

CONGRATULATING IMMOKALEE
HIGH SCHOOL INDIANS FOOT-
BALL TEAM

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate the Immokalee High School Indians on their Class 2A football championship.

With only three minutes and ten seconds remaining in the championship game, the Immokalee Indians kicked a 42 yard field goal to take a 17–15 lead, which they held on to for the remainder of the game.

This game was especially important to the Indians, as it marked the first state football championship in school history.

As their recent state title would clearly indicate, talented athletes fill the Indian's roster. In fact, nine players were named to the Florida Sports Writers Association Class 2A All-State team. Five of those players were named to the first team, two players were named to the second team and two players received honorable mentions.

Under the leadership of head coach John Weber and his staff, the Indians football team has brought great pride and accomplishment to Immokalee and all of Southwest Florida.

Of course, the players and coaches were not the only ones responsible for this impressive victory. The fans, trainers, faculty, staff and the entire Immokalee community helped lead the Indians to the state championship.

I would also like to congratulate Principal Manny Tournon and Athletic Director Linda Ayer for their commitment to this football team and to Immokalee High School.

It is my great honor to congratulate the Immokalee High School Indians on this incredible accomplishment and look forward to continued success next season. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Immokalee High School—the 2004 state football champions.

THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a timely and important issue: the International Affairs Budget, or 150 account as it is known in budget parlance.

Just prior to adjourning the 108th Congress, we completed work on a major portion of the 9–11 Commission's recommendations—intelligence reform.

The Commission also endorsed a second critical strategy for protecting America that we now must address: investing in the tools of a proactive foreign policy, including the range of diplomatic, development and humanitarian programs funded under the International Affairs Budget.

These programs facilitate the formation of international coalitions, fund essential non-

proliferation, anti-terrorism and de-mining efforts, respond to global challenges such as hunger and illiteracy, and help people build a future of hope and opportunity.

They also build markets for U.S. exports, provide for embassy personnel and security, and promote good governance practices that strengthen democracies.

I am joined in my support of the 150 account by my friend and colleague JIM LEACH, who—along with 110 other members of the House from both sides of the aisle—recently signed a letter to the President asking him to support a significant increase in funding for these diplomatic tools and international programs.

I would like to submit the text of that important letter for the RECORD.

I also commend the leadership of Senators FEINSTEIN, DEWINE, SMITH and DURBIN for spearheading a similar letter to the President from their colleagues in the Senate.

Over the next several weeks, the President will be putting the final touches on his fiscal year 2006 budget request. In light of all the global challenges faced by the United States, we are very hopeful that he will propose a substantial increase for international affairs programs.

Mr. Speaker, the tragic tsunami disaster in Asia has underscored the need for a robust International Affairs Budget. Indeed, the 150 account is the mechanism that has enabled the extraordinary humanitarian relief efforts.

Key actors in the rescue and recovery operations are those U.S.-supported personnel and programs that have been on the ground for years: seasoned NGO staff who have established relationships with local governments and possess knowledge of the region's terrain; embassy personnel providing critical information and communications infrastructure; American businesses and contractors with reconstruction expertise and access to capital.

Not only does the International Affairs Budget support wide-scale emergency humanitarian response operations—it is a critical addition to our military and intelligence capabilities in the fight against terrorism and the effort to build global stability.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting a substantial increase in the International Affairs Budget.

DECEMBER 14, 2004.

President GEORGE W. BUSH,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to express strong, bipartisan support for a robust increase in the FY06 150 International Affairs Budget as an essential investment in America's fight against terrorism and efforts to build global stability through promoting economic prosperity and expressing the compassion of the American people for those in need around the world.

Along with a range of intelligence and law enforcement reforms, the bipartisan 9/11 Commission strongly endorsed investments in the International Affairs Budget as vital to protecting America and an inseparable priority from funding homeland defense. In the final report, they wrote, "long-term success demands the use of all elements of national power: diplomacy, intelligence, covert action, law enforcement, economic policy, foreign aid, public diplomacy and homeland defense."

