chairman HYDE and I are strong friends of Egypt and we are proud cosponsors of this amendment. We are sponsors of this amendment because we are fed up with an Egyptian government that has received well over \$50 billion from United States taxpayers in the past quarter century, yet it will not treat its citizens with dignity and respect. We are fed up with an Egypt that suppresses dissent, an Egypt that suffocates the secular liberal opposition, throws its leaders in jail on trumped-up charges, an Egypt that takes out its wrath on a man called Ayman Nour, who finished a distant second in President Mubarak's landslide victory last year. I am sickened, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Nour is likely to spend the next 5 years of his life behind bars on transparently manufactured charges when we know his only

real crime was having the temerity to wage a political campaign against Mr. Mubarak.

We are fed up with and are not fooled by an Egyptian government that stages parliamentary elections, but prevents voters from reaching the polls. We are fed up with an Egyptian government that punishes judges who merely want to insist on judicial independence and ignores its promises to end emergency law and instead extends it. We are fed up with and deeply disappointed in an Egyptian government that suspended the activities of the International Republican Institute in Egypt simply because the local director criticized the pace of reform in Egypt.

We are fed up with an Egypt that is one of the leaders among the so-called group of 77 who are working hard to derail the critical United Nations reforms proposed by Kofi Annan, the Secretary General, which have bipartisan and strong support here in this Congress.

We are fed up with an Egypt that has nearly 500,000 active duty troops in its military, yet can do nothing in the international effort in Afghanistan.

We are fed up with an Egypt whose peace with Israel remains frigid, far colder than it ought to be, as we approach the 27th anniversary of the peace treaty.

Mr. Chairman, I do not denigrate the importance of our alliance with Egypt and I deeply appreciate the importance of the Israeli-Egyptian peace. But I do feel that we deserve more, much more for our generosity than the laundry list of problems I have only partially described.

I want the United States to maintain the strongest possible relations with Egypt. As you know, Chairman HYDE and I have made efforts in the past to communicate this to Egypt in clear and unmistakable legislative language.

The approach in our amendment is not precisely the approach I would have championed. Nevertheless, I consider it absolutely critical that President Mubarak understand the deep dissatisfaction here with the course of events in Egypt, particularly regarding the decline of human rights and personal freedoms.

It is also critical that the Egyptian people understand that we are taking this action in support of those moderate political parties, human rights advocates and independent judges who are supporting change in Egypt.

I believe this amendment sends a message to President Mubarak and to the Egyptian people in a manner that is loud, clear, friendly and measured. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment, communicating our deep disappointment in our ally Egypt, and boosting simultaneously the underfunded and critical causes of the tragedy in Darfur and fighting HIV/AIDS globally.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise on behalf of and in support of the amendment offered by

Mr. OBEY, Mr. HYDE, Mr. LANTOS and Mr. GREEN, and I associate myself with the remarks of Mr. OBEY and Mr. LANTOS.

I believe the alliance between ourselves and Egypt is an important one. I believe that Egypt has played an important role, not as expansive a role as I would have wanted, but an important role in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman, in his inaugural address President Bush stated, "It is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in the world."

Mr. Chairman, I agree with this unambiguous statement in support of democracy and freedom, and I believe Members on both sides of the aisle agree with it as well. In fact, it is the reiteration of the policy that has guided our Nation from Wilson to Roosevelt, to Truman to Kennedy, to the present day.

Yet today, Mr. Chairman, one of our Nation's key allies in the Middle East, our friend Egypt, has taken demonstrable steps that raise troubling questions about its commitment to democracy.

Mr. Chairman, I will give examples. Multiparty presidential elections in 2005, as has been stated, were marred by allegations of fraud, voter suppression and intimidation. The leading opposition candidate, Ayman Nour, was arrested and sentenced to 5 years in prison, prompting the State Department to comment, "The Egyptian government's handling of this case represents both a miscarriage of justice by international standards and a setback for the democratic aspirations of the Egyptian people."

In Egypt, judges who protested the election have been disciplined. More than 600 pro-democracy activists have been arrested, and members of the foreign and Egyptian press have been harassed and intimidated.

Let me add, Mr. Chairman, it troubles me that last year, Egypt voted with the United States of America on contested votes of importance only 8.9 percent of the time. Let me reiterate that. A country to whom we have given \$67 billion since Camp David, voted with us in important votes 8.9 percent of the time.

Thus, today, Mr. Chairman, I believe this amendment gives us a clear choice: We can continue to turn a blind eye to the undemocratic behavior of the Egyptian government, which will receive \$1.8 billion in military and economic assistance through this foreign operations bill; or, alternatively, through the adoption of this amendment, we can send a message to our friend that the United States of America does not approve of its undemocratic activities, and, indeed, believes those are inimical to Egypt itself. We expect Egypt to abide by its commitments on democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The Secretary of State's letter has been referred to by the chairman of the subcommittee. I have read that letter, Mr. Chairman. It sets forth many things that Egypt has done which have had a positive effect on stability in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman, in my opinion, those actions were in Egypt's best interests.

□ 1530

They did not do that for the United States. They did it to create stability in the region in which they live. I congratulate them for that. But they did not do it because we gave them aid, assistance.

The bipartisan amendment that has been offered, quite simply, would cut \$100 million, as has been said, in economic assistance for Egypt. Like Mr. LANTOS, that would not be my choice, but that is the choice of this amendment. Instead, it increases funding for disaster assistance for refugees in Darfur, one of the crisis regions of the world today. In addition, it increases the President's Global HIV/AIDS Initiative by an additional \$50 million.

At a time when this Nation has committed itself to promoting democracy throughout the Middle East, we have, it seems to me, a responsibility to expect that the most populous country in the region meets its democratic commitments.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support of this amendment.

Mr. WICKER. I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, my colleagues, I rise in opposition to the amendment and urge my colleagues for a strong vote against this ill-advised initiative.

