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*Wednesday, January 11, 2017*

**BUSINESS MEETING**

U.S. SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1           The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:00 p.m., in Room 3030, Senate  
2           Caucus, Hon. Bob Corker, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3           Present: Senators Corker [presiding], Risch, Rubio, Johnson, Flake, Gardner,  
4           Young, Barrasso, Isakson, Portman, Cardin, Menendez, Shaheen, Coons, Udall,  
5           Murphy, Kaine, Markey, Merkley, and Booker.

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

6           **THE CHAIRMAN.** This business meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations  
7           Committee will come to order.

8           We were going to consider S. Res. 6, objecting to UNSCR 2334. I would like to  
9           thank Senators Rubio and Cardin for their work on this. Most of the members of this  
10          committee have cosponsored this, so I would like to thank them as well.

11          I was hoping the resolution would make an impact this weekend in Paris, and I  
12          hope to continue to work with all of you to support follow up legislation addressing  
13          anti-Semitism at the United Nations. However, I now know that one of our members  
14          would like to hold this agenda item until the next business meeting. We will respect that  
15          request and consider the resolution tomorrow.

1           So today we will now vote on the resolution of ratification for the accession of  
2   Montenegro to NATO. Since gaining independence and joining NATO's Partnership for  
3   Peace in 2006, Montenegro has worked to join NATO; in 2009, they received a  
4   Membership Action Plan and were formally invited in 2015.

5           Just as our committee supported Montenegro's accession in the last congress, we  
6   remain supportive now – and introduce this resolution in order to amend the  
7   Washington Treaty to welcome Montenegro into NATO.

8           With that, I would like to recognize the distinguished ranking member for his  
9   comments, Senator Cardin.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM MARYLAND**

10          **SENATOR CARDIN.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for holding today's  
11   business meeting on Montenegro's NATO Accession Treaty. We received compelling  
12   testimony from the outgoing administration on Montenegro's bid to join NATO. It was  
13   clear that this small country has made significant contributions to the Alliance's efforts  
14   around the world and made necessary internal reforms to address governance, rule of  
15   law, and corruption issues.

16          This progress appears all the more remarkable for the fact that Montenegro has  
17   been subject to a wave of anti-NATO and anti-western propaganda emanating from  
18   Russia. There are also allegations that last year's coup plot in Montenegro has Russian  
19   ties. I want to strongly remind my colleagues in the Senate that rejecting Montenegro's

1 bid to join NATO or slow walking this process will have real implications for how  
2 NATO is perceived.

3 We must make it clear that Russia does not get a veto over the decisions of the  
4 NATO Alliance. We must send a strong message of resolve.

5 This treaty passed our committee in December by a voice vote, and on the Senate  
6 floor it received unanimous support from the Democratic side. I urge all those present  
7 today to again join Senator Corker and me in support of this legislation. My hope is that  
8 when this treaty moves to the floor, Chairman Corker and Majority Leader McConnell  
9 can persuade their colleagues to support Montenegro's accession.

10 Thank you Mr. Chairman.

11 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I would entertain a motion to approve the Montenegro treaty  
12 resolution by voice vote.

13 [A chorus of ayes.]

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there a second?

15 [A chorus of ayes.]

16 **THE CHAIRMAN.** So moved and seconded.

17 The question is on the motion to approve the Montenegro treaty resolution by  
18 voice vote.

19 All those in favor, say aye.

20 [A chorus of ayes.]

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed?

2           [No response.]

3           **THE CHAIRMAN.** And with that the ayes have it and the treaty is agreed to.

4           And that completes the committee's business.

5           I ask unanimous consent that staff be authorized to make technical and

6 conforming changes; without objection, so ordered.

7           And with that, without objection, the committee will stand adjourned.