

paramount goal of the United States and vital to our national interests. I sincerely hope that the day will come when the region is a stable, peaceful home of emerging democracies and U.S. allies.

The ongoing dialogue about the future relationship between Israel and its neighbors in this volatile region is essential if a true peace is ever to be realized. The current talks may be a meaningful step toward achieving our common goal.

However, I am concerned that the pressure to reach a deal—any deal—will outweigh that of securing a good one. A deal for deal's sake is not in the interest of Israel or the United States, nor is it in the interest of long-term peace and stability in the Middle East. In this volatile region, a flawed agreement that produces greater instability would be worse than the status quo.

Accordingly, American leaders must not abuse our unique relationship with Israel to force acceptance of destabilizing strategic concessions. True peace can only be obtained if both sides are confident that they are negotiating freely and in the interest of their people—free from outside pressures. I was quite alarmed to hear the Administration's spokesman stating that there is tension between the two sides due to the President's pressure on negotiators to come up with an agreement. Clearly, Israel should not be forced to negotiate away what's in its best interests to accommodate the political interest of any group.

Israel has been a longtime ally of the United States. The struggle of the Israeli people to maintain their sovereignty and security from hostile neighbors has been long and valiant. As Americans, we recognize their struggle is also our own—that beyond our strong ties of kinship, a strong and secure Israel is undoubtedly in America's best interest. An Israel with secure boundaries, free from threats or acts of war, is essential to long-term peace and stability in the region.

Over the last 50 years, Israel has shown its willingness to work with its neighbors to find peace, sometimes successfully—sometimes not—but in all cases the outcome was contingent on the determination of both sides to truly secure peace.

At this time, it is unclear to me that this is the case in these negotiations. In fact, the threat of the Palestinians to unilaterally declare statehood on September 13, regardless of the status of negotiations, call to question their commitment to peace and respect of Israel's autonomy and security. Any attempt by the Palestinians to unilaterally declare an independent state would have severe consequences to the relationship between the U.S. and the Palestinians. Make no mistake, this Congressman will not support such a unilateral declaration, particularly outside the confines of an agreement with Israel.

The U.S. Congress has a responsibility to ensure that any agreement the American people may be asked to embrace will truly protect Israeli and American interests, enjoys the support of the Israeli and Palestinian people alike, and brings a lasting and durable peace to the region. Accordingly, any final agreement must carry a real chance for meaningful peace before committing U.S. support.

No one should assume that the Congress will simply sign off on committing enormous

American resources to a deal that contains compromises which would seriously undermine Israeli or U.S. security. Before a financial commitment is made by the U.S., the Israeli people must have their referendum, and we must have had an opportunity to examine the proposed agreement on its merits from an American perspective—both for the security of Israel and the security of the United States.

Finally, I remain gravely concerned that the Administration has yet to adequately consult the Congress on the status of the negotiations. The prospect that an agreement will contain an ongoing American commitment requires that the Administration work closely with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to build a broad consensus in support of the deal.

We must be certain that the final agreement carries a legitimate chance for an enduring peace before we commit the vast American resources routinely mentioned as part of a settlement. Any meaningful peace agreement must be attractive to both parties independent of financial incentives. Further the U.S. must not force an untenable deal that delivers today's headlines at the expense of lasting peace.

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FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT  
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-  
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,  
2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2000*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4811) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4811, the FY 2001 foreign operations appropriations bill. This bill is more than \$300 million below current funding levels and almost \$2 billion less than the Administration's request.

The allocation of resources in this bill will not enable our nation to carry out an effective foreign policy to meet our vital national security needs. The low levels of funding in key areas of this bill will hinder our ability to respond to and confront ongoing development around the world. Many countries around the world are undergoing rapid change; our nation now has an unique and unprecedented opportunity—and indeed, a responsibility—to provide global stability through the spread of democracy and the promise of economic growth.

Mr. Chairman, in addition to failing our vital foreign policy and national security objectives, this bill fails in responsibly allocating resources towards other critical priorities. While the overall request has been reduced by 10 percent, the amounts requested to address the problems of infectious disease, poverty alleviation, access to family planning, and debt relief in the world's poorest countries have been cut in a disproportionate manner:

The bill underfunds, by \$390 million, our commitment to provide debt relief to the world's poorest countries. The Jubilee 2000 campaign for debt relief, which received bipartisan support throughout the United States and with a broad spectrum of religious leaders and organizations.

The bill also reduces, by \$42 million, funds to combat worldwide HIV/AIDS.

The bill hinders developing nations' ability to grow by drastically cutting funds for the International Development Association, the African Development Bank and Fund and the Asian Development Fund by 32 percent.

This bill also cuts nonproliferation, anti-terrorism, de-mining, and related programs by 32 percent.

Finally, this bill cuts, by \$385 million, international family planning programs; and imposes restrictions on foreign organizations which are contrary to our long-held constitutional principles of free speech.

There are, however, provisions in this bill that I strongly support. This bill includes increases for the Child Survival and Disease account and the Peace Corps, for example. The most important priority that this bill funds well, however, is the maintenance of our commitment to the state of Israel and the peace process in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman, foreign aid should not be immune from scrutiny and budget cuts; however, it should not be the victim of skewed priorities. Indeed, robust and well-directed foreign assistance programs are essential for our national security. The process of building stability around the globe my combating infectious disease and poverty, working for conflict resolution, enhancing democratization, and fostering the conditions for economic growth ultimately benefits us all.

Unfortunately, the allocation of resources in this bill fails to recognize this fundamental fact, shortchanges our foreign policy goals, and undermines our national security. I will vote against this misguided bill today and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2000*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently was not present on the floor for a vote yesterday, July 17th, 2000.

If I had been present for rollcall No. 402 I would have voted "yes," and I extend my congratulations to the Republic of Latvia on its 10th anniversary.