

# BUSINESS MEETING

*Tuesday, July 26, 2011*

U.S. SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1           The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:32 p.m. in Room S-116, The Capitol,  
2 Hon. John F. Kerry, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3           **PRESENT.** Senators Kerry [presiding], Boxer, Menendez, Cardin, Casey, Shaheen,  
4 Coons, Udall, Lugar, Risch, Rubio, Isakson, and Barrasso.

## OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN F. KERRY, U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS

5           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Can we bring the committee to order, please? Thank you very  
6 much.

7           Thank you, everybody, for getting a quorum here. I think this committee has  
8 really been terrific both this year and last year, actually, at doing that. And I thank  
9 everybody for helping me do it, because it really speeds the process up for everybody  
10 else.

11           Inevitably, in the course of our lives here in the United States Senate, where we  
12 spend an enormous amount of our time, needless to say, there comes a moment where  
13 people who have given an unbelievable amount of service move on to the next stage of  
14 life. And that moment has arrived for one of our most valued and long-time serving  
15 staff members, Ed Levine, who is going to be retiring at the end of this week.

16           Ed came to the United States Senate in 1976, which means that he's been here for  
17 35 years, which is longer than most of us have. And he has probably more knowledge  
18 about the Senate than all of us put together.

1           A lot of you, I think, got to know him, perhaps for the first time, in the crucial role  
2 that he played in the passage of the new START Treaty last year. And I must say, that  
3 came at some personal cost to him, because his father had just passed away. And  
4 nevertheless, he was here, front and center, doing his job.

5           I know Dick Lugar will join me in affirming that Ed has been one of the most  
6 incredibly knowledgeable, painstakingly detailed, thoughtful assets in the fight against  
7 the spread of nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction, actually, as a whole.

8           He started working at the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence literally when  
9 that committee was formed. And then he came to the Foreign Relations Committee in  
10 1997, working first for then-Senator Biden who nicknamed him "Fast Eddie."

11           [Laughter.]

12           **THE CHAIRMAN.** And the nickname has stuck.

13           And then working for me, I think it is fair to say he has played sort of one of the  
14 behind-the-scenes critical roles in bringing the Cold War to a peaceful close. He has  
15 worked tirelessly in the years since to strengthen our ability to stop terrorists from  
16 getting their hands on the world's most dangerous weapons.

17           I will personally miss the incredibly wise counsel and the depth of his  
18 institutional knowledge.

19           We were doing the START Treaty in the war room here. You didn't have to have  
20 a lot of books. You could just go to Ed and say, "What's the story here?" And he usually  
21 had this encyclopedic memory about who did what when. And that has been invaluable  
22 to the committee.

23           So, Ed, to you, we're going to have a party for you next week, which everybody  
24 here is invited to. I think that's next Wednesday -- am I correct? -- in the Foreign  
25 Relations Committee hearing room. And we look forward to welcoming everybody  
26 there, and we'll have a little more to say about him then, try to embarrass the hell out of  
27 him.

28           [Laughter.]

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** But, Eddie, thank you. You've done a great job.

2           [Applause.]

3           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Also, a bittersweet privilege for me to share with you the  
4 departure of our deputy staff director, Doug Frantz.

5           Doug came to the committee in 2009. I bet a lot of people don't realize -- it's  
6 funny, some of the folks who work here on both sides of the aisle have enormous  
7 reservoirs of history when they come here. And a lot of members never really get to  
8 know that, to some degree.

9           But Doug came here after a prestigious career as an award-winning journalist  
10 who had worked for this country's top newspapers. He had been managing editor of the  
11 Los Angeles Times. He's written something like a dozen highly acclaimed books, several  
12 with his very talented wife, Catherine.

13           And I managed to lure him from the glamour of the newsroom, with the promise  
14 that he could use his talents to help the committee be able to do something that we need  
15 to do better, which is oversight in our constitutional responsibilities. And he succeeded  
16 in that, beyond my expectations.

