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**BUSINESS MEETING**

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*Thursday, May 21, 2015*

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

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**UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT  
NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION**

# BUSINESS MEETING

*Thursday, May 21, 2015*

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

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:22 a.m., in Room SD-419, Dirksen  
2 Senate Office Building, Hon. Bob Corker, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3 **PRESENT.** Senators Corker [presiding], Johnson, Flake, Gardner, Perdue, Isakson,  
4 Barrasso, Cardin, Boxer, Menendez, Shaheen, Coons, Udall, Murphy, Kaine, and  
5 Markey.

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

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I think what we will do, if it is okay with everyone, is get going,  
7 and then when we get two more members, go ahead and vote. But I want to thank  
8 everybody — actually we may be close to voting.

9 I want to bring the business meeting to order. Thank everyone for being here.  
10 We have a number of items on the agenda today including two items of legislation,  
11 seven nominations, and over 600 personnel who have been nominated for appointment  
12 and promotion into and within the Foreign Service. So I especially thank people for  
13 coming together for that. It will affect 600 folks if we are successful.

14 First, we want to consider S. 802, Girls Count Act of 2015. I commend Senator  
15 Rubio, Senator Cardin, Senator Shaheen, and Senator Coons for bringing up this  
16 bipartisan bill. This bill highlights and establishes practical steps to ensure that

1 appropriate attention and resources are focused on making sure that young children,  
2 particularly girls, beginning at birth have basic identity documents that they will need  
3 to success in life.

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

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

6 **SENATOR CARDIN.** Mr. Chairman, if I understand correctly, we do not have yet  
7 have the numbers necessary to report out. I will talk only as long as we have a quorum.  
8 If we get a quorum for reporting out, I will be glad to —

9 **THE CHAIRMAN.** And I am sure other people might want to —

10 **SENATOR CARDIN.** Okay. So let me, if I might, first thank you very much for  
11 conducting this markup. I agree with you. The two bits of legislation we have are both  
12 very important, and I want to thank Senator Rubio and Senator Shaheen for their work  
13 on Girls Count Act. It is absolutely true that the manner in which a country treats its  
14 young people, its women particularly, will very much be an indicator as to how stable  
15 and how safe that country will be and how prosperous it will be. So I thank very much  
16 our leaders for bringing this bill to us and for — I strongly support it.

17 In regards to the Combatting Anti-Semitism bill, I want to thank Senator  
18 Menendez and Senator Kirk for their leadership on this resolution. Let me just point  
19 out, I have recently visited Europe on behalf of the OSCE. I am their special

1 representative on anti-Semitism, racism, and intolerance, and the security of the Jewish  
2 community in Europe is really being threatened today. And I am glad that our  
3 committee will speak with a strong voice on this resolution in regards to the problems  
4 facing Jewish communities in Europe, and our concern about their safety and our  
5 activism on that issue.

6         And lastly, let me just point out that I thank you very much for bringing up these  
7 nominations for action. And I know we are at the early stages of this session, but let me  
8 just urge, and I have told this chairman this in our personal conversations. I hope that  
9 we can move nominations as quickly as possible through this committee. I know there  
10 will be challenges on the floor. In most cases, we are dealing with career people whose  
11 lives, in some cases, are on hold pending the action of the United States Senate.

12         And it is important in their lives, but also important in regards to the  
13 responsibilities of the mission in which they are being nominated that we have  
14 confirmed nominees. And I thank the chairman for his cooperation, and I particularly  
15 thank you for bringing up these nominations.

16         **THE CHAIRMAN.** And I could not agree more that we need to move these people  
17 along as quickly as possible. Is there anyone else that would wish to speak to the — to  
18 the item before us, S. 802? Senator Shaheen?

19         **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to thank Senator  
20 Rubio and his staff for working with us to get this important bill drafted. It directs U.S.

1 foreign assistance programs to ensure that developing countries provide birth registries  
2 for their girls as well as their boys. Every year about 51 million children, mostly girls,  
3 are not registered at birth, and that leaves them subject to human trafficking. They are  
4 excluded often from basic services, including education. And this legislation would  
5 help to address that.

6 And I would just point out it is supported by groups as varied as Catholic Relief  
7 Services, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Grow Up Campaign of  
8 the UN Foundation, the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking, and the International  
9 Justice Mission. So there are a wide variety of groups supporting this legislation. It  
10 makes sense, and I hope everyone will join us in supporting it this morning.

11 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you for bringing it forward. Any other comments on this  
12 particular legislation?

13 [No response.]

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If not, I will entertain a motion —

15 **SENATOR BOXER.** So moved.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN.** — that we actually consider the substitute amendment by voice  
17 vote.

18 [Laughter.]

19 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you. We are excited today. Is there any objection?

20 [No response.]

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** All in favor, say aye.

2           [A chorus of ayes.]

3           **THE CHAIRMAN.** All opposed?

4           [No response.]

5           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Did anybody second that, by the way?

6           **SENATOR PERDUE.** Second.

7           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Let us do that again, okay?

8           [Laughter.]

9           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Perdue seconded. So moved and seconded.

10          All in favor, say aye.

11          [A chorus of ayes.]

12          **THE CHAIRMAN.** All opposed?

13          [No response.]

14          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you. And the ayes have it. The substitute amendment is  
15 agreed to.

16          Are there further amendments?

17          [No response.]

18          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Hearing none, is there a motion to approve the legislation, as  
19 amended?

20          **SENATOR BOXER.** Second.

1           **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Second.

2           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you. So moved and seconded.

3           The question is on the motion to approve S. 802, Girls Count Act of 2015, as  
4 amended.

5           All in favor, say aye.

6           [A chorus of ayes.]

7           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed?

