

Alternative approaches to national defense, common security

Some specific proposals for Congressional consideration

I. Shift financial resources from the U.S. military budget to strengthen Track I and Track II diplomacy; to promote inclusive human security and the integrity of creation; and to support research and training in peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Engage the professional military in this research and training. Existing organizational initiatives that could be supported in this respect include the following:

a) [Campaign for a Secure America](#) and [Strategies for U.S. National Security](#): The Stanley Foundation, Fourth Freedom Forum, and the World Affairs Council cosponsored a series of 11 debates on national security issues throughout the United States. Each debate featured two security experts from opposing ends of the political spectrum who addressed the question: Have the policies enacted since 9/11 improved national security and global stability or have they been counterproductive to those goals? The Secure America project is a consortium of researchers and experts on foreign policy issues including former ambassadors and military officials who have cooperated to examine issues of international security and current U.S. policy. The project has recently released a report, [Toward a More Secure America](#), which focuses on their findings and offers suggestions for working multilaterally to win the campaign against terrorism.

b) [Princeton Project on National Security](#): The Princeton Project on National Security is a nonpartisan effort to strengthen and update the intellectual underpinnings of U.S. national security strategy. Stage I of the Princeton Project focuses on collecting and analyzing the most innovative, carefully researched and theoretically informed thinking on U.S. national security. During Stage II, the Project convened a series of working groups to consider the general framework and key elements of U.S. security strategy. Stage III involved a series of conferences in the U.S. and abroad to solicit input on a draft strategy and move toward a more refined document. The Project will culminate with the publication of the Princeton Project Report on National Security, which will set forth agreed premises or foundational principles to guide the development of specific national security strategies by successive administrations in coming decades.

II. Support efforts to educate policymakers about serious proposals for alternative defense strategies more appropriate to and effective in the complex emergencies of the 21st century. Test and operationalize alternative defense proposals being developed by government sponsored and multilateral institutes and by nongovernmental organizations, including:

a) [The United States Institute of Peace](#), an independent, nonpartisan, national institution established and funded by Congress with the mission to:

- Prevent and resolve violent international conflicts
- Promote post-conflict stability and democratic transformations
- Increase peacebuilding capacity, tools, and intellectual capital worldwide

b) [The Henry L. Stimson Center](#), a “think tank” devoted to enhancing international peace and security through analysis and outreach. The Center organizes Congressional Study Groups to

assist Members of Congress and their staffs in better understanding the security issues currently facing U.S. policymakers.

c) [UNCOPAC](#). This proposal for a UN Commission on Peace and Crisis Prevention was developed on the basis of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's 2001 report, entitled "Prevention of Armed Conflict." The Commission's focus would be exclusively on non-military, pro-active measures to prevent the outbreak of armed conflict and war. A fundamental outcome of UNCOPAC's vision would be the development of official criteria for international non-military early action independent of the interests of governments affected by a potential violent conflict.

d) [SMART Security](#) (Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism) was introduced by Rep. Lynn Woolsey (CA) as H.Con.Res. 158 on May 18, 2005. This approach would strengthen international institutions and respect for the rule of law; stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction; address root causes of terrorism and violent conflict; shift U.S. budget priorities to more effectively meet U.S. security needs.

e) [Global Good Neighbor](#), an initiative of the International Relations Center proposing that we as a nation apply the good neighbor standard to international relations so that U.S. foreign and military policy would better represent our basic values, our common sense, and our human decency - improving our national security and national well-being and fostering mutually beneficial international relations.

III. Make a long term commitment to shifting national security strategy priorities:

- Contribute to the establishment and strengthening of international institutions and mechanisms subject to the rule of law that provide physical security as needed around the world;
- Make military transport available for humanitarian aid, post-conflict reconstruction and rescue operations following natural disasters;
- Make sophisticated intelligence systems available to provide early warning and monitoring during cease-fires and peace negotiations;
- Partner with foreign governments, NGOs and faith-based organizations to set up reconciliation research and action centers in places of conflict;
- Invest in peace education, conflict analysis, conflict-resolution and non-violence training for U.S. diplomats;
- Invest in systematic peace education and cross-cultural training for U.S. citizens and integrate a peace perspective into all subjects at all levels of education.
- Convert from offensive military strategies to defensive strategies that could involve both professional military and civilian components trained in civil defense, conflict-management, stabilization and non-violence to protect vulnerable populations;
- Prohibit arms trade and other profiteering from warfare by U.S. weapons manufacturers;
- Abolish all U.S. held nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction as a concrete incentive for other nations to do likewise.