



National Security Report

American Security Council Foundation

“Peace through Strength”

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Major Threats and Issues to the United States

- Iran is closer to nuclear weapons capability, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with help from allies such as Venezuela, Bolivia and Russia.
- The economy has collapsed due to our debt, taxes and regulations. Importing oil drains our national economy of 2 billion dollars daily. Unreasonable Environmental and Government Regulations restrict the lack of exploitation of more domestic energy resources and development of emerging energy technology. The United States has more energy supplies than any other country in the world and by tapping these resources, millions of jobs can be created.
- China, Iran, Venezuela and Al-Qaeda continue to expand their influence in the Americas and Western Hemisphere while the U.S. Military forces are over worked and under staffed. The Army is eroding manpower and materials and continues to be too small for its missions. Another 9/11 is not impossible nor is a nuclear burst of some sort — attacks that we need more preparation to prevent or recover from. See ASCF First Vice President Gen. Frederick Kroesen’s speech at: www.ascfusa.org/content_pages/view/gen-kroesen-speech.
- We lack a functional missile defense system that is strongly needed. Funding must be re-stored and deployment of a full-phase, global missile defense system should be a top national security priority. Failure of not having a deployable missile defense system enhances overseas risks of aggression from Iran, North Korea and Venezuela.
- Out of control spending in Congress has left the country with unsustainable record peacetime debt and hampers any meaningful economic recovery.
- Jobs cannot be created and sustained by government intervention; rather government should lift the regulatory tax and other burdens from business to get the economy moving and to allow the private sector to begin hiring.
- Reduction in the defense budget and required mission deployments of our military and developing worldwide threats are causing undue stress among our forces. The low retention rate due to repetitive deployments is causing catastrophic problems within our military.
- English is the official language in 30 states but not the official language of the United States. For more continuity within our U.S. Military and the United States, English should be promoted as the official language.
- American values should be promoted to all residents whether they are legal or illegal.

Venezuela Rigs the System

By Dr. James Robbins



On July 1, 2010 Venezuela seized 11 oil rigs owned by Tula-based U.S. driller Helmerich & Payne. The Chavez regime justified the “forced acquisition” by saying that “primary oil production activities have to be continuous, and no one can stop them for any reason,” according to Oil Minister Rafael Ramire. “No one has the right to halt the country's economic activity.” The rigs were idled when Venezuela’s state oil monopoly fell behind on payments to the drillers, but this did not impress Caracas. Mr. Ramirez told a cheering crowd in the town of Anaco that the rigs have been “nationalized by the revolution.”

The nationalization move saves Petroleos de Venezuela SA, the regime’s oil monopoly, around \$43 million owed to Helmerich & Payne. This is not the first such move by Chavez – last year PDVSA seized control of assets of Dallas-based EnSCO International Inc. when the company suspended drilling over a \$35 million debt.

Not everyone objects to Venezuela’s predatory habits. Director Oliver Stone, whose new documentary “South of the Border” is a love letter to Chavez and his socialist revolution, thinks that nationalization is the wave of the future. He recommends that the United States should follow Chavez’ example and take over the American oil industry. The BP oil rig explosion and leak, he reasons, is a direct consequence of the profit motive. But there is no reason to expect that governments are any more competent than private industries, or that the lack of a profit motive somehow guarantees better performance. In 2009, Venezuela began operating its first offshore gas rig the Aban Pearl. Last May one of the rig’s undersea pontoons filled with water and it sank.

The Obama administration has generally shown no desire to respond vigorously to such provocations. The United States has not noticeably objected to the nationalization, but ignoring the problem will only make it worse. The utter lack of U.S. response will further embolden Mr. Chavez to seize other foreign assets. The regime can act apparently with impunity, and if it can loot foreign investments without paying a price there is no reason not to continue. Venezuela’s leadership has openly and vociferously promoted the supposed virtues of a socialized economy and centralized political system. Meanwhile Chavez is reaching out to America’s global strategic adversaries, such as China and Iran, and spreading his vision of a “Bolivarian” revolution throughout Latin America.

