

**NOMINATIONS OF THE 110TH
CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION**

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
UNITED STATES SENATE**

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

—
JANUARY 30 THROUGH DECEMBER 19, 2007
—

Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Relations



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COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
110TH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION

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KENNETH A. MYERS, Jr., *Republican Staff Director*

*Note: Reassigned to Committee on Finance January 24, 2008.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
110TH CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION

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*Note: Appointed February 12, 2008.

NOMINATIONS

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

Hughes, Miriam K., to be Ambassador to the Federated States of
Micronesia
Hume, Cameron R., to be Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia
Huso, Ravic R., to be Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic
Republic
Keith, James R., to be Ambassador to Malaysia
Klemm, Hans G., to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of
Timor-Leste

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:00 a.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Barbara Boxer presiding.

Present: Senators Boxer and Feingold.
Also present: Senator Murkowski.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BARBARA BOXER, U.S. SENATOR FROM CALIFORNIA

Senator BOXER. Good morning. The hearing of the Foreign Relations Committee will come to order. We are very pleased today to consider five excellent nominees for U.S. Ambassadorial posts throughout East Asia and the Pacific.

As chairman of the subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to chair this full Committee hearing and congratulate each of our nominees for making it to this point, and I predict smooth sailing for each of you.

Because of our many interests and deep longstanding ties in the region, it's critical for the United States to be fully engaged throughout East Asia and the Pacific. Coming from California, I absolutely feel very strongly about this.

If we are to remain the region's leading power, the effectiveness of our diplomatic efforts must match our strong military presence. As we've learned in Iraq, even our most powerful military leaders say that diplomacy is the answer, so we cannot turn our back on our diplomatic efforts anywhere in the world.

On Sunday, foreign policy expert James Mann wrote in the Washington Post: "Over the past decade, U.S. foreign policy has been dominated by a school of thought that emphasizes military power, and has tied the spread of democracy to the use of force.

Not only has this failed, it has also undermined support for democracy.”

He went on to say that, “As the United States has been bleeding popularity and influence around the world, China has been gaining both.”

So in order to compete with the growing influence of China, it seems to me the United States must employ a diplomatic surge in East Asia and the Pacific to win the battle of ideas and reassure our allies that we are truly committed to the region.

So I am pleased that the administration has nominated five individuals with impressive credentials to serve as U.S. Ambassadors.

Cameron Hume, the President’s nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, has more than three decades of diplomatic experience, most recently as the Charge in Khartoum. That’s not an easy assignment. Prior to serving in Sudan, he was the Deputy Inspector General of the Department of State.

James Keith, the President’s nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia, is the current Deputy Special Representative on Avian and Pandemic influenza. Prior to this assignment, he served as the U.S. Consul General in Hong Kong. Mr. Keith has been working on matters relating to East Asia for more than 25 years.

Miriam Hughes, the President’s nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, currently serves as U.S. Deputy Representative to the Economic and Social Council of the U.S. Mission to the U.N.

Prior to this, she served as Director of the Office of Policy, Public, and Congressional Affairs in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs at the State Department. Earlier in her career, she served as Chief of the Consular Section in Mexico City.

Hans Klemm, the President’s nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to East Timor, currently serves as the Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. He joined the Foreign Service in 1981.

Finally, Ravic Huso, the President’s nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to Laos, currently serves as Political Advisor to the Commander of the United States Pacific Command.

Prior to this, he served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Bangkok, Thailand. Earlier in his career, he served as Senior Director of the National Security Council.

I want to thank each of our nominees for their willingness to serve our Nation, and I look forward to hearing their testimony.

This is where I will stop. Now, when Senator Murkowski joins us, and perhaps Senator Feingold, I’m going to give them an opportunity to make an opening statement, if they so choose. But in the meantime, I’m very interested in hearing from all of you.

Let’s see. Why don’t we start with the Honorable Cameron Hume to be Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia? Again, to all of you, my deepest thanks for your commitment to our country.

Ambassador?

Mr. HUME. Thank you very much.

Senator BOXER. I already called you Ambassador. That shows you where I am on this hearing. Go ahead.

**STATEMENT OF HON. CAMERON R. HUME, NOMINEE TO BE
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

Mr. HUME. It's a great honor to be here this morning as the nominee of President Bush to be Ambassador to Indonesia, and if confirmed by the Senate, I promise to serve to the best of my ability.

I think those qualifications are those of a career Foreign Service officer. After university, I was in the Peace Corps in Libya, and then I joined the State Department, and I had a number of assignments, both in the Arab world and in Italy.

I picked up several languages along the way. I consider myself fortunate to have had those experiences. I've since served three times as Chief of Mission in Algeria in the late 1990s, when that country was turning away from exceptional violence and toward greater respect for the rule of law.

Then in South Africa, which again was a country which I think was on the mend, I spent a lot of time there working on HIV/AIDS and trying to promote saner policies in that area. Now, for the last 18 months in Sudan, which I think was a difficult and challenging place to serve.

Indonesia is a vast and strategically important country. I approach this opportunity with a sense of considerable humility. It's a country that has known a tumultuous past, but fortunately, over the last 10 years, gradually its record has gotten better.

Economic growth has gone back to about 6 percent currently. They've had a series of elections which Freedom House considered to be free and fair. They were able to broker an apparent solution to the problem in Aceh, which is so far being respected.

So I think one looks at that—I'm fortunate at this time to be going to a country which is on the mend. The United States has important interests there, whether it's a cooperation in the war on terrorism, an area where, again, Indonesia's made some progress.

We have supported the formulation of a group in the police called Detachment 88, which has done good work in arresting people involved with terrorist acts.

We also have interest in seeing their economy and growth and stability continue. We have an aid program of about \$150 million in a number of different areas.

I think Indonesia, as the world's largest Muslim population nation, is a key when we look at solving some of the geopolitical problems that we confront. How are we able to cooperate with a government which is now formed by a free election, and a majority Muslim, and spreading influence, both in its region and elsewhere?

They contributed a battalion to the peacekeeping operation in Lebanon this year. So those are the—that's sort of a general abbreviated picture of the issues that will have my concern. I realize some of them will be difficult to deal with. Questions of rule of law, questions of trying to calibrate the right balance in what relationship we have with Indonesia in the security area.

But I promise that if confirmed, you'll get my best efforts.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hume follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. CAMERON R. HUME, NOMINEE TO BE
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

Thank you, Madame Chairman, and members of the committee. It is a great honor to come before this committee today as nominee for Ambassador to Indonesia. I would like to express my appreciation to President Bush and to Secretary Rice for the trust they have placed in me by making this nomination. If confirmed by the Senate, I promise to represent this country to the best of my abilities.

My qualifications for this position are those of a career Foreign Service officer. Immediately upon completion of university studies, I joined the Peace Corps as a volunteer and taught in Libya, my first experience in a developing country with a Muslim population. Shortly after departing Libya, I joined the Department of State. Early assignments gave me the opportunity to learn several languages and to serve in interesting posts, including Italy, Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon, and the Holy See. For several years I worked at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, first with responsibility for human rights and then for work in the Security Council.

Since 1997 I have been fortunate to represent the United States as chief of mission three times. Algeria was a country suffering from a tragic conflict in which the victims were ordinary civilians rather than the protagonists in the Islamist dissident forces or in the Algerian military. In part because the United States promoted reconciliation, democracy, and respect for the rule of law, the situation gradually improved. Service in South Africa brought new challenges. In particular, finding ways the United States could encourage South Africa to confront the scourge of HIV/AIDS. I would like to pay tribute to many colleagues in USAID, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Defense for the ground-breaking work they did to put in place programs that helped South Africa to confront this challenge.

For the past 2 years I have served as Charge d'Affaires in Sudan. Again I had the chance to witness, and a unique opportunity to participate in, the programs of the United States Government that aim to consolidate the peace in southern Sudan, to end the killing and to bind the wounds of the people of Darfur, and to support the emergence of a New Sudan. I cannot and would not claim more than partial success in any of these efforts, but I know that resources and efforts from the United States are having a significant, positive impact.

With these experiences in mind, I approach the challenge of representing the United States in Indonesia with a sense of humility. Indonesia is the fourth most populous nation and the third largest democracy. It has the world's largest Muslim population. It is a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement and of ASEAN, and it is currently a member of the U.N. Security Council. It is a vast country sitting astride strategic sea routes. By any standard, the relations between the United States and Indonesia are of vital importance.

Since independence, Indonesia has enjoyed years of encouraging growth and suffered years of tumult. The political and economic indicators are all rising, particularly since the election of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in 2004, and Indonesia is becoming a real success story. Problems and challenges remain, and, if confirmed, I would give them my priority attention. But it is worthwhile to recall some of the positive indicators:

- Economic growth has been gradually rising toward the level of 6 percent annually, a substantial improvement since the Asian financial crisis of the last decade but not enough to create the jobs needed by an expanding workforce.
- Following the 2004 national election and subsequent elections at the regional and municipal levels, and substantial gains for civil society and the media, Freedom House has moved Indonesia into the category of Free.
- Government and military reform have moved forward, including such steps as the separation of the Indonesian National Police from the armed forces, the adoption of anti-corruption measures, and the devolution of power to regional and local governments.

Today bilateral relations are improving. Indonesia is playing a more assertive role on the world stage, and is working as a force for international peace and stability; its commitment of troops to the UNIFIL deployment in Lebanon and vote for Security Council Resolution 1747 on Iran are notable recent examples. If confirmed, I'll work to enhance Indonesia's support for our key foreign policy priorities, including ensuring Iran does not develop nuclear weapons, advancing the Middle East peace process, and promoting a democratic transition in Burma. Indonesia's leadership is committed to the fight against terror within its borders, as the arrests and prosecutions of hundreds of terrorists in the past few years demonstrates. There have been no major terrorist incidents in Indonesia since October 2005, a huge achievement for a country that had been devastated by attacks every year since the Bali bombing.

in 2002. Working with the United States, Indonesia is vastly improving its ability to protect vital sea lanes from terrorists and piracy.

Perhaps most remarkable this past year was the election of a former rebel leader as governor in Aceh, a province that had been wracked by armed separatist conflict for decades. Today we are helping the Acehnese ensure a lasting peace and to recover fully from the deadly tsunami that struck its shores in December 2004.

