WHY OUR NATION SHOULD PAY UP AT THE U.N. WITH UNSPENT PENTAGON FUNDS

- Because of budget deficits and an indifferent Congress, our nation is unlikely to pay the U.N. what is owed by the U.S.
- Our nation is the number one deadbeat nation to the U.N., owing over 500 million dollars in legal obligations. Reprogramming unspent Pentagon funds is the only sure way of correcting this disgraceful record in a timely fashion.
- Our substantial withholding, year after year, has sapped the ability of the U.N. to deal with serious threats to international security. Paying all we owe the U.N., all at once, would make the world safer and promote global cooperation.
- Dues to the regular U.N. budget and for peacekeeping are U.S. treaty obligations. Whenever the U.S. breaks a treaty, it undercuts international law. Also, it casts doubt on the good word of our proud nation. By repaying all we owe, in one stroke, we will regain the respect of many nations, including our European allies upset over U.S. irresponsibility.
- In 1989, 120 million dollars was reprogrammed from Pentagon funds to pay for the U.S. share for new U.N. peacekeeping, thereby setting a precedent for this approach.
- According to Congressman John Dingell (D-MI), there is a large pool of unspent Pentagon funds, 43 billion dollars, in the Treasury account. A portion of this could be used to pay U.S. arrears to the U.N.
- Funds appropriated for the Pentagon are for national security. General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated publicly that U.N. peacekeeping operations are important contributions to our overall security posture. Redirecting unspent Pentagon funds to the U.N. would be in keeping with the purpose of funding the Pentagon, especially 152 million dollars which the U.S. owes for past U.N. peacekeeping.

HOW THE U.S. BECAME THE NUMBER ONE DEADBEAT NATION TO THE U.N.

In 1986 Congress unilaterally decided to withhold 54 percent of its contribution to the regular U.N. budget. The Administration opposed the withholding, as it violated U.S. treaty obligations to the U.N. But Congress went ahead, promising the U.N. it would return to full funding if the U.N. gave the U.S. more influence over the U.N. budget and reduced its administrative staff.

In 1987 the U.N. complied with these demands and President Reagan congratulated the U.N. for undertaking "*historic U.N. reforms.*" But Congress did not keep its promise. Each year thereafter, it continued to cut the U.S. contribution. This severe withholding continues to cause a severe financial crisis at the U.N. and has undermined respect for our nation in the world community.

In recent years, most members of Congress have voted for the authorization of full U.N. funding. Because of inertia, inattention, inefficient budgetary procedures and a push from the far political right, we continue to cripple the U.N. financially.

National assessments to the U.N. are computed largely on the basis of national wealth. In earlier years, the U.S. paid close to 40 percent of the U.N. budget. In subsequent years, the U.S. share was gradually reduced to 25 percent. If the U.S. paid on the basis of national wealth, it would pay about 28 percent of the U.N. budget. On a per capita basis, about 15 nations pay more to the U.N. than the U.S. For the regular U.N. budget, the cost per U.S. citizen is about 80 cents per year, or about three first-class stamps.

At the end of 1989, the U.S. owed the regular U.N. budget 365 million dollars. This was 79 percent of total arrears owed by all nations. By contrast, the U.S.S.R. owed less than one percent. Also, the U.S. owes 152 million dollars for past U.N. peacekeeping operations, bringing the total owed in legal obligations to over 500 million, the price of one new B-2 bomber.

COMMENTS ON U.S. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THE U.N.

"The huge U.S. arrears to the U.N. cripples its effectiveness. We should pay up immediately." Robert S. McNamara, Former U.S. Secretary of Defense, April 2, '90.

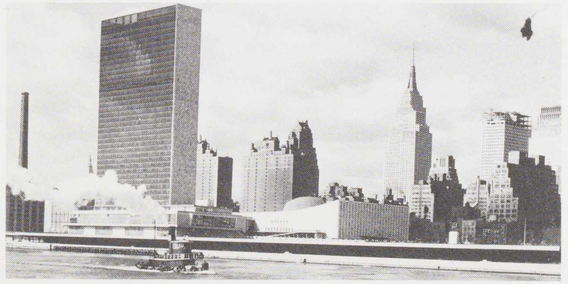
"UNCLE DEADBEAT STIFFS THE U.N. If you're serious, a hard-boiled American maxim advises, put your money where your mouth is . . . This country is not merely the host but the main architect of the U.N. It is also the main deadbeat." *The New York Times,* Editorial Nov. 10, '89.

". . . the U.N. is in a financial crisis because the U.S. refuses to pay nearly $500 million it owes for its share of the organization's budget. The Administration and Congress should act quickly to pay the arrears." Editorial, *Businessweek,* Aug. 22, '89.

"Remember all those years when we used to bawl out loud the U.S.S.R. for not anteing up its share of the U.N. budget? . . . It's quite an irony that capitalist U.S. has replaced communist U.S.S.R. as the U.N.'s number one budget malingerer." *Forbes* Magazine, July 11, '88.

"Using the U.N. and Starving it . . . The U.S. is hundreds of millions of dollars in arrears on its dues and its refusal to pay up is bringing the U.N. to a desperate financial pass." Editorial, *The Washington Post,* July 20, '88.

"From Namibia to Nicaragua, the U.N. is proving that it is indispensable. It is past time for the United States to pay its U.N. dues." Gene R. La Rocque, Rear Admiral (Ret.), Director, Center for Defense Information.



SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE U.N.

After the devastation of two world wars in this century, the U.S. took the leadership to establish the U.N. to assure world peace. But the cold war stymied this effort. Now with detente and the virtual collapse of aggressive communism, the U.N. again has the potential of assuring a peaceful, orderly and more just world, but only if citizens rally to its defense. In earlier years the U.N. mounted 13 peacekeeping operations. Then, in 1988 and '89 the U.N. created five new peacekeeping operations to observe truces, cease-fires, withdrawals or to assist in bringing independence to a new nation. In recognition, U.N. peacekeeping forces were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988.

Probably the greatest defense bargain the American people get for their tax dollars is through U.N. peacekeeping. The cost is about 30 cents per person per year as contrasted to over one thousand dollars per person each year for defense expenditures. Noncombatant U.N. peacekeepers are an alternative to engaging U.S. military personnel in conflicts around the globe, often at large cost of life and limb, as well as tax dollars. A half million soldiers from 58 nations have served in the U.N. peacekeeping efforts, helping to separate warring parties so third-party dispute solving can be brought to bear.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO TO AID THE BELEAGUERED U.N.

Please, right now, write to:
President George Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Ask him to reprogram unspent Pentagon Funds to pay all the U.S. arrears to the U.N.