17           He produced reports on the situation in Yemen, violence along the Mexican  
18 border. Perhaps most significantly, he produced a prescient analysis of the corruption in  
19 the Afghan Government that had a great impact within the Obama Administration, the  
20 State Department, and our aid programs.

21           I think he has provided an intellectual center for a lot of the efforts of the staff and  
22 brought out the best in them. He earned their respect and their trust, and I know a lot of  
23 them are very sorry to see him go.

24           He is going because he really has been offered an extraordinary economic  
25 opportunity, the kind of thing that comes along maybe once in a lifetime. And he  
26 decided, for he and his family, it was something, as much as he loves his work here, that  
27 he simply could not indeed say no to. And I understand that.

1           So, I will, again, miss Doug. We took trips together to Sudan, Egypt, Afghanistan.  
2           He's done a lot of thinking about other places, Pakistan, and elsewhere.

3           And, Doug, we are deeply appreciative. Thank you for your contribution.

4           [Applause.]

5           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Lugar?

6           **SENATOR LUGAR.** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate being given an opportunity to join  
7           you in saying a word of praise for Ed Levine.

8           I admire, as you do, his lifetime of service to the United States Senate. I've known  
9           Ed for many years, going back to the mention you made of the Select Committee on  
10          Intelligence. His quiet professionalism, his detention to detail, and his perfection and his  
11          diligence have benefited both Democrats and Republicans in the executive and  
12          legislative branches, and all of countless staff of many committees and offices who have  
13          worked with him over the last 35 years.

14          I join you in extolling his service today. He has fairly earned his reputation as a  
15          leading professional. His departure will be felt on both sides of the aisle. And we wish  
16          him and his family many happy years in the future, and hope they will stay closely in  
17          touch with us.

18          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you, Senator Lugar.

19          [Applause.]

20          **THE CHAIRMAN.** That is shared by all.

21          Well, folks, we now have four legislative items, five treaties, 11 nominations, and  
22          two Foreign Service Officer promotion lists on the agenda.

23          The legislative items are S. 1280, which is a bill introduced by Senators Isakson,  
24          Boxer, and Durbin, to amend the Peace Corps Act.

25          We have S. Res. 216, a resolution introduced by Senator Boxer and Senator  
26          DeMint to encourage women's political participation in Saudi Arabia.

27          S. Con. Res. 17, which is a concurrent resolution introduced by Senators  
28          Menendez, Barrasso, Cardin, Inhofe, and others, expressing the sense of Congress that

1 Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation  
2 Organization.

3 And S. Res. 175, a resolution introduced by Senator Shaheen, expressing the sense  
4 of the Senate with respect to the ongoing violations of the territorial integrity and  
5 sovereignty of Georgia.

6 And we made a couple of late changes to the agenda. There was a request to  
7 defer the consideration of the Farrar nomination and a request from Senator Webb that  
8 we defer consideration of the resolution on the Mekong Delta, which we will do.

9 He is presiding, which is why he is not here now.

10 I understand that there may be a little bit of need for some discussion about a  
11 couple of these things, which we welcome.

12 And first on the Peace Corps bill, Senator Isakson Senator Boxer, Senator Durbin,  
13 do you want to start off?

14 **SENATOR ISAKSON.** Let me just thank the Chair, and let me thank Senator Boxer  
15 and her staff. And let me thank Aaron Williams of the Peace Corps.

16 A lot of work has been done on this legislation. It is named after a constituent of  
17 mine who was brutally murdered in Benin in West Africa. It also has picked the other  
18 victims of rape and sexual violence that have taken place in the Peace Corps.

19 And what it does is codifies the now-existing victims advocate in the Peace Corps  
20 and designates the Peace Corps to designate a current employee in each country as a  
21 victims advocate within the country, and for the confidentiality, which is most  
22 important, so Peace Corps volunteers can report potential bad behavior and have the  
23 protection that it's not learned by the person they're reporting on.

