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# Text of President Johnson's Foreign Aid Message to Congress

WASHINGTON, March 19 (AP)—Following is the text of President Johnson's foreign aid message to Congress:

The most important ingredient in the development of a nation is neither the amount nor the nature of foreign assistance. It is the will and commitment of the Government and people directly involved.

To those nations which do commit themselves to progress under freedom, help from us and from others can provide the margin of difference between failures and success.

This is the heart of the matter.

The proposals contained in this message express our self-interest at the same time that they proclaim our national ideals.

We will be laying up a harvest of woe for us and our children if we shrink from the task of grappling in the world community with poverty and ignorance.

These are the grim recruiting sergeants of Communism.

They flourish wherever we falter. If we default on our obligations, Communism will expand its ambitions.

That is the stern equation which dominates our age, and from which there can be no escape in logic or in honor.

## No Waste, No Retreat

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It is against our national interest to tolerate waste or inefficiency or extravagance in any of these programs. But it is equally repugnant to our national interest to retreat from our obligations and commitments while freedom remains under siege.

We recognize that the United States cannot and should not sustain the burden of these programs alone.

Other nations are needed in this enterprise of mutual help. Encouraging signs exist that the process of sharing the burden is steadily growing.

The best way for the United States to stimulate this growth and to broaden this partnership in freedom is to make our own example an incentive to our friends and allies.

We need the assurance and stability and progress in a world restless with many dangers and anxieties.

## Prudent and Responsible Programs

In this program we do not seek to cover the whole world. Aid on a world-wide scale is no part of our purpose.

We seek instead, through prudent and responsible programs, to help carefully selected countries whose survival in freedom is essential—and whose collapse would bring new opportunities for Communist expansion.

There are no easy victories in this campaign. But there can be sudden disasters. We cannot ask for a reprieve from responsibility while freedom is in danger. The vital

interests of the United States require us to stay in the battle. We dare not desert.

Economic and military assistance, used at the right time and in the right way, can provide indispensable help to our foreign policy in enabling the United States to influence events instead of merely reacting to them. By committing a small part of our resources before crises actually occur, we reduce the danger and frequency of those crises.

Our foresight becomes a shield against misfortune.

The recommendations contained in this program for fiscal year 1965 are designed to move the aid program in that direction.

They reflect views and experience of the Congress, of the Executive Branch and of informed private citizens.

## Five Fundamental Concepts for a Successful Program

First: the request for funds must be realistic.

For economic assistance, new authorizations of \$917 million for fiscal 1965 are recommended. Specifically, I

recommend \$335 million for supporting assistance, \$225 million for technical cooperation, \$134 million for contributions to international organizations, \$150 million for the President's contingency fund, and \$73 million for administrative and miscellaneous expenses.

For military assistance, I recommend that the Congress provide a continuing authorization, subject to an annual review of each year's proposals by the authorizing committee in both houses.

For fiscal 1965, I recommend no additional authorizations for the Alliance for Progress or for development lending assistance in Asia or Africa. Existing authorizations for these programs are adequate.

The appropriations recommended for fiscal 1965 total \$1 billion for military assistance and \$2.4 billion for economic assistance.

In fiscal 1964, the initial request was \$4.9 billion, later reduced to \$4.5 billion.

This fiscal year, the request of \$3.4 billion is \$1.1 billion less than last year's request, although about the same as was available last year, taking into consideration the unexpended balance from the year before.

Moreover, more than 80 percent of aid funds will be spent in the United States. The impact of the program on our balance of payments will be less than ever before.

## Insurance to Avoid Committing American Men to War

These requests reflect a determination to continue to improve the aid program both in concept and administration. The over-all request represents a great deal of money—but it is an amount which we should, in all prudence, provide to serve essential United States interests and commitments throughout the world.

More than one million American men in uniform are now stationed outside the United States. As insurance to avoid involving them and the nation in a major conflict, we propose to spend through aid programs, less than 4

cents out of every tax dollar.

If there is any alternative insurance against war, it might be found in an increase in the defense budget. But that would require not only many times more than \$3.4 billion, for a military budget which already takes more than 50 cents out of every tax dollar, but also a several-fold increase in our own military manpower.

The foreign assistance requested will provide.

—The crucial assistance we have promised the people of Latin America who are committed to programs of economic and social progress;

—Continued economic development in India, Pakistan and Turkey under the major international aid-consortia to which we are a party;

—The United States share of voluntary contributions to the United Nations technical cooperation programs and to such special international programs as the work of the United Nations Children's Fund, and the development of the Indus Basin;

—Funds to meet our commitments to the freedom of the people of South Vietnam, Korea, and for the other obligations we have undertaken in Asia and Africa.

Second: The funds I am requesting will be concentrated where they will produce the best results and speed the transition from United States assistance to self-support wherever possible.

Two-thirds of the proposed military assistance will go to 11 nations along the periphery of the Sino-Soviet bloc, from Greece and Turkey through Thailand and Vietnam to the Republic of China and Korea. These funds are a key to the maintenance of over 3.5 million men under arms (raised and supported in large measure by the countries receiving the assistance).

The need for supporting assistance—funds used primarily in countries facing defense or security emergencies—will continue to be reduced. Fourteen countries which received supporting assistance three years ago will receive none in fiscal year 1965.

Four-fifths of the present request will go to four countries: Korea, Vietnam, Laos and Jordan.

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