

**Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**Chairman Richard G. Lugar**  
**Opening Statement for**  
**Nominations Hearing**  
**September 30, 2005**

The Committee on Foreign Relations meets today to consider four important nominations for positions in the Department of State and USAID. President Bush has nominated Dr. John Hillen to be Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs; Mr. Barry Lowenkron to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; Dr. Kent Hill to be Assistant Administrator of USAID for Global Health; and Ms. Jacqueline Schafer to be Assistant Administrator of USAID for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade. We welcome these four distinguished nominees and look forward to our discussions with them.

Dr. John Hillen is President of American Management Systems, Inc. Prior to his business career, he worked as a defense analyst for a variety of think tanks, including the Heritage Foundation, the Council on Foreign Relations and the Center for Strategic and International Studies, accumulating a significant body of published work and commentary. From 1988 to 2000, he served in the United States Army and Army Reserve in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. He received the Bronze Star for Actions in Combat in Iraq in 1991.

As Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs, Dr. Hillen would lead a Bureau with growing responsibilities in the post-9/11 world. The Bureau works closely with the Defense Department to enhance security relationships with allies and friends. Among other missions, it negotiates status of forces and base access agreements, regulates arms transfers, combats illegal trafficking in small arms and light weapons, and helps coordinate assistance in the event of natural disasters overseas. The performance of the Political-Military Affairs Bureau is directly related to our success in the war on terrorism and our efforts to maintain regional stability.

Our second nominee, Mr. Barry Lowenkron is Principal Deputy Director of the Policy Planning Staff of the Department of State. Over a career spanning almost 30 years, he also has served at the NSC, as an advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and at the CIA.

As Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DLR), the nominee would represent the United States' views in the international arena on critical issues that reflect the founding principles of American society. He also would oversee the preparation of annual reports on human rights and religious freedom that are studied very closely by Congress and interested parties throughout the world. The United States is a leading advocate for improvement in human rights practices, including respect for democracy and religious freedom. The Assistant Secretary of DLR plays a fundamental role in ensuring that these interests remain a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy.

Our third nominee, Dr. Kent Hill is currently USAID's Acting Assistant Administrator for Global Health. He served as Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia from 2001 until the beginning of this year. Prior to his government service, Dr. Hill was the President of Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Massachusetts and was the President of the Institute of Religion and Democracy.

As Assistant Administrator for Global Health, Dr. Hill would be responsible for USAID's efforts related to some of the most important and challenging health issues of our time, including the HIV/AIDS crisis, a resurgence in tuberculosis, the scourge of malaria, and the potential threat from avian influenza.

The United States has strong national security and humanitarian interests in supporting programs aimed at ending these global health crises. The HIV/AIDS pandemic is devastating not only the lives of individuals, but also the social fabric of entire nations. An influenza pandemic, especially one that might originate from the H5N1 strain of avian influenza, is a threat to the world community. It is imperative that USAID resources and expertise contribute to American efforts to improve global health and prevent the spread of disease.

Our final nominee, Ms. Jacqueline Schafer, has been the Deputy Assistant Administrator of USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade since 2002. Over the past thirty years, she has served in a wide variety of public service management positions, including Director of the California Department of Fish and Game, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, and as a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality in the Executive Office of the President. In addition, she has roots on Capitol Hill, having worked on the staff of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

As Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade, Ms. Schafer would be responsible for programs related to poverty reduction, trade capacity building, education, micro-enterprise lending, economic infrastructure, environmental protection, natural resources management, women in development, and other topics. The Bureau provides technical advice and support to the regional bureaus and field missions. It also interacts closely with the Millennium Challenge Corporation by implementing the MCC's Threshold Program, which issues grants to help nations that nearly qualified for regular MCC assistance.

I congratulate each of our nominees. I ask that you deliver your statements in the order that you were introduced. 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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