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# **BUSINESS MEETING**

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*Wednesday, February 13, 2013*

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UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
113<sup>TH</sup> Congress, First Session

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**UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT  
NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION**

# **BUSINESS MEETING**

*Wednesday, February 13, 2013*

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

1           The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 3:40 p.m. in Room S-116, The  
2 Capitol, Hon. Robert Menendez, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3           **PRESENT.** Senators Menendez [presiding], Boxer, Cardin, Casey, Shaheen,  
4 Udall, Murphy, Kaine, Corker, Risch, Johnson, and Flake.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY**

5           **THE CHAIRMAN.** So this meeting will come to order, the Senate Foreign  
6 Relations Committee. And for all of our guests here, this is not normally the  
7 setting for the committee. I don't want anybody to think that is the way we  
8 operate. But since, in fact, we had the Secretary General of the UN right before in  
9 a working coffee with members of the committee, we did not have time to change  
10 the setting, so just for clarification.

11           This is an opening business meeting of the committee. There are several  
12 items on the agenda, and I think we have largely agreement. We have one  
13 request that I will refer to in a moment.

14           The first two are required at the beginning of every Congress. We have  
15 the proposed committee rules for the 113th Congress. I have worked with

1 Senator Corker to make some minor changes to the proposed rules. The overall  
2 framework, however, remains identical to that of the last several Congresses. It  
3 has served us well, and I expect will continue to do so.

4 We are also considering the proposed subcommittee membership and  
5 jurisdiction for the 113th Congress, and the only proposed change from last  
6 Congress is moving the Peace Corps from the Western Hemisphere  
7 Subcommittee to the International Development Subcommittee. Along with  
8 Senator Corker and myself, I understand that both of the affected subcommittee  
9 chairs and ranking members support the change.

10 So I want to thank each and every one of you for your willingness to serve  
11 on these important subcommittees. I will look forward to and expect each  
12 subcommittee to be active, and I look forward to working with the respective  
13 chairpersons and ranking members to help make that happen.

14 And before moving on the rules, I would like to recognize Senator Corker  
15 for any comments he would have.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BOB CORKER,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE**

16 **SENATOR CORKER.** Thank you for the way you and your staff have worked  
17 with us, and I would second your thoughts and comments.

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** So I would like to, if there is no discussion on the rules and  
2 subcommittee jurisdiction, I move for a voice vote on the proposed rules and  
3 subcommittee jurisdiction.

4           **SENATOR BOXER.** Second.

5           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Moved and seconded.

6           All those in favor, say aye.

7           [A chorus of ayes.]

8           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed?

9           [No response.]

10          **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it, and the rules and subcommittee  
11 jurisdiction are approved.

12          Finally we have two substantive items on the agenda. One is with  
13 reference to North Korea. At the request of one of our colleagues as per  
14 procedures of the committee, there is a request to hold it over for the next  
15 business meeting to work on some language items within the resolution that we  
16 hopefully can achieve.

17          And so by agreement between the ranking member and myself, we will  
18 hold a business meeting tomorrow to move the North Korea resolution,  
19 hopefully with unanimity, as we work towards accommodating our colleague.

1 But it is a timely issue, and it is an issue that we think should have a vote of the  
2 committee before the recess takes place.

3 Senator Shaheen?

4 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Can you just point what the language is that there is a  
5 concern about?

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Paul has a concern about the section of the language  
7 that refers to any military preparation which may already be under way by the  
8 executive branch anyhow as it relates to being in the position to secure the  
9 national interests and security of the United States. And those would be page 9  
10 and 10 for the record.

11 **SENATOR CORKER.** If I could, I think he wants to ensure that this is not  
12 viewed as an authorization of force, and I think that is a responsible request to  
13 have, and I think we should – my sense we can work that out.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** So that will be held over to a meeting that we will notice to  
15 all of you for tomorrow.

16 Finally, we are considering S. Res. 12, which was introduced by Senator  
17 Nelson and co-sponsored by Senators Boxer, Cardin, and Durbin. It recognizes  
18 the third anniversary of the tragic earthquake in Haiti on January 12th of 2010. It  
19 honors those who lost their lives. It expresses continued solidarity with the  
20 people of Haiti.

1           And certainly I support the resolution, and I hope that it is approved by  
2 the committee unanimously and then subsequently by the Senate, and sends a  
3 unified message of support to the people of Haiti.

4           And so – first, Senator Corker, do you have any comments you want to  
5 make on that?

6           **SENATOR CORKER.** No.

7           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Anyone who wants to speak to the resolution?

8           **SENATOR BOXER.** I move the resolution.

9           **THE CHAIRMAN.** So moved. Is there a second?

10          **SENATOR KAINE.** Second.

11          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Second. Moved and second.

12          All those in favor, say aye.

13          [A chorus of ayes.]

14          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed?

15          [No response.]

16          **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted.

17          And that brings the committee to adjournment. We will see each other  
18 tomorrow, and hopefully have a good solid North Korea resolution.

**[Whereupon, at 3:45 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]**