In debate on the House floor some 2 years ago, some of the advocates of this amendment today rose and very eloquently spoke basically on the other side of the argument, saying that this would be ill advised, it would be unilateral action against a friend of ours.

I thought those remarks were correct at the time. And I am disappointed that some of the advocates of this amendment have changed their minds over 2 years' time. What has happened in 2 years?

Well, one thing that has happened is they have had a presidential election in Egypt which has represented progress. Now, we were not happy with everything that happened with the parliamentary elections, and it was not exactly a perfect presidential election in Egypt. But they had multiple parties, they had an open process. And I think almost every person who watched this on the international stage said it represented progress. So what has happened between 2004 and now is actual progress in Egypt. I commend them for that. But let's talk about why we have this bill at all. I meant to get down here for general debate to discuss this. We do foreign assistance for altruistic reasons, certainly for humanitarian reasons, of course. But the main reason we do foreign assistance is we

do it in the American national interest. This bill is a very important part of our national security package. And let me tell you about the national interest. Those of you who have been to the Middle East know that we do not have a lot of friends over there. But one friend we have in that area is Egypt. Since Nasser kicked the Soviets out, since Sadat helped with Camp David, with the beginnings of that Arab-Israeli peace process up until today, Egypt has been our strategic friend and our strategic partner.

Talk about national interests: When we went in with Operation Iraqi Freedom, some of our allies, Turkey, for example, would not let us through. How much trouble did that cause us, because we were not able to go into Iraq through Turkey?

By contrast, Egypt has allowed us to use the Suez for that purpose. They have allowed us continuous overflights. And just recently, they have been instrumental in helping with the unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza. They have helped us when it counted.

How many American soldiers are alive today because Egypt was our friend in Operation Iraqi Freedom? How many billions of dollars have we saved for the American taxpayers because Egypt has been our friend?

An amendment that was stronger than this was offered in the Appropriations Committee, and it was rejected overwhelmingly on a bipartisan basis. The authors of this amendment have attempted to soften it here on the floor. And one of the things that they have tried to do is take the money from Egypt and give it to programs that we all like—AIDS in Africa, Darfur, things of that nature. It is hard to resist. It sounds good.

But my friends, these people in Egypt have stood by us in a tough, tough neighborhood. And I do not think this amendment is the sort of thing we do to our friends. It might make us feel good, but it is terrible foreign policy, and I believe the House of Representatives will reject this amendment.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, Members and the world, this is a very important amendment, and we must pay particular attention to it. The Middle East is in turmoil. We are threatened on every side of the Middle East. Sometimes we do not respect the culture. Sometimes we do not respect the religion. Sometimes we do not respect the people for what has happened to this country and terrorism around the world.

But I want for a minute for you to just take a moment and think how important this amendment would be and the signal it would send to our strongest ally in the Middle East. We have had a wonderful relationship with Egypt over the last 30 years. Over 75 million Egyptians, with some of the other countries, Syria, Jordan, Saudi, some of them 7 million, some 10 mil-

lion, some 12, this is 75 million Egyptians who live in our country today and who live in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman, it is the wrong signal to send at a time when the Middle East is in turmoil. Leadership is what they must have. And I contend to you that President Mubarak and his administration is the best friend that we have in the Middle East. I am recently returned from the World Economic Forum in Egypt on the Middle East, where countries from that region came together.

We met with them, a good delegation of us. And we interacted with them for the 2, 3 days of that summit. They want to be good neighbors. And what I am here to tell you is that Egypt, with the President and his administration, is leading the effort to make sure that our relationship with them and theirs with the rest of the Middle East is one that is important, that is stabilized, and that it is secure.

Egypt is a critical partner of the U.S. in the Middle East. Egypt is an honest broker with the Palestinians on its issues and on our issues. Egypt is the main protector of Israel, and we need that communication, we need that cooperation. Egypt supports us in the Gaza and the Egyptian border.

Egypt has sent 800 peacekeepers to the Sudan. Egypt also participates in joint exercises with our military. They buy our U.S. military equipment. This is not the time to punish them. No, they are not a democracy like we have. This is the best country in the world. Our democracy is second to none.

But do we penalize our neighbors, sovereign nations, because they are not like us? President Mubarak in the last 12 months has issued many decrees and is about changing how they believe and what they believe in Egypt.

As a result of that, Egypt has seen three bombings, had not seen any in over 10, 15, 20 years. Because it is hard to change from one way of governing, and then come to another. You have people in Egypt rising up against the president and against us too.

It is not time now. The timing is not good for the U.S. to back away from our relationship with Egypt as we help to stabilize that part of the world and remain partners with our country.

Is it possible that some things might not be right? Yes. I would be the first to say that. Are they working to make it better? Yes, they are. Israel needs a strong Egypt. The U.S. needs a strong Egypt. So I implore my colleagues, and I hate to rise any time against my ranking member. I feel so passionately about this that I implore my colleagues to look at what is happening in the world, look at us as our Nation, we are a great Nation, second to none.

Let us not forfeit our partnership with our friends that will destabilize our own country. There was a great act in the Middle East overnight, when one of the terrorists was captured, not only captured but further than that. Do we throw all of that for naught, or do we

try to live in a world community where we can live together as brothers and sisters from different nationalities and ethnicities? I contend that Egypt is key in that and that we must continue.

It is not about the money, I must say as I take my seat. The cost of military assistance is phenomenal. The amount that this will deduct from that, it is not about the money; it is about the good will and the partnership.

Hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent for our own security. I contend that Egypt is a partner with us, and we should maintain that bipartisanship, for it is they and us and nations of good will like us that will determine what kind of world your grandchildren will live in. Vote "no" on the amendment.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Obey amendment, although I have great respect for what my colleague is trying to achieve.

What we are hearing in this debate is two narratives, both of which are important. In the first narrative, we hear that Egypt's progress toward democratic reform has been far too slow with far too many setbacks; and, my colleagues, that is true.

