

**Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**Chairman Richard G. Lugar**  
**Opening Statement for**  
**Nomination of John Bolton**  
**July 27, 2006**

The Foreign Relations Committee meets today to consider President Bush's nomination of John Bolton to be U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. We welcome back Ambassador Bolton. This is the third Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing at which he has testified since his appointment less than one year ago. In addition, in February he hosted a delegation of the Foreign Relations Committee that traveled to the United Nations. I wish that all members of the Committee had been able to make this journey to New York with us. On that occasion, Senator Coleman, Senator Voinovich, and I had the opportunity to meet with a number of key individuals and groups involved in deliberations on U.N. reform. The visit was especially informative on the complexity of the reform debate in New York and on the challenges faced by the U.S. delegation.

In the Spring of 2005, our Committee spent several weeks reviewing the nominee's qualifications for this post. Few Executive Branch nominees have ever received more scrutiny than Ambassador Bolton. By any measure, this was an exhaustive review, particularly for a nominee who was acknowledged to be highly experienced in the subject matter he would be overseeing and who had been confirmed five times previously by the Senate.

In the end, despite two majority votes on the Senate floor, the nomination did not receive the 60 votes necessary to bring debate to a conclusion. President Bush subsequently exercised his authority to give the nominee a recess appointment.

We have returned to the nomination, because the President has resubmitted the nominee for our consideration. In doing so, he has expressed his view that Ambassador Bolton is important to the implementation of U.S. policies at the United Nations and to broader U.S. goals on the global stage. The President has made clear that this is not a casual appointment. He wants a specific person to do a specific job. We should recognize that the UN Ambassador always is closely associated with the President and the Secretary of State. They are responsible for what the Ambassador says and does, and they can dismiss the Ambassador if he does not follow their directives. Consequently, there are few positions in government in which the President should have more latitude in choosing his nominee.

As we evaluate the nominee, we should not lose sight of the larger national security issues concerning UN reform and international diplomacy that are central to this nomination. Our nation is confronted, as it was last year, by serious diplomatic challenges that will have a profound effect on U.S. national security. At the heart of our efforts to resolve these issues is a basic question: can the United States build relationships and alliances around the world that will give us the tools we need to protect our national security?

In almost every recent case, the Bush administration has embraced a multi-lateral dimension to problem solving that recognizes that we need allies. As we attempt to reverse the weapons programs of North Korea, we are depending heavily on the Six-Party Talks that involve China, Japan, Russia, and South Korea. As we attempt to stop the Iranian nuclear program, we have utilized negotiations carried out by Great Britain, France, and Germany and we have sought the U.N. Security Council votes of Russia, China, and others. Throughout our experience in Iraq, we have requested the help of countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and elsewhere to support the nascent Iraqi government, help train its army, and generally contribute to stability in the region. As we search for ways to

promote stability on the Israeli-Lebanese border, an international peacekeeping force is being considered as a possible solution. In Afghanistan, we have turned some U.S. military missions over to our NATO allies, who are increasing their contributions. In what may be the most important strategic diplomatic initiative undertaken by the Bush Administration, the United States is seeking a groundbreaking partnership with India. In each of these cases, and many others, success depends on the reserve of support that we can tap with our allies and friends. It depends on the willingness of other nations to expand the options and resources that can be applied to solving problems that threaten our security.

The process of building international relationships cannot be reserved for times of crisis. It must be a constant preoccupation of any administration, and it must be the core diplomatic mission of our UN Ambassador.

During the last year, Ambassador Bolton has shared with us his efforts at reforming the United Nations and his efforts to represent our nation in that forum. We are pleased to have an opportunity today not only to examine his qualifications, but also to review the status of several crucial initiatives that he is overseeing in New York.

President Bush has selected John Bolton, a nominee of experience and accomplishment, to be his spokesman and representative at the United Nations. Given the importance of this position, it is vital that we evaluate the nominee fairly and expeditiously. We look forward to learning how the nominee has worked on behalf of the President and the Secretary of State during the past year and what he would do in coming years if he is confirmed.

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