

and twelve professional journal articles. He has also been invited to speak at numerous foreign policy seminars, panels, and conferences in Washington and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has many dimensions. But no part of our body symbolizes professional analysis and the provision of non-partisan, academic perspective to public policy more than the Congressional Research Service. CRS enriches this institution; it adds a dimension of judgment that few outside the body understand. Dr. Cronin's career epitomizes why the Congressional Research Service has established the reputation it has and, on behalf of so many of my colleagues, I want to express my appreciation for his many contributions to the Congress and wish him well in his new position.

U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA—EXAMINING THE ADMINISTRATION'S CLAIMS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, with the G-8 Summit and its Africa-centered agenda approaching, there has been much discussion in recent weeks about the scale of U.S. development assistance to Africa. I find it appropriate to bring to the attention of this body a June 27th report authored by Susan E. Rice of the Brookings Institution. The report entitled "U.S. Foreign Assistance to Africa: Claims vs. Reality", gives a fresh analysis of U.S. aid to Africa, and puts into question many of the assertions put forward by the administration.

In response to calls for increased Africa assistance, Bush has frequently stated that U.S. assistance to Africa has "tripled" under his administration to \$3.2 billion. However, according to the Brookings report, U.S.-Africa assistance has increased only 67 percent in nominal dollars, or 56 percent in real—inflation adjusted—dollar terms from the period 2000–2004 of which President Bush speaks. The report further points out that 53 percent of the 4 year assistance increase to Africa was in the form of emergency food aid rather than actual development assistance. When looking at development assistance exclusively—which excludes emergency food aid and security assistance—the 4-year increase is only 33 percent in real dollar terms.

It must be said that the Bush administration should be commended for its work to increase overall Africa assistance. In particular, HIV/AIDS programs in Africa have benefited from the administration's efforts. However, the closer examination given by the Brookings Institution shows that the scope and composition of U.S. assistance to Africa is somewhat overstated.

Emergency food aid—which has been given in large quantities by the Bush administration, and is a large portion of the administration's Africa assistance package—is extremely vital and saves lives during a short term crisis, but it does not really help a country to "develop". Real development relates to the areas of health, education, infrastructure, and trade and business promotion. In these areas, the report points out, the overall aid increase is fair, but not overly substantial.

This is important, because as the leaders of the G-8 have tried in recent months to find agreement on increased assistance to Africa, the Bush Administration has touted its Africa assistance track record and the existence of its Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) as reasons why it does not need to subscribe to Prime Minister Blair's development assistance recommendation.

The MCA in particular does not help President Bush's argument that the U.S. is doing enough for Africa. The MCA, which Bush introduced in 2002, was supposed to have provided \$10 billion in additional assistance to developing countries from 2003–2005 and five billion dollars a year starting in 2006.

However, the Republican-led Congress has only appropriated \$2.5 billion dollars total for the MCA over the past 2 years, and just 2 countries in Africa have received funding—Cape Verde and Madagascar at \$110 million each. Indeed, the majority of the MCA's expenditures so far have gone to simple administrative costs.

On a recent trip to the White House in early June, several African leaders lamented the slow pace of aid through the Millennium Challenge Account mechanism, and urged the President to do more to bring aid to African nations. So bad is the situation at the MCA, the agency's director suddenly resigned earlier this month.

With all that said, the Bush Administration must be more aggressive in bringing increased aid to the continent—just as vigorous as it was in spearheading the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq, which has cost America over \$200 billion and counting.

In the report, Ms. Rice argues that the U.S. should commit to increasing their overseas development assistance to 0.7 percent of GNP by 2015, as called for by Prime Minister Blair, and several longstanding United Nation agreements. The EU has recently agreed to meet the 0.7 percent assistance benchmark, with half of the increase going to Africa. Canada is also currently considering ways in which it can meet the goal, with its Parliament urging action on the matter.

Not only has the United States not committed to the 0.7 percent goal, but at 0.17 percent, it is currently second to last among industrialized nations in the percentage of GNP dedicated to development assistance. Some countries, such as Sweden and Holland, have long achieved the goal, and even surpassed it.

The United States now has the opportunity to rise to the challenge and rewrite history. We dedicated 2.5 percent of our GNP to fund the Marshall Plan, which helped to reconstruct Western Europe. Why then, can we not now dedicate 0.7 percent to help development the entire world, especially when we would have 10 years to meet the objective? In the short-term, the doubling of assistance to Africa that Blair is advocating would require only \$6 billion dollars a year on the part of the United States—or \$1 billion dollars more than what President Bush had planned under the Millennium Challenge Account after 2005.

I thank Ms. Rice and the Brookings Institution for their insightful report. It contributes to an increasing body of evidence that the Administration can do more to help Africa, and it will undoubtedly serve to embolden the chorus of individuals, organizations, and nations challenging the Administration to do its part to end the evil of global poverty.