While we still have serious concerns with human rights in Indonesia, I would be remiss without acknowledging the dramatic and broad progress the country has made here too. Notably, in November of last year, a court sentenced the ringleader of the deadly attack that killed two Americans and one Indonesian in 2002 in Timika, Papua, to life in prison. In this case Indonesia's criminal justice system worked closely with our own law enforcement in building and prosecuting the case, and the sentence was just. Despite encouraging developments in Indonesia's efforts to build a strong criminal case in the murder of human rights activist Munir, this crime has not been fully resolved. If confirmed, I will make it a priority to continue to press the government for a fair accounting of past human rights abuses committed by security forces in East Timor and elsewhere.

U.S. partnership and friendship can help this critically important country in the medium- and long-term. The assistance funds Congress provides address some of Indonesia's greatest needs, such as education, so tomorrow's generation will have the critical thinking skills that democratic citizens need. Our dollars go to economic and justice sector reform because Indonesia still needs to attract more investment, provide more jobs, and build the institutions and respect for rule of law that we hope will provide its democracy with a rock-solid foundation. They improve health care critically by reducing the spread of infectious diseases. The new Millennium Challenge Corporation program launched this year aims to strengthen the anticorruption efforts Indonesia has underway and to provide immunizations. And we are providing security assistance that aids in the fight against terror and contributes to the creation of a professional, civilian-run force.

In less than 10 years, Indonesia has travelled an astonishing distance: from the ruin of the Asian financial crisis and fall of a dictatorship to a vibrant democracy with solid economic growth. In many ways, though, these gains are fragile. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Congress and the full array of U.S. Government agencies to promote the success of our policies and of Indonesia's democracy.

I would welcome the opportunity to answer questions.

Senator BOXER. Thank you very much, Mr. Hume. I really respect your history, and I think you gave us a very insightful look at what you're going to do.

I think its summed up very well in your testimony in the last paragraph, where you say: "In less than 10 years, Indonesia has traveled an astonishing distance, but in many ways, these gains are fragile, and if confirmed, I look forward to working with the Congress to promote the success." I think that gives me a sense that this is an important time there, and you get that, and I appreciate it.

If you notice, we do have a 5-minute clock we're all living by, so try to keep your statement under that limit. You left us with plenty of extra time. At this point, I would ask Senator Murkowski if she'd like to make an opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF HON. LISA MURKOWSKI,
U.S. SENATOR FROM ALASKA**

Senator MURKOWSKI. Thank you, Madame Chair. I don't have an opening statement this morning, other than to welcome each of you gentlemen and Ms. Hughes, welcome you to the subcommittee this morning, and to thank you for your willingness to serve in the respective areas.

Very impressive backgrounds and credentials that we have in front of us this morning, certainly in some very key parts of the

globe, as we look to whether it's political activities that are taking place in the region or just the economic activities.

So again, I welcome you to the subcommittee, and thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

Senator BOXER. Thank you so much, Senator Murkowski. You know, I neglected to ask each of you to introduce the relatives that you may well have brought with you. So why don't I go back to Mr. Hume. Would you like to introduce anyone?

Mr. HUME. No, I'm here alone today.

Senator BOXER. Okay.

Mr. Keith, before you start, do you have anyone you'd like to introduce?

Mr. KEITH. Madame Chairman, I do, thank you. Since my whole family isn't here, I'll be able to keep to the 5-minute rule.

Senator BOXER. Okay.

Mr. KEITH. I'd like to introduce my wife, Jan, who's—

Senator BOXER. Jan, stand up, please. We want to see you. Yes.

Mr. KEITH. My son Andrew is sitting to her left, and my son John is to her right.

Senator BOXER. Hi.

Mr. KEITH. My daughter Elizabeth and my daughter Emily are all here today. I have two other sons, Jason and Scott, who can't be here. Jason is a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army, serving at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, married to an Army veteran, Annie, and our granddaughter, Lily, 5 weeks old.

Senator BOXER. Congratulations on that.

Mr. KEITH. Thank you.

Senator BOXER. Well, Mr. Keith, why don't you proceed for up to 5 minutes? We'll put all of your statements into the record.

STATEMENT OF JAMES R. KEITH, NOMINEE TO BE AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA

Mr. KEITH. Madame Chairman, thank you. I'm honored to be here, and thank the committee for considering my nomination. Because you have my statement, I'll just briefly summarize.

I'm looking forward, with high aspirations, to going to Malaysia. High aspirations for what we can achieve with a country that has come a long way, but still has, in many respects, a distance to go.

I'm pleased to report that we have very good cooperation with the Malaysians from both law enforcement and military perspectives in countering terrorism in the region. Like Indonesia, Malaysia is a majority Muslim country, and it's important that we share objectives, both in the region and in multilateral fora, including in the U.N.

I also have very high aspirations for what we can achieve in Malaysia with regard to balancing the benefits of our trade. I think that the American market is absolutely critical to Malaysia's economic success, and I believe we have opportunities to further our trade, given the market-oriented focus in Malaysia.

Our American business opportunities, financial opportunities, in particular, in the services sector, I would hope that we would be able to expand our interaction and cooperation.

I think we have not only important security and trade interests in Malaysia, in particular, given its strategic location on the Strait of Malacca, but also important people to people ties, which I'll do my best if confirmed to advance.

About 150,000 Malaysians, more than 150,000, have studied in the United States over the years. That number has gone down year by year, and I'd like to find ways for us to increase our interaction along those lines.

For example, in many areas in Asia, American educational institutions have local programs, such as MBA programs. Others are doing this in Malaysia. The American institutions are not there yet, but I'd like to promote that.

We have six American corners throughout Malaysia also. These are the areas of focus for our people to people interaction. I'd like to make sure that, if confirmed, that both I and my staff at the embassy take advantage of those centers so that we can get outside the capital and increase people to people exchanges.

I think America and Malaysia share a lot, but we have some differences, too, and I certainly will be forthright, if confirmed, in speaking about some of those differences, and helping the Malaysians, whether it's more in the technical areas, such as export control, where we can help with training courses and model legislation, or on a broader cultural front and political front, including electoral reform.

So I look forward to a very exciting time. This is a dynamic region, and Malaysia is part of the fluid situation and change there, and could be, I think, more a part of leadership, both in regional organizations, as well as globally.

So I thank you for your consideration of my nomination, and would be happy to answer your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Keith follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JAMES R. KEITH, NOMINEE TO BE
AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA

Madam Chairman, members of the committee, I am deeply honored to appear before you today. It is a privilege to be the President's nominee as the United States Ambassador to Malaysia. I am grateful to the President and Secretary Rice for the trust and confidence they invested in me as the nominee for this position. I am also honored to be in the company of a group of distinguished nominees for important posts in the East Asian and Pacific region.

Madam Chairman, I am a senior member of the Foreign Service with the rank of Minister-Counselor. I have, over the course of my 27 years of public service, held senior positions at the State Department and the National Security Council in Washington, including as Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs dealing primarily with China. Overseas I was our Designated Chief of Mission and Consul General in Hong Kong and I have served at embassies in Northeast and Southeast Asia.

Prime among the resources that the Department of State and other agencies and departments have to offer in any embassy abroad is our people. I look forward, if confirmed, to working with a capable and experienced country team at our embassy in Kuala Lumpur. We have an active and productive Mission comprising eight U.S. Government agencies and Departments working together to cement ties between our two nations. We are establishing a one-officer American presence post in Kota Kinabalu in Malaysian Borneo and have expanded our embassy staff in several key areas over recent years to advance our shared security interests. If confirmed, I will take as a priority directing this dedicated team in support of American citizens traveling, working, and residing abroad.

Malaysia is prominent in the region and globally. It will celebrate, later this year, the 50th anniversary of its independence from Britain as well as the 50th anniversary

sary of United States-Malaysia diplomatic relations. It is an important voice for key constituencies that matter to the American people. Malaysia is a moderate majority-Muslim democratic state and has successfully managed economic globalization and a multiethnic, multiethnic society. It has served over the years in leadership positions in the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, among others.

The United States and Malaysia have sometimes had policy differences that required public expression in strong terms. In recent years, Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi has set a path forward that promises an increasingly productive relationship and greater congruence between the interests of America and Malaysia. If confirmed, I will devote my energies to improving and strengthening United States-Malaysia relations, while openly discussing issues on which we differ.

One example of our differing perspectives involves our respective views of Iran. We remain opposed to foreign investment in Iran's oil and gas sector, as a matter of law and policy. If confirmed, I will continue to make clear our concerns about such investment, and to emphasize that we are vigorously opposed to business as usual with Iran and want other nations to join us in dissuading Teheran from pursuing a nuclear weapons program.

Far too few Malaysians hold positive views of the United States. One of my goals, if confirmed, would be to build on the embassy's ongoing public outreach throughout the country to provide an accurate basis from which the Malaysian people can form opinions about the American people, our values, and our goals in the world. It will be critical, in this context, for my country team and for me to speak forthrightly about our commitment to fundamental values, including those enunciated in the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We want to be Malaysia's essential future partner, and we need to communicate effectively that sentiment to the Government and people of Malaysia. We should deepen and broaden mutual understanding by promoting people-to-people contacts, expanding upon the more than 175,000 Americans who visit each year, and increasing from 5,500 the number of Malaysians who study in the United States. These direct personal interactions represent an invaluable platform for advancing U.S. interests.

Our trade and investment ties, already a key component of the relationship, offer great promise for further development. We are and have been for more than 40 years Malaysia's No. 1 market and we lead the world in total foreign direct investment in Malaysia. Malaysia buys more than \$13 billion of American exports each year. We are seeking to deepen these trade ties even further through a Free Trade Agreement and other mechanisms. Our agenda is ambitious, as befits a relationship with our 10th largest trading partner. We have much work to do, but remain committed to promoting the best interests of all Americans. Agriculture, the environment, labor, intellectual property—these are complex sectors that will engage our best efforts. If confirmed, I will work closely with our cabinet members and their senior advisors to ensure the most productive possible outcomes for the American people.