The Egyptian Government persists in imprisoning political opponents like Ayman Noor. I could add Professor Saad Ibrahim to that list. I worked for several years with colleagues to urge the Egyptian Government to free Mr. Ibrahim, director of an organization in Cairo that promoted democracy and was critical of President Mubarak's leadership.

Thankfully, Mr. Ibrahim has now been released, but the pattern of imprisoning dissenters continues. These are very real concerns, and I hope the Egyptian Government hears the debate in this Chamber today as a strong alarm signal regarding Egypt's slow pace of progress.

However, there is a second narrative that is equally compelling. Egypt is one of our most important allies in a troubled region. It has contributed greatly to many efforts critical to our national security, including supporting efforts to stabilize and rebuild Afghanistan; training Iraqi police and troops; helping ensure an orderly withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, including the sending of 750 troops to the Sinai-Gaza border; and policing the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Palestinian territories.

Perhaps most important now, Mr. Chairman, is Egypt's role as a mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Egyptian leaders like General Suleiman have intervened in discussions and negotiations when the U.S. simply cannot do so.

Just this morning, USA Today reported that Egypt had mediated between Fatah and Hamas to secure an agreement under which Hamas will withdraw its 3,000-person militia from

Gaza and allow it to be folded into the Palestinian security forces.

Egyptian leaders have intervened on several other notable occasions. In an effort to prevent Fatah's disorganization from enabling a Hamas victory in Palestinian elections, General Suleiman worked with Abu Mazen in December 2005 to try to mediate between splinter parties.

In December 2004, during a period of heavy attacks against Israel, General Suleiman initiated a dialogue with Hamas and the Islamic jihad and other Palestinian militant groups to seek an end to the attacks.

Mr. Chairman, we are facing a critical period in the Middle East. The political crisis caused by Hamas's victory makes Egyptian mediation more, not less, critical. That is decisive for me. It is a time to build on this second narrative, not to deliver an irresponsible poke in the eye to a critical player at a critical time.

Let me say a few words about the supposed beneficiaries of this amendment. Mr. OBEY has cleverly crafted the amendment to distract attention from the cuts to Egypt by directing the money to two causes that many of us believe are of the highest importance, stopping genocide in Darfur and stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS.

□ 1545

I strongly support both of these priorities and would support added funding in this bill for them. However, this amendment does a disservice to those priorities by making them pawns in a political game that is about our support for Egypt, not for support for AIDS and Darfur. I hope we can add funding for efforts to address the AIDS pandemic and the genocide in Darfur, but this amendment is not the responsible way to do it.

Let us not lose sight of the millions of people in the Middle East who are depending on our leadership and our ability to work with Egypt to achieve peace in their troubled region. That is the priority of which we must not lose sight. I urge my colleagues to oppose the Obey amendment.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, what if a member of your family were heading in a direction that was going to cause that person irrevocable harm, a member of your family? Would you stand by and say nothing? Someone you love. Or would you get their attention however you could as subtly as possible but if subtlety does not work then with a little more oomph to get their attention, to get them to change direction because they are going in a destructive direction?

That is what the Obey amendment is about. It is about our friend Egypt, a member of our family, if you will, going in the wrong direction. A friend who we have committed more than \$67 billion to, delivered it to them. They have done wonderful things for our na-

tional security as well. We are great and good friends, Egypt and the United States, but our friend Egypt is headed in the wrong direction.

Just this past year, President Mubarak's leading opposition candidate for president was put in jail. Emergency laws which suspend democracy and the rule of law are still in effect. Independent judges have been disciplined for not following in lockstep with what the government says is their agenda. Freedom of the press has been weakened. And just this week, the International Republican Institute, a democracy building program in Egypt that is also funded by our Appropriations Committee, was suspended for criticizing the slow pace of reforms in Egypt.

People around the world, countries around the world, Mr. Chairman, have no hesitation telling us in America when we are moving in the wrong direction. Even in a time of war, other countries who are our friends say, America, you should not do that. You are going in the wrong direction. Well, that is what the Obey amendment does. It says to our friends in Egypt, please, we have tried every subtle way to get your attention, it has not succeeded. We are going to try to get your attention now with this \$100 million transfer to two very worthy purposes, by the way, HIV/AIDS relief in Africa and \$50 million for Darfur, clearly places where this money will be put to better effect.

Now, again, I view the Egyptian people as honorable and great people, great friends of the United States. I heard somewhere that that somebody said Egypt is defending Israel. By the way, Israel is America's greatest ally in the Middle East by far and votes with American more than any other country. Egypt unfortunately only votes with us 8 percent. Israel votes with America over 90 percent of the time at the U.N. Israel takes care of itself.

But, Mr. Chairman, we need to send a message to our friend, Egypt, to finally make these changes and show progress this coming year in the rule of law, in respect for democracy and human rights. I support the Obey amendment.

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment and would like to say, first, that I understand that simply by having this debate here today, I think we are sending the appropriate message that needs to be sent to Egypt. And I would point out that already in the bill we rescind \$200 million in aid to Egypt, and I think that this particular amendment would be much more punitive than is requisite and needed.

The United States needs to strive to bring reforms to Egypt. We all agree on that. But this is not tough love. This is going over the top in my estimation, and would cause damage for many years in the future if it were to pass. Reducing U.S. aid to Egypt at this

time would also be strategically not a good move for the United States. Egypt has facilitated expeditious transit of hundreds of U.S. warships and thousands of U.S. aircraft through the Suez Canal and Egyptian air space since the start of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi freedom.

Egypt has been a close partner. Many of my colleagues before have spoken about that relationship and what it means to the region at such a critical team. So I would urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment because I think it goes just too far.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SWEENEY. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. KOLBE. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to correct some statements that were made by previous speakers with regard to the International Republican Institute having been denied the ability to operate in Egypt. I have the privilege of serving on the board of the IRI, and I did speak yesterday to the president of the IRI.

There has been some disagreement, some misunderstanding, I think, really in terms of the registration process for the IRI in Egypt, but it is the belief of the President of the IRI that this is going to be worked out very shortly. But we do not believe it will, in any way, affect the programs of IRI in Egypt.

