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# **BUSINESS MEETING**

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*Tuesday, May 14, 2013*

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UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN RELATIONS

113<sup>TH</sup> Congress, First Session

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*Tuesday, May 14, 2013*

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

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:20 p.m. in Room S-116, The Capitol, Hon.  
2 Robert Menendez, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3 **PRESENT.** Senators Menendez [presiding], Casey, Cardin, Kaine, Murphy, Shaheen, Coons,  
4 Udall, Corker, and McCain.

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

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The committee will come to order. I want to thank everybody for coming.  
6 Under these rules we can start our discussion. We will still need a few more members for a vote,  
7 but I think it is worth it, especially in consideration of all those who made it on time, to start, and  
8 then we will be able to move along.

9 So first — we have two legislative items on the agenda and two nominations. The first  
10 legislative item is S. 793, the OAS Revitalization and Reform Act, which I introduced along with  
11 Senators Corker, Udall, and Rubio. As I am sure you all know, the OAS is the premiere  
12 multilateral institution for the Americas, but it has critical reforms that are long overdue.

13 The bill seeks to achieve more transparent priority setting and results-driven budget  
14 planning and personnel practices at the OAS, which we think is essential. It does not prescribe

1 solutions. Instead, it directs the Secretary of State to devise a multi-year strategy whereby our U.S.  
2 mission at the OAS will work in coordination with other member-states for the adoption of  
3 institutional reforms.

4 And our objective here is a strong and effective OAS that will promote peace and security,  
5 strengthen democracy and the rule of law, and advance human rights in the Western Hemisphere.  
6 The bipartisan bill marks an important contribution to that effort.

7 And I am happy to entertain Senator Corker's remarks on this if he has any, and then I will  
8 turn to other members.

9 **SENATOR CORKER.** I think yours were so eloquent, I hate to foul them up in any way. Thank  
10 you.

11 [Laughter.]

12 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Would you make sure you give me a copy of that?

13 [Laughter.]

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you. Thank you for your work with us together and your staff to  
15 make this happen.

16 Senator Udall?

17 **SENATOR UDALL.** Ditto on that.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN.** All right. Anyone else who wants to speak on this?

19 [No response.]

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Okay, we have one more, so we will hold off. I am going to ask for a roll call  
2 when we have the appropriate quorum for voting purposes.

3           Second, we have S. 579, which is a bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy  
4 to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the Triennial International Civil Aviation Organization  
5 Assembly, and for other purposes.

6           Taiwan is one of the world's major passenger and cargo markets. It provides air traffic  
7 control services to over 1.2 million flights per year. Last year, Taiwan joined the U.S. visa waiver  
8 program, and I expect that travel between Taiwan and the United States will increase rapidly as a  
9 result. Allowing the government of Taiwan observer status at ICAO assemblies will ensure that it  
10 has the access to the technical information it needs to continue to align its civil aviation practices  
11 with evolving international safety standards.

12           We are joined on that bill with Senator Inhofe, as well as others, and welcome anybody's  
13 comments who may have anything they want to say. Senator Corker, do you have anything?

14           **SENATOR CORKER.** I really do not. We had a lot of discussion in our office about this, but, you  
15 know, certainly we will support it. And I think we continue to — there is probably a broader  
16 discussion at some point we ought to have overall about our China and Taiwan policy, and yet we  
17 have no issue with this and plan to support it.

18           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Anyone else on this particular resolution?

19           [No response.]

20           **THE CHAIRMAN.** All right. We are still a member short, so we will wait a moment.

1 Finally, we have two nominations on today's agenda: Deborah Kay Jones to be the  
2 ambassador to Libya, and James Knight to be the ambassador to the Republic of Chad. Let me just  
3 briefly speak to both of the nominations.

4 In Deborah Jones, the President has nominated someone who is a career senior foreign  
5 service officer of the highest caliber to take on what I think is a critical assignment. Ambassador  
6 Jones has served in top postings throughout the Middle East, from Baghdad to Damascus. She will  
7 need to hit the ground running, and I am confident she is up to the task.

8 We all know the challenges facing Libya at this critical moment. Political transition is under  
9 way. A recent law designed to bar Gaddafi-era officials from office could sow the seeds of  
10 instability down the road. Oil production is up, but questions remain about how the revenues will  
11 reach the people through social services, investments, and infrastructure. And what is more, the  
12 security situation is precarious, as we saw by a recent car bombing outside the French embassy in  
13 Tripoli, as well as kidnappings and assassination attempts on public officials, which underscores  
14 the dangers posed by militia groups that continue to operate with impunity.

15 There is simply no substitute — no substitute — for having a confirmed U.S. ambassador on  
16 the ground reaching outside the wire to the Libyan people as they shape a safer, more productive,  
17 and inclusive future. And I urge my colleagues to support Ambassador Jones' nomination.

18 And this is also a critical moment for our engagement with Chad. The Sahel is emerging as  
19 an increasingly significant strategic region, and Chad is currently the largest African troop  
20 contributor to multilateral military operations in Mali.

1 Ambassador Knight brings over two decades of experience, much of it in Africa, to the post.  
2 And I certainly urge my colleagues to support his nomination as well.

3 I invite — at this point, having gone through a discussion of the OAS legislation, the Taiwan  
4 International Civil Aviation Organization resolution, and the two nominees, I invite anyone to add  
5 to the discussion we have had on the two pieces of legislation.

6 Senator Corker?

7 **SENATOR CORKER.** No, we had a good hearing on the nominees. I support them also. I want  
8 to thank you for your leadership on all of these issues. And I would hope that with the — I think  
9 we have a quorum now, is that correct?

10 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Yes.

11 **SENATOR CORKER.** That we might move these by voice.

12 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Anyone else on the nominees or the legislation?

13 **SENATOR McCAIN.** I think the lady is from Alabama.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Shaheen?

15 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** I just wanted to echo your words about Deborah Kay Jones. I had a  
16 chance to meet with her when I was in Kuwait with Senator Casey, in fact. As you point out, she  
17 has a lot of experience in the Middle East. She is a career diplomat. And as you also said, having a  
18 confirmed ambassador in Libya is going to be very important.

19 I certainly hope once this committee has voted on her, that we will be able to move her  
20 nomination on the floor as expeditiously as possible because as we are talking about all of the

1 issues around Libya, I think having an ambassador on the ground who can move forward the  
2 United States' foreign policy is very important.

3 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Any other members seeking recognition on either of those?

4 [No response.]

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** With that, then I will ask — since I am not aware of a request for a recorded  
6 vote, I will ask for a voice vote on both pieces of legislation as well as the two nominees.

7 All those in favor, say aye?

8 [A chorus of ayes.]

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

10 [No response.]

11 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it. Both the legislation and the nominees are favorably  
12 reported.

13 And with that, this meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

**[Whereupon, at 2:28 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]**