April 29, 2004

Dear Mr. President:

The President recently approved the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) a multi-year program to enhance global peacekeeping capacity by training and equipping military and security forces, and facilitating deployment of trained forces to international peace support operations. The GPOI will build on the State Department's resources and activities to build peacekeeping capabilities in other countries, such as the African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) program. The GPOI will initially be focused on Africa, where the preponderance of peace operations are located today, but will also enhance peacekeeping capacity in Asia, Western Hemisphere, and Europe.

This initiative addresses several areas we have identified in dealing with peace support operations. Many countries have the capacity to conduct "traditional peacekeeping", but most missions now require combat-like peace enforcement tasks (e.g. Liberia). Many countries have the political will to participate in peace support missions, but lack the capabilities and resources required to deploy and sustain themselves in the field. Finally, in many cases – such as Haiti – constabulary or "heavy police" forces are better suited to peace operations tasks and can reduce the need for combat forces to perform law enforcement tasks. We need to develop more of these types of units for international deployment.

Support for the initiative in FY 2005 will be provided by both State and DoD. The enclosed legislative provision outlines an approach to enable the GPOI to be carried out efficiently. It provides the flexibility to have the Department of Defense expend funds directly, where appropriate, or to transfer funds to the Department of State in support of this initiative.

The Honorable
Richard B. Cheney,
President of the Senate.

Congress has provided authorities to DoD in recently enacted legislation that allows for the provision of similar types of assistance to train and equip security forces, with concurrence of the Secretary of State. The State Department will provide support for this initiative in FY 2005 from funds requested in the Department's military assistance accounts. The Department of Defense believes the costs for this program would be more than offset by the savings realized by not having to deploy U.S. military units to international peace operations.

Given the timely and important objectives of this initiative, we welcome the opportunity to brief you and your staff more fully on the GPOI at your convenience over the next few weeks.

Sincerely,

Paul Wolfowitz
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Richard L. Armitage
Deputy Secretary of State

Enclosure:

As stated

SEC. ___ . ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN FORCES TO ENGAGE IN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS.

1 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, within the limitation
2 established in subsection (c), the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of
3 State, may provide assistance in Fiscal Year 2005 to military or security forces of a country to
4 enhance their capability to participate in an international peacekeeping or peace enforcement
5 operation, or may transfer funds to the Secretary of State for such purpose.

6 (b) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance provided under subsection (a) may include the
7 provision of equipment, supplies, services, training, and funding.

8 (c) FUNDING LIMITATION.—Assistance provided under subsection (a) may not exceed
9 $100,000,000 in fiscal year 2005 from funds made available to the Department of Defense.

10 (d) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—The authority to provide assistance under this section is in
11 addition to any other authority to provide assistance to foreign nations or forces.

Sectional Analysis

This section would enhance the U.S. Government's ability to improve other countries' peacekeeping capabilities. It gives the Secretary of Defense authority in fiscal year 2005 to provide timely support to the military or security forces of another country to enable those forces to participate in an international peacekeeping or peace enforcement operation, or to transfer funds to the Secretary of State for such purposes.

This authority could be used to help support emergency needs. For example, if in place, it could have been used to support the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for their mission to stabilize Liberia prior to the arrival of UN peacekeepers.

Assistance under this authority may include the provision of equipment, supplies, services, training, and funding. The value of assistance that could be provided under this authority would be limited to a total of $100,000,000 in fiscal year 2005.

Many countries are unable to participate in international peacekeeping or peace enforcement operations because they lack the ability to fully fund the costs of their participation or because they lack the necessary equipment or training to provide effective assistance. By

increasing the number of other countries that are able to effectively participate in such operations, the requirements imposed on U.S. military forces to carry out such missions could be substantially reduced in many cases.

The funds to exercise this authority will likely be transferred in part to the Secretary of State to supplement the comprehensive foreign assistance programs for which he is directly responsible, including all types of military and security assistance. It is envisioned that this authority would be used to provide necessary assistance, often to developing countries, to permit national forces to take part in peacekeeping or peace enforcement mission in order to form a more effective force or to reduce, or in some situations eliminate, the requirement for United States military participation.