One clear area of common interest is the growing cooperation between our officials working on security and law enforcement issues. Southeast Asia is an important front in the war on terror and we depend on Malaysia to be an effective and cooperative player in the region's vital counterterrorism programs. Malaysian authorities have responded vigorously to the threat posed by Jemmah Islamiya and Abu Sayyaf groups, contributing to the security and prosperity of both our nations.

Our bilateral military cooperation is growing and includes exchanges of visits and training, equipment sales, combined exercises, and, increasingly, naval ship visits. Our attention in the region is focused in particular on the Strait of Malacca, an area of vital national interest as it is a major conduit for the world's commercial shipping. We need to assist littoral states through intelligence sharing and capacity-building to take on the primary task of protecting the strait. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with our senior uniformed and civilian military leaders, including my colleagues at the Pacific Command in Hawaii, to advance our security ties with Malaysia.

I would also like to mention the "Heart of Borneo" initiative and related bilateral environmental programs. The island of Borneo, shared by Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei, is one of the most biologically diverse habitats in the world. We are working with those three governments, NGOs, and others to preserve vast tracts of forest and promote sustainable development in Borneo.

Madam Chairman and members of the committee, I will not attempt an exhaustive list of every priority in United States foreign policy that is embedded in the United States-Malaysia relationship. I will commit to you, however, that if confirmed I will do my utmost to ensure that you are kept informed and that your con-

cerns are addressed. If confirmed, I would be delighted to greet you and your staff members in Kuala Lumpur to further our work together to advance the interests of the American people.

I am convinced our longstanding relationship with the Malaysian people will continue to flourish in the years ahead. If confirmed by the Senate, I will commit myself to promoting United States interests by deepening ties to the leadership and people of Malaysia to the benefit of both our nations.

Thank you again for granting me the honor of appearing before you today. I would be pleased to respond to your questions.

Senator BOXER. Thank you so much, Mr. Keith.

Now, Ms. Hughes, do you have anyone you'd like to introduce before you make your opening statement?

**STATEMENT OF MIRIAM HUGHES, NOMINEE TO BE
AMBASSADOR TO THE FEDERATED STATE OF MICRONESIA**

Ms. HUGHES. Yes. Thank you very much, Madame Chairman. My daughter, Jordana Hughes Tynan, has driven down from New York to be with me today. I'm very, very honored.

Jordana has been with me in all of my Foreign Service assignments, including Mexico City, Santo Domingo, Quito, Bangkok, London, and Thessaloniki, at some sacrifice. It's always a little bit harder for the dependents. So it's a huge honor today. Thank you.

Regarding—I thought maybe mine would be better as a 3-minute rule, since, if confirmed, I'll go to the littlest country, and I've just chosen to highlight a few parts of the statement that will be entered for the record.

Madame Chair and Senator Murkowski, it is a privilege to appear before you today to discuss my nomination. In my current assignment at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, I head a section that is dedicated to the full range of economic, social, and humanitarian affairs that consume more than 70 percent of the U.N.'s regular budget.

The global issues that we debate and negotiate particularly concern developing countries. If confirmed, I would look forward wholeheartedly to leading our efforts in Micronesia, to implement and practice key objectives that we discuss conceptually at the U.N., including sustainable development, good governance, and environmental protection and management.

On a map, the Federated States of Micronesia appear as specks of far-flung islands in the vast Pacific Ocean. This is one of the smallest countries in the world. Nevertheless, it has sovereignty over more than a million square miles of ocean in a strategic region.

The United States has committed to defend Micronesia as if it were part of our own territory. Micronesians serve in the U.S. military, and many have made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan. The friendship, above all, of this nation is vital.

If confirmed by the Senate, I would look forward to working with the members of this committee, and others in the Congress, who seek to invigorate our relationship with Micronesia across a range of interests. Our ties go back over centuries.

We have recently entered into a challenging new phase in U.S./Micronesian relations. To promote self-reliance, the U.S. Congress approved an amended compact of free association, which went into effect in 2004. This amended compact, or Compact 2, targets U.S.

resources on key areas that are building blocks for economic self-sufficiency, including education, health care, infrastructure, environmental protection, and private sector development.

The U.S. Embassy in Kolonia has a special responsibility to work with the Department of Interior to ensure that this compact is well-implemented. Strong leadership and management skills are essential. The embassy needs to coordinate with some 40 other U.S. Government agencies.

Many of them are legacies from the days of trust territory status, and their programs continue to touch every aspect of Micronesian life. Respect and partnership will be the cornerstones of our success.

Madame Chairman and Senator Murkowski, it would be a profound honor to represent the President and people of the United States of America in the Federated States of Micronesia. If confirmed, I would work diligently to promote friendship and a comprehensive partnership to build capacity in a unique and valuable region.

You can be assured of my full cooperation with the Congress, and of course, I would be happy to answer your questions.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Hughes follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MIRIAM K. HUGHES, NOMINEE TO BE
AMBASSADOR TO THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Madam Chairwoman and members of the committee, it is a privilege to appear before you today to discuss my nomination to serve as United States Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). It is also an honor to introduce my daughter, Jordana Hughes Tynan, who came from New York to be with me on this momentous day. Jordana accompanied me on all my overseas assignments, which was not always easy for a child. She made many sacrifices and adjustments on my behalf.

During a 29-year career in the Foreign Service, I have learned, worked, and grown through assignments at our United States posts in Mexico City, Santo Domingo, Quito, Bangkok, London, and Thessaloniki. My specialty has been consular management, but I additionally sought broader experience. In Bangkok, I monitored and reported on conditions in U.N. refugee camps for Cambodians and Vietnamese. The post I headed in Thessaloniki, Greece, focused on efforts to promote United States business opportunities and analyze the human rights mosaic in the Balkans.

In my current assignment at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, I head a section that is dedicated to the full range of economic, social, and humanitarian affairs that consume more than 70 percent of the U.N. regular budget. The global issues that we debate and negotiate particularly concern developing countries. If confirmed, I would look forward wholeheartedly to leading our efforts in Micronesia to implement in practice key objectives that we discuss conceptually at the U.N., including sustainable development, good governance, and environmental protection.

On a map, the FSM appear as specks of far-flung islands in the vast Central Pacific Ocean. Although this nation is tiny and scattered, its impact is significant. We share a deep connection. Micronesia's 600 islands encompass a total area of just 270 square miles. It is one of the smallest countries in the world. Nevertheless, it has sovereignty over more than a million square miles of ocean in a strategic region. The United States has committed to defend Micronesia as if it were part of our own territory. Micronesians serve in the U.S. military at twice the per capita rate of Americans, and many have made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. The friendship of this nation is vital, particularly as we expand our engagement in the Pacific to meet today's transnational challenges.

If confirmed by the Senate, I would look forward to working with the members of this committee and others in the Congress who seek to invigorate our relationship with Micronesia across a range of interests. Although an ocean separates us, this recently independent nation has a special place in the hearts of Americans. Our ties go back over centuries.

In the 1800s, American whalers and missionaries entered this region. The American author Jack London found inspiration for some of his most gripping tales in the remote Pacific islands. His stories of voyages and adventures capture the translucent beauty of the islands as well as the hazards of typhoons, disease, and poverty. The inhabitants who London brought to life demonstrate extraordinary skill in indigenous methods of navigation. They are ingenious, loyal, and resilient. These are people who we want to keep as firm friends.

Soon after the second world war and following severe bombing of some of the occupied islands of Micronesia, the United Nations established the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under the administration of the United States. Although discontinued in 1991, the trusteeship system remains enshrined in the U.N. Charter as a means to promote peace, progressive development, and eventual self-government. Under American tutelage, Micronesia fulfilled these aims. The FSM adopted a constitution in 1979. The nation emerged as a sovereign democracy in 1986. A Compact of Free Association with the United States helped Micronesia make a smooth transition. This month, Micronesians chose their seventh President in a free and fair electoral process.

We have entered a challenging, new phase of United States-Micronesian relations. To promote self-reliance, the U.S. Congress approved an Amended Compact of Free Association, which commenced in 2004. The Micronesians themselves participated in compact negotiations, and they help review its annual performance. The amended compact targets U.S. resources in key areas that are building blocks for economic self-sufficiency, including education, health care, infrastructure, environmental protection, and private sector development. Compact aid will decrease progressively every year and transfer to a capitalized trust fund, which is intended to ensure Micronesia's transition to economic independence in 2024.

The United States' Embassy in Kolonia has a special responsibility to work with the Department of Interior to ensure that this compact is well implemented. Strong leadership and management skills are essential. The embassy needs to coordinate with some 40 other U.S. Government agencies—many of them legacies from the days of the Trust Territory—whose programs continue to touch every aspect of Micronesian life. Respect and partnership will be the cornerstones of our success.

From my experience as a Foreign Service consular manager in some of our largest and most complex overseas consular sections, I learned to improve efficiency and accountability based on collaborative strategies. One must engage and train the participants, ensuring that they become part of the process, buy into the goals, and indeed refine and adapt them and make them their own. Once engaged, they will dedicate their best efforts, teaching a leader in return and finding creative, new ways to achieve mutual objectives.

If I am confirmed, I will devote my energies to fostering relationships of equality and pragmatism with our Micronesian friends. I would also strengthen cooperation with regional and multilateral partners and civil society representatives. Such a comprehensive approach must be based upon a clear vision of how to nurture a sustainable future in a small island nation that is isolated and potentially vulnerable. To be effective at the United Nations, one learns to listen carefully and to focus on priorities. The majority of U.N. members are developing countries. They teach us the paramount importance of respect for diversity and principles of national ownership. At the same time, the United States has led efforts to establish global acceptance of the responsibility of governments to meet the needs of their own people by creating an enabling architecture for a just rule of law and growth that is stimulated by economic freedom.

Madam Chairwoman and members of the committee, it would be a profound honor to represent the President and people of the United States of America in the Federated States of Micronesia. If I am confirmed, I would work diligently to promote friendship and a comprehensive partnership to help build capacity in a strategic region. You can be assured of my full cooperation with the U.S. Congress.

I will be happy to answer your questions.

Senator BOXER. Thank you very much.

Mr. Klemm, would you like to introduce any family here before you speak?

Mr. KLEMM. Regrettably, Madame Chair, my wife, Mari, could not join us today—

Senator BOXER. Okay.

