

**Senate Committee On Foreign Relations**  
**Chairman Senator Richard G. Lugar**  
**Opening Statement for Nomination Hearing on**  
**Senator Danforth**  
**June 17, 2004**

We now turn to the nomination of Senator John Danforth for the position of Permanent Representative to the United Nations. As a result of his three distinguished terms as a U.S. Senator from Missouri, he is well known to many members of this Committee, eight of whom served with Senator Danforth in this body. I had the good fortune of entering the Senate with John Danforth in the class of 1977, as did Senator Sarbanes and Senator Hatch. Those of us who had the privilege to serve with him can attest to his integrity, his intellect, his sound judgment, and his good humor. President Bush has made a wise choice for an extremely important position.

The job before Senator Danforth is a daunting one that will require all of his talents and experience. As the Security Council vote last week on Iraq demonstrated, critical decisions are being made at the U.N. that have a huge impact on the outcome in Iraq and the welfare of our troops there. Success in Iraq is unlikely to be achieved without the active cooperation of other nations reinforced by the international legitimacy that can be secured at the United Nations.

Beyond Iraq, that same week, the U.N. Security Council met to discuss sanctions on Liberia, the peacekeeping mission in Cyprus, and weapons of mass destruction. Other U.N. bodies addressed issues as divergent as women's rights, the need for greater access to potable water, efforts to expand freedom of expression, and the role that primary education plays in childhood development. The United Nations remains the focal point of our multi-lateral diplomacy.

Being the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations requires one not only to deal with policies and politics in New York, it requires one to manage those same issues back here in Washington where many in Congress are skeptical of U.N. processes. Our U.N. Ambassador must be able to explain to Congress why it is important to pay our U.N. dues on time and why peacekeeping operations can benefit the United States. Every U.N. peacekeeper in Congo, Haiti, and East Timor allows U.S. troops to focus on missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere.

At the same time our ambassador must be a forceful spokesman for greater efficiency and transparency at the U.N. and an intolerance of corruption. The recent revelations regarding the Oil-for-Food program remind us that close oversight must be part of our role at the United Nations.

Senator Danforth's years of experience in Washington ensure that he will keep Congress informed about U.S. policies at the United Nations. His talents as a bridge-builder and a communicator will serve him well as he seeks to articulate both to the world and to Congress the nuances of his work in New York.

Since leaving the Senate, Senator Danforth has continued his commitment to public service. From 1999 to 2001, he headed the independent inquiry into the Branch Davidian standoff in Waco, Texas. Since September 2001, he has served as President Bush's Special Envoy for Peace in Sudan, where he has devoted his time and talents to reducing the suffering in that troubled nation. In this capacity he has made seven trips to Sudan and other nations in the region. This experience will be particularly useful when the U.N. Security Council begins debate on whether to send peacekeepers to try to maintain the fragile peace framework signed in Nairobi on June 5. We wish him success in this

endeavor and pray that this framework evolves into a formal peace agreement that finally ends the civil war that has resulted in more than 2 million deaths and more than 4 million displaced persons.

The United States and the United Nations must work together in Sudan, Iraq, Haiti, Afghanistan, and many other trouble spots throughout the world. American credibility in the world, progress in the war on terrorism, and our relationships with our allies will be greatly affected by what can be accomplished at the U.N. in the coming years. Senator Danforth is eminently qualified to meet these and other challenges. We recognize the deep personal commitment necessary to undertake this difficult assignment, and we are grateful that a leader of his stature is willing to step forward.

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