

**NOMINATIONS OF THE 112TH
CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION**

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

—————
FEBRUARY 7 THROUGH NOVEMBER 28, 2012
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Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Relations



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COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
112TH CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION

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**NOMINATIONS OF JOSEPH MACMANUS,
SHARON VILLAROSA, AND WALTER NORTH**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

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

Joseph E. Macmanus, of New York, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Vienna Office of the United Nations and to be Representative of the United States of America to the International Atomic Energy with the rank of Ambassador

Sharon English Woods Villarosa, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles

Walter North, of Washington, to be Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and the Republic of Vanuatu

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:47 p.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Tom Udall, presiding.

Present: Senator Udall.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. TOM UDALL,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW MEXICO**

Senator UDALL. I would call this hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to order. And let me just—I have just a preliminary statement and something here I would like to do before we really get started. And welcome to all of you.

Today the Senate Foreign Relations Committee mourns the loss of four brave Americans in Libya, including our Ambassador, John Christopher Stevens. As many of you probably know, Ambassador Stevens was very close to this committee. He was a Pearson fellow. He worked for Senator Lugar, our ranking member. A Foreign Service Information management officer, Sean Smith, and two other victims have not yet been officially named out of respect for their need to contact their next of kin.

I strongly condemn what the President has already correctly defined as an outrageous attack on our diplomatic facility in Benghazi. This is a tragic loss, and our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of the victims.

I, like other members of this committee, had met with Ambassador Stevens to discuss the changes occurring in Libya. He had expressed a hope that Libya would emerge a strong democratic

state which respected the rule of law and the principles of freedom and justice that we as Americans cherish. Ambassador Stevens knew there was much work to be done. I have no doubt that President Obama has stated that his legacy will endure wherever human beings reach for liberty and justice.

Before we begin this hearing to consider the nominations of three other Americans who continue to serve our country courageously, I would like to ask the committee to take a moment of silence to remember and honor the Americans who were unjustly killed in Libya and all other Americans who serve our country overseas every day. These individuals have all made extraordinary sacrifices, and their service deserves our recognition. And I would ask for a moment of silence here.

[Moment of Silence.]

Senator UDALL. Thank you very much, and thank you to the three nominees for being here. Today the committee will consider these three nominees—Mr. Joseph E. Macmanus of New York. If confirmed, he will serve as Representative of the United States of America to the Vienna office of the United Nations, and to be Representative of the United States of America to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador. Ms. Sharon English Woods—in New Mexico we would say Villarosa. I do not know if that is—is that OK? We always do the two “Ls” with a “Y,” but you can correct me here—but of Texas, would serve as Ambassador to the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles. And Mr. Walter North of Washington would serve as Ambassador to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu.

All three nominees are very well qualified and will be serving in areas of world importance for national security and the long-term diplomatic goals of the United States.

The United States mission at Vienna and the International Atomic Energy is a position which focuses on some of the most serious issues confronting the world, including the work to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. In addition to this work, the United States mission to international organizations in Vienna works with the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty Organization, and the U.N. Office of Outer Space Affairs, and the U.N. Commission on International Trade Law.

Mr. Macmanus is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. His previous positions include work as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, and Executive Assistant to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice. He has served as the consular for public affairs in Brussels, Belgium, the public affairs officers in Krakow, Poland, as well as positions in El Salvador Mexico.

He has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Notre Dame, as well as an MLS from the State University at Buffalo.

Mr. Macmanus will need to bring his years of experience to bear to work on some of the most critical issues facing the United States and our allies. His work with IAEA will bring him to the forefront of our efforts to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, preventing the proliferation of nuclear materials and technology

from North Korea and Pakistan, and meeting the peaceful objectives of the IAEA.

With regard to Iran, the President is making a strong effort to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. The sanctions are putting pressure on the Iranian regime, and the administration is working with our allies to tighten those sanctions. Continued negotiations and access for IAEA inspectors are critical tools to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

While the administration has reportedly concluded that Iran is "not on the verge of achieving a nuclear weapon," it is important to remain vigilant about the threat. Thus far, the main concerns center around Iran's continuing enrichment of uranium to levels up to 20 percent. While not weapons grade, the enrichment to such levels has rightly raised the concerns of the international community and the IAEA. I concur with the administration that there is time and space to continue to pursue a diplomatic path. I also agree with the IAEA that Iran should immediately open all sites to IAEA's inspectors in order for the IAEA to fully resolve its outstanding issues.

