

<i>Additional Aid Request in six categories</i>	<i>FY-00 Supplemental/ FY-01 "Plus-Up"</i>
2. Interdiction (Air, Water, Ground)	238/102
3. Colombian National Police Support	68/28
4. Alternative Economic Development	92/53
5. Boost Governing Capa- bility	42/46
6. Economic (& Peace Process) Assistance	3/2
Total(s)	954/318

The proposal includes 85% for Colombia, 6% for other countries and 9% for U.S. agencies.

HIGHLIGHTS

30 new Blackhawks and 15 (State Dept) UN-1N Huey helicopters (in addition to 18 now in country) for Colombian troop air transport (\$439M in FY-00/\$13M in FY-01).

Two more Colombian counterdrug battalions (\$30M in FY-00/\$12M in FY-01).

Enhanced Colombian Army bases and air facilities (\$18M in FY-00/\$23M in FY-01).

Upgrade OV-10 interceptors, FLIR for AC-47 aircraft (\$16M in FY-00/\$5M in FY-01).

Relocate Ground Based Radars/build command center (\$25M in FY-00/\$12M in FY-01).

Upgrade airplanes, helos & bases for CNP eradication (\$68M in FY-00/\$28M in FY-01).

PROPOSED REGIONAL FUNDING

Peru Interdiction (\$10M in FY-00/\$12M in FY-01) eco. development, (\$15M in FY-00).

Bolivia Interdiction (\$2M in FY-00/\$4M in FY-01) eco. development, (\$12M in FY-00).

Ecuador Interdiction (\$2M in FY-00/\$4M in FY-01) eco. development, (\$3M in FY-00) in addition, Manta FOL (\$38.2M in FY-01) included under DOD funding.

PROPOSED FUNDING FOR U.S. AGENCIES

State Department (\$61M in FY-00/\$61M in FY-01) for support of Colombian military air mobility and police eradication operations.

Defense Department (\$106M in FY-00/\$41M in FY-01) for Manta FOL and training of Colombian counterdrug battalions.

Treasury Department (\$2M in FY-00/\$2M in FY-01) for "Kingpin Act" (Foreign Assistance Control).

US Customs (\$68M in FY-00) for upgrade of four P-3 AEW aircraft.

DEA (\$7M in FY-00/\$3M in FY-01) for support of in country operations.

21% for Human Rights/Rule of Law/Economic Development and 79% for Interdiction & Eradication.

FACT SHEET: WHAT ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN COLOMBIA?

MORE AID FOR HUMAN RIGHTS RULE OF LAW, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Administration's proposal has allotted 21% for combined Human Rights training and monitoring, the Rule of law including judicial reform, and Economic Development—(compared to only 10% last year).

Plan Colombia addresses systemic changes to get the cause of many human rights violations, including: the illicit drug trade, the peace process, the lack of government institutions in rural Colombia and a weak judicial system.

THE LEAHY LAW (VETTED UNITS)

The Leahy Amendment requires that all foreign units receiving U.S. economic assistance must be "vetted" for past or current human rights violations.

Leahy still applies—no U.S. aid will be provided to any Colombian military unit where there is "credible evidence" of serious human rights violations.

Supplemental funding supports Colombian military human rights training and ombudsmen, as well as security protection for human rights monitors. Personnel vetting includes the use of lie detector tests and NGO monitoring.

COMMITMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS BY THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT

President Pastrana and his government are committed to reducing human rights violations whether conducted by the paramilitaries, narco-querillas, or Colombia security forces. He fired four military generals with ties to the paramilitaries and involvement in human rights violations.

Defense Minister Tapias has taken dramatic steps to deal with the human rights allegations. The Colombian military is undergoing a transformation into a more professional organization. The annual human rights report has documented a steady decline in human rights violations by the Colombian military.

President Pastrana has publicly acknowledged the importance of deploying properly vetted units as a condition of U.S. aid.

BALANCED AID TO THE MILITARY AND THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE

The current Administration's proposal is heavily weighed toward assistance to the Colombian military. However, it does include \$96 million for the CNP (the 1999 drug supplemental was heavily weighted toward the CNP).

