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SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
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May 26, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary
Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

The Honorable Dr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary
Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretaries Clinton and Gates:

Each year, landmines and explosive remnants of war cause thousands of casualties in more than 60 countries around the world. Recently, our military, led by the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), has made significant advances in the detection and neutralization of explosive devices. Some JIEDDO-developed initiatives may have additional application in the U.S. Humanitarian Mine Action programs.

The House Armed Services Committee, as part of the FY2011 National Defense Authorization Act, has directed the Comptroller General to identify JIEDDO-developed initiatives that may have humanitarian demining applications, as well as recommend improvements for interagency coordination between the Departments of Defense and State. The Committee mandated that this report should also recommend improvements for demining and disarming efforts through the use of new or existing JIEDDO-initiated technology, training, and equipment. Finally, the report should include new joint testing strategies between the Departments of Defense and State in foreign countries including Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other countries which may benefit from such strategies. I urge full cooperation and proactive suggestions from your Department experts as they work with the Government Accountability Office personnel on gathering information in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

Cc: Ambassador Mitar Kujundžić
Cc: Dusan Gavran, BHMAL Director
Cc: The Honorable Ivo Miro Jović
Cc: Lieutenant General Michael L. Oates, Director JIEDDO