

Issue: AMERICAN LEGION STATEMENT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES

Message Points:

The American Legion believes that the following objectives should be incorporated into US foreign policy in order to maintain peace with freedom while preserving and promoting democracy:

- Recognition that the US has extensive and multiple responsibilities as a leader of the Free World.
- Dedication to achievement of world peace with freedom, secured by a peace through strength posture.
- Support for a global fight on multiple fronts to end the scourge of terrorism.
- Support for democracy and human rights in other countries which are consistent with US national interests and national power.
- Participation in essential collective security alliances, provided our allies contribute their fair share.
- Negotiation of equitable, verifiable arms control agreements, which improve US national security.
- Opposition to the spread of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or long-range ballistic missiles which may be used by terrorists, terrorist organizations, communists or aggressor nations.
- Determined opposition to international terrorism and drug trafficking.
- Support for responsible international organizations that are consistent with US sovereignty and serve US national interests.
- Participation in an increasingly interdependent Free World trading system based on fair and equitable trading practices.

- Recognition that the President is the chief architect of US foreign policy as envisioned in the US Constitution, while Congress performs the functions of advice, oversight, funding, and ratification of treaties.
- Support for the appropriate resources to promote and protect US vital national interests worldwide.

Issue: AMERICAN LEGION FOREIGN POLICY ON TERRORISM

Message Points:

- The American Legion supports a global fight on multiple fronts to end the scourge of terrorism.
- The American Legion supports policies and legislation that will enhance funding for the US Agency for International Development (USAID) within the Department of State and seeks use of that funding towards targeted states whose failure to provide for its people could result in the expansion of international terrorism.
- That The American Legion supports legislation and foreign policy that specifically targets diplomatic, economic and educational programs to promote greater and peaceful democratic reforms in Countries within the Arabian Gulf and Middle Eastern Region.
- The American Legion believes that the US Government should support African nations that clearly demonstrate open democratic reforms, human rights protection, and cooperation in the fight against international terrorism.

Issue: AMERICAN LEGION POW/MIA POLICY

Message Points:

Many Americans remain missing in action or otherwise unaccounted for from America's past foreign wars and conflicts, and reports indicate that in former enemy areas where Americans could still be alive, information has been deliberately and cruelly withheld. The families of POW/MIA suffer untold grief and uncertainty due to the lack of any accurate accounting, often in spite of the heroic efforts of US search teams.

- The American Legion urges the President and the Congress to support legislation and policies that will use all reasonable resources to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all missing American service members regardless of location or era of loss.

Issue: SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Message Points:

- The American Legion is a strong supporter of the U.S. State Department and the various functions it performs for the American public overseas. The United States Department of State is the first line of defense of the nation in combating the myriad of security threats that face America from abroad. The State Department and its affiliated organizations are charged with an number of important missions; managing diplomatic coalitions with other countries and international institutions, promoting peace and stability in regions of vital interest, bringing nations together to address global challenges, creating jobs at home by opening markets abroad, and helping developing nations establish stable economic environments that provide investment and export opportunities.
- The State Department has historically been allocated just little more than 1% of the total federal budget to accomplish all of these tasks in contrast to the approximately 16% spent on defense. However, in recent years the State Department's responsibilities have expanded enormously to include combating threats from terrorism, international crime, and narcotics trafficking.
- The American Legion vigorously supports funding for the United States Department of State in order that it can maintain a credible initial deterrent to international threats to the United States and effectively promote American interests abroad.

Issue: Expand Foreign Service Officer Corps

Message Points:

- The American Legion urges the President, Congress, and the Department of State to significantly increase the number of Foreign Service Officers in its ranks.
- That The American Legion urges the President, Congress, and the Department of State to implement a veterans' preference policy with the aim of recruiting more veterans into the Foreign Officer Corps whose experience may be an essential enhancement of the nation's diplomatic mission.