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To: "Dr. Baruch Fischhoff - Chair, National Academy Committee on Improving Intelligence"
baruch@cmu.edu

From: Lloyd Etheredge lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net

Subject: Good news! Recapitalization and President Obama's new strategic framework

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and Colleagues:

President Obama's new framework for American national security strategy, transmitted to Congress yesterday, would benefit from a range of national behavioral science investments. These connections may not yet be obvious to many foundations, NSF advisory committees, and the range of other government agencies who could help with selective recapitalization and rapid learning.

A New World of Key Actors and Relationships

From my perspective a powerful link to new recapitalization investments is the identification of a wider range of key states who are to be part of the emerging system for cognitive/political learning and policy development. As the New York Times commented in its lead story: "The principal author of the report, Ben Rhodes, a deputy national security adviser, noted in an interview that Mr. Obama's move to replace the Group of 8 with a broader group, called the Group of 20, that includes China, India and Brazil, recognized this reality. 'We are deeply committed to broadening the circle of responsible actors,' Mr. Rhodes said." [David E. Sanger and Peter Baker, "New U.S. Strategy Focuses on Managing Threats," May 27, 2010.] The new list adds, substantially, the emerging "pivotal states"/social science analysis that I discussed in earlier memoranda to your study group and to the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology (PCAST) <1> - e.g., Argentina, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey.

These startup investments should include new ("forward observation") Centers in these countries and research programs to build strong professional/educational ties and to understand differences in political psychology, emerging policy networks, and the regional leadership/emerging professional diplomacy of these countries. Strengthened capacities for content analysis and survey research also would be useful. 1% of the DNI's \$75 billion/year is \$750 million/year and only a fraction of this 1% - we could not even spend 1% wisely at this point - would revolutionize our global capacities to provide behavioral science support for rapid scientific/political learning. We need intellectual knowledge, shared cognitive maps, and - as Secretary

Clinton emphasized in her ("Previewing the Obama Administration's National Security Strategy") speech (yesterday) at Brookings, deep ties with these countries. The new national framework is an extraordinary and unprecedented historical challenge that requires hard and sophisticated work, and fresh and bold thinking about learning from the past and implementing a better future for world politics.

A Door is Open . . .

A door is open: Many behavioral science fields can contribute to the Obama Administration's agenda and this far-sighted plan for a better future. However, there is an urgent need for leadership and for us to follow-up with specific proposals.

Yours truly,
Lloyd Etheredge

<1> The Obama Administration laid the formal groundwork for the new group of 20 ("circle of responsible actors") in global governance at the global economic/financial meeting in Pittsburgh last September. Thus the group is relevant to all three of the recapitalization clusters - forward observation sites, content analysis, and rapid learning about changing global economics/finance - that I suggested earlier: (There is a reference copy of a summary letter to PCAST online at www.policyscience.net at II.A.1.).

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge - Director, Government Learning Project
Policy Sciences Center Inc.
c/o 7106 Bells Mill Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20817-1204
URL: www.policyscience.net
301-365-5241 (v); lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net (email)

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