A closer look reveals the true aim behind this reorganization: to more closely align aid and development to better fit the Bush administration’s foreign policy goals. Secretary Rice’s reforms are likely to take even more money from effective antipoverty programs while military and economic aid for strategic allies constitute a much smaller part of the budget, envisioning a 70% increase in military spending, from $360 billion to $900 billion for Colombia, $154 billion for the rest of Latin America, $457 million for Jordan, and $335 million for Kenya.1

In fiscal year 2007, the State Department has requested $2.5 billion to further strengthen the civilian partners in the fight against terrorism. Excluding Iraq, the largest recipient remains Afghanistan, where $2.3 billion is requested, followed by Egypt with $1.3 billion. Other requests include $179 million for Pakistan with $305 million designated for military items. Total aid for Afghanistan is $6 Billion, which is more than all of Africa’s annual food aid. 2

The 2007 foreign operations budget of $23.72 billion – less than 1 percent of the total federal budget – further reduces poverty-focused development assistance programs by over $400 million. These programs will assist programs such as the Child Survival and Health Protection Program, which by 13 percent, undermining a long-term development assistance program that has emphasized expanding basic health services and strengthening national health systems to improve people’s health, especially of women, children and other vulnerable populations in the developing world. Development Assistance, Disaster and Famine Assistance, among others. Included in the president’s proposed cut are $151 million from the United Nations Development Assistance Program (UNDP), the primary development agency in the UN system that deals with poverty issues.

The war drug is the real winner of the budget, enjoying a 70% increase in spending, from $360 billion to $900 billion worldwide, primarily aimed at Afghanistan which, since the ousting of the Taliban has become the world’s biggest source of opium and heroin. That is more than the total amounts devoted to the core Development Assistance account.

Making Aid Work

Addressing threats to national security is perhaps the biggest challenge facing America at this moment in history. In the words of the Secretary of State, Rice intr oduced the overhaul of the U.S. foreign assistance programs by saying, “In today’s world, America’s security is linked to the prosperity and security of our friends and allies around the world.”

The US foreign assistance is designed to promote “good governance for the better distribution of power and wealth, protect the environment, reduce poverty to an unbearable level, and promote political stability and are likely to take even more money from effective antipoverty programs while military and economic aid for strategic allies constitute a much smaller part of the budget, envisioning a 70% increase in military spending, from $360 billion to $900 billion worldwide, primarily aimed at Afghanistan which, since the ousting of the Taliban has become the world’s biggest source of opium and heroin. That is more than the total amounts devoted to the core Development Assistance account.

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The international community and national security programs.

The history of U.S. foreign assistance and development is marked by short-sighted policies that have contributed to the destabilization of national governments and civil societies, as well as the instability that they have caused. The United States has spent billions of dollars, and sacrificed precious lives to eliminate the threat – and to liberate the world from the tyranny of the past.

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East, Asia, and elsewhere, in what Rice described as
movement will shift hundreds of Foreign Service
officials abroad is known for taking
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is being driven by a development agenda. Carol Lancaster,
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ning” of DFA and USAID Administrator is aimed at ensur-
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the war on terror has also resulted in increases in mili-
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A closer look reveals the true aim behind this reorganization: align aid In addition, Weisman, Steven, “Rice is Seeking $85 Million to Push for Changes in Iran,” Please send me ____ copies of “Dr. Strangedeal: Congress Should Veto George Bush’s Nuclear Agreement With India,” Lancaster, Carol “Bush’s Foreign Aid Reforms Do Not Go Far Enough,” Editorial, Wrong Fix for Foreign Aid, Stockman, Farah, “New US Post Created to Direct Foreign Assistance: Move to Streamline 100/$45.00 50/$25.00 100/$45.00 50/$25.00 Foreign Military Financing, FY 2007 International Affairs (Function 150) Budget Request, $2.50 for the first copy of the report, $0.75 for each additional copy, $10.00 each: $___________ Mousseau, Frederic, Food Aid or Food Sovereignty? Ending World Hunger in Our Time, The Editor, “Wrong Fix for Foreign Aid,” Political Profit for the Country. The fundamental challenge facing America is how to promote democracy and other political values by rewarding behavior that is consistent with our As our development aid is raised, it is critical to build shared political support across the spectrum of American if our foreign military aid is to achieve its goal of “enhancing our capability to influence political outcomes and penetrate regimes that are uncooperative or hostile to our interests.” It is time for the Bush administration to step back and Rethink its development strategy and its role in the war on terrorism. A version of this policy brief first appeared on Common Dreams, February 27, 2006.
A closer look reveals the true aim behind this reorganization: align aid. The Foreign Operations Appropriations Act for 2007, which allocates $23.72 billion in foreign assistance, marks the Bush administration’s abandonment of any attempts at comprehensive reform of the U.S. foreign aid program. The new law specifically directs the Department of State and USAID to implement a new development strategy that is based on the belief that “economic and military aid for strategic allies constitutes more than half of the same budget. While military and economic aid for strategic allies constitutes 30 percent of the U.S. foreign aid budget, progress is being made toward aligning aid with poverty-focused goals, which have little to do with military policy, along with military power and diplomacy, is the world a safer and better place— for all of us. It is time for the U.S. to realize that the promotion of development assistance program that has that this signifies a set of neoliberal policies that have been imposed on hapless countries by the United States. Foreign aid and defense, driven by U.S. political and military agenda, are becoming intertwined, shifting away from poverty-focused assistance to poor countries. Already developed assistance, the Secretary of State. The DFA’s mandate is to oversee the Office of Policy Backgrounder: $_______ the Secretary of State to USAID staff, “New Direction for U.S. Foreign Assistance,” January 19, 2006. The 2007 foreign operations budget of $23.72 billion—less than 1 percent of the total federal budget—further reduces poverty-focused development assistance programs by over $400 million. This is true for the U.S. to make that the promotion of development of nations and success-making to the local level as well as encouraging self-reliance by investing in small producers, such as farmers producing food for the domestic market, will stop more long-term political profits for the country. Successfully, the Bush administration’s agenda does not consist of genuine development aid that can serve long-term interests in poverty reduction and stability. At a time of shrinking budgets, it is in the interest of the United States to ensure that each dollar of development aid is invested in building self-reliance among abroad instead of subsuming them to short-term foreign and military policy goals. Propaganda targeted aid can benefit millions of people. It can provide healthcare, education, electricity, clean water, and light disease and poverty it can help promote social-economic development, address growing inequality and help build strong democracies. In other words, well-targeted foreign assistance can make the world a safer and better place—for all of us. It is time for the U.S. administration to back up its development strategy and its role in the war on terrorism. A version of this Policy Brief first appeared on Common Dreams, February 27, 2006. playing Politics With Aid The Unholy Trinity of Defense, Development and Diplomacy in the War on Terrorism By Anastasia Mistal, Executive Director, The Oakland Institute For decades U.S. foreign aid has been accused of prioritizing U.S. political and military aid over the needs of the people around the globe. Now, the Bush administration has declared that it is in the interest of the United States to ensure that each dollar of development aid is invested in building self-reliance among abroad instead of subsuming them to short-term foreign and military policy goals. Propaganda targeted aid can benefit millions of people. It can provide healthcare, education, electricity, clean water, and light disease and poverty it can help promote social-economic development, address growing inequality and help build strong democracies. In other words, well-targeted foreign assistance can make the world a safer and better place—for all of us. It is time for the U.S. administration to back up its development strategy and its role in the war on terrorism. A version of this Policy Brief first appeared on Common Dreams, February 27, 2006. 

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Playing Politics With Aid 

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