

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2819

To establish a program to provide assistance for developing countries of
Eurasia and the Middle East.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2003

Mr. HOEFFEL (for himself, Mr. HOUGHTON, and Mr. McDERMOTT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To establish a program to provide assistance for developing
countries of Eurasia and the Middle East.

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 “Modern-Day Marshall
5 Plan for Eurasia and the Middle East Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) After World War II, the United States es-
9 tablished a program to provide for the reconstruc-
10 tion of Europe, named after General George C. Mar-

1 shall and commonly referred to as the “Marshall
2 Plan”, which made a significant contribution to the
3 stimulation of economic growth and international
4 trade in Europe from 1948 to 1951, thereby helping
5 to stem the spread of Communism and to foster sta-
6 ble political governments in Europe.

7 (2) By providing assistance to Europe through
8 the Marshall Plan, the United States recognized the
9 direct link between economic growth and political
10 stability, thereby investing resources into economic
11 development and assistance.

12 (3) The Marshall Plan is chiefly characterized
13 by its integration of recipients into the development
14 process, forming a partnership whereby European
15 countries agreed to a “plan of action” that com-
16 mitted Europe to take steps toward solution of its
17 economic and political problems prior to the formu-
18 lation of a program of assistance.

19 (4) On April 17, 2002, President Bush stated
20 in a speech at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI):
21 “[General] Marshall knew that our military victory
22 against enemies in World War II had to be followed
23 by a moral victory that resulted in better lives for
24 individual human beings. America has a much great-
25 er purpose than just eliminating threats and con-

1 taining resentment. Because we believe in the dig-
2 nity and value of every individual, America seeks
3 hope and opportunity for all people in all cultures.”.

4 (5) A principal objective of United States for-
5 eign assistance programs, as stated in the Foreign
6 Assistance Act of 1961, continues to be the “encour-
7 agement and sustained support of the people of de-
8 veloping countries in their efforts to acquire the
9 knowledge and resources essential to development
10 and to build the economic, political, and social insti-
11 tutions which will improve the quality of their
12 lives.”.

13 (6) Significant poverty, corruption, and human
14 rights abuses in many countries of Eurasia and the
15 Middle East contribute to the political and economic
16 deterioration of those regions.

17 (7) The potential resources of many countries
18 of Eurasia and the Middle East are rich and plenti-
19 ful and can be developed in peace and in partnership
20 through cooperation and mutual assistance.

21 (8) The attacks against the United States that
22 occurred on September 11, 2001, and the subse-
23 quent global war on terrorism, have enhanced
24 United States strategic concern for the economic

1 and political future of countries of Eurasia and the
2 Middle East.

3 (9) United States foreign assistance programs
4 continue to influence the direction of the Central
5 Asia, Eurasia, and Middle East regions.

6 (10) In 1972, the United Nations voted to rec-
7 ommend that developed countries should contribute
8 an amount equal to 0.7 percent of their gross do-
9 mestic product for assistance to developing coun-
10 tries, however, the United States currently provides
11 an amount equal to only 0.1 percent of its gross do-
12 mestic product for assistance to developing coun-
13 tries.

14 (11) The magnitude of the economic, humani-
15 tarian, and political challenges in the Eurasia and
16 Middle East regions is extensive and demands con-
17 sistent and enhanced input and assistance from the
18 United States, particularly through the United
19 States Agency for International Development
20 (USAID) as well as extensive coordination with
21 other appropriate United States agencies and inter-
22 national donor organizations, in order to effectively
23 implement development assistance and effectively
24 eliminate the causes of terrorism in these regions.

25 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

1 (1) to enhance and increase United States for-
2 eign assistance to the developing countries of Eur-
3 asia and the Middle East; and

4 (2) to assist such countries of Eurasia and the
5 Middle East to grow, prosper, and to seize the op-
6 portunities of the global economy in order to achieve
7 transparent, accountable, and politically stable
8 democratic forms of government in such countries.

9 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS; STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

10 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
11 gress that the United States Government should recognize
12 that to promote politically stable and economically pros-
13 perous countries in Eurasia and the Middle East is in the
14 national security interests of the United States.

15 (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy
16 of the United States—

17 (1) to promote stable democracies and market
18 economies in countries of Eurasia and the Middle
19 East;

20 (2) to encourage regular dialogue between
21 United States Government officials and human
22 rights organizations, civic organizers, reform-minded
23 politicians and democratic activists in order to fur-
24 ther democratic reform and economic stability in de-

1 veloping countries of Eurasia and the Middle East;
2 and

3 (3) to encourage dialogue between United
4 States Government officials and private sector indi-
5 viduals regarding the opening of markets and trans-
6 parency in business practices in countries of Eurasia
7 and the Middle East.

8 **SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE POLITICAL STABILITY IN**
9 **THE COUNTRIES OF EURASIA AND THE MID-**
10 **DLE EAST.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized, not-
12 withstanding any other provision of law, to establish and
13 implement a program to provide economic assistance for
14 the developing countries of Eurasia and the Middle East
15 in order to promote political stability in such countries.

16 (b) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance provided
17 under the program established under subsection (a) shall
18 include assistance to promote—

19 (1) economic growth, trade, education, and in-
20 frastructure;

21 (2) health, including assistance to prevent,
22 treat, and monitor HIV/AIDS, family planning as-
23 sistance, and child survival assistance; and

24 (3) democracy building and human rights.

1 (c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Assistance under the
2 program established under subsection (a)—

3 (1) shall be provided in accordance with the
4 terms and conditions utilized by the International
5 Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the
6 International Monetary Fund under the “Poverty
7 Reduction Strategy Papers” process established by
8 such institutions; and

9 (2) shall be provided on such other terms and
10 conditions as the President determines to be appro-
11 priate.

12 (d) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS.—The
13 President shall coordinate the program established under
14 subsection (a) with all other programs under which eco-
15 nomic assistance is provided to countries of Eurasia and
16 the Middle East.

17 (e) MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE.—The President,
18 acting through the Secretary of State and other appro-
19 priate officials of the United States Government, shall
20 urge other appropriate countries to provide assistance to
21 countries of Eurasia and the Middle East in accordance
22 with the terms and conditions of assistance provided by
23 the United States under this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
3 priated to carry out this Act such sums as may be nec-
4 essary for fiscal year 2004 and each subsequent fiscal
5 year.

6 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant
7 to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a)
8 are authorized to remain available until expended.

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