So I think he would agree, and certainly I would suggest to you that \$100 million whack at Egypt over the slowness of registering an organization, an NGO that has engaged in democracy building, is a little bit of an overkill.

That leads me to my larger point, and this has been a bipartisan debate, and we have seen speakers here on both sides of the aisle speaking against this amendment and appreciate my colleagues who have come to the floor to make the points about how important Egypt is as a strategic partner.

That is the bottom line here. Egypt is a strategic partner. Egypt is a country that is in transition as we speak. Everybody knows that we are moving on to a post-Mubarak age. The question is, where do we want to be 10 years from now? Where do we want Egypt to be? Where do we want to be with regard to our relationship with Egypt. I would suggest to you that Egypt which has been since 1979, with the Camp David Accord, the key part of our strategic effort to achieve peace in the Middle East, that this would not be the time, this would not be the way to achieve that, to continue on that path by kicking sand in the face of Egypt.

This is not the right move, Mr. Chairman. This is not the way to go about this. We need to continue this strategic partnership. We need to continue to say to Egypt, we do expect you to reform. We do expect these kinds of political reforms to be made. We will work with you and we will stand with you and we will stand with the people of Egypt to make these reforms. And

we are glad that you have moved towards the multi-party presidential election. We are glad some of these things are happening. We expect more to be done, but we are not going to achieve that if we do not continue the partnership. If we jerk the rug out from under them, if we take away that partnership, we can hardly expect that to continue.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SWEENEY. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. Last year, I said virtually everything that my good friend is now saying today. The problem is that in the last year they have jailed their main opponents, they have beaten up people who are defending an independent judiciary, they have imposed another round of martial law, and they have continued the very things that are totally opposed to our values.

Now, to me the issue is not whether Egypt is a good friend and a good ally. They obviously are. The question is; Are they going to be around to continue to be that. If they do not change the way they are behaving, they are not going to be succeeded by a moderate government. They are systematically alienating every moderate group in that society, and you are going to wind up with the Muslim Brotherhood running that country unless they wake up before it is too late.

Mr. SWEENEY. Reclaiming my time, let me conclude by saying that I agree the purposes of this amendment are quite noble and that we as a body and as an institution should be promoting the ideas of reform and we should be intolerant and frustrated, but this amendment goes too far. And we have already taken steps and the mere fact we are having this debate I believe reinforces that message. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words. I rise in support of the Obey-Hyde-Lantos amendment.

Mr. Chairman, in years past on this floor and in committee I have noted Egypt's central role in the Middle East peace efforts and that without those efforts we would have been even further away from peace than we are. That is, I believe, still true today. And clearly Egypt played an important part of Israel's successful disengagement from Gaza last year, but as central as the Egyptian role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is and as helpful as Egypt has been with ship transits through the Suez and flights over the Suez Canal in support of our efforts in Iraq, in regional peace and security, is not the only agenda that we have with Egypt.

President Bush has called for democratic transformation as a response to the rise of Islamic extremists in the Arab world. In Egypt, the response to that call has been decidedly mixed. Clearly, last year's presidential elections which for the first time featured more than one candidate on the ballot

were a departure from the past practice of an up or down vote on President Mubarak and were a positive step forward. However, the Egyptian parliamentary elections in December were marred with violence, voter intimidation and allegations of fraud as the ruling party sought to hold not just its majority in the assembly but its overwhelming majority.

While some will point out that a large number of opposition candidates who want seats, the real concern is that so many of them are affiliated with the Muslim brotherhood. No doubt the Egyptian government will look at these results and say again that political reform must proceed slowly.

I would argue that these results are of the government's own making. It is not democratic reform that produced these results, but the lack of political space for legitimate secular parties to function within Egyptian society. By denying that space, by arresting judges and journalists, by prosecuting legitimate opposition political leaders, by beating demonstrators, by extending the emergency law, the government of Egypt makes more likely the political result that they most fear, a future government of Egypt dominated by radical Islamists.

The choice we have today is to do nothing and hope that with more dialogue and a little more cajoling, that we can get President Mubarak to continue on the path to reform or we can send a clear message that even appreciating how helpful Egypt is on the regional peace and security issues, the Congress will not stand silently by as government thugs beat peaceful demonstrators in the streets of Cairo and with their fists extinguish the hope of a truly moderate, secular democratic future for Egypt.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ACKERMAN. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentleman. We were just told this amendment goes too far. The fact is the State Department made phone calls to a number of people here yesterday indicating they would be willing to support this amendment. The only difference was that they wanted \$50 million going to added democratization programs rather than going to AIDS. That was the only difference, because the State Department is getting fed up with the conduct that Egypt is demonstrating, and the State Department recognizes that this is a very dangerous slippery slope the Egyptian government is on.

So some may think this amendment goes far, but based on these conversations yesterday, the State Department is not one of them.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I do not think we should regard this as punitive. We should regard this as a signal coming from a friend. Mr. OBEY, I think as a lifelong friend of Egypt as am I, would probably as ranking mem-

ber, or perhaps as chairman, would be the first person to rush to the floor to restore those funds and then some, should Egypt understand this message and rectify its ways and move in a direction that is within its own interests.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly rise in support of the Obey amendment and I want my colleagues to know that the decision to support this amendment has not been an easy one for me. I support it out of a deep sense of disappointment and unease with recent actions taken by the Egyptian government.

I returned from Egypt with many of the members of the committee just a couple of weeks ago. Our brief visit there was filled with candid meetings with key Egyptian officials. We heard about Egypt's support for the Darfur peace process, its pledges of support for a U.N. peacekeeping force.

□ 1600

We heard the fears of Egyptian officials about the prominence of the Muslim Brotherhood, the threats to Egyptian society and industry from terrorism, and that what happened in the Palestinian elections with Hamas could happen to them.

We also heard about the great strides Egypt has made on economic reforms and the difficult reforms still ahead, and we heard about Egypt's cooperation on the Middle East peace process and Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and on ensuring speedy passage for U.S. military vessels through the Suez Canal.

