



SECRETARIES OF STATE LETTER TO CONGRESS

April 27, 2010

Dear Member of Congress:

As former Secretaries of State who have served in either Democratic or Republican administrations, we urge you to support the FY 2011 International Affairs Budget request. There is broad bipartisan agreement in Congress -- as well as among current and past administrations -- that programs funded by the International Affairs Budget provide critical investments in global development, diplomacy and democracy. We know from our collective experience that these strategic tools are essential to achieving our goals of protecting national security, building economic prosperity, and providing humanitarian assistance.

In order to accomplish those goals, the U.S. requires a full range of civilian and military options. Yet, despite modest increases over the last decade, the International Affairs Budget remains under-funded. It represents less than 1.5 percent of all federal spending. As a result, our civilian-led development and diplomatic efforts are often hindered, thus placing unnecessary burdens on our men and women in uniform.

Increasing the investment in our civilian international capabilities will keep America safer by, among other things, addressing the root causes of terrorism and extremism, supporting key allies, and demonstrating America's proud tradition of global leadership. This is why we join Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and national security and foreign policy experts from across the political spectrum to support an increase in the International Affairs Budget. We must guarantee that our nation is fully equipped to address the array of challenges and opportunities that exist around the world today.

We urge you to support the funding level proposed by President Barack Obama for the International Affairs Budget and to oppose any effort to cut that request. This is one area where Democrats and Republicans can agree and should come together to help ensure a more secure and prosperous future for our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madeleine Albright".

Madeleine K. Albright
U.S. Secretary of State, 1997-2001

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Baker".

James A. Baker
U.S. Secretary of State, 1989 - 1992

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Warren Christopher".

Warren Christopher
U.S. Secretary of State, 1993-1997

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence S. Eagleburger".

Lawrence S. Eagleburger
U.S. Secretary of State, 1992-1993

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry A. Kissinger".

Henry A. Kissinger
U.S. Secretary of State, 1973- 1977

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. L. Powell".

Colin L. Powell
U.S. Secretary of State, 2001 - 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Condoleezza Rice".

Condoleezza Rice
U.S. Secretary of State, 2005-2009

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George P. Shultz".

George P. Shultz
U.S. Secretary of State, 1982 - 1989