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*Tuesday, May 9, 2017*

**BUSINESS MEETING**

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

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# BUSINESS MEETING

*Tuesday, May 9, 2017*

U.S. Senate,  
Committee on Foreign Relations,  
Washington, DC.

1           The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:01 a.m. in, Room 419, Dirksen  
2 Senate Office Building, Hon. Bob Corker, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3           Present: Senators Corker [presiding], Rubio, Flake, Young, Barrasso, Cardin,  
4 Menendez, Coons, Udall, Murphy, Markey, Merkley, and Booker.

5           Also Present: Senator Sullivan.

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

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

8           Mr. Sullivan, before we move on to your opening statement, we are going to do a  
9 little business during the time that you are here. We are just going to open up. We will  
10 have a rolling vote at some point during your hearing process. But we want to go  
11 ahead and move forward some other nominees.

12           So today, we will consider three nominations and multiple Foreign Service  
13 Officer lists. I want to thank my colleagues for helping the committee work through

1 these nominations and promotions in an appropriate fashion to allow us to take these  
2 steps forward today.

3 Senator Cardin, are there any comments you would like to make?

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

4 **SENATOR CARDIN.** Mr. Chairman, for Mr. Sullivan, we are trying to get some  
5 confirmed Ambassadors to make your job a little bit easier, so I hope you will  
6 appreciate the fact that Chairman Corker and our committee are moving nominations  
7 as quickly as possible. One of the things we will ask you to do, if you are confirmed, is  
8 to get us nominations a little bit sooner.

9 But in any respect, we are very supportive of the three nominees that we have  
10 here today, and the list I think we are going to take up.

11 I strongly urge our colleagues, in regard to Governor Branstad, which is a really  
12 critical appointment in China, I thought he cooperated with the committee and is fully  
13 qualified, and I strongly support his nomination.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I do not think anybody misunderstood why he had been  
15 Governor for 23 years. He was certainly able to answer questions in a way that related  
16 to people, and we look forward to his service.

17 I am going to go ahead and read the names of these nominees and Foreign  
18 Service lists and, at the appropriate time, we will have a vote: the Honorable Terry  
19 Branstad to be Ambassador to China; the Honorable Tulinabo Mushingi to be

1 Ambassador to Senegal and concurrently to Guinea-Bissau; Mr. Todd Haskell to be  
2 Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo; and the five Foreign Service Officer lists, as  
3 modified. That will be what we vote on at the appropriate time.

4 With that, we will leave the business meeting open and move to your hearing.

5 **SENATOR CARDIN.** Mr. Chairman, I have no objection, if you want to start the  
6 roll call, so that we can keep it as a rolling roll call, if you would like to do that.

7 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If you have no objection to that, we have a few members here.

8 All in favor of this, en bloc, please signify by saying aye.

9 [CHORUS OF AYES]

10 Opposed?

11 [NO RESPONSE]

12 Thank you. We will count those five and recess until a quorum is present.

13 [Committee stands in recess]

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** We now have a quorum, so with that, I would like to go ahead  
15 and have a voice vote, en bloc, for the Foreign Service Officer lists and the Ambassadors  
16 that were previously mentioned.

17 Senator Coons has already signified an aye as he stepped out.

18 All in favor, say aye.

19 [CHORUS OF AYES]

20 All opposed?

1 [NO RESPONSE]

2 Thank you so much.

3 Senator Cardin?

4 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Before we move on to your opening statement, which we look  
5 forward to, would Senators Coons, Menendez, and Young want to register a vote on the  
6 nominations and Foreign Service Officer lists, as modified?

7 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Mr. Chairman, I have a procedural question?

8 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Sure.

9 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** So is the business meeting over? Is it rolling?

10 **THE CHAIRMAN.** It is going to be over as soon as you vote.

11 **SENATOR CARDIN.** It is rolling.

12 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** It is rolling. I see.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN.** It is rolling. That is correct.

14 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** This hearing started already.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN.** That is correct.

16 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** This hearing was supposed to start at 10:15.

17 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Yes.

18 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Is there a way to give members notice of that, for the  
19 future? Because I would have been here.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I think this is probably the first time it has happened in 3 years.

1           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** I know, I am just saying --

2           **SENATOR CARDIN.** Can I just make a suggestion that, if a member got here by  
3 10:15, on the early bird rule, I would think that would be acceptable for the gavel on the  
4 hearing?

5           **THE CHAIRMAN.** That is perfectly fine.

6           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** I would like to be recorded as yes.

7           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Coons?

8           **SENATOR COONS.** Just one sentence. One of the folks who is being promoted  
9 through these Foreign Service lists is Andy Herscowitz, who has very ably run Power  
10 Africa. He is the coordinator being advanced to minister counselor. I just wanted to  
11 commend him and everybody else on these Foreign Service lists for their service to our  
12 country.

13           Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Very good, sir.

15           Senator Young?

16           **SENATOR YOUNG.** Aye. Please record me as yes.

17           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Absolutely.

18           With that, the ayes have it. The nominations, appointments, and promotions are  
19 agreed to.

20           That completes the committee's business.

1 I ask unanimous consent that staff be authorized to make technical and  
2 conforming changes.

3 Without objection, so ordered.

4 With that, without objection, the committee business meeting will stand  
5 adjourned.

**[Whereupon, at 10:19 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.]**