Mr. Chairman, I want to commend the gentleman from

California (Mr. Lewis), the Chairman of the committee, for his work in

bringing this supplemental appropriations bill to the floor. He has

really done an outstanding job of, I think, balancing the different

interests that are involved here.

I want to take my time, Mr. Chairman, Members, to speak a bit about

that part of the bill that deals with the foreign assistance funds.

That is Chapter 3 of H.R. 4939.

The Foreign Operations portion of the fiscal year 2006 supplemental

is $2.08 billion. That amount is $140 million, or 6.7 percent less than

the request of the administration of $2.2 billion.

Now, here is how we arrived at this lesser figure.

First, we eliminated funding requested by the President that is not

for the current fiscal year. That is $74 million. We eliminated funding

that was requested for non-emergency costs. That is $99 million. And we

reduced costs by rescinding previously appropriated funds of $17

million that are not needed because of changed circumstances.

Let me talk for a minute about specific regions and countries. First,

Iraq. The bill provides new budget authority of $1.67 billion for Iraq,

or two-thirds of the amount in foreign assistance is going to Iraq. But

that is a reduction of $58 million from what the President requested.

This reduction represents the amount requested for fiscal year 2007

costs for the U.S. Agency for International Development. As I said a

moment ago, we concluded that this 2006 supplemental bill should not be

used to pre-fund expenses of the next fiscal year.

In addition, the supplemental transfers $185 million from the Iraq

Relief and Reconstruction Fund appropriation to augment the new funds

provided in this supplemental. These are still unobligated funds that

are appropriately applied to the purposes of this legislation. And that

brings the total available to Iraq of $1.85 billion.

Many Members are greatly concerned about Darfur and our efforts to

stave off genocidal warfare in that region of Africa. Though a fraction

of the amount requested for Iraq, our bill attempts to accomplish this.

It contains $201 million, fully funding the President's request for

Darfur programs. This includes $123 million for the African Union

Mission in Sudan, or called AMIS, for peacekeeping activities. The

administration has assured us that this $123 million will finance the

entire U.S. fiscal year 2006 contribution.

Also included in this amount is $11.7 million for refugee assistance

and $66.3 million in nonfood assistance in the International Disaster

and Famine Assistance Account. The plight of displaced persons in

Darfur remains critical and is pathetic.

The supplemental bill provides new budget authority of only $8.4

million for Afghanistan. This is a reduction of $54 million from the

request but does not constitute a lessening of our commitment to this

emerging democracy. Rather, it represents, first, the amount requested,

$16 million, for fiscal year 2007 funds for USAID. It reduces that

amount. Second, it eliminates the amount requested for non-emergency

requirements of $38 million. The $8.4 million fully funds the request

for emergency replacement of an electric turbine generator and

assistance for migration and refugee requirements.

My colleagues should know that the Secretary of State has not yet met

the requirements of the fiscal year 2006 Appropriations Act which

requires a certification that the Government of Afghanistan is fully

cooperating with U.S.-financed efforts to eradicate poppy cultivation.

It did not seem prudent at this juncture to appropriate any non-

emergency funds for Afghanistan until that certification can be made.

The legislation includes $10 million in the Democracy Fund

appropriation for the promotion of democracy, governance, human rights,

independent media and the rule of law programs in Iran. This is a

reduction of $55 million from the requested amount. However, $50

million of that is for broadcasting efforts and is addressed in Chapter

6 of this bill, the jurisdiction of Mr. Wolf's subcommittee.

For Liberia, the bill includes a total of $63.8 million. $13.8

million of that amount would be used to cover the extraordinary costs

of refugees returning to Liberia, and $50 million will provide

assistance for economic and project support.

Now let me turn to the issues that are not specific dollar amounts.

One of these is a general provision, Section 3012, not in Chapter 3 of

the bill. It deals with assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

I want to be clear. This bill includes no new, no additional funding

for the Palestinian territories, and the President's supplemental

request included no such funding. However, the fiscal year 2006 Foreign

Operations Appropriations Bill did include $150 million to support the

Palestinian people and build the capacity of the Abbas-led government.

Since the fiscal year 2006 bill was passed, as my colleagues know,

Hamas won a majority of the Palestinian legislature in the recent

elections.

The provision included in this bill before us today reconfirms and

reemphasizes congressional oversight of our foreign assistance programs

to this troubled region. It directs that no fiscal year 2006 or prior

year funding can be used to support the Palestinian Authority or a

successor entity until the

government fulfills the requirements of the so-called Quartet

Statement. It also suspends U.S. assistance to the Palestinian

Authority until the administration completes its review of the entire

assistance program.

To be clear, this provision will not halt, nor should it halt,

humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people. We can and we must

hold the elected leadership in the Palestinian territories to account

for their messages of violence. But we should not punish the people of

the territories for asserting themselves peacefully and democratically

against corruption in their quest for a better life.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this supplemental. The

foreign operations funding contained in Chapter 3 has been scrubbed so

that only emergency requirements remain, and that is $140 million

reduction from the President's request.