H-1B VISAS A RENEGING ON THE PROMISE TO AMERICAN WORKERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHR-ABACHER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, just a few comments on some of the things that we have heard over these last few 5-minute Special Orders. I hope the American people who were listening understand what H-1B Visas are all about. We had several Members come down to the well and talk in glorious terms how important H-1B Visas are and about how we are going to give jobs, 200,000 jobs, to people who are the first string picks from overseas.

No, I am sorry, I would like to have 200,000 Americans have those jobs. H-1B Visas is nothing more than a renegeing on the promise to the American worker that, when supply and demand means that their wages will go up, that we will, instead, import people from overseas to keep their wages down.

□ 1645

We do not need to import people into this country for high-tech jobs. We need to make sure our high-tech industries, which are making a whopping profit right now, spend that profit in training Americans for those jobs rather than giving them to 200,000 Pakistanis or Indians or others who will work for \$25,000 a year and taking those jobs away from Americans who would be earning \$75,000 a year. So H-1B visas are no gift to the American people.

I hope those people listening to the arguments that were just presented un-

derstand who is getting ripped off and who is being attacked here and who is being rewarded. Big business is being rewarded so they can keep their wages low, and the American worker is getting shafted with these H-1B visas.

Now, as far as human rights, which is something that we heard about today, and the President's visit to the subcontinent, let me just say that this administration has the worst human rights record of any administration in the history of this country. And it will be underscored again when the President visits the subcontinent and also underscored, of course, by the President's ongoing policy towards China.

First, let us look at China. The President is now lobbying this body to provide China with permanent WTO status, meaning a membership in the WTO and giving it permanent normal trade relations with the United States of America. Again, a shafting of the American working people in order to grovel before a dictatorship that uses slave labor overseas.

Yet Beijing, while the President is lobbying us, saying, oh, this will make the Chinese better and a nicer regime, more hospitable to human rights and democracy, they are in the midst of a campaign designed to eradicate a small religious sect based on yoga and meditation, the Falun Gong sect. They are also in the midst of threats and bluster and arming themselves to the teeth in order to commit forceful action against the little democracy on Taiwan. This, the world's worst human rights abuser and belligerent country is now, what, the country that this President wants us to give permanent normal trade relations to, to make them part of the WTO. Again, an undermining of democracy.

When the President goes to the subcontinent, yes, there are a lot of issues to be had. It was a wrong decision on the President's part to visit Pakistan when we had just had a military clique overthrowing a democratic government in Pakistan. That in itself is a horrible message around the world to democracies that are struggling and in societies where the military might be inclined to take over that government. So at least the President should skip Pakistan until they have made a commitment to return to democratic government. Yet that will not happen.

And when he goes to India, the President will not, I am sure, mention the problem in Kashmir. Because although my colleagues in the well a few minutes ago ignored that issue, the Indian government is involved with massive human rights abuses in Kashmir. The problem is not terrorism in Kashmir; the problem is the fact that India will not permit the people of Kashmir to have a plebiscite, which was mandated by the United Nations 40 years ago, and give them an alternative to solve their problem through the ballot box as to

what country they would like to be part of. Instead, India controls Kashmir with an iron fist.

So we have a President ignoring human rights and democracy, visiting Southeast Asia, undermining the very fundamentals that will make this world a better place. It will not be a better place by ignoring Communist Chinese violations of human rights and democracy. It will not be a better place if the President goes to South Asia and ignores the military takeover of a democratic government in Pakistan. And it will not be a better place when the President goes to India and ignores the human rights violations in Kashmir.

THE 2000 CENSUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, census day, April 1, may be 17 days away, but the census has begun. Almost 100 million questionnaires have been delivered by the postal service this week, and 22 million more are being delivered by the Census Bureau in rural areas. I received mine the other day, and I urge all Americans to fill out their questionnaires and mail them back. It is the civic responsibility of every American to participate in the census.

The news on preparations for the census is good. Things are going well. So far, over 2.4 million people have returned their forms to the Census Bureau, and they have actually processed over 1.5 million forms already. On Monday alone the census questionnaire assistance phone handled 636,000 calls, 636,000 calls in 1 day; and they handled 434,000 yesterday. That is over a million calls in 2 days.

All 520 local census offices are up and open, computers and phones are operating, and the major data capture centers are tested and are already working. Though there are localized problems, recruiting is already ahead of schedule nationwide, at about 80 percent of the total needed. Given the prosperity of our Nation, it is very impressive, with this historically low unemployment, that the recruitment is going so well.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues here, the number that Members can give to their constituents who are interested in working for the Census Bureau is 1-888-325-7733. I urge all of my colleagues to share this number with any constituent who may want full- or part-time work helping to obtain an accurate count.

