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FY 2006 Emergency Supplemental: Funding for Peacekeeping

PEP

POLICY UPDATE

www.effectivepeacekeeping.org

**1705 N STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
(202) 828-0110**

A Partnership for Effective Peacekeeping (PEP) Publication

The PEP is a non-partisan policy working group that brings together the humanitarian, human rights, peace and security, think tank, and academic communities in support of greater peace operations capacity. The PEP promotes public policy solutions to improve national and international peacekeeping infrastructure, and works to build the political will to support such policies by: providing an open forum for discussion of peace operations issues; serving as an information resource for media and policymakers; and engaging in educational efforts that facilitate greater understanding of peace operations. The PEP does not exclusively support any one particular solution for the capacity problems that prevent effective peacekeeping operations. Rather, the PEP facilitates the exploration of all potential pragmatic and achievable solutions in a candid and 'outside the box' atmosphere.

President's FY06 Emergency Supplemental Request

On Thursday, February 16th, 2006, President Bush sent Congress a request for \$72.4 billion to supplement the FY06 budget. This funding aims to support the Global War on Terror, and includes \$4.2 billion for the State Department and international organizations.

Funding Crisis – US payment for UN peacekeeping

The approved cost for UN peacekeeping for the period July 2005 to June 2006 is \$5.03 billion. This is a 13% increase from the previous year's budget of \$4.47 billion. The US share of the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 budgets, based on our assessed rate of 27.1% is \$1.21 and \$1.36 billion respectively. The estimated total cost of UN peacekeeping for July 2006 to June 2007 is approximately \$6 billion, depending on the timing and nature of the transition from AU peacekeeping to UN peacekeeping in Darfur, Sudan. The US share of this would be \$1.62 billion.

The US payment for UN peacekeeping in fiscal year 2005 totaled only \$1.11 billion. In FY2006, the US has appropriated only \$1.03 billion. For FY2007, the President has requested only \$1.13 billion. Consequently, although the US budget year and the UN peacekeeping budget year do not match up completely, it is clear the US faces a shortfall between what it has paid or plans to pay and the actual costs of UN peacekeeping and the US share of those costs. In fact, State Department officials have estimated that shortfall at \$500 million for the current fiscal year.

Given the escalating tasks of UN peace operations and mounting US arrears for UN peacekeeping, the President's request in the FY2006 Emergency Supplemental of \$69.8 million for the Contributions to International Peacekeeping Account (CIPA) is woefully low. The President's inadequate request means that the US will almost certainly fail to meet its obligations in FY2006 for UN peacekeeping to the tune of \$430 million.

The transfer authority to move PKO funds to CIPA (see next story) will not solve the problem. Little of the \$123 million will likely be left after State Department reprogramming and AU peacekeeping needs in Darfur are met, and in any event even the full \$123 million would not be enough.

Peacekeeping Funding for the Crisis in Darfur

Specific to the crisis in Darfur, the supplemental request includes \$192.8 million targeting peacekeeping activities in the region, with \$123 million intended for the PKO account to help prop up AMIS, the African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur, until the mission's anticipated transition to the UN. Unfortunately, \$30 million of this may simply replace previously reprogrammed funds provided for AMIS. \$69.8 million for CIPA is intended for the current UN peace operation in southern Sudan (UNMIS).

The supplemental request also includes transfer authority to allow shifting of the PKO funds to CIPA once AMIS goes under the UN cloak, but little of the \$123 million may remain by the time the UN takes over AMIS. More funding for Darfur peacekeeping may well be needed.