

Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo
SFRC Hearing Opening Remarks
July 30, 2020

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Menendez, distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me to testify today on the President's FY 2021 Budget.

This budget requests nearly \$41 billion for the State Department and USAID, enabling both agencies to protect U.S. citizens, increase American prosperity, and advance the development of democratic societies.

It generously supports key allies and partners like Colombia, Egypt, Israel, and Jordan.

It includes \$1.1 billion worth of investments in the State Department's global workforce, including staffing, training, and leveraging strategic data assets.

And, critically, it reflects a commitment to the strategic, efficient use of resources to provide better results for the American people.

That's the topline analysis. But I want to make a broader point that our diplomatic expenditures reflect American values:

Two weeks ago in Philadelphia I unveiled the report of the State Department's Commission on Unalienable Rights.

My message that day was simple: The Trump Administration places our founding principles at the core of American diplomacy.

Today I'd like to talk about how we've done it in three areas:

Securing the American people's freedoms against authoritarian threats.

Securing American lives during the pandemic.

And helping friends across the world secure their own unalienable rights.

First, on authoritarian threats:

We've evaluated the world with the same realism the American founders did.

We see the Islamic Republic of Iran for what it is: an aggressor, not a victim.

We've gone full bore on our maximum pressure campaign.

Since May 2018, we've slashed the vital oil revenues the regime uses for terrorism and illegal nuclear activities by 90%.

We've rallied nations to our side through diplomacy – witness the designations of Hezbollah from European and South American friends.

And we've bolstered our military readiness vis-à-vis Tehran.

There's more work to do. The Security Council must renew the UN arms embargo against Iran before it expires on October 18th.

Iran already mines ships in the Strait of Hormuz, launches missiles at Saudi oil facilities, ships arms to the Houthis, and supports the illegitimate Maduro regime.

If the Security Council fails to act, Iran will have a freer hand to sow destruction across the Middle East, and indeed the world.

Russia too, is a destabilizing authoritarian force – in Ukraine, Syria, Libya, and inside Western democracies.

This Administration has acted to protect our interests and our friends:

We've issued the Crimea Declaration.

We've supplied Ukraine with lethal military hardware.

We've sanctioned more than 360 Russian targets for everything from human rights abuses, to supporting the murderous Assad regime, to operating mercenaries and proxy forces around the world.

And the State Department's FY 2021 request for the Global Engagement Center is \$138 million – more than double the current level. We won't tolerate disinformation and propaganda directed by the Kremlin or other adversaries.

Further on Russia: Two weeks ago, the State Department removed Nord Stream 2's exemption under CAATSA.

And in December, the Administration's swift implementation of PEESA – an important bipartisan endeavor – effectively halted construction of the pipeline.

We are the toughest Administration ever on Russia.

And most importantly, China. We see the Chinese Communist Party for what it is: the central threat of our times.

Our vigorous diplomacy has helped lead an international awakening to the threat of the CCP. Senators, the tide is turning:

30-plus countries and territories have become 5G “Clean Countries,” banning untrusted 5G vendors from their networks.

In our hemisphere, Canada has stood firm against the CCP’s hostage-taking. Its three major telecom carriers have also banned untrusted vendors.

Belize and Haiti have denounced Beijing’s national security law targeting Hong Kong.

In Europe, the U.K. has offered refuge to millions of Hong Kongers, and members of the U.K. Parliament have stood up a China Research Group to focus on the CCP threat.

Denmark has rejected the CCP’s attempted censorship of Danish newspapers and is alarmed by Chinese activity in the Arctic.

Sweden closed all its Confucius Institutes.

Lithuanian intelligence services identified China as a potential threat for the first time.

In the Indo-Pacific, Australia declared China’s South China Sea claims unlawful and illegitimate, as have we.

We’re proud to have stepped up maritime maneuvers in that body of water alongside friends like Australia, India, Japan, and the UK.

