

SECURITY ASSISTANCE COMMUNITY



security assistance news from the military departments

FY 1980 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

[Reprinted here in its entirety is the Statement of the Honorable Harold Brown, Secretary of Defense, presented before the House International Relations Committee, on 5 February 1979, when testifying in support of the FY 1980 Security Assistance Program.]

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the Administration's security assistance program for Fiscal Year 1980. Secretary Vance has given you an overview of the program and the major contribution it makes in the conduct of our foreign relations. My statement will concentrate on the contribution of security assistance to our national defense, particularly our defense interests in Western Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific. Just as security assistance is an essential ingredient in carrying out our overall foreign policy, so also is it a vital factor in providing for our defense.

The President's Budget for Fiscal Year 1980 proposes appropriations of \$2,795 million to finance a security assistance program which totals \$4,236 million. This budget is modest in relation to our many interests around the world and their impact on our security, economy, and general well-being. Three elements within this total relate most directly to our worldwide defense posture. The budget provides \$145 million in Military Assistance Program funding -- "MAP" -- for grant materiel aid to four countries and overall management of the security assistance program. It includes \$33 million in International Military Education and Training funds -- "IMET" -- for grant training of students from 52 foreign countries. An appropriation of \$656 million is proposed to extend \$2,063 million in credits to 25 countries for the financing of foreign military sales. I shall highlight the support which these programs will provide key allies and friendly countries as I review our defense posture in the various regions of the world.

NATO

Let me begin with Western Europe, whose security and freedom are vital to the United States. Our security assistance program plays a key

role in insuring that we gain the full advantage of inter-allied cooperation and that the potential contributions of all the NATO allies can be used to the greatest effect. It is particularly important for these allies on the southern tier of NATO who currently lack the economic strength to modernize their forces and provide the level of defense needed in their strategic locations.

For FY 1980 we have proposed MAP for two European countries. In Portugal the grant materiel is contributing to selected modernization of the Portuguese armed forces, specifically equipping a partially air transportable brigade that will assume an important NATO defense mission.

After its first free elections in 50 years, Portugal is on its way to achieving an independent, strong and democratic society. The reorientation of the Portuguese armed forces from colonial involvement toward a greater emphasis on NATO goals is an important objective of Alliance security policy. Our efforts relating to Portugal in the immediate future center upon maintaining the NATO orientation of the armed forces, completing equipping of the brigade, consummating renewal of the Lajes Base Agreement (which gives the U.S. base rights in the Azores), and continuing modernization of the armed forces.

Faced with an annual balance of payments deficit of over \$1 billion, Portugal is unable economically to meet its military requirements without external aid. U.S. security assistance provides for training and equipment which has helped strengthen Portugal's contribution to the defense of the West.

U.S. assistance, as well as aid from the other NATO allies, helps increase the professionalism of the Portuguese armed forces, contributes to Portugal's NATO-oriented defense capabilities, and supports Portugal's economic recovery program.

The other European country to receive grant materiel is Spain. The 1976 Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation provided continued U.S. access to strategically important air and naval facilities. The FY 1980 security assistance program for Spain includes MAP, IMET, and FMS credits required to fulfill U.S. commitments under that treaty.

On the southeastern flank of NATO security assistance plays a vital role. The proposed FY 1980 security assistance program for Turkey consists of IMET, FMS credit, and Security Supporting Assistance (SSA). Turkey is also expected to purchase additional defense articles and defense services through FMS cash and commercial procedures.

Turkey's security ties with the United States and NATO are an important part of its western orientation. The 1975-1978 partial limitations on security assistance caused many Turks to question the value of their traditional relationship with the United States and impaired Turkey's

ability to meet its NATO commitments and to pursue its NATO-approved force modernization programs. Now that those limitations are ended, we need to strengthen our bilateral relationship, rebuild the security ties, and help restore Turkish defense capabilities. Substantial security assistance is needed to replenish Turkish stocks of parts and equipment and to make even modest progress in force modernization. The current year's request for assistance is to enable us to contribute, along with other NATO allies, to Turkey's military needs, as well as to join with other western governments and international financial institutions in supporting Turkey's economic stabilization measures.

U.S. policy toward Greece is focused on supporting the continued growth and development of democratic institutions so that Greece will remain a viable partner for the West, able to contribute effectively to the protection of NATO's important southern flank. The U.S. security assistance relationship is an integral part of that policy and provides a continuing indication of U.S. support for a democratic Greece; supports Greece's early return to full participation in the NATO integrated military command structure; helps to modernize the Greek armed forces, thereby improving Greece's ability to meet its NATO responsibilities while also maintaining a constructive military balance in the region; and encourages the continuation of a presence in Greece of U.S. and other NATO forces, mutually beneficial to the U.S., Greece, and the rest of NATO.

The proposed security assistance program for Greece in FY 1980 consists of IMET and FMS credits. It is also expected that Greece will request to purchase some defense articles and defense services for cash both through FMS and commercial procedures.