Mr. Macmanus, your work representing the United States at the IAEA will be critical to achieving these goals.

In Mauritius and the Seychelles, Ms. Villarosa will work with a country actively working to protect the sea-lanes against piracy. Mauritius recently agreed to open its courts and jails to aid the prosecution of pirates who operate with impunity inside Somalia. This work is important for global trade and the U.S. economy and the local economies of Mauritius and the Seychelles. The Seychelles and the United States military have also been increasing partnerships to help patrol sea-lanes and counter piracy in the region.

Ms. Villarosa has years of experience as a Foreign Service officer. She has served as Deputy Coordinator for Regional Affairs in the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the Department of State, Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Rangoon, and Director of the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore Affairs in the Department of State's East Asia and Pacific Bureau, and numerous other positions.

She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a law degree from William and Mary School of Law.

Mr. Walter North will also be serving U.S. interests in multiple island countries. If confirmed, he will serve in Papua New Guinea, the Solomons, and Vanuatu. These Pacific nations are known to most Americans because of the deadly battles which occurred in and around these islands during World War II. The United States has been a long-time friend, and we remember the efforts to free the islands from Japanese control.

Today one of the biggest threats to the Solomons is not from foreign militaries, but from the growing threat of rising sea levels due to climate change. Mitigating against sea-level rise and protecting the livelihood of inhabitants is one of the most important priorities for the Solomons, as well as Vanuatu. Small island developing nations are extremely vulnerable to climate change. Many of the low elevation islands in the Pacific and other regions may disappear over the next century, causing mass migrations, conflict,

and disruptions to trade and the global economy. I believe that this and maintaining sustainable economic development is one of the most important challenges facing the next Ambassador to the region.

Mr. Walter North is currently the United States Agency for International Development Mission Director in Egypt, and previously served as USAID Mission Director in neighboring Indonesia as well as India and Zambia. Posts at USAID in Washington headquarters have included Interim Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Africa, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination, and Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Asia and the Near East.

Before joining USAID in 1980, Mr. North was a project manager for the nonprofit organization, CARE, in India and Bangladesh, and a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia. He received his bachelor's degree from Lawrence University, a law degree from Washington University Law School, and an MPA from Harvard University.

And as all of you can see, we have three very capable individuals before us.

Senator UDALL. Since I started with Mr. Macmanus and then work down the line here. Mr. Macmanus, why do we not start with you on your opening statement, and then we will move to Ms. Villarosa, and then to Mr. Walter North. Thank you for being here, and please feel free—we know how important your families are to you and how—I know in the foreign service they really back you up. In all of my travels, it has been a remarkable thing to see how much family is involved. So please feel free whoever is here to introduce them and give a shout out to them.

Mr. Macmanus.

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH E. MACMANUS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE VIENNA OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR

Mr. MACMANUS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee for the position of Chief of Mission to the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna and as the U.S. Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, also in Vienna. I am grateful to the President and to the Secretary for their trust and support, and to this committee for your consideration of my nomination.

I am joined today by my wife, Carol Krumbach Macmanus, and our son, Chris Macmanus. I am forever grateful for their love and support throughout our long career in the Foreign Service. I will refrain from mentioning all of the Macmanuses who populate the rest of the country, sir. It would take too much time. [Laughter.]

Mr. Chairman, I have submitted to the committee a written statement for the record. I would like to briefly summarize some of the points covered there, if I may.

Briefly by way of introduction, I have been a Career Foreign Service officer for the past 26 years and a member of the Senior

Foreign Service since 2003. During this time, as you noted, I have served abroad in Central and Western Europe and in Latin America, as well as in Washington.

At the Department, I have held successive positions of increasing responsibility as an office director, deputy assistant secretary, principal deputy assistant secretary, and, most recently, as Acting Assistant Secretary in our Bureau of Legislative Affairs. In these positions, I have managed foreign policy portfolios that have included every major region and issue, including those appropriate to the work of the U.S. mission to the international organizations in Vienna, the position for which I have been nominated.