24 We basically take the Department of Defense confidentiality program, which was  
25 worked out over 3 or 4 years ago, and codify it in the Peace Corps as a mechanism for  
26 which confidentiality goes to the Peace Corps volunteers.

27 So I want to thank the members of the committee who worked on it. I want to  
28 thank Senator Boxer, in particular, for her work on it.

1 Mr. Chairman, we wouldn't be here without you, so thank you very much.

2 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Well, I'm delighted. I appreciate your advocacy on this. I'm  
3 glad we were able to work through everything on it. You've been terrific on it.

4 **SENATOR BOXER.** Mr. Chairman?

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Boxer?

6 **SENATOR BOXER.** Just 30 seconds.

7 I so appreciated Senator Isakson's leadership on this. He had a real story of a real  
8 constituent who was brutally attacked, and she's gone. And he said we have to learn  
9 from this.

10 And we traveled to China together with the leadership trip, and we met with  
11 many of the Peace Corps volunteers there, and they so much love that program. It's a  
12 great program, but it has issues.

13 And I, again, want to just say I think this is a big step forward, and it's only going  
14 to strengthen the Peace Corps.

15 So thank you.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I concur completely. It's, I think, very important, and I have  
17 great respect for your pursuit on this. It's been really important. And your constituents  
18 are well-served.

19 Senator Udall, I understand you have an amendment that you may want to  
20 withdraw, but you want to talk about it?

21 **SENATOR UDALL.** Yes, I would like to talk about it.

22 Senator Isakson, I first want to congratulate you and Senator Boxer and all the  
23 other Senators that have worked with you on this amendment, because I think the  
24 incident of Kate Puzey and what happened to her is not just an isolated one.

25 And in fact, I'm going to read a portion of testimony of another volunteer that I  
26 think went through a really degrading kind of situation, so I think that you're really  
27 tackling something that is very, very important.

1           And in the course of offering my amendment, I've heard back from the Peace  
2 Corps. I understand very much that the Peace Corps feels that this tradition of serving  
3 alone is a very important one to them, and that my amendment, which talks about  
4 pairing or a buddy system, something along that line, they feel that that would interfere  
5 with their tradition.

6           I have an aunt who served in the Peace Corps, and she explained to me that  
7 whole tradition that she went through. And I understand it very well. But it's clear to  
8 me that there are circumstances that are very, very serious here.

9           And just to highlight one, there is a Peace Corps volunteer, 22 years of age, Carol  
10 Marie Clark, and she came in to tell her story, a very painful story, before the House  
11 Foreign Relations Committee.

12           Twenty-two-years-old, she was raped. As a result of the rape, she became  
13 pregnant. And when she sought help from a Peace Corps medical officer, she was told,  
14 and this was her testimony in front of the committee, she said, "He was," referring to the  
15 Peace Corps medical officer, "He was disgusted with all of the volunteers and that  
16 anything that happened to us was our own fault."

17           So, I mean, to me, this is kind of an attitude within the Peace Corps that I think  
18 they need to do something about. And I think it's what your legislation is all about.

19           My amendment would do just a couple of things -- allow volunteers to have the  
20 option of serving overseas with another Peace Corps volunteer, following on kind of a  
21 buddy system that has been developed in the military, but the pattern also has been used  
22 in educational institutions. And the State Department in fact recommends it for people  
23 that are traveling overseas, especially women that are traveling alone in some of these  
24 dangerous situations.

25           The director would then assign another suitable volunteer to help in these  
26 overseas situations. It would provide an additional layer of defense against would-be  
27 perpetrators and provide victims with a first responder who is trained to assist victims in

1 the aftermath of an incident before these victims advocates arrive on the locality. And as  
2 you know, there aren't very many of them.

3 So with that, let me just say I offer my amendment, and I know that you want to  
4 respond to that, or others may want to respond to it. And then I may have an additional  
5 statement after that.