Near East and South Asia

Stability in the Near East and South Asia is essential to the well-being of the United States. We have deep moral and historical commitments to the independence and territorial integrity of Israel. The United States, Western Europe, and Japan all depend heavily on the oil that flows from the region. We see the Middle East as an area that is playing an increasing role in the world economy and in its effect on international stability. In this region security assistance is helping us in encouraging the countries concerned to enter into or support arrangements leading to settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict. Further, security assistance provides a means to develop the capabilities of regional states to insure regional stability. Timely and selective delivery of materiel and training helps to guarantee the continued independence of regional states by providing them with the means to resist local aggression. The principal form of assistance administered by the Department of Defense is FMS credits, with Israel the major recipient. Only Jordan is scheduled to receive MAP. We also are proposing to continue the very important IMET program for several countries in the area.

Pacific

In East Asia and the Pacific area recent events have served to underscore the importance of our security assistance program. The invasion of Cambodia by Vietnamese forces places increased pressure on western-oriented countries, such as Thailand and Malaysia, to attain a greater military capability. Indonesia is faced with the task of replacing significant quantities of no longer supportable Soviet military equipment with equipment from the United States and other western nations. U.S. security assistance in the form of FMS credits and IMET to those nations provides tangible evidence of our commitment to supporting their freedom from communist aggression.

Our facilities in the Philippines remain important to the maintenance of U.S. influence in East Asia and the Pacific. Our recent agreement with the Philippines, which provides a basis for continued and more certain use of these important military facilities, signals our continuing interest in the region. We need those facilities if we are to maintain a continuing and effective presence in the area. A continuing program of grant aid materiel, grant aid training, and FMS credits is needed to achieve these objectives.

You are already well aware of the gradual reduction of U.S. ground forces in Korea and the transfer of U.S. equipment to the ROK forces. From our continuing updating of our estimate of North Korean capabilities, we have concluded that a higher level of North Korean forces must be dealt with than estimated earlier. We will periodically review the withdrawal schedule in the light of this factor, the growth of ROK economic and military capability, including our assistance programs, and the various political relations (PRC Normalization with the U.S., Sino-Japanese Peace and Friendship Treaty, North Korean-ROK dialogue). Taking all factors into account, we continue to believe that withdrawal of U.S. forces remains a sound policy, provided we sustain a sufficient security assistance program, as we indicated we would at the time of our withdrawal. The necessity of such assistance has been reaffirmed in subsequent consultations with the Government of the Republic of Korea. In specific terms, we must continue a substantial level of FMS credit and grant aid training support, in addition to the equipment transfer, to enable the South Koreans to assume primary responsibility for the defense of their country.

Africa/Latin America

U.S. assistance to countries in Africa and Latin America is modest, being limited to relatively small programs for FMS credits and IMET. By this assistance the United States helps to maintain regional balances and a degree of influence among western oriented nations. In Africa our programs also are intended to help moderate countries offset the very large Soviet and Cuban supply of arms and personnel.

At this point, let me dwell for a moment on a very important component of our security assistance program -- training of foreign military personnel. We provide military training to eligible foreign countries as grant aid through the International Military Education and Training, or IMET, Program and on a reimburseable basis through Foreign Military Sales. We believe this training to be of direct benefit to the United States as well as the foreign countries.

Since 1950 when the program began, we have trained almost 500,000 foreign personnel. Many of these trainees have risen to top leadership positions in their countries, an aspect of particular importance in our relationships with the developing nations, but also of significant benefit to our dealings with our more developed friends and allies. Foreign trainees receive the same training as U.S. students and are required to meet the same high standards of diligence, deportment, and performance. For the most part, instruction is in English with foreign trainees attending the same classes as our own personnel. During their periods of study foreign students live in an environment that reflects a cross section of American life, and they are inevitably exposed to our institutions, ideals, and aspirations. Professional and personal linkages formed during this experience often last a lifetime. I believe that we should do whatever we can within our capabilities to encourage and facilitate this training program, which makes an essential contribution to our mutual security objectives and, as a by-product, is one means of furthering a better understanding of the U.S. commitment to the basic principles of internationally recognized human rights.

Today, of course, most training is on a reimburseable basis under FMS. But the relatively small grant aid, or IMET, program is of special importance. Through it we give tangible evidence of continuing direct U.S. interest in the military forces of foreign nations and, by influencing the selection of training and trainees, we are able to reach individuals of our choice as well as provide instruction for which the foreign government is unable for various reasons to pay. In my view, the benefits to U.S. interests of grant aid training are far more significant than can be measured simply in terms of military requirements and economic capabilities. From a budgetary perspective IMET is especially attractive because of its low cost. For the price of a single major weapon many individuals can receive training under IMET. It is one of the best investments we can make for the achievement of our military and foreign policy objectives.

In summary, security assistance continues to be an essential instrument for the achievement of U.S. foreign policy objectives, which are, in turn, key to our nation's security. The programs proposed, represent an austere level of support necessary for these purposes.