For the past 5 years, I have been a senior aide and advisor to two Secretaries of State—for Secretary Clinton from 2009 until the present, and previously for Secretary Rice from 2008 until 2009. As the Secretary's executive assistant, I participated in daily policy meetings and bilateral and multilateral meetings in Washington, and traveled extensively with both Secretaries on official travel abroad.

In this capacity and in the 5 years prior while serving in leadership positions in our Bureau of Legislative Affairs, I coordinated policy and strategy across the broad spectrum of foreign policy issues, and participated in senior-level discussions on these issues in the Department, in interagency meetings and processes, and of course with the Congress.

If confirmed as the chief of mission, I will provide policy direction and leadership to our political and public diplomacy efforts in Vienna in close coordination with other international affairs agencies in Washington, with the White House, and in consultation with the Congress. I will also lead an impressive interagency team of technical and political experts assembled in Vienna, who advocate for U.S. national security and foreign policy interests there.

The work of the U.S. mission in Vienna, and, Senator, you touched on this, pursues many important foreign policy purposes crucial to our national security. I will highlight just a few.

At the IAEA, the U.S. mission encourages the strengthening of nonproliferation capabilities, such as integrated safeguards, the securing of nuclear facilities and materials against the threat of terrorism, and the resolution of serious concerns related to nuclear programs in Iran, North Korea, and Syria.

The UNVIE mission—the short form of that long title that we deal with—assists in the establishment of standards and practice in the safety of nuclear facilities and materials, and in the development of normative standards that guide and instruct member-states in their management of nuclear technology. The mission also assists in the development of monitoring networks that provide an increasingly sophisticated capability to deter nuclear detonations around the world.

As a benefit of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, this international monitoring system is a key instrument in tracking treaty adherence, and confronting treaty violations, and in deterring states that fear the risk of such detection. The IMS, or International Monitoring System, has also contributed to nuclear safety monitoring by providing valuable data about the spread of radioac-

tivity following most recently the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster.

Finally, in the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, the UNVIE mission provides leadership in coordinating counternarcotics efforts around the world, principally in Central Asia, and in addressing the continuing harassment and damage caused by modern-day piracy.

If confirmed, I will apply my Foreign Service experience to the purpose of leading our mission in Vienna as we address the serious challenges of nonproliferation, nuclear security, and nuclear safety, while promoting the potential benefits of nuclear technology.

Mr. Chairman, it is worth noting that while we meet here, the IAEA Board of Governors is also meeting in Vienna to take up many of the same issues I have touched on here and in my written statement. These issues will continue to be the specific focus of our concern and our diplomacy and will continue to be the subject of deliberation by the Congress.

I appreciate the committee's consideration of my nomination, and if confirmed I look forward to working closely with the members of this committee and with Congress on the careful work of securing peace and security in a world safe from the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and advancing the peaceful benefits of nuclear technology.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I welcome your questions.
[The prepared statement of Mr. Macmanus follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JOSEPH MACMANUS

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. It is an honor for me to appear before this committee as President Obama's nominee to serve as the United States Representative to the Vienna Office of the United Nations (UNVIE) and to be the United States Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). I am grateful to President Obama and Secretary Clinton for the confidence they have placed in me.

This is a critical time for our Nation and for our allies and partners. We face unprecedented challenges in the areas of nuclear nonproliferation, terrorism, transnational crime and corruption, the environment, and the peaceful utilization of outer space. Increasingly interrelated global challenges mean that our sustained engagement with specialized international organizations such as those in Vienna is vital to helping us to protect and advance our national interests abroad and the well-being of Americans at home.

I have been a Career Foreign Service officer for the past 26 years, and a Senior Foreign Service officer since 2003. During this time, I have served abroad in Central and Western Europe and in Latin America, as well as in Washington. At the Department, I have held successive positions of increasing responsibility, as an Office Director, a Deputy Assistant Secretary, a Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, and as the Acting Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Legislative Affairs. In these positions, I have managed foreign policy portfolios that have included every major geographic region and issue, including the Bureau of International Organizations, which oversees the work of the U.S. Mission to the U.N. in Vienna.