However, in recent weeks and months, we heard other stories as well, of thousands of riot police being deployed to crush peaceful demonstrations by supporters of judicial independence, of judges being punished for publicly saying that past elections have been rife with fraud, of efforts to quash moderate opposition parties, including through the prosecution, brutal physical abuse and lengthy incarceration of an opposition candidate, of the extension of the sweeping emergency law despite explicit statements that it would not be removed and, most recently, of the termination of democracy-building projects under the auspices of the International Republican Institute simply because IRI's Cairo director criticized the slow pace of Egyptian reform.

I have such great respect for the chairman and am delighted that he had conversations with the IRI as a board member, and I do hope that there has been a misinterpretation of the public information with that issue, and I do hope it can be straightened out.

I am concerned about these developments, and I just finally came to the conclusion that the U.S. has an obligation to speak out; and to those who say that Egypt is a close ally of the United States and we should deal with these

issues in private, I believe that we are a close ally, we will remain a close ally. We understand how important the United States-Egyptian relationship is, but I would say that we have dealt with them in private, countless times; but the Mubarak government refuses to acknowledge our messages.

We, as members of the committee, delivered those messages in person. We understand that Egypt is a close, essential, strategic ally which is precisely why we tried to deliver those messages quietly, in private. It did not work. The reports kept appearing. The pictures on CNN when we were even in Egypt kept appearing.

Since 1979, Egypt has received more than \$60 billion in military and economic aid from the United States, and I have supported it every time I had the opportunity to vote for that, understanding the importance of Egypt in that very difficult region of the world. This is proof enough of the importance of Egypt's continued strength, stability, and friendship to the United States.

The Obey amendment is not about devaluing that relationship or causing instability. It is, rather, a strong, unequivocal message that only a friend can deliver, that the way in which the government of Egypt currently approaches its moderate political opposition is simply inexcusable; and for this reason, I do urge my colleagues to support the Obey amendment.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. LOWEY. I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Chairman, I accompanied the gentlewoman on the delegation to Egypt. Will she acknowledge that we met with Mr. Mubarak, Jr., and that he outlined a roadmap for further constitutional democratization in Egypt that is a positive step and that the gentlewoman was impressed with that? Would she acknowledge that?

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, may I respond to my colleague, I feel strongly that I am not going to tell Mr. Mubarak or his son, with whom we were very impressed, I am not going to tell them whether they should democratize in 1 year, 2 years or 3 years.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) has expired.

(By unanimous consent, Mrs. LOWEY was allowed to proceed for 2 additional minutes.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, in response to my good friend Mr. WICKER, as you well know, we had some very, very solid, powerful dialogue with both President Mubarak and his very impressive son, and we both felt that his words were very strong, very optimistic about the future of the continuance of our relationship and the importance of their role in that region.

I am not even suggesting to my good friend Mr. WICKER that we should tell

them they should democratize in 2 years or 3 years. They are living in a tough neighborhood, and they are taking actions that they may think are appropriate in their move towards democratization.

However, I happen to believe, from the bottom of my heart, that those pictures on the camera of 10,000 riot police beating people over the head or the jailing of political opposition for 5 years on forgery charges, and I know we heard that he was not a very good, upstanding citizen, I believe that, however, I am taking this action because of the behavior which I think is inexcusable and because I have confidence that they will continue to move towards the path of democracy.

So I am taking this action not because I am commenting on their slow move towards democracy, but because of the actions that they have taken that I think are inexcusable and, in my judgment, would be problematic if you are moving towards democratic reform.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. LOWEY. I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman agree that if this Obey amendment passes today, the headline tomorrow in Egypt would be that the United States House has taken a slap at our allies in Egypt and that it might make it harder for moderates in Egypt to continue down that path?

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) has again expired.

(By unanimous consent, Mrs. LOWEY was allowed to proceed for 1 additional minute.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I would hope the headline would emphasize the over \$1 billion that we are providing in assistance to Egypt because we acknowledge the very critical role in that region: the critical role they are playing in Darfur; the critical role they are playing in the peace process. And I have confidence that that relationship is so strong that we will continue to work together to make sure that someday, in our lifetime, we will see peace in that region of the world and hopefully it will be based on democratic principles.

I thank my good colleague for your very thoughtful question.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, one could not help but appreciate the debate that has been carried on this afternoon and particularly the remarks of concern about Egypt's democratization; and, certainly, the gentleman from Wisconsin and the gentlemen from California and Illinois are individuals that I respect, but I rise this afternoon to again emphasize key elements that we cannot change.

In a letter from Secretary Rice dated the 24th to the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, she said let me

first state that our strategic partnership with Egypt is a cornerstone, a cornerstone, of U.S. policy in the Middle East, and the partnership that would continue would be in the U.S. interests.

So although I recognize that this is to, if you will, to say to Egypt that all is not well, I would simply say to my colleagues that this is too important a relationship to create the kind of atmosphere or tone that would say that the alliance between Egypt and the United States has been broken and forever broken.

A few weeks ago, some of us took our passion and our belief to the Sudanese embassy and were arrested, and so of course I have a sense of passion and concern for the dollars that would go to Sudan. But do we realize that Egypt is the first Arab country to support the peace agreement with Darfur that was reached between the government of Sudan and the rebels; that Egypt committed itself to participate in the international forces and post-war reconstruction of Darfur; that just recently Egypt has convinced the government of Khartoum to accept the international peace forces; and that Egypt has increased its participation in the African Union peacekeeping; and that they will welcome the sick and injured from Darfur, including the rebels? They have worked on behalf of this peace agreement.

And then I might say to you that based on mutual agreement between Egypt and the U.S., the ES fund that was allocated is already \$40 million less than fiscal year 2006. We have already cut them more than half of the level, cut half of the level of 1998, and particularly this ES fund is targeted for democracy and education. The very complaint that we have will be undermined by the Obey amendment.