India has banned 106 Chinese apps, including TikTok, that threatened its citizens’ privacy and security.

Momentum is building to mitigate CCP threats in multilateral settings, too:

All 10 ASEAN nations have insisted that South China Sea disputes must be settled on the basis of international law, including UNCLOS.

Japan led the G7’s condemnation of China’s national security law targeting Hong Kong.

The EU condemned the law too, and also declared China a “systemic rival” last year.

We’ve agreed to start a dialogue channel focused solely on China – at the EU’s request.

Secretary General Stoltenberg has called for NATO to make China a greater part of the alliance’s focus.

We led a multilateral effort to ensure the UN's World Intellectual Property Organization elected a director from a country that actually respects intellectual property rights.

The U.S., Australia, India, and Japan have reinvigorated the "Quad" grouping.

The new Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China – many of its members European leaders, in addition to Senators Menendez and Rubio – is growing.

And for America's part, no administration, Republican or Democrat, has been as aggressive in confronting China's malign actions as President Trump's:

Our Department of Justice is cracking down hard on Chinese IP theft.

We've sanctioned Chinese leaders for their brutality in Xinjiang, imposed export controls on companies supporting it, and warned U.S. companies against using slave labor in their supply chains.

We've terminated special treatment agreements with Hong Kong in response to the CCP's crackdown.

We closed the consulate in Houston because it was a den of spies.

Our budget reflects realities on the ground. For example, we've requested \$1.49 billion for foreign assistance to the Indo-Pacific region, a 20% increase from the FY 2020 request. We want that part of the world to be free, open, and prosperous.

Moving onto my second set of points. . .

I want to make sure the American people know about the outstanding work their State Department did to save American lives as the pandemic from Wuhan spread throughout the world.

From January 27th to June 10th, our team successfully repatriated more than 100,000 Americans from 136 countries and territories.

Many of these folks were in very vulnerable situations – senior citizens running low on medication, pregnant women needing medical care, and even an individual on a ventilator in Bhutan.

We've also taken major steps to protect our diplomats around the world:

We OK'd Global Authorized Departures for any at-risk team member to leave their post and get home.

We pre-positioned medevac aircraft so planes could be wheels up within six hours to get our diplomats to the best medical facilities possible.

We instituted thorough social distancing, telework, cleaning, and visitor screening precautions. We've given offices discretion to decide what's best for their teams and their rotations, and right now we're bringing back our teams in a conditions-based, phased approach.

Finally, even as we've adjusted to the pandemic, the State Department and USAID have continued America's signature mission of upholding the unalienable rights of people around the world.

To save lives in allied and partner countries, State and USAID have pledged \$1.5 billion in financial support, supplies, and expertise to more than 120 countries since the outbreak began, as part of the U.S. government's world-leading \$20.5 billion to benefit the international response.

We're proud to supplement the incredible generosity of the American people, who have given nearly \$5 billion out of their own pockets to help those in need.

But that's not all. We're also economically empowering women in the developing world. Our budget invests \$200 million for our Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) fund at USAID, doubling our commitment from last year. I want to thank senators Shaheen and Graham, and others for working with the Trump Administration to move forward new legislation on this initiative.

In the same vein of protecting unalienable rights, we've fought for the fundamental right to religious freedom.

Our two State Department ministerials have galvanized global momentum to protect the right to worship. Our budget request provides \$150 million to support persecuted communities globally.

My administration colleagues and I take seriously the words of our first Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson:

"Almighty God [has] created the mind free... No man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship or ministry, or shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief."

There are many more achievements we know Americans support:

Destroying the ISIS caliphate;

Working with Mexico and Central American countries to address illegal immigration and a broken asylum-seeking system;

Bringing home Americans wrongfully detained abroad like Pastor Andrew Brunson, and Michael White;

I could go on.

I'm proud of a foreign policy that draws on our founding principles to confront threats, protect our people, and secure liberty for mankind. I hope you are too.

And with that, I'm happy to take questions.