6 And, Chairman Kerry, I'd like to put my full statement in the record, because it  
7 details some of the more outrageous incidents that I think are out there that I think  
8 Senator Isakson and Senator Boxer and others are trying to deal with that have  
9 cosponsored this.

10 The Chairman. Without objection, the full statement will be placed in the record.

**[The prepared statement of Senator Udall follows:]**

**[COMMITTEE INSERT]**

11 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Isakson?

12 **SENATOR ISAKSON.** Mr. Chairman, I spoke with Senator Udall this morning. We  
13 had a great conversation about his intent.

14 I also want the committee to know I was present when this constituent testified  
15 before the House Foreign Relations, as well as three other victims of rape and sexual  
16 assault that were Peace Corps volunteers.

17 And a significant portion of this, in terms of codifying the victims advocate, is  
18 directly in response to what happened in that particular issue.

19 And I think whatever culture may have existed at a time of the Peace Corps no  
20 longer does exist.

21 I want to comment on, in particular, Aaron Williams' dedication to addressing the  
22 concerns of the Puzey family and the volunteers who testified.

23 And I think in this legislation, in terms of that testimony, we are addressing on  
24 point both the confidentiality they need as well as the advocacy they deserve.

25 As far as the pairing within country, we work very hard to see to it this bill does  
26 not raise costs. We used existing resources within the Peace Corps to do so. We codified



1 certain things they have done, so this would be an expense-neutral type of piece of  
2 legislation.

3 I promised Senator Udall that I would work with him on this concept, and I will  
4 work with him on this concept. But I would be reluctant to put it in this bill at this time,  
5 because of the work we have done, Mr. Chairman, with you and your staff and others to  
6 ensure there's not an additional cost.

7 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Well, I appreciate that, Senator Isakson.

8 I would just say quickly I really appreciate what you're trying to achieve here,  
9 and it's very valuable.

10 There is a little bit of debate about whether or not it would actually achieve it. I  
11 mean, there are some folks who are concerned that you can attract more attention, that it  
12 doesn't integrate people as well as they want to integrate them. And there are other  
13 issues.

14 So I think the thing to do is to work as we go forward.

15 It certainly underscores that the Peace Corps is clustering some volunteers. And  
16 over a third of the volunteers are living within 6 miles of another volunteer. Now, 6  
17 miles is a long way, obviously.

18 But I appreciate your willingness not to insist on this at this time. I think what we  
19 need to do is work with the Peace Corps and work together with Senator Isakson and  
20 Senator Boxer and see.

21 But I think flagging this is very important. And I think it's served a good  
22 purpose.

23 Senator Coons?

24 **SENATOR COONS.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to speak briefly.

25 I commend Senator Boxer and Senator Isakson for their persistent, patient  
26 engagement and effective advocacy.

27 Senator Isakson and I traveled to Benin to follow up on the Kate Puzey case.  
28 Although raised in Georgia, her family has Delaware roots.

1           And we had very constructive conversations with the Peace Corps in country, and  
2 I'm confident Senator Isakson's work on this bill has produced a mechanism for  
3 addressing confidentiality protection of whistleblowers and will significantly improve  
4 the Peace Corps and deal with these very difficult cases.

5           I have a number of friends who are returned Peace Corps volunteers. I followed  
6 the testimony, and I think it's been taken very seriously and dealt with in this bill by  
7 Senators Boxer and Isakson.

8           I just want to commend them for the state they brought this bill to, which I think  
9 will make a real contribution to the safety of the future volunteers in the field.

10          **SENATOR BOXER.** Mr. Chairman, if I could be heard?

11          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Boxer?

12          **SENATOR BOXER.** Thank you so much.

13          Thank you very much, Senator Udall, for your engagement on this, and, Senator  
14 Coons, for traveling and sharing some of that grief with Senator Isakson.