Mr. KLEMM [continuing]. Due to her professional responsibilities.

Senator BOXER. I understand. Send our best.

STATEMENT OF HANS G. KLEMM, NOMINEE TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

Mr. KLEMM. Thank you. Madame Chair, Senator Murkowski, I'm very honored to have the privilege of appearing before you today as President Bush's nominee as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. I'm grateful for the trust and confidence that President and Secretary Rice have shown in nominating me.

I would also like to thank your staff. They have been especially helpful and gracious to me during this process.

Madame Chairman, as you mentioned, I joined the Foreign Service some 25 years ago, and have directed large programs, as well as management offices, at the Department here in Washington, as well as serving at our missions abroad in Germany, Korea, and in other small, developing, oil-rich country, Trinidad and Tobago.

East Timor achieved its independence on May 20, 2002, becoming the first new nation of the 21st century. As a friend of long standing, the United States wants East Timor to succeed in its transition to a stable democratic state.

The United States supports the strengthening of multiparty democracy in East Timor on a foundation of security and the rule of law. We support the protection of human rights, including freedoms of speech, press, and assembly.

We support the development of a free-market economy. We support our allies in the United Nations, who have committed both human and financial resources to assist East Timor's democratic development, and to recover from the turmoil of the past year.

We welcome the progress that East Timor has made in recent months toward consolidating its democratic institutions, including its organization of the first sovereign national election for president.

The East Timor Government must now redouble efforts to ensure that parliamentary elections, to be held next month, are free, fair, and transparent, and provide the Timorese people with an opportunity to choose a new government with a mandate to move the country forward.

Security remains essential to restoring political stability and building a foundation for a more prosperous future. The police and armed forces need to become cohesive, accountable organizations that earn the trust of the Timorese people.

If confirmed, I will work with other donor nations and organizations to provide training and assistance to these institutions to promote professionalism in accordance with principles of human rights.

The violence and unrest that engulfed East Timor last year underscored the urgent need to foster good governance. The crisis flowed from institutional weaknesses, such as politicized security forces, an inadequate system of justice, widespread absence of reliable information, and a disaffected population.

If confirmed, I will work with the government and the international community to remedy these serious shortcomings. I will also continue to press for addressing accountability for the violence of 2006 and the crimes against humanity committed in 1999.

Recent events also highlight the need to promote economic growth, with a particular focus on job creation. If confirmed, I will

assist the government of East Timor to improve its economic policy environment and best utilize the country's potentially significant natural resource wealth.

Madame Chairman, I firmly believe that the successful establishment of democratic institutions and vibrant free markets in East Timor will send a tremendously important signal to the world.

East Timor is a country that inspired the global community with its longing for self-determination, freedom, and democracy. This shared commitment to the highest ideals for government makes East Timor a natural friend of the United States, and an example to others around the world.

Madame Chairman, Senator Murkowski, thank you again for giving me the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Klemm follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HANS G. KLEMM, NOMINEE TO BE
AMBASSADOR TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

Madame Chairwoman, members of the committee, I am honored to have the privilege of appearing before you today as President Bush's nominee as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (East Timor). I am appreciative of the trust and confidence the President and Secretary Rice have shown in nominating me and grateful for the opportunity to serve in this position.

Madame Chairwoman, I am a member of the Senior Foreign Service currently assigned as Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs at our embassy in Tokyo, Japan. I have previously served overseas at our missions in Germany, Korea, and Trinidad and Tobago. At the Department of State, I have served as the director of large management and policy program offices within the Bureaus of Human Resources and Economic and Business Affairs. If confirmed by the Senate, I will work to the best of my ability to advance United States' interests in East Timor and the Southeast Asian region and look forward to working with the members of this committee and others in Congress to achieve our objectives.

East Timor achieved its independence on May 20, 2002, becoming the first new nation of the 21st century. With the firm backing of the international community, the Timorese people set out on a path toward freedom and democracy. Even at that time, everyone understood that the country would have to overcome many obstacles.

Fortunately, East Timor has many partners willing to assist in times of need. As a friend of long standing, the United States wants East Timor to succeed in its transition to a stable democratic state. The United States has supported both the deployment of international forces and the establishment of the U.N. Integrated Mission in East Timor (LJNMIT) in response to the political crisis and violence of 2006. The United States also supported the international community's humanitarian efforts by providing food and non-food assistance to address the immediate needs of the tens of thousands of internally displaced persons, many of whom remain in camps around the country.

We support the strengthening of multiparty democracy on a foundation of security and the rule of law. We support the protection of human rights, including freedoms of speech, press, and assembly. We support the development of a free-market economy. We believe that democracy, good governance, and economic growth offer the best chance for East Timor to succeed. We support our allies in the region who have committed both human and financial resources to assist East Timor to recover from the turmoil of the past year. A stable and prosperous East Timor will not only fulfill the aspirations of its people arising from the country's long struggle for independence; but it will also serve as an inspiration to other peoples around the world.

We welcome the progress that East Timor has made in recent months toward consolidating its democratic institutions. The Government has completed the first step, organizing its first sovereign national election for president, with assistance from the U.N. Integrated Mission in East Timor and other donors. Our Embassy in Dili supported these efforts by publicly promoting peaceful, free, and fair elections in coordination with other diplomatic missions in-country. The parliamentary election scheduled for this summer should provide a farther opportunity for the Timorese people to choose a government with a mandate to move the country forward. I look

forward to continuing our support for the Timorese in their effort to put democratic government on a solid footing.

Security remains essential to restoring political stability and building a foundation for a more prosperous future. The police and the armed forces need to become cohesive, accountable organizations that earn the trust of the Timorese people. We are working with other donor nations and organizations to provide training and assistance to these institutions to promote professionalism and functional expertise in accordance with principles of human rights. If confirmed, I will continue to press the Timorese Government and international donors on the need for security sector reform that is achievable and results in the growing stability of the state and its institutions.

The violence and unrest that engulfed East Timor in 2006 underscored the urgent need to foster good governance. The crisis flowed from institutional weaknesses that will continue to generate problems if left unremedied. These include weak state institutions, politicized security forces, an inadequate system of justice, widespread absence of reliable information, and a disaffected population. The challenge in addressing these issues goes beyond restoring peace and requires laying a solid foundation for good governance in the future. I look forward to supporting our foreign assistance programs that seek to redress these root causes. More must also be done to promote the rule of law. If confirmed, I will continue to press for addressing accountability for the violence of 2006 as well as the crimes against humanity committed in 1999.

Recent events also highlight the need to promote economic growth, with a particular focus on job creation. Democracy is often at risk when there is no economic opportunity, and lackluster economic performance underlies much of the popular frustration in the country. We will assist the Government of East Timor to improve the economic policy environment and best utilize the country's potentially significant natural resource wealth. For example, if confirmed, I look forward to supporting ongoing initiatives to improve the security of property rights, vitalize the private sector and increase economic opportunity. These programs promise to encourage private investment and improve private sector agricultural performance, where 80 percent of Timorese make their living.

The Government of East Timor has done commendable preparatory work since the country became eligible to propose a compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in 2005. The Government could complete its compact proposal as early as the end of this calendar year, if the Timorese are able to complete detailed analyses on program elements, maintain compact eligibility, and conduct serious consultations with civil society and other stakeholders. Early drafts of the proposal suggest that it will focus on much-needed infrastructure projects. I understand that after MCC completes due diligence on the proposal, a compact could be signed and implementation could begin as early as 2009.

I look forward to continuing our efforts to reach out to like-minded international partners to reaffirm to the Timorese authorities what they must do to lay the foundation for a better future. Australia leads the military peacekeeping force in East Timor. Other nations, such as New Zealand, have also contributed. We have close working ties with the U.N. Mission in East Timor, which includes over 1,600 U.N. police. Portugal, Japan, the European Union, Brazil, Malaysia, and other nations also have a significant diplomatic presence in East Timor.

Madame Chairwoman, I firmly believe that the successful establishment of democratic institutions and vibrant free markets in East Timor will send a tremendously important signal to the world. East Timor is a country that has inspired the global community with its longing for self-determination, freedom, and democracy. This shared commitment to the highest ideals for government makes East Timor a natural friend of the United States and an example to others around the world.

There are many ways the United States, and particularly our Mission in Dili, can help East Timor. Currently over 140 people make up the Mission staff, including 14 Americans, and over 120 Foreign Service nationals. I look forward to leading this team as we meet the challenges ahead.

Madame Chairwoman and members of the committee, thank you again for granting me the honor of appearing before you today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Senator BOXER. Thank you so very much.
Mr. Huso.

**STATEMENT OF RAVIC R. HUSO, NOMINEE TO BE
AMBASSADOR TO THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

Mr. HUSO. Madame Chair, thank you very much. My wife, Barbara, who I met when we were both Peace Corps volunteers in Senegal a number of years ago, unfortunately could not come today. She's home with my daughter, Natalie, in Hawaii. I do have some dear old friends, Sherman and Jill Hinson, who are standing in for my family.

Madame Chair, Senator Murkowski, thank you very much for the opportunity to appear before the committee today. It's a great honor to be nominated by President Bush to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

If confirmed as Ambassador to Laos, I look forward to working with the committee and other members of Congress to advance United States interest in Laos.

The United States and Laos have many shared interests, and have cooperated closely in a number of key areas, such as the recovery of the remains of our service members missing in Laos during the Vietnam War, and removing unexploded ordnance leftover from that fighting.

In recent years, our bilateral cooperation has broadened to include combating international threats, such as the traffic in drugs, the traffic in persons, and avian influenza, more recently. We're also slowly seeing increased opportunities for some trade and investment between our two countries.

The United States Government has made a solemn commitment to achieving the fullest possible accounting for the Americans still missing from the war in Southeast Asia. I deeply respect that commitment, and if confirmed, I will devote my full attention to this important humanitarian endeavor.

Despite the recent progress we've made in our relationship, we do have significant concerns regarding the Lao Government's inability to fully adhere to internationally recognized standards for human rights and religious freedoms.

I appreciate and I share the concerns of the many thousands of Americans who trace their origins to Laos, in particular, the Hmong Americans, over the Lao Government's treatment of ethnic minorities. I will make it a priority, if confirmed, to encourage the Lao Government to protect the rights of its minority ethnic groups.