I would also say to you that in Secretary Rice's letter she said again reducing the U.S. assistance would seriously damage our partnership, as well as the broader strategic interests of the United States. Accordingly, we firmly believe, the State Department, that the U.S. assistance to Egypt should continue at the full level requested by the administration.

We frankly have an opportunity to reinforce our friendship. I do not like the incarceration of opposition and the 10,000 police that were, if you will, both misguided and without temperament. They should be chastised, and the Mubarak government has the responsibility to do that. What the world sees, the world believes.

But Egypt is currently undergoing a process of reform. They are undergoing an effort of broadening political participation ensuring freedom of expression. In addition, they recognize that this is a problem with the incarceration of the opposition. I might remind my colleagues that it was a court decision that caused Mr. Noor to be incarcerated.

But nonetheless, any letter to the effect that suggests that this is not the

right way I will join, but this is not the way to engage in this position. It is true that Egypt is not engaged in active or interactive military conflict as we speak, but there is no doubt that Egypt is a target of terror and terrorism. There is no doubt that they are a strategic body of safety within the region of the Middle East. They are subject to forces of terrorism, militant Islam, and rogue countries that threaten America and Egypt.

I would only ask my colleagues that, yes, it is appropriate to admonish Egypt and to make them realize that we want an encompassing of the ideals of democracy, but having just received the Prime Minister of Israel, they have a relationship with a strong partner of the United States. Let us recognize that Egypt has been a friend; that Egypt's culture is a culture of great diversity; that Egyptians here in the United States have spent their blood on behalf of freedom of this country; and that the relationship that we have between Egypt and the United States is one to nurture and one to give credence to and one to be able to protect.

Egypt is listening to this debate, and I believe, Mr. Chairman, as they listen to this debate they will correct their ways, but we should not support this amendment. Let us support and nurture the relationship between the United States and Egypt. They are a strategic partner.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

In a moment, I would turn to my colleague Mr. OBEY in case he has other thoughts to round out his, I think, important case on an important amendment, which I strongly support. The only adjustment that I could possibly suggest would be that some of the money that was of the \$100 million be invested in water resources around the world, but I am pleased to step forward.

I am a supporter of the historic agreement that Egypt entered into. I think the \$60 billion American taxpayers have invested is justifiable, but I think it is time for us to take a step back and get real. I have listened to the argument that we have heard from a variety of people, including those who have been the most steadfast supporters of Egypt on the floor of this Chamber year after year in terms of patience running thin, in terms of the oppression of people in Egypt, suppression of the democratic process.

□ 1615

I find it a little farfetched to suggest that somehow everything is going to be fine with our relationship with Egypt if we give them \$1.75 billion, but if somehow that is scaled down to \$1.65 billion that somehow things are going to be upset; that it is a slap in the face; that Egypt is somehow undermined. Who else is going to give them this type of money and provide this type of steadfast support?

It is the wrong use of this money. I think Mr. OBEY has suggested higher and better uses. Again, I only wish it was water resources. I think it is an important wake-up call for Egypt, but more important, I think it is an affirmation of our responsibility of how we use these resources to extend our interests in foreign policy. We shouldn't be trapped in time.

I think Mr. OBEY's amendment is an important step in our exercising our responsibility.

I yield to Mr. OBEY if he wanted to elaborate on his defense.

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentleman. Someone on the other side just said "What will the headline be tomorrow?"; that it will be that there is a slap in the face of the government. That is the point. That is the point.

Our long-term security is tied not just to Mr. Mubarak, but whoever comes after him. And what we are trying to do is to send a message to all levels in Egyptian society that we stand for what we say we stand for, which is a modicum of decency in dealing with your political opponents, absent other trappings of democracy.

And it is important that a lot of people in Egypt besides Mr. Mubarak understand that we are serious about our democratic values, that we are serious about assuming that the country that is more identified with us than any other Arab country, that it is important that they reflect certain norms of decency with respect to the way they treat their population and treat their political opponents.

And it is in the interest of the United States to make sure that every citizen of Egypt understands that, because otherwise, we allow other groups, like the Muslim Brotherhood, to paint caricatures of the United States, which will do us no good in the long run.

I thank the gentleman for the time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, only a few months ago, the Department of State reported on the type of Egypt that would receive more American tax dollars under this bill: "The government's respect for human rights remained poor, and serious abuses continued in many areas." "Security forces killed a number of opposition voters and protestors." "A systematic pattern of torture by the security forces existed." "At least seven persons died in custody at police stations or prisons" during 2005. This on top of 120 such deaths in police custody "as a direct result of torture" over the prior decade "among some 420 cases of torture."

I think Secretary of State Rice was absolutely correct to speak out on democracy in Egypt earlier this year, and she was also correct when she said previously "that for 60 years, it has been the policy of the United States and our allies to turn a blind eye to the absence of freedom in the Middle East." The only problem is that the commitment of this Administration to democracy

promotion is largely determined by its desperate attempt to find more excuses for its other foreign policy failures. And when it comes to Egypt, the Bush administration has merely changed that "blind eye" to a wink.

Yes, just after President Mubarak last month extended emergency rule and dictatorial powers for himself, just after he locked up his electoral opponent, and just as his henchmen were beating peacefully assembled people brutally on the streets of Cairo, Vice President CHENEY winked and accorded Mubarak, Jr. the prestige of a White House meeting. And the Administration advises that President Bush dropped in to say hello to Mubarak, Jr., but briefly because he only wanted to convey his best wishes to Mubarak, Sr.

Well, the Mubarak strategy deserves more than that kind of wink and a nod toward democracy. His strategy has been, from the very beginning, to convince American leaders and American taxpayers to transfer their tax dollars to Egypt because he represents the only alternative to Islamic extremists. And to ensure that his strategy continues to pay dividends, he aggressively suppresses any moderate opposition that emerges.

It is true that he doesn't boil his opponents alive like Secretary Rumsfeld's former buddy in Uzbekistan. But to follow the sad path of civic discourse in Egypt is to watch an authoritarian respond to his people's demand for a more open society with a big stick, with a view that he can beat that spirit out of them with fear and intimidation.