15          I want to just say this. I think the notion of a buddy system would work really  
16 well in certain circumstances, probably very important to be done. I don't think we need  
17 to micromanage to the extent that we put it in the legislation.

18          We may want to work with you as we come to the floor and tell the Peace Corps if  
19 there are certain circumstances where a place is so dangerous and so problematical they  
20 should utilize the buddy system. I really believe it could work.

21          But in general, what you want is to develop the buddies in the foreign country.  
22 And if you send people into a place together, I know, for example, if I was traveling  
23 alone vs. being with my buddy over here, I might reach out and make more of a  
24 friendship, and go out and talk to more, and have dinner with, and socialize with, the  
25 person in the foreign country.

26          But I think you have made a valuable contribution, and I don't think that our bill  
27 in any way excludes this option for the Peace Corps.

28          So let's work together.

1 And again, thanks to everyone, and particularly Senator Isakson.

2 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Udall?

3 **SENATOR UDALL.** Yes. And I may have in my statement alluded to the fact that  
4 Carol Murray Clark was my constituent. She wasn't. I was using an example.

5 So I just want correct the record on that point.

6 And with that, recognizing where we are on the committee, that this is going to  
7 move forward, and dealing with the cost issues and all of the things that I talked with all  
8 of you about, I would withdraw my amendment at this point.

9 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The Senator has a right to do that. And I thank you very much,  
10 Senator, for the help on that.

11 Senator DeMint is not here.

12 Senator Boxer, do you want to say anything about the Saudi Arabia resolution?

13 **SENATOR BOXER.** Do you want to vote on the other one?

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I think we'll do them en bloc.

15 **SENATOR BOXER.** All right.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Unless there is objection.

17 **SENATOR BOXER.** Very quickly, I want to thank Senator DeMint for working with  
18 me on this.

19 We call on the Government of Saudi Arabia to give women the right to vote.  
20 They keep saying they're going to do it in the, quote-unquote, "next election." They don't  
21 do it.

22 And so we're just giving this some attention here. We want women to vote. We  
23 want to see them run for office.

24 It's a simple step, and I urge a yes vote.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there any other discussion on that resolution?

26 Senator Coons?

27 **SENATOR COONS.** I just request consideration to be added as a cosponsor.

28 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Without objection, that will be done.

1           Senator Menendez, do you want to talk about the Taiwan resolution or any  
2 others?

3           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** I am happy to see it on the list, Mr. Chairman. I think the  
4 resolution speaks for itself.

5           I do want to take one second to speak for the subcommittee that has jurisdiction  
6 over the Peace Corps. I do appreciate what Senator Udall is trying to do here.

7           But there's a different view that sometimes the buddy system actually empowers  
8 people to go out into the community when they might be otherwise afraid to do so on  
9 their own.

10           I think what I hope the Isakson-Boxer legislation and Senator Udall's efforts send  
11 a message to the Peace Corps. I am concerned that there's a culture there that doesn't  
12 quite listen to the volunteers that have committed themselves on behalf of the country  
13 and take some of their considerations or concerns in a serious manner. Very often we've  
14 heard stories of those.

15           And we're looking at the possibility -- we've heard stories of those who had been  
16 Peace Corps volunteers who went and talked about the incidents that they faced, and  
17 they were minimized or were told, basically, suck it up.

18           That is not what the agency should be doing. It should be trying, as it promotes  
19 the mission of the Peace Corps, it should also be seeking the safety and security of those  
20 American citizens who are willing to commit parts of their lives to it.

21           So I hope the Peace Corps gets the message as a result of both the legislation and  
22 what's been said here.

23           And with that, Mr. Chairman, I'm happy to have my statement entered into the  
24 record.

25           The Chairman. Without objection, it will be placed in the record.

**[The prepared statement of Senator Menendez follows:]**

**On S. Con. Res. 17, expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**

1           Mr. Chairman, Taiwan, our ally and friend, continues to be marginalized by China  
2 even in its bid to participate in international organizations where its need to participate is  
3 clear.

