

Although we are a large nation with abundant natural resources that takes pride in being independent, we must maintain good relations with other countries around the globe if we are to prosper. The world is increasingly interconnected; one in six jobs in America today is related to international trade. Our security, trade and cultural relations with other nations all make important contributions to our way of life.

Most people understand the need for strong military forces, but to preserve our national security we also work actively to promote freedom, human rights and democracy abroad. History has shown that democratically-elected governments do not go to war with each other.

Most Americans realize that we must import most of the oil we use to power our cars and generate electricity. As the Middle East is the world's largest source of oil, we expend great diplomatic effort to promote peace in that region in addition to maintaining naval forces in and around the Persian Gulf to assure that oil tankers can travel unimpeded.

Most of us realize that our standard of living is improved by having access to imported goods-- everything from computers to shoes. Millions of Americans also earn their livelihood by exporting American-made goods and services abroad. In Nevada, more than half of the economy is tourist related, and nearly 10 percent of visitors come from abroad. As foreign countries enjoy trade and prosperity, their people travel here and create jobs for Nevadans.

Responsibility for international relations rests with the Executive Branch of government, the Department of State in particular, but the U.S. Senate plays an important role in approving treaties and ambassadorial appointments. Congress also funds our overseas operations, such as the maintenance of our embassies and consulates abroad and the provision of foreign aid, and performs related oversight of our foreign relations.

I believe that America is enriched as we interact with other nations and cultures around the world and I support active, but prudent, engagement abroad. Please see the following menu for more information on specific foreign policy issues in which, in their letters to me, Nevadans have indicated particular interest.

For more information visit my Web-Site at <http://reid.senate.gov>