

**Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**Chairman Richard G. Lugar**  
**Opening Statement for**  
**Nominations Hearing**  
**October 25, 2005**

The Foreign Relations Committee meets today to consider three nominations to key positions at the State Department. President Bush has nominated Dr. Jeffrey Bergner to be Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs; Ambassador Ellen Sauerbrey to be Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration; and Ambassador Anne Patterson to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. We welcome these three distinguished nominees and look forward to our discussions with them.

It is a personal pleasure to chair the nomination hearing of Jeff Bergner. I have known Jeff for 27 years, and he is a superb choice to lead the Legislative Affairs Bureau at the State Department. Jeff has excelled in academia, business, and government service. Currently, he is a senior fellow with the German Marshall Fund and an Adjunct Professor of National Security Studies at Georgetown University. Prior to that, he founded and managed a successful government relations consulting firm here in Washington. He is also an accomplished author of scholarly books and articles.

Early in my Senate career, Jeff served as my Legislative Director and Chief of Staff. When I had the honor of chairing the Foreign Relations Committee the first time, in the mid-1980s, I selected Jeff to be the Staff Director. He was not only highly successful in managing the Committee and moving legislation, he was a consensus builder and an outstanding liaison to both Congressional and Administration offices. Jeff combines a deep theoretical understanding of U.S. foreign policy with pragmatic political instincts. His talents and experience make him an ideal candidate for this position.

The Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs plays a unique role in the Congressional-Executive interaction on foreign affairs. With shared constitutional powers, the two branches of government often struggle to develop a working consensus on policies that serve the national security interest. The State Department, supported by a well-organized and well-run Bureau of Legislative Affairs, can be the nexus where misunderstandings are sorted out, ideas are vetted, and gaps in communication are bridged.

My longstanding hope is that the Bureau will become more active and more visible, especially during the congressional budget process. The State Department has paid insufficient attention to authorization legislation -- routinely relying on appropriations bills for policy changes. It also could do more to support the President's requests for the 150 Account, which funds foreign policy activities. Since September 11, interest in foreign policy in Congress has intensified, but this interest has not always been translated into support for well-funded foreign policy capabilities and programs.

Our second nominee is Ambassador Ellen Sauerbrey, who has been nominated to be the Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration. Ambassador Sauerbrey has had a distinguished career in public service, including 16 years as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. From 1986 to 1994 she served as Minority Leader in that body. She was the Republican nominee for governor of Maryland in both 1994 and 1998, as well as a public affairs commentator on Maryland radio and television stations. Beyond political office, she has served in positions for many charitable and civic groups, including the Council on Economic Education in Maryland and Franklin Square Hospital.

In 2001, Ambassador Sauerbrey served as one of the U.S. delegates to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, and since 2001 she has been the U.S. Representative to the U.N. Commission on the Status of

Women. During this time she has been involved with some of the most important issues that would confront her as Assistant Secretary, including human trafficking, and the plight of women in conflict.

The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration is at the center of the federal government's efforts to assist refugees who have been displaced by war or other crises. The United States has welcomed refugees from more than fifty nations and annually accepts more refugees than all other nations combined. We are a nation that was founded by people seeking a better life, many of whom were fleeing persecution, war, or other desperate circumstances. I am proud of this tradition and believe that we are a stronger nation because of it.

In addressing refugee and migration issues, the Bureau must work closely with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, nongovernmental organizations, the United Nations, and foreign governments. We should consider how the United States can improve the efficiency and magnitude of our refugee response. Among other priorities, the next Assistant Secretary should work to expand the number of refugees accepted by other governments, improve our ability to provide security for humanitarian aid personnel in refugee areas, and deal with the special problems of internally displaced persons who have not crossed an international border and therefore do not have the same protection as international refugees.

Our third nominee is Ambassador Anne Patterson, who is nominated to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. Ambassador Patterson currently serves as the U.S. Deputy Representative to the United Nations. From January to August of this year, she was Acting Permanent U.S. Representative to the U.N. Prior to her time in New York, Ambassador Patterson was Deputy Inspector General at the Department of State and Ambassador to Colombia and to El Salvador. A member of the Senior Foreign Service, she has served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Western Hemisphere Bureau and as Office Director for the Andes region. She also has been posted to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and to our embassy in Saudi Arabia, among other important assignments.

As Assistant Secretary, Ambassador Patterson would be in charge of the State Department's efforts to reduce the entry of illegal drugs into the United States and to minimize the impact of international crime on U.S. citizens.

According to a recent RAND study, the percentage of the U.S. population reporting past-month use of some illicit drug declined by half between 1985 and 1992. Since then, however, past-month illicit drug use is up by about a third.

Today, 90 percent of the cocaine that is used in the United States still comes from Colombia. The Committee is eager to learn Ambassador Patterson's views on how Plan Colombia can be improved. We want to ensure that resources are being used effectively and that the Plan continues to contribute to stability in the region. We have also been concerned about poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, which is responsible for nearly 90 percent of the world's supply of opium, the raw material of heroin. We look forward to engaging Ambassador Patterson on ideas for working with the international community to restrain this drug trade.

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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