"Terrorism is not caused by poverty," the 9/11 Commission wrote. "Yet when people

lose hope, when societies break down, when countries fragment, the breeding grounds for terrorism are created." The International Affairs Budget incorporates the full range of diplomatic tools and international programs that are critical in helping to stabilize the world and promote our national interests. Whether it is protecting our national security, spurring economic growth or supporting humanitarian efforts, the International Affairs Budget is working for America.

By investing in people, strengthening economic opportunity, enhancing democracies, responding to global challenges such as infectious diseases, hunger, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and maternal and child health, the 150 account is critical to creating a safer world. Export promotion programs, commercial diplomacy, good governance and anti-corruption programs open markets for U.S. businesses and create jobs here at home. Vigorous public diplomacy efforts, secure embassies, capable telecommunications, and vibrant international exchange and education programs are vital to delivering America's messages of freedom and democracy around the globe.

We are more convinced than ever that America must remain engaged in the world and utilize all of the tools and resources that strengthen U.S. national interests—including the International Affairs Budget. As you prepare the FY06 Federal Budget, we urge you to support substantially increased funding for international affairs programs.

Sincerely,

Leach (R-IA), Berman (D-CA), Abercrombie (D-HI), Ackerman (D-NY), Allen (D-ME), Baird (D-WA), Baldwin (D-WI), Bass (R-NH), Berkley (D-NV), Biggart (R-IL).

Blumenauer (D-OR), Boehlert (R-NY), Boswell (D-IA), Brown (D-OH), Capps (D-CA), Cardin (D-MD), Chandler (D-KY), Crowley (D-NY), Davis (D-IL), Davis (D-FL).

Davis (D-CA), Delahunt (D-MA), DeLauro (D-CT), Deutsch (D-FL), Dicks (D-WA), Dreier (R-CA), Emanuel (D-IL), Engel (D-NY), English (R-PA), Etheridge (D-NC).

Farr (D-CA), Fattah (D-PA), Filner (D-CA), Frank (D-MA), Gordon (D-TN), Green (D-TX), Greenwood (R-PA), Hinchey (D-NY), Honda (D-CA), Hoyer (D-MD).

Inslee (D-WA), Isakson (R-GA), Jackson (D-IL), Jefferson (D-LA), Johnson (R-CT), Johnson (R-IL), Kaptur (D-OH), Kennedy (R-MN), Kennedy (D-RI), Kildee (D-MI).

Kirk (R-IL), Knollenberg (R-MI), LaHood (R-IL), Lampson (D-TX), Langevin (D-RI), Lantos (D-CA), Larsen (D-WA), Larson (D-CT), LaTourette (R-OH), Lee (D-CA).

Levin (D-MI), Lewis (R-CA), Lewis (D-GA), Lofgren (D-CA), Lowey (D-NY), Lynch (D-MA), Maloney (D-NY), Manzullo (R-IL), Matsui (D-CA), McCollum (D-MN).

McDermott (D-WA), McGovern (D-MA), Meeks (D-NY), Menendez (D-NJ), Millender-McDonald (D-CA), Miller (D-CA), Moran (D-VA), Nadler (D-NY), Oberstar (D-MN), Owens (D-NY).

Pallone (D-NJ), Payne (D-NJ), Pelosi (D-CA), Pomeroy (D-ND), Price (D-NC), Rothman (D-NJ), Rush (D-IL), Sanchez (D-CA), Schakowsky (D-IL), Schiff (D-CA).

Serrano (D-NY), Shays (R-CT), Sherman (D-CA), Shimkus (R-IL), Simmons (R-CT), Slaughter (D-NY), Smith (D-WA), Smith (R-NJ), Snyder (D-AR), Solis (D-CA).

Stupak (D-MI), Tauscher (D-CA), Tierney (D-MA), Tubbs Jones (D-OH), Udall (D-CO), Udall (D-NM), Van Hollen (D-MD), Waters (D-CA), Waxman (D-CA), Weller (R-IL), Wexler (D-FL), Woolsey (D-CA).