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H. R. 3783

To provide for a comprehensive strategy to counter Iran's growing presence and hostile activity in the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 18, 2012

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. MACK, Mr. McCAUL, Mrs. MYRICK, Ms. HOCHUL, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. CANSECO, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. PITTS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. QUAYLE, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. LAMBORN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide for a comprehensive strategy to counter Iran's growing presence and hostile activity in the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Countering Iran in
5 the Western Hemisphere Act of 2012".

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The United States has vital political, eco-
2 nomic, and security interests in the Western Hemi-
3 sphere.

4 (2) Iran is pursuing cooperation with Latin
5 American countries by signing economic and security
6 agreements in order to create a network of diplo-
7 matic and economic relationships to lessen the blow
8 of international sanctions and oppose Western at-
9 tempts to constrict its ambitions.

10 (3) According to the Department of State,
11 Hezbollah, with Iran as its state sponsor, is consid-
12 ered the “most technically capable terrorist group in
13 the world” with “thousands of supporters, several
14 thousand members, and a few hundred terrorist
15 operatives”, and officials from Iran’s IRGC’s Qods
16 Force have been working in concert with Hezbollah
17 since the 1990s.

18 (4) The IRGC’s Qods Force has a long history
19 of supporting Hezbollah’s military, paramilitary, and
20 terrorist activities, providing it with guidance, fund-
21 ing, weapons, intelligence, and logistical support,
22 and in 2007, the Department of the Treasury placed
23 sanctions on the IRGC and its Qods Force for their
24 support of terrorism and proliferation activities.

1 (5) The IRGC's Qods Force stations operatives
2 in foreign embassies, charities, and religious and cul-
3 tural institutions to foster relationships, often build-
4 ing on existing socio-economic ties with the well es-
5 tablished Shia Diaspora, and recent years have wit-
6 nessed an increased presence in Latin America.

7 (6) According to the Department of Defense,
8 the IRGC and its Qods Force were involved in or be-
9 hind some of the deadliest terrorist attacks of the
10 past two decades, including the 1994 attack on the
11 AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires,
12 by generally directing or supporting the groups that
13 actually executed the attacks.

14 (7) Reports of Iranian intelligence agents being
15 implicated in Hezbollah-linked activities since the
16 early 1990s suggest direct Iranian government sup-
17 port of Hezbollah activities in the Tri-Border Area
18 of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, and in the past
19 decade, Iran has dramatically increased its diplo-
20 matic missions to Venezuela, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Ec-
21 uador, Argentina, and Brazil. Iran has built 17 cul-
22 tural centers in Latin America, and it currently
23 maintains 11 embassies, up from six in 2005.

24 (8) Iran has used its proxies in Latin America
25 to raise revenues through illicit activities, including

1 drug and arms trafficking, counterfeiting, money
2 laundering, forging travel documents, pirating soft-
3 ware and music, and providing haven and assistance
4 to other terrorists transiting the region.

5 (9) According to the Department of Defense,
6 Iran provides support for Hamas despite ideological
7 differences, and there is concern that Hamas is ac-
8 tive in the Western Hemisphere, most notably in Ca-
9 racas.

10 (10) Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and
11 Venezuela expressed their intention to assist Iran in
12 breaking international sanctions signing a statement
13 supporting Iran’s nuclear activities and announcing
14 at a 2010 joint press conference in Tehran their de-
15 termination to “continue and expand their economic
16 ties to Iran” with confidence that “Iran can give a
17 crushing response to the threats and sanctions im-
18 posed by the West and imperialism”.

19 (11) Sophisticated narco-tunneling reportedly
20 resembling the types used by Hezbollah in Lebanon
21 have been discovered along the United States-Mexico
22 border, and arrested Mexican gang members enter-
23 ing the United States allegedly with Farsi tattoos
24 have led to concerns about Hezbollah’s ability to co-
25 operate with Mexican drug cartels to utilize smug-

1 gling techniques and routes in order to transport
2 drugs and people into the United States.

3 (12) Since the fall of 2008, at least 111 sus-
4 pects of a Hezbollah-linked international network of
5 drug traffickers and money launderers have been ar-
6 rested in Drug Enforcement Administration oper-
7 ations.

8 (13) In October 2011, the United States
9 charged two men, including Iranian-American
10 Manssor Arbabsiar, a member of the IRGC's Qods
11 Force, on conspiracy to murder a foreign official
12 using a weapon of mass destruction in an act of ter-
13 rorism. Arbabsiar traveled to Mexico with the ex-
14 press intent to hire "someone in the narcotics busi-
15 ness" to carry out the assassination of the Saudi
16 Arabian Ambassador in the United States.

