

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Senator Richard G. Lugar
Statement for Nomination Hearing of Henrietta Holsman Fore
July 24, 2007

I join in welcoming Henrietta Fore for her confirmation hearing before the Committee today. I appreciate the cooperation she has shown to the Committee throughout her tenure at the State Department.

Ms. Fore is before the Committee to be considered for confirmation as the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development. She is already serving as the Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance at the State Department, a position created by Secretary Rice.

If confirmed for this dual-hatted role, Ms. Fore will be tasked with overseeing and coordinating our government's multi-faceted outreach to countries where poverty and suffering create both a humanitarian imperative and a new security risk. Obviously, Secretary Rice has the highest regard for the nominee's abilities. She has also received a sterling endorsement from the Foreign Affairs Council, an umbrella group of 11 organizations that focus on foreign policy management. I ask that the letter, written by the Council's President, Tom Boyatt, be inserted in the record.

Americans have long supported their government's work to save lives and alleviate human misery. Since 9/11 and the harboring of terrorists in Afghanistan, we have acquired new insights into how failing states can provide fertile ground for nurturing global terrorism. This administration has taken on the challenge by making new commitments to international economic development. It has increased foreign aid spending and created new funding mechanisms. It has boosted America's focus on crises, such as the HIV-AIDS epidemic, that can set developing societies back decades. It is preparing a response capability to rush civilians and reconstruction expertise to countries devastated by conflict. And it has sought to promote good government, sound economic policies, and strong social programs focused on human development in all poor nations around the world.

Secretary Rice's instinct to seek greater coordination and clarity in the new firmament of foreign assistance is on the mark. We need to meld new activities in a constructive way with our traditional approaches. We need to prioritize our goals and design our strategies in a way that is transparent to policymakers, legislators and recipients alike. We need to be able to measure, analyze and assess outcomes so that we can tell if we are making a difference. Every dollar of foreign assistance needs to count toward our hopes for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

In the two key roles of USAID Administrator and director of the process of foreign aid coordination that Secretary Rice initiated a little more than a year ago, the Congress is looking for leadership that strikes the appropriate balance between the need for strategic direction from headquarters and flexibility in the field to address the unique challenges presented by each recipient country.

To inform our own views, I have directed the Republican staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to undertake a field-based study of our foreign assistance efforts. Now ongoing, we are looking at assistance funded by the State Department, USAID, the Defense Department and other agencies in more than twenty countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. We are paying particular attention to the new coordination process to see how it is mirrored in the field. We are looking at USAID programs, Section 1206 security assistance, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) as well as how programs run by such other U.S. government departments as Agriculture, Treasury and Homeland Security are coordinated at the embassy level.

In a previous staff report, Embassies as Command Posts in the Campaign Against Terror, it was recommended that the Secretary of State should insist that all security assistance, including Section 1206 funding, be included under her authority in the new foreign assistance coordination process. Ms. Fore, the Committee today would be interested how you view your own role in making certain that our response to violent extremism is calibrated, supported by an appropriate mix of civilian and military foreign aid.

I plan to share the findings of our current study with you once it is completed. I welcome you to the Committee and look forward to your testimony.

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