What we need in Egypt, as several people have said on both sides of this debate, what we need is a pragmatic policy, a policy that realizes if we continue to associate ourselves with a corrupt regime, eventually the pressure cooker will explode, and we will have paid to create the very disaster that these dollars are allegedly designed to avoid.

Now is the time to tell President Mubarak, through this amendment, that we have wasted more than enough money propping up tyranny. Ultimately, by approving the Obey-Lantos-Hyde-Green bipartisan amendment, this Congress can say to this latter-day pharaoh, "let your Egyptian people go." Doing that is the best way not only to help the people of Egypt, but also to help American families be safer.

Some have asked about the headline that will likely run about this debate. I will tell you what the headline will be if this amendment is not approved. The headline will be: "We got away with it again." Clearly, the Egyptian government has not heard the comments given quietly in private during the past. They have paid more attention to the winks they have gotten from this Administration. The only thing they will understand is in dollars and cents and in the votes that are cast for this amendment.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment because it will

not only protect American tax dollars, it will lead to more safety for American families.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Obey-Hyde-Lantos-Green amendment to increase disaster assistance funding for Darfur by \$50 million and to increase HIV/AIDS assistance by \$50 million. In order to pay for this funding, this bipartisan amendment will cost \$100 million in economic budget support for Egypt.

Mr. Chairman, when we provide money to any organization or government, we should demand accountability and results in return. However, we have heard over and over again that in just the last year the government of Egypt has imprisoned the leading opposition candidate in their 2005 elections, which were themselves marred by fraud; extended so-called emergency laws despite promises to repeal them, cracked down on pro-democracy groups, harassed and arrested members of the press, and suspended a United States Government program to promote democracy. This is simply not acceptable. Perhaps some tough love and leaner times will help refocus the Egyptian government on Democratic reforms.

While our funds are obviously finite, the need for true humanitarian assistance around the world is seemingly infinite. The World Food Program has recently had to cut rations for refugees in the Sudan due to a shortfall in funding. The global HIV/AIDS initiative is funded at \$121 million below the President's request. I am sure that nearly all of us would rather see our taxpayers' money used to support refugees and children orphaned by AIDS than used to throw dissidents and reporters into Egyptian jails.

Just a day or two ago, I was arrested in front of the Sudanese Embassy as a result of all of the difficulty and the genocide and the instability taking place in Darfur. Certainly a little bit of additional money to help provide resources for those refugees, for those individuals whose lives are disrupted would go a long way. So I urge support for the Obey amendment.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Obey-Hyde-Lantos amendment because the lifesaving interventions that would be effectuated by the amendment to enhance by \$50 million money for PEPFAR and another \$50 million to meet the needs for refugees and IDPs in Darfur are compelling.

The money diverted from Egypt, I want to make very clear, will be very well used. I have actually visited camps in Darfur, Mr. Chairman, and they are underfunded. Despite our best efforts and many of the efforts of the international community, people do need more, food, medicines, as well as the shelter and security that ensures that the food and medicines can go to the people.

Let me also point out that the PEPFAR program did not receive in this bill the amount of money that the President had asked for. Some of that money was put into the Global Fund. And I think it is unfortunate that PEPFAR, that has worked so well and is still growing in its capabilities as well as its impact, should be funded at least at the level the President has asked for. This gets us closer to that number.

I recently visited a number of the programs that are funded by PEPFAR in Uganda and saw firsthand how there is behavioral change that is occurring as part of the abstinence, be faithful approach. But especially for those under the age of 30, there is a profound change. The infection rate is dropping dramatically, and has been for a few years now in places like Uganda.

We went out into the bush and into areas where U.S. funded teams are going out two by two to bring the message of health, including testing as well as what needs to be done if one is found to be infected by HIV/AIDS. We also saw that the PEPFAR monies were being used very efficaciously using faith-based initiatives and others to get the antiretroviral drugs to those infected. But clearly, there is not enough medicine available. Whether it be for young people or people who are older, there is just not enough antiretroviral medicine being funded to reach all of those who could get their lives back if indeed that money was there. So this money, at least \$50 million of it, will be put there.

Let me also say with regards to Egypt, we all know pursuant to the Camp David agreement, and because of the boycott, the Egyptians did receive significant amounts of money, as they should have, and they do so every year. They continue to do so even if the Obey-Hyde-Lantos language is adopted. But I am very concerned, as someone who spends a great deal of time working on human rights, that there has been a deterioration of human rights in Egypt, Christians and others, the government has not done all it can do to try to mitigate these abuses.

Yes, I like Mubarak. We all like him. He is a very affable and a very effective leader in many ways. But it seems to me much more has to be done on a human rights record that the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices this year again has said is poor, as well as the International Religious Freedom Report with regards to Egypt.

So for all of these reasons, I strongly urge that we support this amendment. It is a good amendment. And, again, we are still, even if this passes, major providers of U.S. taxpayer funds to Egypt, even if this amendment passes. So I urge support of the amendment.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Friends, it is absolutely true that we need friends in this region, but it is also true that it is not easy to be our friend in the region. It is not easy, first

of all, because a lot of folks in that area are not very fond of the United States of America, and Egypt has been an exception and a dear friend in troubling times and in a troubling region.

It is not easy also because, as a friend, we are sometimes rather condescending.

□ 1630

I have listened to some of the language that has been used here. We talk about tough love. Tough love is something you do not do with someone of mutual stature; tough love is something parents do to children. I have heard language like "get their attention." We have Egypt's attention. They understand that we care about democracy, but it is presumptuous of us to assume that Egyptians do not care about democracy and human rights as well.

I had the privilege of traveling to Egypt recently with some of my good colleagues. We met with a number of moderates and business leaders who said it would be counterproductive if the House of Representatives seeks to punish Egypt or teach Egypt a lesson by withholding these appropriations. It would be counterproductive. Human rights activists told me that. The reason it would be counterproductive is because Egypt has made a number of reforms that we have asked them to make. They are engaging in economic liberalization. They are engaging in progress towards democracy after thousands of years.