Finally, Madame Chair, the welfare and safety of American citizens traveling or working in Laos will always be a top priority, if I'm confirmed.

In conclusion, I believe that sustained engagement with the Lao Government, supported by a strong public diplomacy program, offers the best prospects for achieving progress on the array of issues important to United States interests and to the Lao people.

Madame Chair, Senator Murkowski, thank you again for the opportunity to appear today, and I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Huso follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF RAVIC R. HUSO, NOMINEE TO BE
AMBASSADOR TO THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Madam Chairwoman and members of the committee, it is a great honor to be nominated by President Bush to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Lao People's Demo-

cratic Republic. I am grateful for the President's confidence and to Secretary Rice for her support of my nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee today. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the committee and other interested Members of Congress to advance United States' interests in Laos.

Madam Chairwoman, I have served my country as a Foreign Service officer since 1980 and before that as a Peace Corps volunteer. As the son of a Foreign Service officer, I was brought up with a deep sense of the responsibilities associated with representing the United States abroad and pride in being afforded that opportunity. I also developed a profound appreciation for the characteristics that make the United States a beacon of democratic freedom and economic opportunity.

As a Foreign Service officer, I have always looked for the most challenging assignments, those that offered the most opportunity to make a difference. If confirmed, I will devote myself to encouraging the Lao people and their Government to pursue a path of positive engagement with friends and neighbors leading to enhanced respect for individual freedoms and rights and shared economic prosperity.

The United States' relationship with Laos has developed steadily since the restoration of full diplomatic relations in 1992. The United States and Laos have many shared interests and have cooperated closely in a number of key areas, such as the recovery of the remains of our service members missing in action from the Southeast Asia war, removing unexploded ordnance from the war, and in reducing the scourge of drugs. In recent years, bilateral cooperation has broadened to include combating avian influenza and trafficking in persons. We are also slowly seeing increased opportunities for trade and investment. However, despite the recent progress in our relationship, we still have significant concerns regarding the Lao Government's inability to fully adhere to internationally recognized standards for human rights and religious freedoms.

If confirmed, I pledge to devote myself to strengthening our existing partnerships and exploring new opportunities for cooperation. I also am prepared to address our differences directly and constructively. I believe that sustained engagement with the Lao Government—supported by a strong public diplomacy effort—offers the best prospects for achieving progress on the array of issues important to United States interests and the Lao people.

I am encouraged by progress in several important areas. The United States Government has made a solemn commitment to achieving the fullest possible accounting for the Americans still missing from the war in Southeast Asia. I deeply respect that commitment and, if confirmed, I will devote my full attention to building on the long history of successful cooperation on this important humanitarian endeavor that has been at the foundation of our bilateral relationship. I believe that we can achieve even more through increased flexibility in the conduct of joint field recovery activities and renewed efforts to examine all available sources of relevant information.

This collaborative work has also laid the foundation for taking the first steps in a process of building military-to-military ties through English-language training, educational exchanges, and civic action projects. I believe a phased and graduated approach to greater contacts between our militaries has the potential to improve mutual understanding and also benefit the Lao people.

The Congress took a major step in 2004 toward helping Laos to achieve sustainable, free market-based economic development by approving normal trade relations (NTR) status. Laos is among the poorest nations in Asia but also has significant economic potential and untapped natural as well as human resources. American investors and companies can play an important role in helping Laos to prosper and to diversify its economic and trade relations. If confirmed, I will not only assist United States businesses seeking to trade with or invest in Laos but will also look for ways to help the Lao Government fully implement our Bilateral Trade Agreement and undertake the reforms necessary to strengthen the essential underpinnings of a market economy: good governance and rule of law.

I also assess a commitment by the Lao Government to work together toward solving challenges of mutual concern. The United States and Laos have a common interest in combating transnational threats such as terrorism, trafficking in narcotics and persons, money laundering and other financial crimes, pandemic diseases and environmental degradation. Laos has made great progress in reducing the production of opium and the illicit cross-border trade in heroin but is faced with a rapidly growing new threat—the use and trafficking of methamphetamines—known locally as *yaa baa* or “crazy drug.” I will do my utmost to sustain the progress made against opium and while also broadening our focus to address the methamphetamine challenge.

Earlier this year, Laos suffered an outbreak of avian influenza, resulting in its first-ever human infections and deaths from this disease. I will pay close attention to bolstering United States and international efforts to assist the Lao to develop their capabilities to detect, isolate, and control such outbreaks and reduce the threat of human pandemic influenza.

Porous borders and weak state institutions make Laos potentially vulnerable to terrorist activity. I will also urge the Lao Government to work closely with the United States and other partner countries, as well as within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) framework, to take concrete measures to reduce the threat of international terrorists using Laos as a base or a target for their crimes.

If confirmed, I would undertake this position with an overall sense of real opportunity to interact with the Lao Government to effect positive change and further expand the solid basis for cooperation. At the same time, I am attuned to and intend to forthrightly address the Lao Government's poor record regarding human rights.

In particular, I appreciate and fully share the concerns of the many thousands of Americans who trace their origins to Laos—in particular, the Hmong-Americans—over the Lao Government's treatment of ethnic minorities. Many of the Hmong in Laos, especially those who live in remote areas in often difficult conditions, are regarded with suspicion and sometimes hostility by officials who suspect they may be associated with antigovernment activities. Significant numbers of Hmong have entered Thailand in search of economic opportunities or, in some cases, out of well-founded fear of persecution, and are now in detention awaiting a determination as to their future. I will make it a priority, if confirmed, to work with the Lao and Thai authorities and appropriate international agencies to find durable solutions to the plight of the displaced Hmong. I will also work steadfastly to encourage the Lao Government to respect the rights of its minority ethnic groups and provide those who may return as well as those who have stayed with the protection and assistance they need to integrate fully into Lao society. At the same time, I will be guided by longstanding United States policy that we do not support or condone groups or individuals who advocate or take actions aimed at overthrowing or destabilizing the Lao Government.

More broadly, if confirmed, I intend to sustain the United States commitment to human rights and democratic principles as my primary vehicle for encouraging positive change in Laos. I will press the Lao Government on human rights issues and encourage them to adhere to international human rights standards. I will also devote particular effort to building on the progress made in recent years by the Lao Government in meeting international standards for religious freedom and tolerance.

Finally, the welfare and safety of American citizens traveling or working in Laos will always be a top priority if I am confirmed. I will ensure that the United States mission in Laos provides accurate and timely information on any risks American may face in Laos along with advice on precautions they should take. I also intend to see through the construction of a new embassy that meets current security standards and provides a safe working environment for the dedicated and highly capable American and Lao staff of the United States mission.

Madam Chairwoman and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to address you. I am prepared to respond to any questions you may have.

Senator BOXER. Thank you very much.

I think I will ask unanimous consent to go with seven minutes of questions, and then give the same to Senator Murkowski. If Senator Feingold joins us, then he'll be recognized for an equal amount of time.

First of all, I want to thank all of you for your very good, to the point testimony, and as you know, I'm supporting all of you, so there's no trick questions here.

But I do have one question that I think sort of shows in another light what I was trying to get at in my opening statement about the need for very aggressive, strong diplomacy and not a reliance on the military as a way to make friends. It's not working.

One of the things, Mr. Keith, I'd like to discuss is something you touch on in your writings. I've read some of your writings. They're very strongly supportive of the war in Iraq in as late as 2003, and I'm not asking in any way to debate that with you. That was your

right, and you did rely on Colin Powell's very aggressive testimony at the U.N., which he has since disavowed.

But what has happened to us in the world as a result of this military-centric policy, and neglect, in my view, of diplomacy, is that we're more unpopular than we've ever been in the history of our Nation, as far as I can tell, just looking through all the past polling results.

I want to talk about something wonderful that this country did in 2006, and give you a sense of what I'm talking about. In mid-2006, the U.S. Naval Ship, *Mercy*, a floating hospital ship, was deployed on a 72-day humanitarian mission to Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste—countries home to some of the largest Muslim populations in the world.

The Navy worked closely with the State Department and NGOs to identify and treat approximately 61,000 patients. Everything from dental and eye care to surgery for sick patients was provided.

The effort was undertaken, in part, to win the hearts and minds of the local populous. It appears to have had an impact. Shortly after the trip, an organization known as Terror Free America—excuse me, Terror Free Tomorrow conducted polling. Fifty-three percent of Indonesians said that the activities of the *Mercy* made their opinion of the United States more favorable.

Terror Free Tomorrow also conducted polling in Indonesia after United States aid was delivered to tsunami victims. The percentage of Indonesians who reported an unfavorable view of the United States dropped from a high of 83 percent in 2003 to 41 percent, and the percentage of Indonesians expressing confidence in bin Laden dropped from 58 to 12 percent.

These results were clearly noticed by the Department of Defense. Officials involved in drafting the 2006 National Military Strategic Plan for the war on terrorism said that "The American military's effort to aid tsunami victims in Southeast Asia did more to counter terrorist ideology than any attack mission."

This is the military, folks. So I guess what I'd want from each of you is just a response to this. I'm trying to get at how strongly you agree with that statement of the U.S. military, that when we get out there and we really help people, not at the point of a gun, but it works. Even though I would say sometimes we have to use a military approach.

I'm not—I voted to go get bin Laden. I voted to go to war in Afghanistan. So where I'm coming from is, yeah, sometimes you clearly have to go strongly in that direction.

But that aside, the fact that we're not being attacked, all else being equal, can you comment on this amazing comment by the American military, that it did more to counter terrorist ideology than any attack mission?

I'll start with you, Mr. Hume.

Mr. HUME. Thank you very much. First, I'd say that my initial takeaway from that is a positive one, and it is that, yes, we do have some problems out there, in terms of public diplomacy and public relations, but also, yes, we can do things about it.

I've been fortunate enough to spend a fair part of my career in places where we've had real difficulties, and I've been able to see that by engaging people, we've been able to get a positive view of

the United States. I can tell you that in the last 18 months, every time I went to Darfur, every person I met with thanked me.

