

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY  
GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 8, 1966

INDIAN TREATY ROOM, EXECUTIVE OFFICE BLDG.

Before joining you in a general discussion of our foreign aid program, I would like to comment briefly on several of the highlights of the foreign aid message which the President presented to the Congress for fiscal year 1967.

I. Five Year Authorization:

Perhaps the most important innovation in the President's foreign aid program for the coming year is the request for a five year authorization. One liability which has plagued foreign aid Administrators for almost two decades is the absence of any permanent authorization for the foreign aid program or even of a multi-year authorization. Two years ago we did succeed in securing a two-year authorization. This represented an improvement but still did not give the type of stability to the aid program that is desired. Ideally a permanent authorization is the most desirable alternative. Because of the difficulties this might raise in the Congress, the President has asked for an authorization of five years.

I have long believed that anyone who understands the role which the United States plays as the leader of the free world must understand why foreign aid will remain an integral part of our foreign policy for the foreseeable future. The illusion that it is a temporary phenomenon can no longer be sustained. The sooner this is recognized by the Congress the better. My own view is that the Congress should recognize this and would not be penalized by the voting population for doing so.

In asking for a five year authorization, therefore, the President has gone as far as he feels that Congress would permit at this time in the direction of a long-term authorization for the foreign aid program.

## II. Separation of Economic and Military Assistance:

Secondly, the President has divided the military assistance part of the aid bill from the economic assistance section. This will not only win the strong support of the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and other ranking members of that Committee who have for years favored such a division; it will also place the military part of the aid bill in the Defense Department where it belongs. Military aid is, after all, integrally linked to our other defense programs. It has always seemed to me out of place when considered together with economic and technical assistance programs.

At the same time that the military aid is being handled by the Department of Defense, it is still being reviewed in the Congress by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee. This is done with the consent of the Chairmen of the Armed Services Committees. This means that it will continue to be reviewed by those committees in the Congress who have the direct responsibility for reviewing American foreign policy. In this way, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee can strengthen the hand of the Secretary of State and the A.I.D. Administrator in making certain that the military assistance program does not conflict in any way with the objectives of American foreign policy, or with the economic assistance part of our foreign aid program.

III. Functional division of foreign aid: health and education:

h Third, the President has placed new emphasis on programs in the fields of health and education. In implementing this new thrust, he has requested a new Act for International Education and an Act for International Health which would place primary responsibility for the administration of these programs in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

As one who has long been interested in the maximum utilization of the existing facilities of the Federal Government in the foreign aid program, and as the author of the Humphrey amendment to the Foreign

Assistance Act of 1961- the so-called Technical Services for Peace Amendment- I would like to comment on this here today.

The Humphrey Amendment of 1961 provided that " in providing technical assistance under the Foreign Aid Act in the field of education health, housing or agriculture, the head of each agency or such officer shall utilize to the fullest extent practicable the facilities and resources of the federal agency or agencies with the primary responsibilities for domestic programs in such fields". As I stated at the time, my objective was to enlist the best personnel and the finest facilities available, not just in the United States Government itself, but in the entire country in fulfilling the objectives of the aid program. Under this amendment, the foreign aid agency, rather than enlisting new personnel and building up a large new body of public servants, was directed to rely as much as possible on the expertise and the staff of the existing departments and agencies in the Government.

It was my assumption that to get the best people involved in international programs in such fields as health and education, for example, one would have to draw on that part of the government which includes experts who are making their career in a particular field in the government. I assumed that one could never attract on a temporary basis the sort of talent that goes into the medical field or the education field

and that is found in the permanent agencies. If service in the international field is merely a peripheral part of one's career, as is likely to be the case if one merely is detached to another agency for a year or two, then the international programs will never attract the best talent.

In offering the amendment I did not intend to reduce the foreign aid agency to the status of a contracting office. The foreign aid program must be operated under the direction of the Secretary of State and under the direct administration of the Administrator of A. I. D.. Nor do I envisage that under the President's proposal, we will be in effect setting up separate foreign aid programs in other departments of the government. The President recognizes - and I would like to emphasize here today as I did at the time that my original amendment was proposed - that all foreign aid activities of the government should be conducted under the supervision and the direction of the Department of State and the Agency for International Development.

The Secretary of State, as the President has repeatedly made clear, is the number one official after the President in administering the foreign policy of this country. The Administrator of A. I. D. is his agent in directing the foreign aid program. With the continued strong lead that men like Dave Bell and Bill Gaud have given to the foreign

aid program, supported by the Secretary of State and the White House, I am confident that the Acts for International Health and International Education can be administered without posing grave problems for the administration of the foreign aid program.

IV: Food:

In the planning and administration of our foreign aid program we shall place greater emphasis on the utilization of one of America's greatest natural resources - her food. The American farmer has continued to be one of the greatest economic innovators in the history of mankind. We are beginning to realize more today that our agricultural abundance is an asset to be treasured rather than a liability to be decried. We are coming more and more to the realization that we should plan in advance how we can best utilize America's capacity to produce food and fiber.

Last week, the President announced a program of assistance to India which is now faced with an immediate famine in certain parts of that great country. We shall expand our food program, and to the maximum extent possible arrange for repayment for this food to be in dollars rather than in convertible currency.

At the same time, we will insist that the developing nations devote a larger share of their capital to agricultural investment, to rural



modernization. This means more investment in fertilizer, machinery and technical assistance..

V. Emphasis on self-help:

In administering all of these programs, the President has made it unequivocally clear that we will continue to place strong emphasis on self-help in the administering of the aid program. Under the leadership of Mr. Bell and Mr. Gaud we have made great progress in getting this message across during the last three years. The President has re-affirmed this emphasis once again, and the result, I expect, will be even greater selectivity in the administration of our aid program.

VI. Vietnam:

In conclusion, I want to emphasize that this group can play an important role in convincing the American people that we must continue to meet our international responsibilities in every part of the world. We are facing a great national crisis in Vietnam. Most of the attention of the people and the press is focused on Vietnam. It is, I suppose inevitable. But we should endeavor to make clear to the Congress, the press, and to the people, that regardless of our deepening involvement in Vietnam, we cannot neglect our responsibilities elsewhere. Foreign aid in Latin America, Africa, and in other parts of Asia than Southeast Asia remains essential. We cannot permit the momentary preoccupation with Vietnam to undermine one of the pillars of our foreign policy in all parts of the world- the foreign aid program.



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