Our own country certainly did not start perfectly. As any African American or woman knows, we passed the Alien and Sedition Acts under John Adams. Our own country had a slow and tortuous progress towards full democratic participation.

Egypt is moving in that direction. If we are condescending and patronizing at this critical time, it will send the wrong message, not the right message.

Egypt has boots on the ground in Darfur helping the refugees. They are operating a field hospital in Afghanistan, treating our own wounded and Afghani civilians. Egypt has been critical to helping negotiate the tense situation with the Palestinian Authority. Egypt has been involved in training the Iraqi troops.

Yes, there are concerns. But goodness gracious, could you not turn on the TV occasionally and see demonstrators clashing with police in our own country? And do we not have other allies in that country and elsewhere on this planet that have treated journalists harshly?

If we expect perfection from our friends or we will punish them or teach them a lesson or engage in tough love, we are going to have precious few friends left in the world. Precious few. We need to treat the Egyptians with the respect their long and proud history deserves. We need to continue to support them with appropriations, and we need to work with them as partners

with mutual respect and honor in the long tradition that we have established with this great country.

I understand the good motives of the ranking member and the others who have supported this amendment. I understand their intentions and I respect that. I just think it is a strategy that may actually backfire on us in the region, and for that reason I urge rejection of this amendment and we continue to work with the Egyptian Government to encourage and support the many achievements they have made and to support future achievements as they move forward.

That is the message I heard on the ground in Egypt, and I hope my colleagues will share that and reject this amendment.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for this opportunity to support Mr. KOLBE in opposing this amendment to decrease economic support to the government of Egypt.

I think it is important to note that I fully appreciate the concerns raised by the sponsors of this amendment and their commitment to political and human rights reform in Egypt. The imprisonment of Mr. Noor, a presidential candidate, other prisoners of conscience, as well as serious violations of religious freedom, are very serious affronts to human dignity and freedom. I believe that we have a responsibility to raise the issue of reform with the Egyptian Government which the United States has done on numerous occasions and continues to do.

However, it is also important to note that Egypt has borne significant sacrifices for the cause of peace and freedom in the Middle East.

President Sadat paid a very high price for Egypt's rapprochement with Israel. More recently, Ambassador Ihab al-Sherif paid with his life for daring to defy the foes of peace in Iraq.

When I visited the Sinai as an 18-year-old in the aftermath of the 1973 war, I was struck by the graffiti scrawled on a twisted heap of concrete, a scene so typical throughout the Middle East. The message in Arabic and English read: "Here was the war. Here is the peace."

For close to 30 years now, Egypt has stood by a courageous choice, daring to chart a new course. President Sadat could have made another choice. While no government is perfect, this choice has been consistent with a march toward democratic reform. Much is left to do. Many challenges remain. But the loosening of our hand of friendship with Egypt will potentially harm that which this amendment seeks to achieve.

Egypt is one of our most important strategic allies in the Middle East, and a cultural and historical leader of the Arab world. I believe this amendment would achieve nothing short of damaging an important relationship at a critical time.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I thank God that Members OBEY, HYDE and LANTOS have had the courage to bring this amendment. And I say so because, Mr. Chairman, a human crisis of the highest magnitude exists in Darfur. As we speak, we have had 2.5 million people displaced. Something has got to be done about that. We have had 3 million people put in a position such that they have to exist on emergency assistance. 400,000 people are dead. These are real people; these are real numbers. There is real suffering going on in Darfur.

I do not know what the headlines will read tomorrow in Egypt. I do not know what they are going to read here in my hometown of Houston or here in Washington, D.C., but I know this: at some point on the infinite continuum that we call time, the omniscient, the omnipresent, and the omnipotent will come together and every one of us will have to answer the question: Where were you when there was murder and rape and hunger in Darfur? Where were you when your brothers and your sisters were suffering?

I want to let you know that this is the least we can do for the people of Darfur.

Mr. Chairman, \$50 million will go to the World Food Program that needs help. It only has 32 percent of what it needs to meet the demands of this crisis.

Mr. Chairman, we have to ask ourselves the question: If not now, when? When will we give help and aid to those in need?

If not here, where? Where will the help come from?

If not us, who? Who will the help come from?

Mr. OBEY, God bless you. You have done the decent thing for people who have been suffering for too long. I thank you for what you have done.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin will be postponed.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I hope in just a moment here that we will be able to have the committee rise and we will have a unanimous consent agreement to propound. But let me say before that moment that I do think this debate that we have just concluded has been a very constructive debate, a very productive one.

As I said in the committee, I hope that our friends in Egypt, whether they are here in the United States or wheth-

er they are listening to this abroad, have taken some message from this debate that we have just had on the question of our relationship with Egypt and the support and the strategic partnership which we all recognize as an important one. But I hope the message that our friends in Egypt take from this is that democracy is about this kind of a debate.

In a democracy, you not only allow this kind of debate, you encourage it. What we hope to be able to say to our friends in Egypt is that this debate is an important one, and we have had a very constructive debate that I believe is very important.

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) having assumed the chair, Mr. THORNBERRY, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5522) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

LIMITING AMENDMENTS DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5522, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 5522 in the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to House Resolution 851, notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no further amendment to the bill may be offered except:

Pro forma amendments offered at any point in the reading by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate;

An amendment by Mr. MCGOVERN regarding Andean counterdrug funding, which shall be debatable for 60 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. MCGOVERN regarding a funding limitation on Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, which shall be debatable for 30 minutes;

An amendment by Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida regarding funding for Ireland;

An amendment by Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida regarding INCLE funding for Mexico;

An amendment by Mr. BROWN of Ohio regarding Child Survival and Health program;

An amendment by Ms. WATERS regarding funding for Haiti, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes;

An amendment by Ms. WATERS regarding funding for Haiti;

An amendment by Ms. HOOLEY regarding INCLE funding;