



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

April 11, 2005  
(Senate)

## STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

### H.R. 1268—Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005

(Sponsors: Cochran (R), Mississippi; Byrd (D), West Virginia)

The Administration supports expeditious Senate passage of the FY 2005 Emergency Supplemental for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, as reported by the Senate Committee, and commends the Committee for its continued support of our fighting men and women in the ongoing military and intelligence operations and selected other international activities, including tsunami relief and reconstruction.

The Administration appreciates the Committee's strong commitment to the President's funding request for ongoing military operations in the Global War on Terror and the purchase of equipment directly related to these operations, as well as funds to support the participation of other nations in the coalition and for improving Iraqi and Afghan security forces. In particular, the Administration welcomes the support for the President's initiative to enhance payments to families of service members who die in harm's way. The Administration also appreciates the Committee's support for its proposals that provide the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) with greater flexibility in filling additional positions authorized for his Office.

The Administration is concerned, however, about several Senate provisions inconsistent with the Administration's request, including a lower level of funding for the Iraqi and Afghan security forces. In addition, the Senate is strongly urged to provide the requested amount for a new facility to house the DNI office in order to meet the statutory prohibition against co-locating with any other intelligence community element as of October 1, 2008.

The Administration thanks the Committee for funding the President's request for the Solidarity Initiative to support our partners in freedom and also welcomes the Committee's support for construction of a new U.S. embassy complex in Baghdad. In addition, the Administration appreciates the Committee's support for assistance to promote democracy and economic reform and to rebuild the infrastructures in Afghanistan, southern Sudan, and Ukraine. The Senate's strong commitment to these programs will provide a powerful demonstration of U.S. support for democracy in these countries.

The Administration appreciates the Committee's support of its efforts to assist in the recovery from the Indian Ocean tsunami. However, the Administration is concerned that the Committee bill does not provide authority and funding to provide debt deferral to countries affected by the tsunami. Two affected countries have asked all Paris Club creditor governments for deferment or rescheduling of their debt. Excluding the necessary legal authority and funding would mean the United States would be the only donor country unable to participate in a Paris Club agreement.

While the Administration supports the Senate Committee's version of the bill, the Administration has concerns with items that were added to this bill that are unrelated to the funding of the Global War on Terror or to Indian Ocean tsunami relief and reconstruction. The Administration looks forward to continuing to work with the Senate in addressing these issues.

\* \* \* \* \*