For the past 5 years, I have been a senior aide and adviser to two Secretaries of State—for Secretary Rice from 2008 until 2009, and for Secretary Clinton from 2009. In both cases, as the Secretary's Executive Assistant, I participated in daily policy meetings, provided expert foreign policy guidance and advice on key issues in bilateral and multilateral meetings in Washington, and traveled with the Secretaries on official trips abroad. In this capacity, and in the 5 years prior while serving in leadership positions in our Bureau of Legislative Affairs, I coordinated policy and strategy across the Department, participated in senior-level discussions on a wide range of national security matters in the Department and the interagency, and liaised with the Congress. If confirmed, I will use this broad multilateral background and experience to provide policy direction and leadership to our political and

public diplomacy efforts in Vienna, in close coordination with other agencies in Washington, the White House, and the Congress.

In Prague in 2009, President Obama outlined a robust agenda on nuclear non-proliferation and arms control. Significant progress has been made in fulfilling that agenda, including two productive Nuclear Security summits in Washington and Seoul, a successful Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in 2010, and the successful launch of a new NPT Review cycle in 2012. But much work remains. Recent challenges and geopolitical changes underline the importance of U.S. engagement and leadership in multilateral institutions, including those in Vienna. Today, we face threats from states who seek to acquire nuclear weapons and delivery systems and from nonstate actors who may seek nuclear material. The IAEA is essential to our efforts to counter these threats, and the U.S. Mission in Vienna is central to our efforts in the IAEA. Through the NPT and international safeguards, the IAEA is uniquely positioned to report to the international community with authority on the status of compliance by Member States—and in particular Iran and Syria—with regard to their nonproliferation obligations under the NPT.

With regard to Iran, if confirmed, I will continue efforts to bring that country into full compliance with their international obligations. In 2011, the Director General of the IAEA informed the Board of Governors of the status of his investigations into Iran with a frank assessment of the lack of cooperation with which his efforts had been met as well as the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program. In August 2012 the Director General issued his latest report on Iran, highlighting the ongoing lack of transparency, cooperation, and concrete steps toward resolving outstanding concerns. The United States supports the IAEA in its efforts to obtain full cooperation from Iran, including access to the locations, documents, and personnel that the IAEA requires to determine whether Iran's program is exclusively for peaceful purposes. The IAEA will be a key player as the international community assesses what next steps must be taken on Iran.

The United States recognizes the essential role that the IAEA should play in the complete and verifiable denuclearization of the DPRK. The international community has consistently called on the DPRK to cease immediately all nuclear activities and to permit the IAEA to resume its sustained presence to monitor and verify these understandings and requirements. We stand firmly behind the IAEA's efforts to maintain readiness for resumption of its monitoring and verification activities in the DPRK.

If confirmed as the United States Representative to the IAEA I will encourage strong support for IAEA safeguards activities, including strengthening the verification authority of the IAEA to ensure that it has the tools it needs. The mission, in tandem with U.S. diplomatic approaches in capitals, has worked tirelessly to promote Member States' adoption of the highest standards of nuclear safeguards, and, as a result, 117 states now have the Additional Protocol in force. While we have made progress, if confirmed I am committed to leading the mission's ongoing efforts to achieve the goals of universal adherence to the Additional Protocol. Furthermore, if confirmed, I will make it my priority to continue strong U.S. support for the IAEA's safeguards mission, including appropriate funding to support necessary upgrades to IAEA capabilities such as the Safeguards Analytical Laboratory, and to seek full support from other Member States in this regard.

Beyond the important work of nuclear safeguards, our efforts in the IAEA seek to support and protect U.S. national interests in other areas. The international community looks to the IAEA for technical information, guidance, and recommendations on matters of nuclear safety and security. This was most clearly demonstrated during the March 2011 Fukushima crisis and in the months that followed, when the IAEA played a pivotal role in helping Japan and other countries assess the crisis and disseminate needed information. If confirmed, I will continue active U.S. leadership in the IAEA in helping to ensure the broadest application of safety standards internationally in a market that is open and competitive for the U.S. nuclear industry. We must also strengthen the IAEA's capacity to support and coordinate national and international efforts to secure nuclear materials and prevent nuclear terrorism.