4           The Taipei Flight Information Region covers airspace of 176,000 square nautical  
5 miles and provides air traffic control services to over 1,350,000 flights annually.

6           The Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport is the 8th largest airport by  
7 international cargo volume and 18th largest airport by number of international  
8 passengers.

9           Following the terrorist attacks of September 11th, ICAO endorsed a global  
10 strategy for strengthening aviation security worldwide and declared that: a uniform  
11 approach in a global system is essential to ensure aviation security throughout the world;  
12 and deficiencies in any part of the system constitute a threat to the entire global system.

13           Exclusion from the ICAO since 1971 has impeded the efforts of the Government of  
14 Taiwan to maintain civil aviation practices that comport with evolving international  
15 standards.

16           Because every airport offers a potential entry point into this global system, every  
17 nation faces the threat from gaps in aviation security throughout the world – and all  
18 nations must share the responsibility for securing that system.

19           For the above reasons, Mr. Chairman, I believe Taiwan should be accorded  
20 observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

21           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Look, I think what comes out of this is that I think we ought to  
22 have, at the appropriate time, an oversight hearing. Hopefully, we'll pass this. We  
23 ought to have some dialogue with the Peace Corps and see if we can't work in a  
24 mutually agreeable way. And maybe there are a couple places where this can be made a

1 pilot project or something. It ought to be done on a cooperative basis. And I think we  
2 can do that.

3 But I think the discussion is important, and I think the end product will be even  
4 more important. So I think it's been very, very healthy.

5 Those are the resolutions.

6 The treaties on the agenda are a bilateral investment treaty with Rwanda.

7 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Mr. Chairman, we have one more resolution.

8 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I beg your pardon? I'm sorry, excuse me.

9 Senator Shaheen, indeed we do, and I apologize.

10 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** I would like to speak briefly.

11 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Please, take extra time.

12 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Well, I think it's important, as we approach the third  
13 anniversary of the conflict between Georgia and Russia, that we reaffirm the United  
14 States' support for Georgia's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. That's  
15 what this resolution does.

16 It also notes the importance of a peaceful resolution of the conflict and highlights  
17 some of the recent positive steps toward that resolution.

18 And it calls on Russia to fulfill all the terms and conditions of the 2008 cease-fire  
19 agreements between Georgia and Russia, which they have not yet done.

20 So hopefully it has strong bipartisan support. Seventeen cosponsors, so hopefully  
21 the committee will support moving forward with the resolution.

22 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there any other discussion?

23 If not, then we will go to the treaties.

24 We have the Rwanda treaty. It didn't get to the floor last year, even though we  
25 took it up late last year. There's a mutual legal assistance agreement with Bermuda.  
26 There's a new tax treaty with Hungary. Two tax protocols, one for Switzerland, one for  
27 Luxembourg, which update the information exchange provision in the current treaties to  
28 specifically override bank secrecy laws.

1           And, obviously, this is particularly important for the Swiss treaty, where the  
2 specific intent is to avoid the kind of disputes that occurred in the UBS controversy  
3 several years ago, when they cited Swiss bank secrecy laws as an obstacle to their  
4 cooperation in the tax-related proceedings.

5           So I support all of these treaties. I think most of the members of the committee  
6 do. I hope they do.

7           And I'd like to particularly thank our colleagues for their leadership in  
8 introducing all of the legislation that we have.

9           And, Senator Cardin, thanks for holding the hearing on these treaties. We really  
10 appreciate it.

11           Is there any discussion on any of the treaties at all by any member?

12           If not, we have a number of nominations on the agenda for critical positions,  
13 including Ambassador to Mexico and several other posts, the first Special Representative  
14 to Burma, the Assistant Secretaries of State for Nonproliferation and for Legislative  
15 Affairs. I think all of the nominees have been put through the standard tests and  
16 qualifications. I think they are well-qualified, and I'd like to move their nominations out  
17 of the committee today.

