

**U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Chairman Richard Lugar
Opening Statement for Nomination Hearing
October 29, 2003**

Today the Foreign Relations Committee meets to consider three important nominations. First we will take up the nomination of Ambassador Margaret Tutwiler to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy. Next, we will address the nomination of Mr. Zalmay Khalilzad to be Ambassador to Afghanistan. Finally, we will consider the nomination of Ms. Louise Oliver to be Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization with the rank of Ambassador. We welcome our three nominees and look forward to our discussions with each of you.

Because these nominations involve distinct areas of policy, we will address them individually, beginning with Ambassador Tutwiler.

Margaret D. Tutwiler

This is Ambassador Tutwiler's third nomination hearing before this committee. She previously was confirmed as Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs during the administration of the first President Bush. Most recently, she served as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco.

Ambassador Tutwiler is eminently qualified for the position of Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy. She has spent her entire career in the fields of public relations and diplomacy. Her knowledge of the State Department and our foreign policy processes is comprehensive. Few nominees who have come before this Committee have known more about the intersection of U.S. foreign policy, business, and politics.

The job the President is asking Ambassador Tutwiler to undertake is one of the most difficult posts in the U.S. government. Americans are troubled by examples of virulent anti-American hatred in the Islamic world, and they are frustrated by public opinion in allied countries that seems increasingly ready to question American motives or blame American actions for a host of problems. In an era when allied cooperation is essential in the war against terrorism, negative public opinion overseas has enormous consequences. The governments of most nations respond to public opinion, whether it is demonstrated in the voting booth or in the streets.

The Ranking Member and I have observed for some time the unfortunate irony of American public diplomacy efforts. We have asked how the United States can be "all thumbs" at public diplomacy when we are so expert at the strategy and tactics of public relations, marketing, and advertising. Numerous reports have concluded that American public diplomacy is dysfunctional and requires major reform. That the White House determined that the Pentagon

should run the Iraqi Media Network only underscores this point.

I am deeply concerned that many of our diplomatic institutions are not constituted and funded in ways that address the new challenges of nation building in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. This Committee is engaged in a review of law to determine how these institutions can be changed to win the war on terror.

Any successful effort must include improvements in public diplomacy. The challenge for Congress is to ensure that the position of Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy has the power, the funding, and the political support required to do the job. This Committee has supported increasing funds for public diplomacy, but these funds will have to be spent efficiently if we are to explain clearly the views of the United States, successfully display the humanity and generosity of our people, and expand opportunities for interaction between Americans and foreign peoples. Creative thinking will be required. We welcome yours, Ambassador Tutwiler, and look forward to working with you.

Zalmay Khalilzad

The Committee turns to the nomination of Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad, the nominee to become the next U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan. Dr. Khalilzad's nomination reflects the best of America's traditions of diversity and opportunity. The Committee recognizes the impressive record of his life and work—from his youth as a native Dari speaker in Kabul, through his Doctorate at the University of Chicago, to his work as a professor, defense analyst, and the Special Presidential Envoy for Afghanistan. Dr. Khalilzad would bring a wealth of experience related to Afghanistan, South Asia, and U.S. foreign policy to the position of Ambassador. An American citizen by choice, his early analysis of the threat to U.S. interests from the Taliban, Bin Laden, and other terrorists was prescient.

President Bush is committed to succeeding in Afghanistan. Congress also must be committed to this goal. We cannot leave Afghanistan in a condition that breeds terrorists or festers as a symbol of American failure. Such an outcome would expand anti-U.S. resentment, weaken our international influence, undercut prospects for broader peace settlements in the region, and possibly encourage other governments to pursue weapons of mass destruction or terrorist sponsorship.

We should see Afghanistan not as a problem, but rather as an opportunity. Afghanistan was the opening front in the war on terrorism, and visible progress there will resonate for an international audience. Moreover, our experiences in Afghanistan can help us succeed in Iraq. In Afghanistan, we have broad international participation endorsed by a consensus UN Security Council resolution and our NATO allies. We are already working successfully with an indigenous government, and that government has done thoughtful planning for the future of its people.

The confirmation of an ambassador to Kabul is an important step in advancing U.S.

goals. The Committee looks forward to working with Dr. Khalilzad to accelerate reconstruction in Afghanistan.

Louise V. Oliver

We now turn to the nomination for the United States' Permanent Representative – with the rank of Ambassador – to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, known better as “UNESCO.” We welcome Ms. Louise Oliver, the President's nominee for this critical foreign policy position.

UNESCO is an important forum for intellectual discourse on topics as diverse as press freedom, safe drinking water, literacy, and HIV/AIDS education. The Bush Administration is committed to ensuring our successful re-entry into UNESCO. In fact, Mrs. Bush, who is herself a champion of literacy programs, led our delegation to the opening of UNESCO's plenary session in September.

A scan of Ms. Oliver's resume demonstrates why the President selected her for this position. She has served or continues to serve as the Chairperson of the Philanthropy Roundtable; as a trustee of the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University; as Vice Chair of the New Atlantic Initiative; and as a trustee of the American University in Bulgaria. Her background blends educational, cultural and political endeavors, and she brings administrative expertise accrued through years of operating in these capacities.

Since re-joining UNESCO in September, the United States was elected to the 58 member Executive Board, enabling our government to provide direction to the 190-member General Conference. When the United States withdrew from UNESCO in 1984, the organization was an overly politicized, inefficient, and bloated bureaucracy. Thanks in part to the efforts of the new UNESCO Director General from Japan, Koichiro Matsuura, personnel and programmatic reforms are beginning to take hold.

Critics charge that UNESCO is still too bureaucratic and that not enough money is dedicated to programs. Their concerns have merit, but the United States can more effectively promote reform if we are part of UNESCO.

Given Secretary Powell's push for improved management and accountability of our missions overseas, I am certain that he is eager for Ms. Oliver to assume her post. We are pleased by this opportunity to discuss the future of U.S. policy toward UNESCO with the nominee.

###