A group of Republican Senators sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton noting the “deepening deterioration of human rights and democracy in Venezuela” and asking her to consider invoking the Organization of American States’ Democratic Charter against Venezuela. Mrs. Clinton has yet to respond. In a press release announcing the seizure of their rigs Helmerich & Payne said that they had met all their contractual obligations and could leave Venezuela “with [their] heads held high.” If only we could say the same thing about the U.S. government.

Venezuela’s leadership has openly and vociferously promoted the supposed virtues of a socialized economy and centralized political system.



**ASCF Executive Director
Dr. James S. Robbins**

National Coalition for Peace through Strength



The **National Coalition for Peace through Strength** was the Congressional lobbying group for the American Security Council (ASC).

"1978. This was the year the original **Coalition for Peace Through Strength** was formed, and a national strategy conference was held at ASC's headquarters in Boston, Virginia".

"After considerable debate, the participating Coalition members selected eight strategy principles they recommended for adoption as national policy. "This public diplomacy campaign and national strategy effort sparked a movement that

had history-making consequences. This strategy effort involved 257 Members of Congress, 168 national organizations, and 514 colleges and universities. The resulting study became *A National Strategy for Peace through Strength*.

The ASCF applauds Mr. Meese and the Peace through Strength Platform for their current platform. Please see letter below.

Dear Mr. Meese,

The American Security Council Foundation has long promoted the concept of Peace Through Strength. We applaud your recent efforts to bring this timeless principle back to the forefront of the national security debate, and would like to join in this cause.

In 1978 the ASCF organized the Peace Through Strength Coalition, whose members helped formulate and execute the Reagan administration's robust and successful national security policies. Looking back over his eight years in office, Mr. Reagan remarked that "one thing is certain. If we're to continue to advance world peace and human freedom, America must remain strong. If we have learned anything these last eight years, it's that peace through strength works".

Since then the ASCF has continued to promote Peace Through Strength as the only viable basis for American safety and security. The principles underlying Peace Through Strength are as relevant today as they were during the Cold War. The challenges our country faces change, and political leaders come and go, but the fundamentals remain sound. As recent history shows, when our country adopts a posture of deference and indecision, our adversaries grow restless. When the United States approaches the world from a position of strength and resolve, peace and stability follow.

Rarely has Peace Through Strength been as important as it is today. The United States faces a growing list of threats from state and non-state actors, at the nuclear, conventional and unconventional level. We endorse your interpretation of our 14 principles of Peace Through Strength and will work to promote it in hopes that this fundamental platform will again be the standard against which the national security policies of the United States are judged.

Sincerely,

Dr. Henry A. Fischer
President & CEO, ASCF

Brig. Gen. Donald B. Smith
Chairman & Treasurer, ASCF

ASCF Historic Archives

**President Ronald Reagan
Receives Peace through
Strength Leadership
Award from ASC/ASCF
President Mr. John Fisher**

**The principles underlying
Peace Through Strength
are as relevant today as
they were during the Cold
War.**

Peace through Strength

ASCF

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About the ASCF: The American Security Council Foundation is a non-partisan, non-profit organization which was formed in 1958, and was originally known as the Institute for American Strategy. For over 50 years the Foundation has focused on a wide range of educational programs which address critical challenges to U.S. policy, national security and the global economy.

The role of the American Security Council Foundation is to educate and inform Americans about the global challenges to the national security, economic security and moral leadership of the United States of America.

American Security Council Foundation
1250 24th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20037

www.ascfusa.org

info@ascfusa.org

Congressional Advisory Board Update

The American Security Council Foundation is proud to announce that **Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers** became a member of the ASCF Congressional Advisory Board on July 1, 2010. She represents the **5th District for the State of Washington**, and is a member of the Armed Services, Education & Labor and Natural Resources Committees.

The mission of the American Security Council Foundation is to educate and inform Americans about the global challenges to U.S. National Security, Economic Security and Moral Leadership. Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers scored 100% on the American Security Council Foundation's 111th Congressional Voter Index. The ASCF considers a rating of 80% or higher as highly supportive of our country's national security interests.

We look forward to working with Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers to find solutions to the national and economic security challenges facing the United States and her Allies.

For more information regarding the ASCF Congressional Advisory Board or Voter Index please go to: www.ascfusa.org.

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