The Bush Administration Record

The Bush Administration has significantly increased aid to Africa, but that increase falls far short of what the President has claimed. U.S. aid to Africa from FY 2000 (the last full budget year of the Clinton Administration) to FY2004 (the last completed fiscal year of the Bush Administration) has not "tripled" or even doubled. Rather, in real dollars, it has increased 56 percent (or 67 percent in nominal dollar terms). The majority of that increase consists of emergency food aid, rather than assistance for sustainable development of the sort Africa needs to achieve lasting poverty reduction.

President Bush has thus far rejected Blair's call to double aid to Africa, as well as the benchmark set by the OECD and signatories to the Monterey Consensus, which called on developed countries to devote 0.7 percent of their gross national income to overseas development assistance by 2015. In declining to commit to either of these targets, President Bush frequently states that his Administration has "tripled" U.S. assistance to Africa over the past four years to \$3.2 billion. On June 7, 2005, the President also announced that the U.S. will spend an additional \$674 million, which consists of previously appropriated emergency humanitarian food aid. The U.S. recently agreed with G-8 partners to cancel the multilateral debt owed by 18 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries, a positive step forward.

The Challenge

As G-8 member states prepare to meet from July 6th to 8th in Gleneagles, Scotland, they will have to confront the challenge posed by their host, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, to double aid to Africa to \$25 billion by 2015, preferably through the creation of an International Finance Facility. Part of a sweeping agenda set forth by Blair and his Commission for Africa to alleviate poverty and improve prospects for African security, democracy and sustainable development, this proposal includes scaled-up commitments by the G-8 to assist Africa with increased aid, trade opportunities, investment, debt relief as well as conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacekeeping capacity.

What the U.S. Should Do and Why

The Gleneagles Summit poses an historic opportunity for the United States to lead the international community in providing increased development and other assistance to Africa. The Bush Administration should join the UK, France, Italy and Germany and twelve other developed nations and commit to devote up to 0.7 percent of U.S. gross national income to overseas development assistance by 2015. This commitment would place the U.S. in the forefront of international efforts to alleviate global poverty.

Global poverty undermines U.S. national security by facilitating the emergence and spread of transnational security threats, including disease, environmental degradation, crime, narcotics flows, proliferation and terrorism. First, poverty substantially increases the risk of conflict, which in turn creates especially fertile breeding grounds for such threats. Second, poverty erodes weak states' capacity to prevent or contain transnational threats.

Key Findings

U.S. aid to Africa from FY 2000 to FY 2004, the period to which the President referred, has not "tripled" or even doubled. Rather, in real dollars, it has increased 56 percent (or 67 percent in nominal dollar terms).

An analysis of actual U.S. appropriations from FY 2000 (the last full budget year of the Clinton Administration) to FY 2004 (the last completed fiscal year of the Bush Administration) reveals a different reality about U.S.

aid to Africa than President Bush has maintained.

In nominal dollars, total United States aid to Sub-Saharan Africa increased from \$2.034 billion in FY 2000 to \$3.399 billion in FY 2004.

In nominal dollars, of the \$1.365 billion overall increase, \$728.9 million, or 53 percent, consists of emergency food aid rather than overseas development assistance, which contributes to sustainable development. The remainder of the increase is comprised primarily of funding for the President's HIV/AIDS initiative (distributed between two accounts, Child Survival and Global Health) as well as emergency and post-conflict assistance to Liberia and Sudan.

Actual development assistance, excluding food aid and security assistance, increased only 33 percent from FY 2000 to FY 2004 in real dollar terms, or 43 percent in nominal dollars.

In nominal dollars, less than \$450 million of the increased foreign aid to Africa is official development assistance.

Official Development Assistance to Africa (aid programs directed at sustainable development) increased by 43 percent from FY 2000 to FY 2004. Of these programs (in nominal dollars):

Funding for the Child Survival and Health Programs Fund increased by 70 percent, primarily for HIV/AIDS.

Development Assistance funding increased 1 percent over FY 2000.

Global Health and HIV/AIDS Initiative, which did not exist as a separate program in FY 2000, received \$263.8 million for Africa in FY 2004.

Peace Corps funding increased by 19 percent.

African Development Bank funding increased by 24 percent.

African Development Foundation funding increased by 31 percent.

African Development Fund decreased by 12 percent.

The newly-created Millennium Challenge Account did not exist in FY 2000, and its entire FY 2004 budget went towards administrative expenses rather than country programs.

The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries debt relief funding decreased by 32 percent.

The only programs that both existed in FY 2000 and more than doubled by FY 2004 were Foreign Military Financing, which increased by 109 percent, and emergency food aid (PL 480 Title II), which increased by 159 percent.