Promoting access to the peaceful benefits of nuclear energy remains a central purpose of the IAEA and one which the United States has long supported. The IAEA is uniquely placed to help states access peaceful nuclear energy applications and techniques in a way that is fully consistent with U.S. safety, security, and non-proliferation goals. This includes not only nuclear power but also applications in food security, water resource management, and advances in human health such as cancer treatment. Many Member States—particularly those in the developing world with little capacity to develop or access such peaceful benefits on their own—view this as the IAEA's most important mandate. Technical cooperation and assistance

through the IAEA strengthens the global nuclear nonproliferation regime by building broad support for the NPT, its safeguards obligations, and the normative understanding that all nuclear cooperation must be accompanied by nonproliferation responsibilities. It was in this context, during the 2010 NPT Review Conference in New York, that Secretary Clinton announced President Obama's well-received IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative campaign, which includes the goal of raising \$100 million to further expand and accelerate implementation of technical cooperation projects. If confirmed, I will work to continue the U.S. mission's strong leadership in supporting the IAEA's work in peaceful uses, while ensuring that the provision of assistance continues to adhere to the highest standards of safety, security, and non-proliferation.

The spread of sensitive technology related to the fuel cycle, including enrichment and reprocessing, has always been of particular concern to the United States. In December 2010, the IAEA's Board of Governors voted to approve establishment of an IAEA "Low Enriched Uranium fuel bank," in line with President Obama's Prague proposal to establish an assured international nuclear fuel supply to enable countries to access nuclear fuel without the need to develop their own nuclear enrichment capabilities. If confirmed, I will work with the IAEA and its Member States to ensure that the necessary political, operational, and management decisions are reached to make the bank a reality.

Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, I will be responsible for key U.S. priorities in other multilateral bodies such as the Preparatory Commission for the CTBT Organization (CTBTO PrepCom) and The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as U.S. participation in multilateral regimes, including the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

As laid out in President Obama's Prague Agenda, the United States has actively reengaged with the CTBTO PrepCom to support the completion of the International Monitoring System, the global network of over 321 monitoring stations and 16 laboratories which, at Entry into Force of the Treaty, would contribute critical data to verify compliance with the CTBT. Beyond their treaty uses, these facilities currently contribute enormously valuable, real-time seismic and environmental data to the global community. This data was vital to the international community's response to the Fukushima crisis.

UNODC aids in the prevention of terrorism by assisting countries in strengthening legal frameworks to fight terrorism and frustrate terrorist financing. UNODC continues to focus on providing states with the tools they need to fight money laundering and the financing of terrorism and drug trafficking in Afghanistan and Central Asia, coordinating and implementing international counterterrorism efforts in East Africa and off the Horn of Africa, and raising awareness of international prohibitions on trafficking in persons. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with UNODC and its Member States to enhance further its effectiveness in these and the other areas of its mandate.

The Vienna-based Nuclear Suppliers Group promulgates guidelines to help prevent nuclear trade from contributing to proliferation or providing proliferant and terrorist access to nuclear materials and equipment. The Wassenaar Arrangement, also headquartered in Vienna, coordinates efforts among 41 partner states to implement export controls to prevent destabilizing arms buildups and terrorist access to conventional weapons. If confirmed, I will continue to provide robust support for these multilateral arrangements that constitute a strong and effective network to fight proliferation of materials that give substance to the most dangerous terrorist threats.

In addition to the above, there are other smaller organizations in Vienna that are nevertheless important to U.S. interests, including the U.N. Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and the Office of Outer Space Affairs, which supports the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

Finally, in light of the current financial situation, ensuring strong management of the Vienna organizations will remain a critical feature of U.S. stewardship. The United States has worked intensively with partners to ensure improved fiscal and management practices, notably at the IAEA. If confirmed I will work closely with these organizations to ensure that they adhere to the highest standards of management and transparency.

Mr. Chairman, during the past few years U.S. engagement in multilateral institutions and with the International Organizations in Vienna has resulted in significant successes, some of which I have outlined today. These achievements highlight the force-multiplying effect in both political capital and financial resources that multilateral engagement can produce. If confirmed, I will pursue an active political and public diplomacy agenda in support of U.S. national interests at the IAEA, the U.N. and International Organizations in Vienna.

