
BUSINESS MEETING

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS
113TH Congress, Second Session

**UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT
NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION**

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

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:25 p.m. in Room SD-419, Dirksen
2 Senate Office Building, Hon. Robert Menendez, chairman of the committee, presiding.

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

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ, U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** This business meeting will come to order. We are going to need
6 actually a couple members to actually vote out resolutions and nominees. But let me go
7 through the agenda so we can advance the cause here.

8 If there is no objection, we are going to consider four resolutions en bloc. They
9 are: S. Res. 502, Concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government
10 of the Democratic Republic of Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart
11 the country with their adoptive parents, with an amendment by Senator Corker;

12 S. Res. 522, Expressing the sense of the Senate supporting the U.S.-Africa Leaders
13 Summit to be held in Washington from August 4th to the 6th of this year;

14 S. Res. 513, Honoring the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising;

15 And S. Res. 520, Condemning the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 and
16 expressing condolences to the families of the victims.

17 Senator Corker, would you like to speak to any of these?

18 **SENATOR CORKER.** I support passage of all of these, especially on the issue relative
19 to the DRC. I doubt there is anybody here that has not met with families who are
20 having issues. I know we sent a couple staff members down a few weeks ago to see if
21 the logjam could be broken, but it really is heartbreaking to know that people have

1 actually adopted children there, they are in their name, they are supporting them
2 financially, and yet they cannot get them back in country.

3 So I thank you for all of these and support those, and hopefully we will have a
4 speedy passage of all of these.

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Any other Senator wishing to speak to any of the resolutions?
6 Senator Murphy.

7 **SENATOR MURPHY.** Thank you, Senator Menendez. I would just like to thank you
8 for allowing the resolution introduced by myself and Senator Johnson on the downing
9 of Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 to come to the committee today. The end of this
10 resolution is a call on Europe to join with the United States with respect to enacting a
11 message sending consequential sanctions on Russia. I will just note that within the hour
12 or within the afternoon Europe has announced a new round of sanctions, which may
13 not go as far as many of us would like. It still allows for the sale, for instance, of the
14 warships from France to Russia, but is the first coordinated set of sanctions between the
15 United States and Europe, for instance imposing very, very tough sanctions on the
16 ability of Russian banks to raise capital in the United States and Europe, that will have a
17 substantial coordinated impact on the Russian economy. That is good news, and
18 thankful to have the resolution before us today.

19 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you.

20 Any other Senator wishing to speak on the resolutions? [No response.]

21 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If not, we will hold those resolutions in abeyance.

22 The next order of business is 11 nominees that I ask be considered en bloc,
23 without objection. They are:

24 Todd Robinson to be the ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala;

25 Jane D. Hartley to be ambassador to the French Republic and to serve
26 concurrently as ambassador to the Principality of Monaco;

27 Kevin O'Malley, to be ambassador to Ireland;

1 James Pettit, to be ambassador to the Republic of Moldova;
2 Brent Robert Hartley, to be ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia;
3 Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, to be ambassador to the People's Republic of
4 Bangladesh;
5 David Pressman, to be Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs in the
6 UN, with the rank of ambassador; Alternate Representative to the Sessions of the
7 General Assembly of the UN during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative
8 for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations;
9 George Albert Krol, to be ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan;
10 Mr. Allan Mustard, to be ambassador to Turkmenistan;
11 Erica J. Barks Ruggles, to be ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda;
12 And John R. Bass, to the Republic — to be ambassador to the Republic of Turkey.

13 Is there any — Senator Corker?

14 **SENATOR CORKER.** I have got all the proxies here and these folks are unanimously
15 supported, so I look forward to us having enough members to vote them out.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Any other members wishing to speak to any of these nominees?

17 [No response.]

18 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Okay. It now comes to the end, where we need bodies to vote.

19 **SENATOR MCCAIN.** Mr. Chairman.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator McCain.

21 **SENATOR MCCAIN.** While we are waiting, I wonder if it would be possible for us,
22 either now or after the witness, to discuss perhaps trying to get our nominee to Russia,
23 ambassador to Russia, done as quickly as possible. I think we would all agree that,
24 given the state of things, that having this very experienced and talented person over to
25 Russia, over to Moscow, as quickly as possible I think would be in the country's
26 interests. I hope we could have a discussion about getting this nominee confirmed as
27 quickly as possible, hopefully before we go out at the August recess.

1 **SENATOR CARDIN.** Would Senator McCain yield just for a moment? Is he on the
2 Magnitsky list? Is he going to be able to get there? After your comments, I was a little
3 worried about that.

4 **SENATOR MCCAIN.** I think he has managed to evade that, but I — many of us have
5 known him in the past in his previous positions. He also had obtained an honorable
6 retirement and is willing to come back and serve in these very tense times between the
7 United States and Russia. I would hope that we could, Republican and Democrat,
8 despite our problems that we have had over the nuclear option, could move as quickly
9 as possible with this nominee, which I believe we could do by unanimous consent.

10 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Well, Senator McCain, if Mr. Tefft does as well as I think he will do
11 before the committee — and we intend to have a second business meeting so that we
12 can report the nominee out — then it would be my hope that the leadership could work
13 an agreement to send an ambassador to Russia. From my view, whether it be Russia or
14 any other place in the world, America cannot speak about its interests, its security, its
15 position globally, if it does not have a voice in the embassies of the United States. And
16 certainly in this context it is a critically important time.

17 So I share your sentiment. I hope we will be able to achieve it and look forward
18 to working with you and with others to do so.

19 We have one person short of being able to pass the business agenda. So I am
20 going to just momentarily — we are in the midst of calling offices. I am going to
21 momentarily recess the business meeting and go to the nomination hearing and start
22 that off. If in fact our tenth member arrives, we will recess the nomination hearing and
23 go immediately back to the business meeting to vote out the resolutions and the
24 nominees.

[Whereupon, at 2:32 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]