18           There's been a request that the nomination of Mr. Heffern be held over until our  
19 next business meeting. Therefore, we will not take up his nomination today.

20           I'm unaware of any requests for a roll call vote on any of the items that we have  
21 thus far discussed, so I would propose a voice vote en bloc for the entire agenda with the  
22 exception of the nomination of Mr. Heffern.

23           Is there a motion to do so?

24           **SENATOR BOXER.** So moved.

25           **SENATOR LUGAR.** I second.

26           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there any debate or discussion?

27           If not, all those in favor say aye.

28           [A chorus of ayes.]

1 THE CHAIRMAN. All those opposed, nay.

2 [No response.]

3 THE CHAIRMAN. The ayes have it, and that business is concluded.

4 Can I just say to everybody very, very quickly, we hopefully -- I say hopefully --  
5 we will get this debt issue resolved, and people will have a well-needed and I think  
6 earned break coming up in August. So we will come back and there is still some of this  
7 year yet to continue. But I just wanted to thank all the members of the committee.

8 I think this committee has really been exemplary. We've considered 10 pieces of  
9 legislation, five treaties, 52 nominations. We've held 26 hearings on a wide range of  
10 issues -- North Korea, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Latin America, the War Powers  
11 Resolution, just to name a few.

12 And even though we have not always agreed on everything, I think we have been  
13 able to disagree in a way that befits the Senate. So I just want to thank everybody for  
14 that.

15 And the last thing I want to say is I particularly want to thank those of you who  
16 have taken the time to travel.

17 Senator Isakson, others, have gone to Africa. Some of these trips are tough.  
18 They're off the beaten track. But I can't emphasize enough -- and I know Senator Lugar  
19 joins me in this -- that it just makes a world of difference, and it facilitates the objectives  
20 of any administration, Republican or Democrat alike, when we build relationships and  
21 when we go out there and show the flag and listen to people and learn.

22 And so I urge people -- I know there's huge domestic pressure. Obviously, we're  
23 all, every one of us, focused on the budget and on job creation and the economy and  
24 deficit, et cetera. But we cannot forget that America is still the lead, preeminent country  
25 in the world, with respect to a lot of values that make a huge difference to people.

26 So when we can get to a Burma or when we can get to different countries in Africa  
27 or wherever it is, it really makes a difference.



1           And I hope the committee will continue to distinguish itself, as I think it has been,  
2 with respect to this kind of participation.

3           And Senator Cardin has done a superb job on the Helsinki Commission. Different  
4 Senators are sort of picking different places. I love that. I think the more active the  
5 subcommittees can be, the better.

6           So I just want to thank everybody for that. And I look forward to seeing you at  
7 Fast Eddie's going away party.

8           [Laughter.]

9           **THE CHAIRMAN.** We stand adjourned.

**[Whereupon, at 3:00 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.]**

### **Additional Material Submitted for the Record**

#### **Senator Jim Webb Statement for the Record**

10           Some Members of the Committee have asked for clarifications regarding S. Res. 227, a  
11 resolution that I introduced pertaining to the Mekong River. This resolution is designed to  
12 promote a multilateral approach to issues of water rights and proper environmental safeguards on  
13 the river, which traverses China, Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. The resolution  
14 also seeks to protect legitimate American strategic interests in Southeast Asia, ensuring that China  
15 does not dominate smaller nations in the Mekong River Delta or affect their long-established way  
16 of life through its control of upstream water rights.

17  
18           I have examined this issue in my role as Chair of the East Asian and Pacific Affairs  
19 subcommittee for more than two years, and believe that it is important to promote a multilateral  
20 approach to protecting the strategic and economic balance of the Mekong River, whose lower  
21 region affects the lives of more than 60 million people.

22

1                   I have asked Chairman Kerry to delay consideration of the resolution today so that we  
2                   may properly address any questions that have been raised, and instead to bring it up in the next  
3                   Committee business meeting.  
4