From FY 2000 to FY 2005 (estimated), U.S. aid to Africa will have increased by 78 percent in real dollar terms or 93 percent in nominal dollars—not quite a doubling, much less a “tripling” of aid. Of this increase, 50 percent consists of emergency food aid (PL 480 Title II).

Actual development assistance, excluding food aid and security assistance, will have increased an estimated 74 percent from FY 2000 to FY 2005 in real dollar terms, or 89 percent in nominal dollars.

TRIBUTE TO THE DOMINICAN DAY PARADE AND FESTIVAL OF THE BRONX

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to the sixteenth annual Dominican Day Parade and Festival of the Bronx which will take place Sunday, July 17, 2005. This famed event is

eagerly anticipated by the Dominican and Bronx communities each year. It is a wonderful celebration of the spirit and richness of Dominican culture.

Under the leadership of Felipe Febles and Rosa Ayala, the Bronx Dominican Day Parade, Inc., (La Gran Parada Dominicana de El Bronx) has grown into an important institution to increase the self awareness and pride of the Dominican people in order to promote economic development, education, cultural recognition, and advancement.

As the second largest Latino community in New York City, Dominicans have made invaluable contributions to the city, as well as to the entire nation. Although the highest concentration of Dominican people live in Washington Heights, a significant number have enriched the Bronx with their unique culture and spirit. The Dominican culture is one characterized by, among other things, diverse multiculturalism, strong family values, distinctive art, amazing music and unique cuisine. We are grateful that so many have chosen to make the Bronx home.

Mr. Speaker, the roots of Dominican New Yorkers lie in a country with a fascinating history and arresting beauty. The Dominican Republic is the home of a number of people from various heritages. As a result, the culture is charged with strong Taino, African, and European influences. One visit to the Dominican Republic will put to rest any questions one might have as to why Dominicans in America retain such a strong sense of pride in their homeland and never stop missing it.

The achievements and contributions made by Dominican-Americans and Dominican residents have spanned the realms of politics, science, the Armed Forces, literature, public service, and the arts, and undoubtedly make them an integral part of American society. The Dominican Day Parade and Festival of the Bronx is a great opportunity to celebrate the Dominican people's culture, history, and bright future.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring the Dominican Day Parade and Festival of the Bronx.

HONORING JAIN CENTER OF ELMHURST, NY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of the Jain Center of America in Elmhurst, New York, a part of my Congressional district. As the Congressman of the second largest concentration of Indian Americans in the United States I am proud of the 55,000 South Asians I have the privilege of representing in the U.S. Congress.

This beautiful new temple was built to accommodate the currently growing population of practicing Jains in the New York area, which amounts to an estimated 1,300 people.

Perhaps most importantly this new temple consists of the 2 sects and the 4 sub-sects of Jainism, a reflection of the growing diversity in the Jain community. This will be the first time in America that all the different sects of Jainism will be able to practice in one place. Jainism is one of the oldest religions originating from India.

Jainism is based on the principle of ahimsa, non-violence in thought, feeling and action, an important tenet for any religion but heavily stressed in Jainism. Another foundation of Jainism is the belief in reincarnation; the goal of a Jain is to break free from the cycle of birth and re-birth and obtain enlightenment (moksha).

In Jainism there are 24 teachers, thirthankaras, who teach their followers the path to moksha (nirvana). In the temple the different idols represented are those of these teachers, who are not gods because they do not create or destroy. Jains believe that the universe is just here—there is no beginning or end. Although many people know little about Jainism, I believe its tenets, especially that of non-violence, should play a significant role in today's world. All of us, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or any other religion can learn a great deal from Jainism. I commend the Jain community of New York for building this new temple and wish them the best of luck in whatever they do.

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago tomorrow President Theodore Roosevelt made the important decision to create the U.S. Forest Service. The agency was given a unique mission: to sustain healthy, diverse, and productive forests and grasslands for present and future generations.

Mr. Speaker, the Forest Service has come a long way in the past 100 years.

Forests like the Francis Marion National Forest in my district are valuable to the community and to environment. Currently, the U.S. Forest Service is responsible for 192 million acres of mountains, grasslands, rivers and wilderness resources that sustain 80 percent of the Nation's freshwater supply and hosts 214 million recreational visits each year.

Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to recognize Forestry and Forest Health Subcommittee Chairman WALDEN for his effort on behalf of our Nation's forests and for his continued efforts to implement President Bush's Healthy Forest Initiative.

To the Forest Service, I wish it a happy birthday and I hope that it has 100 more years of success in the future.

STATEMENT ON THE LOSS OF LANCE CORPORAL HOLLY ANN CHARETTE

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of a brave Marine in Iraq, Lance Corporal Holly Ann Charette, a Rhode Island citizen who served with dignity and honor. I join her family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.