Senator BOXER. Thank you. No, that helps, because, well, you've obviously chosen to go into diplomacy, because I'm sure you share these sentiments, but I just wanted to get them out.

Mr. Keith.

Mr. KEITH. Thank you, Madame Chairman. I think you raise a critical point, and recalling a phrase you used earlier, I think a diplomatic surge is the kind of thing that we've been talking about in Asia and that is necessary. Looking back, you raise the public diplomacy environment over recent years.

I think we all run the risk of having to take a step back and realize that we might have used platforms that, as you mentioned with then-Secretary Powell, we have to explain.

I think we're better off taking that risk and managing the public environment than allowing others to put words in our mouth. So it was my commitment and remains my commitment that we need to be out in front of the camera, so to speak, in print, and making our case to the world as best we can.

We certainly need to be forthright, if we've taken a step in the wrong direction. I think that's part of how I dealt with this when I was Consul General and Designated Chief of Mission in Hong Kong, was to explain to people, when bad news came up, that the American way of handling this was transparent, that we would never say that we don't make mistakes, but that we handle them in a way that I think encourages people to see the best of America, and that when we make a mistake, we are quite open and honest about it, and therefore, can learn by it.

I certainly believe, looking forward, that in Asia, as we anticipate the coming Olympics in China and a number of diplomatic events that will appear, including in Malaysia, the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations with the United States, as well as the 50th anniversary of Malaysia's independence, that we have opportunities and we need to use them to convey our fundamental beliefs, and to use everything at our disposal to try to advance American interests.

I would enlarge also on the point that you made with regard to the *Mercy*. I think clearly, the pollings show that across Asia, we did very well after the tsunami not to dwell on something that was clearly tragic for those involved, but we responded in a way that showed, I think, the best of America.

My commitment to you and to the committee would be to try to follow-up on that momentum in every way I possibly can.

Senator BOXER. Good.

Yes, Ms. Hughes.

Ms. HUGHES. Madame Chairman, I think most of us joined the Foreign Service because we felt we had a mission of friendship. In some countries, that's not always easy. It's not always easy at the United Nations, quite frankly, where we're dealing with 191 other countries and a lot of power politics.

But even when we disagree, if we can listen and engage, that's what's exciting about our work. I am fortunate to be going to a country, Micronesia, if confirmed, that already has a very deep bond of friendship with the United States, but it's going to enter

a difficult time, because we're trying to nudge it toward modernization.

In that sense, we look at the military for what it can do in a very constructive and practical way in a country like this. That can be search and rescue missions by the Coast Guard, training of the people so they can develop better law enforcement techniques of their own. The Pacific Command can do humanitarian assistance projects. That's how we relate to the military, I hope, and that would certainly be my intention, if I'm lucky enough to go to Micronesia.

Senator BOXER. I think that's a good point, how we can use the military, which clearly, we did in these cases.

Yes, Mr. Klemm.

Mr. KLEMM. Thank you, Madame Chairwoman. You mentioned the *Mercy* visit to the Southeast Asia region last summer. The stop in Timor was actually added at the end of its stay in the region. It took place just after the breakdown in law and order that occurred in April and May of last year.

Not only was the visit very, very welcome because of the assistance that the ship was able to provide the Timorese people, who suffer from very, very serious health problems across the population, but also, given the timing, it showed the United States commitment to East Timor to our continued intent to assist that country as it consolidates its democratic institution, and gets its economy started, as well as ensuring security and political stability there.

We have a pretty robust aid program in East Timor, due to the generosity of the Congress and the people of the United States. Our aid is focused on improving East Timor's governance, as well as improving economic conditions in the country, where the Millennium Challenge Corporation continues to negotiate with East Timor and hopes once the elections are completed this summer to redouble the negotiations on a possible Compact Agreement with the country.

All these things, in terms of the soft power tools that we have available, I think we've used them very effectively in East Timor. Our popularity there, as I understand it, is very, very strong.

I don't want to draw too tight of a correlation on this, but as you're aware, our military to military relationship in East Timor is actually at a very, very low level, largely due to the accountability problems that arose, both in 2006 and 1999.

Senator BOXER. Mr. Klemm, thank you for your answer. I don't want to get too far afield from the question, which is the way we can use diplomacy. I think you've laid out a series of issues to boost our popularity in the region. I think you did touch on that.

Mr. Huso, I just—because this is really my only question. I'm going to throw you a little curve here. Answer that, but also, if you will, in December 2005, reports surfaced that a group of 26 ethnic Hmong children and their adult guardian had been detained by Thai authorities, and forcibly deported to Laos, a country that has committed horrific human rights violations against the Hmong people for the past three decades.

In response to significant outcry on the issue, including from my home State of California, I wrote Secretary Rice in 2006 and asked our Government to take all appropriate steps to secure their re-

lease, and to work with the United Nation's High Commission of Refugees to identify a durable solution for the children.

So could you please provide a report on the current status of these Hmong children? What is being done? If confirmed, will you provide me periodic updates on this and other issues related to human rights abuses against the Hmong?

Mr. HUSO. Thank you, Madame Chairwoman. With your permission, I'll answer the first question.

Senator BOXER. Surely. Surely.

Mr. HUSO. As you pointed out, I'm currently the Political Advisor at U.S. Pacific Command, and I was present during the tsunami.

When the U.S. Pacific Command responded to that disaster, it was clearly recognized that we were facing a disaster on a scale that was unprecedented, and that only a quick military response was going to be able to deliver the relief and the assistance that was necessary in a timely manner.

There was also a recognition, but it wasn't the primary motivation, that a U.S. military-led effort of that nature could, in fact, provide benefits to us, in terms of how the U.S. military was perceived. But in essence, it was a humanitarian endeavor.

After the fact, of course, as you pointed out, the polls indicated there was a great deal of support for the action that we took, and views of America were changed.

I see this opportunity to cooperate with other countries in the region on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, as a very important one. It's one way that the military can support our diplomatic efforts in the region, and begin to change perceptions of how we operate there.

To answer your second question, Madame Chairwoman, my understanding is that of the 26 individuals that you mentioned, 21 of them were returned to their villages by the Lao Government in April of this year. There's a remaining five, who I believe are all boys, and one adult, whose whereabouts I do not know. As far as I know, the State Department has not been able to ascertain it.

I certainly will keep you and your staff informed of any developments that may take place in this case, and will follow-up diligently if confirmed.

Senator BOXER. Thank you so much, Mr. Huso.

Senator Murkowski.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Thank you, Madame Chair. I will kind of pick up a little bit with the public diplomacy theme that you have started here. It was a very good question, and I appreciated the responses from each of you.

This is directed to you, Mr. Keith, and to you, Mr. Hume, recognizing that Indonesia and Malaysia, as two moderate Islamic nations, can play an important role in being a bridge to the Islamic community for the United States.

What steps have you seen from these countries that they are willing to be that bridge, and how can we work to improve the relationships, work with these nations to do so? Any suggestions or thoughts, Mr. Keith, Mr. Hume? Go ahead.

Mr. KEITH. Senator, if I may, I'll go first. Thank you for your question. I think it's one of the most important issues that I'll have to think about on my way to post and after I'm there.

I know that within the Department, Karen Hughes has designated Malaysia as one of the pilot countries where we need to focus our resources in public diplomacy, precisely for the reasons that you've raised.

I think what we see with Indonesia and regional—I'm sorry, with Malaysia, and regional for, in particular, in ASEAN, in APEC, and in the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the voice that you spoke of a moderate forward-looking perspective influenced by a market-oriented perspective on the economy at home is one that we can work with, and that we ought to be able to find a way to amplify and in some ways accelerate.

I think the opportunities will come, and we need to be alert to them and take advantage of them. For example, I mentioned a moment ago the upcoming 50th anniversary of Malaysia's independence and our diplomatic relations.

This is the kind of opportunity, it seems to me, where we ought to, for the Malaysian people and through them, to other members of ASEAN, find ways to communicate our fundamental themes in the region.

I think also, working with Malaysia in multilateral for, such as the U.N. and its organizations, we can find ways to bring that moderate perspective to bear in the World Health Organization, in the Food and Agricultural Organization.

These are all areas where north-south and third-world kinds of issues do arise. We can be working with Malaysia ahead of time and throughout the development of breaking or developing perspectives on issues including avian influenza and how samples are shared, or biodiversity and how genetic resources are taken care of.

These kinds of cutting-edge issues, I think, lend themselves to Malaysia's pragmatic approach, which we see in many instances.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Thank you.

Mr. Hume.

Mr. HUME. Thank you very much, Senator. I think I would start from a hope that the Indonesian Government is successful at home as a democracy, helping to meet the needs of the Indonesian people. I think in that kind of a context, with respect for the rule of law, Indonesia will be a stronger partner for us, dealing with the questions of extremism and issues elsewhere.

I look at the progress that's been made recently. The dispatch of a battalion, for example, to be part of the peacekeeping force in Lebanon is a positive example.

In the briefings I received over the past several weeks, one of the points that was talked about that sticks in my mind, we have a very active exchange program with Indonesia, and the Voice of America began a program of interviewing some of the students who were in the United States, and then sharing those programs with local stations in Indonesia, which has become a positive and popular program to listen to for many Indonesians.

I think that that type of mixed exchange and outreach and sharing against a backdrop of a country which is generally improving is the right track, in order to be sure that we have a partner for counteracting extremism and a kind of rage and dissatisfaction.

Thank you very much.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Thank you. I'm going to direct a question to all of you here this morning, as it relates to energy needs, the ability to provide for energy. We've had some very interesting hearings in the Foreign Relations Committee on energy and national security and that perspective.

In your—the respective country to which you have been nominated to fill this post, can you just very quickly tell me how you see energy issues, the needs and demands impacting each of the nations that you work with? I recognize that we don't have much time on this, so if you can try to be brief.

Mr. Huso, we'll start with you here.

Mr. HUSO. Senator Murkowski, thank you very much. Laos is a very small, very poor country, and does not have a lot of economic activity, but they do have a lot of hydropower potential. As a consequence, there are a number of dam projects under construction in Laos that will provide electric energy to neighboring countries, primarily Thailand.

So I don't see energy requirements as being a serious issue in Laos. To the contrary, Laos will be a net exporter of energy.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Mr. Klemm.

