

SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY
HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
APRIL 22, 2009

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Ros-Lehtinen, and Members of the Committee, it's a pleasure to be with you this morning. This Committee has been a source of many advances in our foreign policy and I look forward to working with you to continue that tradition.

When I last came before the Congress at my confirmation hearing, I spoke of my commitment to pursuing a foreign policy that would enhance our nation's security, advance our interests, and uphold our values. Today, nearly one hundred days later, I am proud to report that we have begun making progress toward that goal.

The men and women of the State Department and USAID are serving their country around the clock and around the world. I am extraordinarily proud of their work.

With their talents, and President Obama's leadership, we have put forward a new diplomacy powered by partnership, pragmatism, and principle.

Our priorities are clear. We are deploying the tools of diplomacy and development along with military power. We are securing historic alliances, working with emerging regional powers, and seeking new avenues of engagement. We are addressing the existing and emerging challenges that will define our century: climate change, weak states, criminal cartels, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, poverty, and disease. And we are advancing our values and interests by promoting human rights and fostering conditions that allow every individual to live up to their God-given potential.

I expect many of your questions today will focus on longstanding concerns: the security situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan; the need for a responsible end to our military presence in Iraq; Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons; conflict in parts of the Middle East; and fallout from the global financial crisis.

I will speak to these subjects briefly, but I also want to address the broader issues and opportunities on our global agenda – issues that I will come to in a moment.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, the President has outlined a strategy centered on a core goal: to disrupt, dismantle and defeat Al Qaeda, and to prevent their return to safe havens in Afghanistan or Pakistan. We combined our strategic review with intensive diplomacy, and nations from around the world are joining together to address this urgent challenge. More than 80 countries and organizations participated in the international conference on Afghanistan in The Hague, and a donors' conference for Pakistan raised over \$5 billion.

In Iraq, we are working toward the responsible redeployment of our troops and the transition to a partnership based on diplomatic and economic cooperation. We are deploying new approaches to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. After years during which the United States distanced itself from the process, we are now a full partner in the P5+1 talks.

In the Middle East, we engaged immediately to help achieve a comprehensive peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors. We are maintaining our bedrock commitment to Israel's security and providing economic support, security assistance and humanitarian support to the Palestinian people – an effort to which the Administration has pledged \$900 million.

More broadly, we are also working to contain the fallout from the global financial crisis. Our efforts at the G-20 focused in large measure on the poorest and most vulnerable countries. In addition to providing support to the International Monetary Fund, we are seeking resources for direct assistance to countries such as Haiti, where I travelled last week. These resources will help responsible governments in developing countries regain their economic footing and avert political instability with wider repercussions.

These challenges demand attention, but they must not distract us from equally important – but sometimes less obvious – threats ranging from climate change, to disease, to criminal cartels, to non-proliferation.

In today's world, we face new challenges that have no respect for borders. Not one of them can be dealt with by the United States alone. None can be solved without us. All will have a profound impact on the security of our citizens.

As daunting as they are, these challenges also offer new arenas for global cooperation. And we are taking steps to seize these opportunities.

First, we are pursuing a wide-ranging diplomatic agenda premised on:

- Strengthening our alliances with democratic partners in Europe, Asia, Africa and our hemisphere,
- Cultivating partnerships with key regional powers, and
- Building constructive relationships with China and Russia.

We are working with our longtime partners in Japan and South Korea, to address not just regional concerns, but a host of global issues, from the financial crisis to climate change.

And we are advancing our relationship with India, the world's largest democracy. I made my first overseas trip as

Secretary of State to Asia, to signal that we are not just a trans-Atlantic power, but a transpacific power, and that Asia will be an indispensable partner in years to come. We are also working closely with our NATO allies and our friends in the European Union, building on partnerships forged in the 20th century to meet the challenges of the 21st. And we are working with the nations of the Americas, with whom we share a common home, hemisphere and heritage, to pursue a new energy partnership, fight drug trafficking, and consolidate democratic gains.

We are building closer ties with regional anchors, including Brazil, Indonesia, and Turkey, who can serve not only as partners, but as leaders on issues ranging from deforestation to democracy.

The President, Vice President, and I are all working to establish constructive relationships with China and Russia, and candidly address our differences where they persist.

We are making progress with Russia on finding a successor to the START arms control agreement and with China on developing technologies to reduce the world's dependence on fossil fuels. We will continue to work on such mutual priorities.

Second, we are redefining diplomatic engagement to move beyond government alone. Policies and political leaders change over time. But ties between citizens, non-governmental organizations, and businesses endure. They are the most effective – and lasting – tools of diplomacy we know. For this reason, President Obama and I are personally committed to engaging these groups directly, as I have done already during my travels. These relationships, combined with new technologies, will form the foundation for future diplomatic initiatives that are broader and more ambitious than traditional efforts of the past.

Third, we are working to expand opportunity and protect human rights, strengthening civil society, and living up to the ideals that define our nation.

This starts with a development agenda that provides people with the raw materials of progress: from education and health care to sound institutions and the rule of law. I am particularly committed to improving the lives and expanding the

opportunities of women and girls, and those on the margins of society.

Fourth, as we promote responsible governance abroad, we are trying to live up to our own principles at the State Department and USAID. We are working hard to create a more agile, effective department with the right staffing, resources, and authorities to fulfill President Obama's agenda. That's why I have filled – for the first time – the position of Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources.

I have also challenged the Department to reform, innovate and save taxpayer dollars. We are turning our ambassadors into in-country chief executive officers, with authority and responsibility for all programs on the ground.

We are consolidating our IT support services, yielding cost savings of 15 to 20 percent – tens of millions of dollars – and implementing human resources reforms that will save \$22 million over five years. We are deploying new media

technologies to carry our message to the world more efficiently and computerizing many of our consular services.

Even as we work to stretch taxpayers' dollars, I am determined to see that the men and women of our Foreign and Civil Service get the resources they need to do their jobs safely and effectively. As Secretary of Defense Gates has pointed out, our country has underinvested in diplomacy. That must end. Just as we would not deny ammunition to American troops heading into battle, we cannot send our diplomats into the field without the tools they need. If we fail to invest in diplomacy, we will eventually spend far more paying for that mistake.

Mr. Chairman, we are pursuing all of these policies because it is the right thing to do. It is also the smart thing to do. No country benefits more than the United States when there is greater security, democracy, and opportunity in the world.

Our economy grows, our allies are strengthened, and our people thrive. And no country carries a heavier burden when things go badly. Every year, we spend hundreds of billions of dollars dealing with the consequences of war, disease, violent ideologies, and vile dictatorships.

Investing to create the type of world in which we want to live is good for the countries and people we help – but it is also in the national interest of the United States.

In this time of change and uncertainty, we have no shortage of challenges. But we also have an extraordinary opportunity. The world is looking for leadership – and looking to see how the United States will meet this moment.

If we follow our plans and our principles, we will succeed. We can lead the world in creating a century that we and our children will be proud to own – a century of progress and prosperity for the whole world, but especially the United States.

To achieve these goals, we need your help. We need your advice. And we need your support. I look forward to our discussion this morning and to working with you on these issues in the months ahead.