

**Philip S. Goldberg**  
**Ambassador-Designate to the Republic of the Philippines**  
**Before the**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
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Chairman Cardin, Senator Rubio, Members of the Committee; it is an honor to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to become the next U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines. I am deeply grateful to the President and Secretary Kerry for placing their confidence in me and for this opportunity to serve the United States of America.

Mr. Chairman, the United States and the Philippines have a deep and long-standing alliance based on democratic values and mutual interests, a shared history, and strong people-to-people connections. During World War II, soldiers from our two nations fought shoulder to shoulder to beat back the spread of tyranny. Today, the Philippines, one of only five U.S. treaty allies in the East Asia and Pacific region, is a vibrant democracy, an active member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and home to Asia's second fastest growing economy. On November 16, 2011, we celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty with the signing of the Manila Declaration between then Secretary of State Clinton and her counterpart, Foreign Secretary del Rosario. The following spring, we convened a historic 2+2 Ministerial in Washington, followed by President Aquino's visit to the White House in June 2012. And as you know, President Obama will travel to Manila early next month. If confirmed, I look forward to building on this already solid foundation between our countries to strengthen ties at all levels.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, a cornerstone of our relationship with the Philippines is a shared commitment to stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region. We are partners in countering a wide range of threats, from terrorism and transnational criminal networks to cyber-attacks and humanitarian disasters. Our two militaries engage in regular cooperation and training to strengthen and increase interoperability for defense as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster response, counter-terrorism and non-proliferation. We are working together to help the Philippines support its security goals of monitoring its maritime domain and ensuring civilian law enforcement elements can provide internal security. In support of the Obama administration's rebalance to the Asia-Pacific, we are negotiating a Framework Agreement that would enable an increased rotational presence of U.S. forces to the Philippines, enhance opportunities for joint military

training and exercises, and allow for the repositioning of equipment and supplies to respond quickly to natural disasters. We also support Philippine efforts to reduce tensions surrounding the territorial disputes in the South China Sea, both through the creation of a Code of Conduct between ASEAN member states and China, and through internationally accepted dispute resolution mechanisms like those provided for under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Ensuring freedom of navigation and unimpeded lawful commerce in the South China Sea remains an important U.S. national interest shared by the Philippines and others in the region.

Our partnership with the Philippines is broad based and multifaceted. We share strong economic and commercial ties – the United States is the Philippines’ second largest trading partner with \$22 billion in two-way trade last year. We are also the country’s largest foreign investor. But much more work needs to be done in order to bring the benefits of free trade and economic prosperity enjoyed by other countries in Southeast Asia, to the 39 million Filipinos – roughly 42 percent of the country – who live on less than \$2 a day. If confirmed, I will seek to expand our economic relationship, which will benefit people of both countries. Through the Partnership for Growth, which we support through ten U.S. agencies, and the Millennium Challenge Compact, our initiatives reinforce the Aquino administration’s efforts to address corruption, improve economic competitiveness and promote growth that is both inclusive and sustainable. Our foreign assistance is also focused on health, education, good governance, energy and the environment. The Philippines has long had the resources necessary to achieve its full potential. President Aquino has shown the political will and commitment to tackle corruption and promote good governance and respect for human rights.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the special bonds that characterize our bilateral relationship. Our public diplomacy programs build a long-term foundation for understanding and collaboration. Since 1961, some 8,500 Peace Corps Volunteers have been forging people-to-people partnerships between our two countries. There are over 200,000 American citizens residing in the Philippines and nearly four million people of Filipino origin in this country. Filipino Americans have made their mark by contributing to our country in so many fields. It is no surprise, therefore, that our embassy in Manila is one of the largest visa processing posts in the world, both for travelers to the United States and those who seek to reunite with members of their family. The Philippines is also home to the only U.S. Veterans clinic overseas.

Mr. Chairman, for the past three and one half years I have been the Assistant

Secretary of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research in the State Department. I have twice served as a Chief of Mission overseas, leading sizeable interagency teams, as Ambassador to Bolivia from 2006 to 2008 and Chief of Mission to Kosovo from 2004 to 2006. I have also been engaged in diplomatic efforts in East Asia in working to prevent North Korea's proliferation activities and have led interagency delegations to Southeast Asia towards that end. I believe that these experiences have prepared me well to be in charge of a large mission to an important ally in the Asia-Pacific region. If confirmed by the Senate, I look forward to leading the 1,400 outstanding men and women, both American and Filipino, who work in Embassy Manila.

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today. I welcome any questions you may have.