
Business Meeting

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

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COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:18 p.m. in Room S-116, The Capitol,

2 Hon. John Kerry, chairman of the committee, presiding.

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

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The business meeting will come to order.

6 Thanks, everybody, for coming. We have votes running, so we are going to get
7 in and out of here before the first vote is over. I appreciate everybody being here
8 quickly. If we can find some Senators, we can vote quickly I think.

9 There had been a request to hold over the Magnitsky bill, and therefore, we will
10 not vote on that bill today. But I will give notice now that we will have another
11 business meeting next Tuesday, the 26th. We will take up the Magnitsky bill at that
12 time, along with proposed amendments, and appropriate notice will be sent to the
13 ranking member and to members.

1 Let me just turn to the rest of the bills and resolutions on the agenda. The bills
2 are S. 641, the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act, introduced by Senator
3 Durbin; the U.S.-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act introduced by Senator Boxer
4 and Senator Isakson; and the North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act.

5 The resolutions are S.Res. 402, a resolution condemning Joseph Kony and the
6 Lord's Resistance Army introduced by Senator Coons along with Senators Inhofe,
7 Isakson, and several members of the committee; S.Res. 429, the resolution supporting
8 the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day; S.Res. 473, a resolution commending the
9 Rotary International and others for their efforts to prevent and eradicate polio; S.Res.
10 385, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its continued persecution,
11 imprisonment, and sentencing of Youcef Nadarkhani.

12 And I would just say quickly I support all this legislation. I urge all colleagues to
13 do so.

14 I would just say very quickly that Ambassador Richard Morningstar is an
15 outstanding, qualified individual for the role he is going to play as Ambassador to
16 Azerbaijan. He has been in that region an enormous amount. And Tim Broas is an
17 outstanding lawyer recognized nationally for his legal skills, a terrific, humble, decent

1 guy, great family, and he has been nominated to be Ambassador to the Netherlands. I
2 wanted just to say a word about them.

3 Is there anybody who wants to say anything about the items on the agenda
4 today? Senator Lugar?

5 **SENATOR LUGAR.** I just wanted to underline again the resolution commending
6 Rotary International and others for the fight against polio. We are down, fortunately, to
7 just three countries in the world that have any polio disease currently. This is a
8 magnificent cause for over a quarter of a century. And Rotary has not done it all, but
9 they have been magnificent because of the international focus and commending other
10 governments in coming together.

11 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I think everybody would concur, and I appreciate those comments
12 as I know they do, Senator Lugar.

13 Senator Boxer?

14 **SENATOR BOXER.** Yes, thank you. I just wanted to ask unanimous consent to place
15 in the record two statements. The one about the Honorable Richard Morningstar to be
16 Ambassador to Azerbaijan expresses my concern about the situation over there and the
17 fact that I hold him to his promises he made in his testimony. And secondly, I am very
18 pleased that we are voting on the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation

1 Act that I worked with Johnny Isakson on. And I will put a statement in the record on
2 that.

3 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Without objection, the statements will be placed in the record.

[THE STATEMENTS REFERRED TO ABOVE FOLLOW:]

STATEMENT ON THE UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENHANCED SECURITY
COOPERATION ACT OF 2012

Mr. Chairman and Senator Lugar, thank you for working to schedule a Foreign Relations Committee vote on S.2165, the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012.

Senator Isakson and I introduced this important legislation back in March. Since then, we have garnered sixty-three bipartisan cosponsors, and have worked to refine the bill for swift passage by the full Senate.

The substitute amendment we are considering today only makes minor changes to the bill's original language, including expressing Senate support for the Iron Dome Missile Defense System that has successfully protected Israeli citizens from rockets launched out of Gaza.

Most importantly, this bill seeks to reaffirm the special bond between the United States and Israel and helps ensure that Israel has the tools necessary to defend herself in a time of rapid change and volatility in the Middle East.

The legislation also seeks to extend existing loan guarantees to Israel through September 30, 2015. Current loan guarantees to Israel are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2012. These guarantees help boost Israel's credit rating and could become important in the event of a crisis.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Senator Lugar for working so hard to help us schedule this vote. I'd like to also thank my good friend and colleague Senator Isakson for partnering with me on this effort, and the many members of this Committee who have cosponsored our bill.

I urge a yes vote today. Thank you.

STATEMENT ON THE NOMINATION OF RICHARD MORNINGSTAR TO BE THE UNITED STATES
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Today, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will be voting on the nomination of the Honorable Richard L. Morningstar to be Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

While I will support his nomination, I would like to briefly mention a number of important things that I hope to see Ambassador Morningstar make a priority during his tenure as Ambassador.

First, it is absolutely critical that Ambassador Morningstar use his position to respond to and counter the Government of Azerbaijan's escalating acts of aggression and threats against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. I am so pleased that in response to a question submitted for the record, Ambassador Morningstar pledged that "if confirmed, I will make the case that irresponsible rhetoric is unacceptable and undermines our efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict. I will urge the Azerbaijani government to show restraint in its rhetoric and to prepare its people for peace, not war."

Second, in the face of growing tensions, it is essential that Ambassador Morningstar urge the Azerbaijani government to comply with the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) Minsk Group 1994 ceasefire agreement and work toward a comprehensive solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis.

And finally, it is imperative that Ambassador Morningstar fulfill the commitment he made during his nomination hearing to do everything he can to travel to the Djulfa Armenian cemetery to investigate its appalling 2005 desecration by Azerbaijan.

I look forward to working with Ambassador Morningstar as he addresses these and many other challenges in the South Caucasus region, and thank him for his service to our country.

1 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there any other comment or debate on these items? Yes, Senator
2 Cardin?

3 **SENATOR CARDIN.** I know you announced that the Magnitsky bill will be held over
4 till next Tuesday. I just would urge members who have any -- we circulated a draft. If
5 there are any additional comments or questions, if members would contact us and let us
6 know, we will try to resolve it by next Tuesday.

1 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Coons, do you have a comment?

2 **SENATOR COONS.** Thank you, Chairman Kerry. I just want to speak briefly to S.Res.
3 402 regarding the hunt for Joseph Kony and the ongoing counter-LRA effort. I strongly
4 support the U.S. advise and assist mission. I had the opportunity during the recess to
5 visit and to assess our progress with Senator Isakson. On a previous trip, he also had
6 the opportunity to go. I am grateful for the leadership and the cosponsorship of 45
7 other Members of the Senate.

8 I am concerned we are not getting enough resources to ensuring that we will
9 fulfill the stated mission of removing Kony from the battlefield. That is in part why this
10 provision calls for enhanced mobility, intelligence, logistical capabilities for the regional
11 forces engaged in this effort.

12 I am appreciative of 250 folks who have written in as citizen cosponsors, as well
13 as 45 Senators. I think this is an important multinational effort. I am grateful for your
14 leadership and your support.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you, Senator Coons. Thank you, Senator Isakson.

16 I could not concur more. And I think the issue of resources is obviously a real
17 one. We probably ought to look at what we might be able to do to encourage a more
18 significant commitment within, obviously, a lot of pressures.

1 Are there any further comments?

2 [No response.]

3 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If not, is there a motion to take this en bloc and vote en bloc?

4 **SENATOR LUGAR.** I so move.

5 **SENATOR BOXER.** Second.

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Seconded.

7 All those in favor of the legislative and executive items en bloc, say aye.

8 [Chorus of ayes.]

9 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed, nay?

10 [No response.]

11 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it and the agenda is approved as voted on.

12 I thank everybody. That is the way to have a good meeting. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 2:24 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]