Mr. KLEMM. Thank you, Senator. East Timor sits on substantial oil and gas reserves that lie along the border with Australia. It's a large net exporter of energy at the present, and I don't see that reversing probably for the next couple of decades.

American companies are involved in developing the energy and oil resources in East Timor.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Are you seeing interest from countries such as China, perhaps, coming—offering roads infrastructure, looking to perhaps tie up some of that energy reserves?

Mr. KLEMM. To be very brief, yes, Senator. The Chinese have diplomatic relations with East Timor. They have undertaken to build a new foreign ministry for the government. They're also building a new presidential palace in Dili, the capital.

I'm not aware that they're branching out to other infrastructure projects, which are desperately needed in the country. But the Chinese certainly are, of course, aware of East Timor's oil wealth, and probably have that in mind as a result of their activities.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Thank you.

Ms. Hughes.

Ms. HUGHES. Thank you for raising a question, Senator, that is absolutely critical for Micronesia. Micronesia has no fossil fuels. Everything is imported. When it was a trust territory, we used to pay for their fuel. We don't now, under the new compact. Their very viability, in my opinion, depends upon developing other sources of energy.

If I'm confirmed, I would hope to make this a priority. Certainly, they have ample solar radiation, wind, water. It is a key to their sustainable development.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Do they have geothermal, do you know?

Ms. HUGHES. There appear to be some very, very rudimentary projects. The only thing I have come across in my reading are some solar energy projects in outlying islands.

But in my opinion, this underpins everything that we're aiming for, in the way of economic developments. The small island states have a very particular need in this regard.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Thank you.

Mr. Keith.

Mr. KEITH. Thank you, Senator Murkowski. Very briefly, Malaysia is a supplier nation, of course, and American firms are also involved in Malaysia in a partnership arrangement.

I guess the one point I would emphasize, in addition to pursuing our commercial interests there and helping increase the stock of supply globally, is sustainable development.

We're deeply engaged with the Malaysians in a project called the Heart of Borneo, which is an environmental protection project or program, in its essence, but we're also, as part of that, working in particular with regard to palm oil and its application as a biofuel, working with the Malaysians to ensure that their perspective is one of a country that is committed to sustainable development, in particular, as it's a transit country for logs that are brought to China across Malaysia.

So there are a number of areas where natural resources are key to Malaysia's future economic growth, and we'd like to find a way to ensure that this perspective of sustainable development is included in their ambitious modernization plans between now and 2020.

Thank you.

Senator MURKOWSKI. We appreciate you bringing that part of it up.

Mr. Hume.

Mr. HUME. Thank you very much, Senator. Again, briefly, Indonesia's the one OPEC member that has become a net importer of fossil fuel. So I think there, we see a number of issues. The one that stands out above the others is the 10 years of turmoil that Indonesia has seen has also been accompanied by underinvestment in the kind of infrastructure that leads to a healthy energy industry.

I know that during President Bush's visit last fall, he and President Yudhoyono talked about cooperation on biofuels, but this is obviously an area that needs more attention.

Thank you very much.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Thank you. Thank you, Madame Chair.

Senator BOXER. Senator Murkowski, I think that was a very good amount of questioning from you.

Senator Feingold, we're so happy to see you.

**STATEMENT OF HON. RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD,
U.S. SENATOR FROM WISCONSIN**

Senator FEINGOLD. Thank you. I thank the Chair for holding this hearing, and I'd like to begin by thanking our five nominees for being here today, but more importantly, for your many years of service, and for your willingness to work in some of the more demanding positions in the U.S. Government.

The countries to which you've been nominated—Indonesia, Malaysia, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Democratic Republic

of Timor-Leste, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic—face distinct, but equally difficult, challenges.

There are also many opportunities that I hope you'll be able to seize upon and develop if you are confirmed, and I do look forward to working with you closely. I hope you'll look to the Senate as a resource and to this committee as a source of support and guidance during your tenure at your respective posts.

I would also like to offer my warm welcome to your families and friends who have stood by you and whose ongoing support will be necessary as you set off to these new positions.

In the time I have, let me begin with Ambassador Hume, who was kind enough, I think, to make both of my trips to South Africa a success, and just did a wonderful job of briefing me and helping us along. So it is very good to see you again.

I understand you were most recently the Charge in Sudan. Welcome back from what must've been quite a difficult and rather unforgiving post. Is there anything you'd like—anything you will take with you from your time in Sudan—and apply, if confirmed, to your post in Indonesia—in terms of running an embassy?

Mr. HUME. Thank you very much, Senator. Pleased to see you. Well, I think there are a lot of things that take away from Sudan. In terms of running an embassy, you're dealing with people who are also in a difficult circumstance. You look first to your people, and being sure that they're safe and that they can get a sense of satisfaction from their work.

In general, I think Sudan is an example to never give up. I know that there are huge frustrations here, not to mention the frustrations in Sudan at the difficulties, but I think it is a truth that the United States has had an enormous positive impact in that country over the last number of years, helping to negotiate the peace agreement with the South.

People are no longer being killed in the South. That war went on for 25 years. We, I regret to say, we have not had the same success in Darfur that we had in the South, and that's business that remains to be done.

Those are the type of lessons that I'd take away.

Senator FEINGOLD. In justifying the national security waiver that ended restrictions on military assistance to Indonesia in fiscal year 2006, the State Department wrote, "as a matter of policy, the quality and quantity of our assistance will continue to be guided by progress on democratic reform and accountability, and carefully calibrated to promote these outcomes." Which elements of accountability and democratic reform would you assign the most weight when assessing progress, and what steps will you take to ensure that this kind of "calibration" actually ensures real progress?

Mr. HUME. Thank you very much, Senator. First of all, I've become aware during my time in Washington that this is an issue which has to get my immediate and personal attention.

First of all, we vet all of the—as required—all of the people who would get IMET training. Second, we have a number of proposals to try to encourage the Indonesians in the right path on military reform.

Some steps have been taken. The separation of the police from the military was a positive step. The withdrawal of the military

from civilian positions in the government was a positive step. But other programs, we still have to continue to work on. One is a question of eventual accountability for the problems, particularly in East Timor, but elsewhere, as well.

The second one is to try to get the Indonesian military on budget, and on a budget that is reviewed and approved by their civilian authorities. That's something we're working on with them on. It hasn't gone far enough or fast enough, and that's something I'd hope to encourage.

Senator FEINGOLD. Are there any forms of military assistance that the United States will not provide?

Mr. HUME. I'm sure there are many forms of U.S. assistance we wouldn't provide, but—

Senator FEINGOLD. As a matter of policy?

Mr. HUME. I would have to take that question. I wouldn't want to guess.

Senator FEINGOLD. Fair enough. I'm extremely interested in Indonesia and its role in particularly our post-9/11 circumstances, so I look forward to working—

Mr. HUME. Yes.

Senator FEINGOLD. Ambassador, please.

Mr. HUME. If I could just say something. One, I know that you visited fairly recently in Indonesia, but I'd like to say this to other members of the committee, as well. Particularly in an area like military reform and human rights, that's a message that it's important to be carried not just by the people in the embassy, but also by people in Congress.

I would welcome, as I did in Sudan, visits by Members of Congress who I think could help us get that message across.

Senator FEINGOLD. Now, every ambassador nominee says this, but I want to highlight what he just said. We have members—I'd say to my Chair and I'd say to the Senator from last—we have members who have talked about having been to Iraq 15 times, which is good. But when I went to Indonesia, I was told I was the second senator to have visited there in 3 years. The other one was Senator Bond. It is the largest Islamic country in the world, the fourth largest population in the world, and we need to go there more. There's just no question. It is a fascinating critical place, and I wish you well. I also have strong feelings about Timor. Fifteen years ago, this was the first issue I ever sort of sunk my teeth into, fighting for the independence of East Timor on this committee, so I'm awfully pleased to see that the independence exists, that you're going there, but I know that there are difficulties.

Despite its independence in 2001, security continues to be a critical issue in Timor-Leste, especially in relation to the crisis which erupted there a year ago. As I'm sure you're aware, the Australian-led International Stabilization Force is not part of the U.N. Mission, but remains in country. Having separate military forces results in a lack of accountability, unclear lines of responsibility, and poor coordination. If confirmed, Mr. Klemm, would you support placing the ISF under a unified U.N. command and would you push for this directly?

Mr. KLEMM. Well, thank you, Senator, and before I answer your question directly, let me also welcome you and other members of

the committee and any other Member of Congress to Dili, as well. If you're in Indonesia or any place else in the region, it's not that far away, and your presence—your diplomatic presence there could be of great, great assistance in getting our message across.

I want to—regarding the work that the Australian forces are doing in East Timor, their liaison and coordination with the Blue Helmets there under U.N. auspices, and our policy on both their ability to coordinate and their presence in East Timor, I would like—I probably should be prudent and take that question back and confirm our policy.

It is my understanding that last summer, when the current U.N. resolution placing police forces—U.N. police forces—in East Timor was approved by the Security Council at U.N. We supported this division of U.N. forces and Australian forces.

It's my understanding, if my understanding is correct, that continues today—that the administration's view is that the Australians are playing a constructive role in the capacity under which they're there today.

Senator FEINGOLD. Thank you. I look forward to your response when you're able to give it. My time's already gone. If I could—

Senator BOXER. Would you like to have another minute?

Senator FEINGOLD. I just want to ask one more question.

Senator BOXER. I'll give you three more minutes, then.

Senator FEINGOLD. I just want to ask Mr. Huso a question, because just like the Chair, I have a very strong personal interest, as well as constituent interest, in the relations with the country that you are to represent—the country that you're going to represent us at.

As you're aware, the Hmong have been moving across the border to Thailand for years because of continued persecution by the Lao Government. You mentioned in your testimony that you will work with the Lao and Thai Governments to find "durable solutions" for this population.

Would you expand on what this means? I'm specifically interested to hear about your plans to work with the Lao Government, given that they have a longstanding record of persecuting the Hmong.

Mr. HUSO. Thank you very much, Senator, for the opportunity to comment on that very, very important issue. As I mentioned in my testimony, I share your concerns. I share the concerns of your constituents, and many of your other Senators and Congressmen have constituents who are Lao Americans, and particularly, Hmong Americans.

