CNS Director Recommends Export Control Revisions, $50 Million Fund For Nonproliferation Education At House Hearing

House Foreign Affairs Committee Seeks Experts’ Input on Control Regime

Monterey, CA – The United States should revise its export control policies “to reflect new realities” while encouraging other nations to reform their own laws and practices, according to testimony by Dr. William C. Potter, director of the Monterey Institute’s James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS), before a special field hearing of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs at Stanford University this Friday.

In his testimony (see attachment), Dr. Potter also cites the urgent need for expanded nonproliferation education and recommends a one-time federal appropriation of $50 million to endow a fund supporting 50 fellowships per year in graduate-level nonproliferation studies.

The hearing, titled “The Impact of U.S. Export Controls on National Security, Science and Technological Leadership,” was called to explore efforts to balance economic and security concerns in shaping the nation’s export control regime. The two witnesses at Friday’s hearing were Dr. Potter and Dr. John L. Hennessy, President of Stanford University and a member of the National Research Council.

Dr. Potter’s testimony points out the economic value of expanded nonproliferation awareness and education, suggesting that “Greater self-awareness and self-regulation regarding the security and export of WMD-related material, technology, and knowhow may be the best antidote to more intrusive government controls.”

Corrective measures recommended by Dr. Potter for the existing export control regime include:

- Avoiding the dilution of existing controls while adapting them to a post-Cold War environment
- Working with other countries to reform their laws and practices
- Increasing domestic funding for export control enforcement
- Exploring new remedies for export control violations
- Investing more in nonproliferation education and training

In the latter instance, Dr. Potter recommends a one-time federal appropriation of $50 million to fund an endowment to provide 50 fellowships per year in graduate-level nonproliferation education: “At a time when the great majority of U.S. government
officials and politicians of different political persuasions agree on the dangers posed by WMD proliferation, it is surprising how limited the opportunities are for students at all levels of education to acquire formal training in the field. In a very small way, the Monterey Institute of International Studies is trying to address this knowledge gap by offering a new Masters degree program in Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies—the first of its kind in the world. But many more universities will need to follow suit if we are to train the next generation of nonproliferation specialists or even introduce our future leaders in government, science, and industry to the subject.”

CNS, founded at the Monterey Institute in 1989, is the world’s largest nongovernmental organization dedicated to combating the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Faculty and staff associated with CNS have published numerous articles and papers on the topic of export controls and consulted with government agencies on the development of effective export control policies.

# # #

The Monterey Institute of International Studies is at the forefront of international professional education, preparing students for global careers in the private, public, nonprofit and educational sectors. A private graduate institution located in Monterey, California and affiliated with Middlebury College, the Institute offers fully accredited degree programs in international business, translation and interpretation, international policy studies and language teaching. The Institute’s approximately 800 students come from more than 50 countries. For more information about the Monterey Institute, visit www.miis.edu.

The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) at the Monterey Institute strives to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by training the next generation of nonproliferation specialists and disseminating timely information and analysis. For more information about CNS, visit cns.miis.edu.