

1 DEPARTMENT OF STATE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE

2
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4

5 United States Senate

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7 Date: Oct 23, 2018

8 Subcommittee on Foreign
Operations of the Committee on
Appropriations

9 The subcommittee met at 10:00 a.m., pursuant to recess,
10 in room 1114, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Senator
11 Daniel K. Inouye (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.
12 Senator Inouye. The subcommittee will please come to
13 order.

14 This morning, the subcommittee will hear justifications
15 for the fiscal year 1980 budget request for grant military
16 assistance, \$110.2 million, military education and training,
17 \$23.9 million, foreign military credit sales, \$656.3 million,
18 and security supporting assistance, \$1,095,100,000.

19 Making a third appearance before the subcommittee in
20 support of the President's budget request is the Honorable
21 Lucy Wilson Benson, Under Secretary for Security Assistance,
22 Science and Technology.

23 As always, you are most welcome, Mrs. Benson. Your
24 prepared statement has been received by the subcommittee and
25 without objection it will be made part of the record, and may

Office of the Secretary of Defense
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1 emphasize certain points illustrating the central thrust of
2 the program as a whole.

3 First, this security assistance budget represents a major
4 interagency effort to strike a balance between a number of key
5 objectives:

6 Fulfillment of treaty obligations of the United States;

7 Assurance that programs and the funding level proposed
8 for them were adequate for our national security interests and
9 the security of allies and friendly nations;

10 The practice of the utmost austerity, in keeping with the
11 overall character of the President's budget, to the maximum
12 extent consistent with our security objectives;

13 Conformance with the President's arms transfer restraint
14 policy;

15 Promotion of respect for internationally accepted
16 standards of human rights and civic decency;

17 Provision for certain urgent humanitarian concerns, such
18 as the refugee situations in Cyprus and Southern Africa.

19 Formulation of this budget required difficult, sometimes
20 painful choices, but we have satisfied the diverse objectives
21 we sought to advance.

22 Second, this budget, like those of preceding years,
23 consists of four components: grants of materiel (MAP) and
24 military training (IMET), guarantees for Foreign Military
25 Sales credits, and Security Supporting Assistance.

1 Senator Inouye. The Congressional presentation document
2 for IMET indicates that in keeping with recently enacted
3 legislation the program is also designed to increase the
4 awareness of trainees about basic issues involving
5 internationally recognized human rights.

6 How does IMET advance the cause of human rights?

7 Mrs. Benson. What we have tried to do is work quite
8 closely between the Department of State and its Bureau of
9 Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of
10 Defense and General Graves' office specifically, and so I will
11 ask him to go into more detail, in working out ways in which
12 to implement the directions of the law which Congress passed
13 last year as well as the previous legislation in that same
14 general area.

15 There are various ways in which human rights information
16 can be worked into and have been worked into courses given
17 under IMET and, in addition, sort of general work into
18 curriculum. We are now consulting with DOD about the addition
19 of information and training and the purposes and legal effect
20 of our human rights policy and the legislation in the United
21 States and how this affects both our relationships between
22 various countries and General Graves, I think, can add a good
23 deal more to that.

24 Senator Inouye. You are convinced that the recipients of
25 IMET are not violators of human rights?

1 Mrs. Benson. No, some recipients of IMET, some
2 recipients of several different forms of our economic
3 assistance, military assistance, security assistance, have
4 records which we have, of course, sent up to the Congress
5 again this year, where there are many areas in which we are
6 not in agreement with the practices of their country vis-a-vis
7 the individual rights of their citizens.

8 But we do not -- we weigh in making decisions about
9 security assistance, we weigh human rights very thoroughly
10 into our decisions. In some cases, we have decreased IMET or
11 decreased FMS. In other cases we have voted against loans in
12 the international financial institution boards and so forth.

13 So that we do weigh this in, but the fact as one is
14 receiving IMET does not necessarily mean that we think that
15 that country has a record with which we agree.

16 Senator Inouye. Have we really reduced FMS and IMET
17 funds because of human rights abuses?

18 Mrs. Benson. Yes, we have, Mr. Chairman.

19 Senator Inouye. Can you give us a few names?

20 Mrs. Benson. I can provide it for the record. I
21 wouldn't want to trust my memory for that.

22 (The information to be furnished follows:)

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1 Senator Inouye. I am just curious. Can you give us one
2 right now?

3 Mrs. Benson. Certainly, Nicaragua is one. There are
4 several other countries in Latin America. Of course, the
5 Congress passed the law in 1977 which took effect in 1978 on
6 Argentina. We proposed reducing security assistance to Brazil
7 and Argentina for FY 1978 and Brazil instantly moved out of
8 all security assistance relationships with us.

9 We decided not to have a program in eight countries, in
10 fact, this year, either as a result of the laws which the
11 Congress passed or as a matter of policy. Argentina,
12 El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and
13 Afghanistan.

14 Some have been reduced as a result. But as a general
15 rule we are trying to continue to emphasize our interest in
16 human rights while at the same time not designating specific
17 countries as specific violators.

18 Senator Inouye. In arriving at a decision on the Federal
19 military credit sales, do you take into consideration regional
20 problems or regional needs?

21 Mrs. Benson. Yes, we do. We analyze the needs of
22 countries from both a point of view of single country involved
23 and its relationship to countries in the region.

24 Senator Inouye. Now, the total amount is \$656.3 million.
25 Of that amount, 550 will go to one country and the remaining