While the most labor-intensive phases of the census are yet to come, it is important as well to take note of the

successful operational elements of the 2000 census which have already been completed.

The paid advertising campaign is in its most active phase; and I, for one, feel that the quality of that effort has been tremendously effective. Other promotional activities include the census road tour vehicles. There are 12 of them moving through our Nation's cities and neighborhoods. The master address file of 120 million addresses may be the most complete ever, due to some improved processes, including the LUCA, Local Update of Census Addresses, today and new construction programs.

One of my favorite initiatives, the census in the schools program, has exceeded its original goals and sent over 1.5 million teaching kits to schools around the Nation. Particularly noteworthy is a new USA Today-CNN Gallup poll, one just the other day which came out and said that 96 percent of the respondents say they will mail back their questionnaires. I doubt that it will be that high, but it is certainly an important indicator of the all-important mail response rate and Americans' willingness to participate in the census. And all of this is very good news.

As the GAO indicated in a hearing before the Subcommittee on Census yesterday, in the final analysis it is the American people who will determine whether we have a successful census or not. It all comes down to filling out and mailing back the form. A year ago, many prophets of doom questioned the likely success of the 2000 census. While we are far from done, I think we can all take pride in the excellent work of the career professionals at the Census Bureau in successfully meeting the milestones to date.

As Census Director Ken Prewitt has emphasized, unexpected problems could develop tomorrow. In any massive operation there will be problems. But as of today, the census, as a whole, is running well and it is on track.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SAWYER), who is the former chair of the Subcommittee on Census.

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for the opportunity to speak today, and I thank her for her leadership in bringing this issue repeatedly to the floor during the time of her oversight responsibilities in preparation for this largest peace-time undertaking of the American government. But most of all, I thank her for the work that is going to lie ahead in the course of the summer.

The truth of the matter is that the conduct of the census is probably the closest thing to war in terms of undertaking a huge initiative with all kinds of planning ahead of time, but with the recognition that what is being done is being done in real-time. It is enormous.

There will be slippage. It will be imperfect. And we need to understand that the work that we are doing will proceed and that the goal is indisputable: as complete and accurate a count as possible.

That really brings us to the \$64,000 question. Can we conduct, in 2000, the census using the same design that we did in 1990 or 1980 or even 1970 and still expect to produce a useful and better outcome? The answer, quite clearly and quite simply, is no. That is the reason that census design over the decades, over the centuries, has changed as this Nation has changed.

The truth is there are no traditional methods in our history of census taking. There never has been a pure head count of the population. And reliability, sometimes called into question, is not a matter of opinion but is a mathematically measurable standard, not a political judgment.

The first census in 1790 took place on horseback. It took 9½ months to finish and visit a half million households and another year to compile the results. As the country grew, the methods changed. In the 1800s, people essentially would enumerate themselves by filling in schedules posted in town squares. And the country grew so fast after the Civil War, about a quarter per decade, 24 percent, that by 1880 census workers could not keep pace with the amount of information collected. It took 7 years to tabulate the results of that census. And that is why in the next decade, a young census employee, a graduate student from Columbia University, Herman Hollerith, developed the punch card system of tabulating data. It was that system that went on to lead to his founding of IBM.

The truth is that those kinds of changes have taken place in this century as well. In the 1920s and 1930s, W. Edwards Demming pioneered his now world-famous methods of statistical quality control at the Census Bureau. These same census methods will see wide application this year, after 7 decades of limited, growing, and now proven application.

The problem is that by 1990, the last census, the alarming drop in civic engagement that has plagued the electoral process also affected the census. Instead of the 78 percent return rate that we saw initially, or the 75 percent that took place in 1980, it fell to 65 percent of households nationwide. But even more tellingly, it fell to between 30 and 40 percent in the hardest-to-count neighborhoods. Not only had the holes in the census grown, the holes became larger than the fabric itself.

Costs skyrocketed in the 1990 census, not as a product of any failure of execution but a failure of design; and it earned the unenviable distinction of being the first census that was less accurate than its predecessor. That is why in the course of this decade so