

**U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**Chairman Richard G. Lugar**  
**Opening Statement for**  
**Nomination Hearing**  
**July 27, 2005**

Today, the Foreign Relations Committee meets to consider four distinguished nominees to key ambassadorial posts. Ambassador William Burns has been nominated to be Ambassador to the Russian Federation; Mr. William Timken, Jr., has been nominated to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany; Ambassador Richard Jones has been nominated to be Ambassador to Israel; and Ambassador Francis Ricciardone has been nominated to be Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt. We admire the accomplishments of these nominees and are pleased to have them with us today.

Ambassador Bill Burns has served as Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs since 2001. Prior to his current position, he served as U.S. Ambassador to Jordan and Special Assistant to the Secretary of State. He also has been posted to the U.S. embassy in Moscow and the National Security Council.

Russia is a vitally important country with which the United States must have a constructive relationship. In February and June of this year, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held hearings on the status of democracy in Russia and U.S. policy toward Russia. I noted in both of those hearings that President Putin's increasingly authoritarian style, his control of the media, and his retribution against political opponents have left the fate of democracy in Russia more ambiguous than at any time since the collapse of the Communist system. This has complicated the U.S. – Russian relationship and called into doubt some of the basic tenets of engagement pursued by both the Clinton and Bush Administrations.

Responding to these troubling developments by attempting to isolate Russia, however, is likely to be self-defeating and harmful to American interests. The dilemma for American policymakers is how to strengthen Russia's respect for democracy while simultaneously advancing cooperation with Russia on issues that are important to American security and prosperity. Clearly, we must continue to cooperate with Moscow in the fight against terrorism and the vital work of the Nunn-Lugar program. Last week the Senate underscored the importance of securing and destroying Russia's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons by approving an amendment to eliminate conditions on the Nunn-Lugar program by a vote of 78-19. As this work continues, we must press Russia to observe democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Our second nominee, Mr. William Timken, Jr. has been nominated to be Ambassador to Germany. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Timken Company in Canton, Ohio, a Fortune 500 corporation. After receiving his MBA from Harvard Business School, Mr. Timken joined The Timken Company, and ultimately became Chairman and CEO. He continues to be active in the business community, serving on several boards, including the Ohio Business Roundtable and the National Association of Manufacturers. He also has received several awards, including the State of Ohio Governor's Award.

German-American relations have been a focal point of American involvement in Europe since the end of World War II. Germany stands at the center of European affairs and is a key partner in U.S. relations with our European allies in NATO and the European Union.

Since the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, Germany has provided invaluable assistance to the United States in the campaign against terrorism. However, the German-American relationship has been strained by differences over Iraq. I am encouraged that leaders of both countries are working to improve bilateral relations, as evidenced this year by President Bush's visit to Germany in February and Chancellor

Schroeder's visit to Washington in June. During that June visit, Chancellor Schroeder met with the Foreign Relations Committee and underscored the importance of continuing the positive momentum of U.S.-German relations.

Chancellor Schroeder made a surprise announcement last May that he would seek early national elections, which are now set for September 18. Our embassy must follow the implications of these elections closely, and I am hopeful that the Senate will move expeditiously to put our ambassador in place for this critical period.

Ambassador Dick Jones, who is nominated to be Ambassador to Israel, is a career member of the Foreign Service and currently serves as the Senior Advisor and Coordinator for Iraq Policy at the Department of State. He has extraordinary ambassadorial experience, having previously served as our Ambassador to Kuwait, Kazakhstan and Lebanon.

Israel is one of our most important allies. Our long friendship has been based on the close ties between the American and Israeli people, our strategic partnership and our common democratic traditions. The United States provides more foreign assistance to Israel than to any other nation.

As Secretary Rice said a few days ago during her trip to Israel, both Israel and the Palestinian Authority recognize the enormous stake they have in the success of the impending Israeli withdrawal from Gaza as a step on the road to peace. Advancement of the peaceful two-state solution envisioned in the Road Map is urgently needed by the Israelis and Palestinians and is critical to achieving success in the global war on terrorism. Our next ambassador will play a key role in this process, as well as continuing the historic relationship between our two countries.

Ambassador Frank Ricciardone, Jr., who is nominated to be Ambassador to Egypt, is also a career member of the Foreign Service and was our Ambassador to the Philippines and Palau. He previously has served at posts in Egypt, as well as in Jordan, Turkey and the United Kingdom. He has served in two multinational military deployments: as chief of the Civilian Observer Unit of the Multinational Force and Observers in Egypt's Sinai Desert, and as Political Advisor to the U.S. and Turkish commanding generals of Operation Provide Comfort, based in Turkey and operating in Iraq.

Egypt plays a leading role in the Arab world, and has been an important friend to the United States. Its active opposition to terrorism, commitment to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and cooperation on defense matters are critical to U.S. engagement in the Middle East. I hope that the Administration and our next ambassador will continue to press the cause for democracy in Egypt and build on the momentum that President Mubarak has created.

The Foreign Relations Committee extends its support and sympathy to the people of Egypt in the wake of the terrible bombing on July 23 in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. I am pleased that President Bush has offered assistance to the Government of Egypt to help the victims and bring the perpetrators of these acts to justice.

I congratulate each of you on your nominations. If you are summarizing a statement, the text of your entire presentation will be included in the hearing record. Also, please introduce family and friends that may have accompanied you on this important occasion.

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