

**Statement of  
The Honorable Henry J. Hyde  
Before the Subcommittee on  
Technology of the  
House Committee on Rules**

**Wednesday, June 16, 2004**

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to submit my views on the matter of the jurisdiction of the Committee on International Relations pursuant to Rule X of the House Rules. While the Committee's jurisdiction is significant and broad as laid out in the rule, there are certain matters which I believe should be specifically mentioned in the rule or modified to reflect updated circumstances.

Initially, and probably most significantly, I believe the rule should specifically state that the Committee on International Relations has jurisdiction over the activities and operations of the Department of State, including all embassies and consular activities. I am aware of other committees of the House which have jurisdiction over certain federal departments or agencies which have those agencies specifically contained in the rule stating their jurisdiction. For example, clause (c) (4) of rule X specifically gives the Armed Services Committee jurisdiction over the Department of Defense; clause (f) (10) gives the Energy and Commerce Committee jurisdiction over the Department of Energy.

Based on these precedents, I believe it would be appropriate to specifically include the Department of State as part of our Committee's jurisdiction under rule X clause (j).

Similarly, I believe the Peace Corps should also be specifically included in the jurisdiction of the Committee on International Relations. This Committee has had oversight hearings concerning the Peace Corps and has processed a number of bills relating to it.

In a further clarification of the Committee's jurisdiction, I think "Foreign Assistance" should also be contained in the rule. While this probably falls under the jurisdictional language of "Relations of the United States with foreign nations generally," it would be clarifying to specify it in the rule.

One further explication of the Committee's jurisdiction which should be specifically contained in the rule is that of "International Law" While this, too, falls within the parameters of "Relations of the United States with foreign nations generally," it would be clarifying to specify it in the rule.

On another matter, I believe subsection (j) (15) of clause X should be modified to clarify the Committee's jurisdiction over matters relating to the "The American Red Cross," to include the "International Committee of the Red Cross." While the Committee, I believe, has this jurisdiction currently, I think it would be wise to spell it out specifically in the rule.

I appreciate having the opportunity to bring these matters to the attention of the Subcommittee.