8           [No response.]

9           **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it.

10           Next, we will consider S. Res. 87, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate  
11 regarding the rise of anti-Semitism that Senator Cardin just mentioned in Europe to  
12 encourage greater cooperation with European governments, the European Union, and  
13 the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in preventing and responding  
14 to anti-Semitism.

15           We thank Senator Menendez for bringing this bipartisan resolution to the  
16 committee. Fifty-six senators, including myself, have co-sponsored this resolution. The  
17 shocking murder of Jews in Europe and rising anti-Semitic sentiment requires this — a  
18 call to this resolution makes for the United States and our democratic allies to speak and  
19 take action. Senator Cardin, do you have any additional comments other than the ones  
20 you have already made?

1 [Nonverbal response.]

2 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Would anyone else like to speak to this particular piece of  
3 legislation? Senator Menendez?

4 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Just thank you and Senator Cardin for having it on the  
5 business agenda. I think it is incredibly important that those of us who are unaffected  
6 by the reality of anti-Semitism are equally as outraged as those who are. And when we  
7 turn a blind eye to what is happening either at home or around the world, we allow the  
8 voices of hatred to rise, and words have consequences as we have seen in history.

9 So I think this is fitting and appropriate, and we are up to 60 co-sponsors.

10 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Good.

11 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** And hopefully we will get a resounding vote when we get to  
12 the Senate floor. Thank you for putting it on the agenda.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Continued significant bipartisan efforts on your behalf. Thank  
14 you.

15 **SENATOR KAINE.** Mr. Chair?

16 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Anything else?

17 **SENATOR KAINE.** Mr. Chair?

18 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Yes?

19 **SENATOR KAINE.** If I could just speak in favor of this was well. You know, I think  
20 we spend an awful lot of time in this committee, and I am on the Armed Services



1 Committee, too. And we spend an awful lot of time talking about problems with  
2 authoritarian nations and problems with non-state Jihadists and criminal networks. But  
3 we can sometimes then take for granted that democracies are doing fine, but there are  
4 some troubling trends in democracies that we do not spend enough time on. And I  
5 think the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe is one of those troubling trends.

6 We cannot take for granted that democracies will remain in a forward-looking  
7 posture, and that is why I am proud to support this.

8 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you. Any other comments?

9 [No response.]

10 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there a motion to approve this legislation?

11 **SENATOR FLAKE.** So moved.

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

13 **SENATOR BOXER.** Second.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Boxer? So moved and seconded.

15 The question is on the motion of S. Res. 87.

16 All those in favor, say aye.

17 [A chorus of ayes.]

18 **THE CHAIRMAN.** All opposed?

19 [No response.]

20 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it. The resolution is approved.

1           The next order of business is seven nominations before the committee: Charles  
2 Adams to be the ambassador to the Republic of Finland; Cassandra Butts to be the  
3 ambassador to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Pretty nice job.

4           [Laughter.]

5           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Paul Folmsbee to be the ambassador to the Republic of Mali; Fitz  
6 Haney to be the ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica; Matthew McGuire to be the  
7 U.S. Executive Director of the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development;  
8 Mary Katherine Phee to be the ambassador of the Republic of South Sudan; Gentry O.  
9 Smith to be the director of Office of Foreign Missions.

10           I will seek to move them en bloc by voice vote. However, I understand there  
11 may be some folks that want to be recorded differently.

12           [No response.]

13           **THE CHAIRMAN.** It sounds like that it is okay to move them en bloc. Senator  
14 Cardin, do you have any comments regarding these nominations?

15           [Nonverbal response.]

16           **THE CHAIRMAN.** None? Anyone else want to speak to these nominees?

17           [No response.]

18           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Okay. Is there a motion to move these en bloc?

19           **SENATOR CARDIN.** So moved.

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

1           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Second.

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

3           The question is on the motion to approve these seven nominations.

4           All those in favor, say aye.

5           [A chorus of ayes.]

6           **THE CHAIRMAN.** All opposed?

7           [No response.]

8           **SENATOR BARRASSO.** I just want to be recorded as a no vote on Matthew McGuire.

9           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you.

10          **SENATOR BARRASSO.** Thank you.

11          **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it. The nominations will be recommended to the  
12 full Senate for Senate consideration of advice and consent.

13          Our last business is six Foreign Service officer lists. Again, I want to thank  
14 everybody for their cooperation. I support these appointments and promotions, and  
15 would like to thank all those officers for their outstanding service to our country. In  
16 addition, I would like to note that we work with the relevant agencies to approve the  
17 vetting that these agencies conduct and the information they provide the committee. I  
18 do not know if Senator Cardin would like to speak to that.

19          **SENATOR CARDIN.** No. Once again, I appreciate the — getting this quickly onto the  
20 agenda for approval. So thank you.

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you. Is there any other discussion?

2           [No response.]

3           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you. Seeing none, I would like — I would — wonder if  
4 someone would move —

5           **VOICE:** So moved.

6           **THE CHAIRMAN.** — that we move these en bloc. Second?

7           **VOICES:** Second.

8           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you. The question on — the motion is moved and  
9 seconded. The question is on the motion to approve six Foreign Service lists en bloc, as  
10 modified.

11          All those in favor, say aye.

12          [A chorus of ayes.]

13          **THE CHAIRMAN.** All oppose?

14          [No response.]

15          **THE CHAIRMAN.** With that, the ayes have it, and the appointments and promotions  
16 are agreed to.

17          That completes the committee's business. I ask unanimous consent that staff be  
18 authorized to make technical and conforming changes. Without objection, so ordered.

19          With that, we are adjourned. Thank you all so much. I appreciate it.

**[Whereupon, at 9:33 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]**