You're absolutely right, Senator. I have no illusions about the difficulty of the challenge of working with the government on this particular issue. It's one of great sensitivity to the Lao Government. But nonetheless, I'm committed to work on trying to do what I can to encourage the Lao Government to protect the rights of all its citizens, including the ethnic minorities.

In terms of a durable solution for those who cross the border into Thailand, I think one of the key principles that we need to keep in mind is to provide those individuals access to the type of screening necessary to determine who among them has a legitimate fear of persecution.

If that well-founded legitimate fear is established, then a durable solution could conceivably include resettlement in the United States or other countries willing to accept refugees, and potentially, for those who may not be found to qualify for refugee status, some sort of assurance of their protection in the event that they are returned to Laos is also extremely important, so I would work to achieve that goal.

Senator FEINGOLD. Do you foresee a successful resettlement of the Hmong back to Laos, and if so, by when?

Mr. HUSO. Historically, sir, that has happened. There have been in the past, U.N. monitored programs for the return of Hmong to Laos, with some success. I don't know at this point whether that would be possible with the group that's currently there now.

I know this is a topic of discussion between the Government of Thailand, the Government of Laos. Its a topic of great interest to the United States, and also, to the international community.

Senator FEINGOLD. You've probably already figured this out, but I can assure you if you see any Member of Congress from Wisconsin, Republican or Democrat, this is not a passing interest.

Mr. HUSO. Yes, sir.

Senator FEINGOLD. This is dead serious. We're interested in the details. We're very concerned about this as a delegation, so I wish you well. I thank you for the—

Senator BOXER. Senator, thank you, because, of course, you and I are experiencing similar issues in our States. I wanted to thank you, Mr. Huso, because my understanding is that you said to my staff you'd be willing to meet with some of the leaders of the Hmong community in California.

Mr. HUSO. Senator, that is my intention, to meet with the leaders of the community there and other States, so that I can understand their concerns and better inform myself, if confirmed.

Senator BOXER. Very good. I'm going to ask unanimous consent to keep the record open for additional questions. Since I'm the only one voting, I think we will do that.

Senator BOXER. There were two things I wanted to say to two of you before you leave, just to put some things on your radar screen. You don't have to respond to them, but they're just concerns coming from me.

Mr. Keith, we do know about Malaysia's investment in Iran's oil and gas sector, and I share your concerns that it is something we have to keep our eye on. It looks like the total trade between Malaysia and Iran rose from \$224 million in 2000 to over \$765 million in 2005.

I just want to put on your radar screen that we will be having, as you know, the bilateral free trade agreement between the two countries, Malaysia and America. I just want you to know that there may be some amendments regarding this increasing relationship.

Also, on antipiracy, that the Congressional International Antipiracy Caucus released its annual report on international property rights protections and found Malaysia was one of five countries placed on its priority watch list, singled out for not doing enough to protect intellectual property rights.

So I put that on your radar screen, because you may have colleagues calling you and saying, "Are you raising this issue?"

Ms. Hughes, even though you are going to a small country, I think you have an opportunity to do some really good things.

You mentioned one of them in response to the question of my colleague and friend, Senator Murkowski, in terms of energy—and I want to read to you that last fall, the Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia said the following: "The sad irony is that those of us who have little to contribute to the causes of climate change and sea level rise are the first in line to suffer the consequences."

He went on to say, "Exposed to the effects of extreme weather events, our livelihood and traditions as island people. In fact, our whole civilization are under greater threat than ever before."

So I know that in conversations with my staff—and by the way, my staff was so impressed with all of you—you had mentioned that we're building an embassy in Micronesia, and that you had suggested perhaps putting a solar roof, for example, on that building.

I wanted to just push you a little more on that, because I think, as you pointed out, the abundance of the sun and the wind there can really be of great help to this little country, and, by the way, to our big country. There's no question about it.

I think a few simple steps that you could take just in being a role model in that building of the embassy, once you're confirmed—I know you can't do much at this stage, but once we move these nominations, and I hope it will be very soon, if you just take a look at the roofs and the bulbs and fixtures and insulation and heating and air conditioning systems, we can cut so much energy use, and therefore, our carbon footprint, but also, save money for the taxpayers. It's a win-win for everybody.

Then the other issue in Micronesia that came to my attention is that according to the most recent State Department human rights report, "cultural factors in the male-dominated society limited women's representation in government and politics."

So I think your going there is a wonderful message to that country, a wonderful message. I can just see by your demeanor, you will win them over. I think in doing that, you have a tremendous responsibility, I think, because the women there will at first look at you and think, "Gee, I wonder if she can really do this."

Of course, you will be able to do it, and I think it's going to send a strong message to the women, empowering them, as well as to the men.

Now, another down side is that reports of spousal abuse, often severe, continued during the year. This is in the State Department human rights report. Although assault is a crime, there's no specific laws against domestic abuse, no governmental or private facilities to shelter and support women in abusive situations.

So I am just laying these issues out there for you. Ms. Hughes, you have these two challenges—the energy challenge, which presents as opportunity because we're building an embassy there, and the fact that you're a woman, it seems to me, is an opportunity on this other front.

Am I putting too much on your shoulders, or are you excited about this challenge?

Ms. HUGHES. I thank you, Madam Chairman, for such an inspirational message. It's great. I would really look forward to working in those particular areas, among many others.

Regarding the notion of solar energy for the new embassy building, it's my understanding that ground was just broken on the new building last month, so it's in an early stage.

Senator BOXER. Good.

Ms. HUGHES. What I would propose to do, if confirmed, would be to call on the head of the Overseas Building Office at the State Department, General Williams, and explore this possibility.

Everything we do, but particularly in a small environment, is a model. I think there's a lot we can do. The Peace Corps, for example. There are nearly 50 volunteers in Micronesia recently adapted all their vehicles to use coconut oil.

Senator BOXER. That's great.

Ms. HUGHES. Setting an example is a wonderful opportunity. Women may be one of the best hopes for building leadership in Micronesia, so I'm inspired. Thank you very much for that.

Senator BOXER. Well, thank you. Thank you very much.

Well, what we'll do is we'll put a call in to the General, and say that I raised it with you and encouraged you to move forward, and see if we can get some interest there so that you're not fighting that battle alone. Because sometimes, they say, "Well, we've already done the plans." So let's see what impact we can have.

I read an editorial the other day just saying that there is a lot of talk about global warming, and what are we doing? We're just talking about it. We have to start using the technologies we already have, instead of putting it off for another day. Because it's a problem that's going to come to a head very soon, and we have a window of 5 to 10 years if we don't act.

So to all of you, these are little things, but you're going to be managers of a lot of people, and you'll have opportunities to do little things. If you do them, let us know about them, because we'll make certain that my colleagues know.

Just in America, buildings are responsible for 39 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions. Buildings, 39 percent. So even though it may seem like a simple thing to open the curtains in this room and shut off these lights, apparently, we can't, because of the cameras. But in some cases, we can.

There are new technologies now that as the sun comes in, the lights dim in the office. We're doing that in all my offices here as a test case. So we hope maybe you can consider that in all of your responsibilities, just as a—always have it in your mind that you can do that.

Well, again, we're just really pleased with this group that sits before me. We thank you for your service, for your love of country, for your dedication, and we thank your families and your friends who have been behind you every step of the way.

I know I couldn't do what I do without that support, and whether they're here or whether they're working or they're doing other things, we know that they're rooting for you, and you all accorded yourselves so beautifully, and we wish you every good wish.

I will report to Senators Biden and Lugar that I hope we can move these nominations very, very quickly. Thank you very much, and the hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:12 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

RESPONSE OF CAMERON R. HUME TO QUESTION SUBMITTED BY SENATOR LUGAR

Question. What is the status of the United States Peace Corps establishing a presence in Indonesia? Do you envision a future Peace Corps presence as a helpful contribution to the overall development of Indonesia?

Answer. The United States Peace Corps sent an assessment mission to Indonesia in February 2007. That mission concluded that the establishment of a Peace Corps presence in Indonesia would be fully in keeping with the mission of the Peace Corps and would be highly beneficial to Indonesia's overall development. The Department of State shares that view. The assessment mission also concluded, however, that security concerns in Indonesia precluded establishing a program at this time. The Peace Corps plans to revisit the results of the assessment in the near future, with the hope of achieving more positive results.

RESPONSE OF CAMERON R. HUME TO QUESTION SUBMITTED BY SENATOR FEINGOLD

Question. Are there any forms of military assistance we do not provide to Indonesia?

Answer. We continue to pursue a calibrated approach as we increase our engagement with the Indonesian military, as part of our broader effort to support Indonesia's reform effort and to build a strategic partnership with this critically important country.

Our assistance and training has focused on developing a professional military, supporting the reform of the military, and on enhancing the Indonesian military's capacity to respond to natural disasters, to provide maritime security, and to engage in international peacekeeping efforts. To date, we have not provided lethal assistance. We have provided spare parts for previously-purchased F-16 fighters and we have provided technical assistance for previously-purchased Harpoon missiles to ensure the safety and success of those programs. We also have not engaged in any unit training with the Army Special Forces (KOPASSUS).

As Indonesian democracy continues to move forward, we expect to expand our engagement with the Indonesian military, and will keep Congress informed.

RESPONSE OF HANS G. KLEMM TO QUESTION SUBMITTED BY SENATOR FEINGOLD

Question. Would you press to put the International Stabilization Forces (ISF) deployed in East Timor and led by Australia under direct United Nations command?

Answer. On October 27, 2006, then-Prime Minister Jose Ramos-Horta publicly expressed his government's view that the Australian-led international security force continued to be the best fit for the situation in East Timor. We concur that the Australian-led security force is the most appropriate. Under the U.N. military proposal considered in August, 2006, East Timor would have had only about 350 U.N. troops, half of whom would have been assigned to protect U.N. staff and assets.

In contrast, Australia has deployed about 1,000 troops to secure East Timor. Australia's contribution to restoring stability in East Timor underscores the importance of our alliance for maintaining peace and security in the region. If confirmed, I would engage vigorously with all parties to maintain clear lines of command and accountability for the conduct of all security forces deployed in East Timor.