17 (14) The Obama Administration's 2011 Strat-
18 egy for Counterterrorism does not adequately ad-
19 dress Iran's growing influence and operations in the
20 Western Hemisphere.

21 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

22 It shall be the policy of the United States to use all
23 elements of national power to counter Iran's growing pres-
24 ence and hostile activity in the Western Hemisphere.

1 **SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT OF A STRATEGY TO ADDRESS IRAN'S**
2 **GROWING PRESENCE AND ACTIVITY IN THE**
3 **WESTERN HEMISPHERE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
6 shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
7 House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign
8 Relations of the Senate a strategy to address Iran's grow-
9 ing presence and activity in the Western Hemisphere
10 that—

11 (1) defines and outlines the presence and activi-
12 ties of Iran, the IRGC, its Qods Force, Hezbollah,
13 and Hamas in the Western Hemisphere, including
14 information about their leaders, goals, objectives,
15 and areas of influence;

16 (2) provides an assessment of the terrain, popu-
17 lation, ports, foreign firms, airports, borders, media
18 outlets, financial centers, foreign embassies, char-
19 ities, religious and cultural centers, and income-gen-
20 erating activities in the Western Hemisphere utilized
21 by Iran, the IRGC, its Qods Force, Hezbollah, and
22 Hamas;

23 (3) details operations of Iran, the IRGC, its
24 Qods Force, Hezbollah, and Hamas within the
25 United States, including information on financial
26 networks, trafficking activities, and safe havens;

1 (4) documents the relationship of Iran, the
2 IRGC, its Qods Force, Hezbollah, and Hamas with
3 transnational criminal organizations and other ter-
4 rorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere;

5 (5) describes the relationship of Iran, the
6 IRGC, its Qods Force, Hezbollah, and Hamas with
7 the governments in the Western Hemisphere, includ-
8 ing military-to-military relations and diplomatic, eco-
9 nomic, and security partnerships;

10 (6) assesses the Federal law enforcement capa-
11 bilities, military forces, state and local government
12 institutions, and other critical elements, such as
13 nongovernmental organizations, of the governments
14 in the Western Hemisphere that may organize to
15 counter the threat posed by Iran, the IRGC, its
16 Qods Force, Hezbollah, and Hamas;

17 (7) details operations of Iran, the IRGC, its
18 Qods Force, Hezbollah, and Hamas at the United
19 States-Mexico border and other international borders
20 within the Western Hemisphere, including oper-
21 ations related to drug, human, and arms trafficking,
22 human support networks, financial support, and
23 technological advancements; and

24 (8) includes—

1 (A) with respect to the United States–Mex-
2 ico border, in coordination with the Government
3 of Mexico and the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
4 rity, a plan to address resources, technology,
5 and infrastructure to create a secure Southwest
6 Border and prevent operatives from Iran, the
7 IRGC, its Qods Force, Hezbollah, or Hamas
8 from entering the United States;

9 (B) within Latin American countries, a
10 multi-agency action plan including the develop-
11 ment of strong rule-of-law institutions to pro-
12 vide security for the people and businesses of
13 such countries, a counterterrorism and counter-
14 radicalization plan within communities to iso-
15 late Iran, the IRGC, its Qods Force, Hezbollah,
16 and Hamas from their sources of financial sup-
17 port, and combat terrorist activity; and

18 (C) incorporation of all of the elements of
19 national power, including diplomatic, economic,
20 and security elements, designed to counter
21 Iran’s growing presence and hostile activity in
22 the Western Hemisphere.

23 (b) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing the strategy
24 under this section, the Secretary of State shall consult
25 with the heads of all appropriate United States depart-

1 ments and agencies, including the Secretary of Defense,
2 the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of
3 Homeland Security, the Secretary of the Treasury, and
4 the Attorney General.

5 (c) FORM.—The strategy under this section shall be
6 submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified
7 annex.

8 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

9 Not later than one year after the submission of the
10 strategy required under section 4, the Secretary of State
11 shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
12 House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign
13 Relations of the Senate a report on the progress made to-
14 ward the implementation of the strategy and a description
15 and evaluation toward achieving the policy objective de-
16 scribed in section 3.

17 **SEC. 6. FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTA-**
18 **TION OF STRATEGY TO COUNTER IRAN IN**
19 **THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.**

20 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds
21 made available to any office or bureau of the Department
22 of State for counter-terrorism programs are authorized to
23 be made available to carry out this Act.

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