Senator UDALL. Thank you very much for that excellent statement. And your full statement will be put in the record, and the same is true of the other two witnesses. So you can shorten them or read them, whatever you would like.

Mr. MACMANUS. Thank you.

Senator UDALL. Ms. Villarosa, please proceed.

STATEMENT OF SHARON ENGLISH WOODS VILLAROSA, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS AND THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

Ms. VILLAROSA. Thank you, Chairman Udall, for the opportunity to discuss my nomination to become the Ambassador of the United States to Mauritius and the Seychelles. I also wish to thank President Obama and Secretary Clinton for the honor of this nomination.

This is a particular honor for my family, which is proud of its long history of service to this country, to help keep our Nation free, prosperous, and secure. My international travels as an Army brat began at the age of 6 months. I have also experienced firsthand the amazing breadth and diversity of the United States living in or visiting all but 2 of our 50 States.

My Foreign Service career provided me a broad range of responsibilities. In Burma, I was a vocal advocate for human rights and democracy, and am proud of our contributions there to the opening we are now seeing. I also set up our Embassy in the newly independent nation of East Timor. Most recently, I was responsible for building political will and capacity around the world to confront critical terrorist threats from actors in Asia, Africa, and the Arabian Peninsula. We regard Mauritius and Seychelles as strong partners in this effort.

I am very excited at the prospect of serving in Mauritius and Seychelles should the Senate confirm me. These countries, while small, are geostrategically located in the Indian Ocean. Their Exclusive Economic Zones cover 3.2 million square kilometers, and possess vast maritime resources. They share our values in support of democracy and free markets. They are outward looking, which has enabled them to gain prominence on the international stage by their willingness to exercise leadership.

I wish to thank the bipartisan work and support of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Senate leadership to extend the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act's Third Country fabric provisions, which are important to regional trade and our bilateral relationship with Mauritius. Mauritius is one of the leading beneficiaries of this important law. If I am confirmed, I would like to increase U.S. exports to this healthy, thriving market economy, making better use of 21st century means of communication and transportation.

Mauritius has also been a good partner with us in the United Nations, and is willing to provide police as part of U.N. peacekeeping efforts to help other nations build the foundations for stable, civilian-led government that respects the rule of law. Seychelles has also taken on important leadership responsibilities in confronting piracy that poses serious risk to global commerce.

Seychelles stepped up to try pirates and hold them accountable for their crimes, which helps restore maritime security for all.

Through our cooperation on counterpiracy and counterterrorism, Seychelles has become one of the U.S. Government's best partners in Africa. Seychelles shifted away from one-party rule in 1991 to institute a multiparty system of government. It also shifted away from socialist policies to pursue market-oriented policies, which have enabled the country to significantly reduce its debt, run a budget surplus, and grow at a time when much of the world has been in recession. If I am confirmed, I will encourage Seychelles' continued progress in implementing sound political and economic reforms and respect for human rights.

I am joined in my efforts by my family, which is very supportive—they are back in Colorado and Texas—and my broader Foreign Service family that has joined me today. Everything that I have done has been with the terrific support of these people. I would specifically like to mention Julie Dorsey and Marisol Brady, who are present today, as the second generation of Foreign Service officers that I hope will join the Foreign Service. And we will benefit greatly from that.

In conclusion, I am honored to be nominated to serve as the United States Ambassador to Mauritius and Seychelles. If confirmed, I will do my best to strengthen our relationship with both nations to advance democratic and free market principles, as well as to confront any threat to these principles, thereby increasing United States and global security.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I look forward to responding to any questions you may have at this time.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Villarosa follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SHARI VILLAROSA

Thank you, Chairman Udall and members of the committee, for the opportunity to discuss my nomination by President Obama to become the Ambassador of the United States to Mauritius and the Seychelles. I would like to thank President Obama and Secretary Clinton for the honor of this nomination.

It has been a particular honor for my family and me personally to defend and advance our interests around the world to help keep our Nation free, prosperous, and secure. My family's long history of service to this country dates back to the Revolution. My father, both grandfathers, and every preceding generation fought for this Nation so we could live in freedom. My international travels as an "Army brat" began at the age of 6 months when I accompanied my parents serving in Germany. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to experience firsthand the amazing breadth and diversity of the United States, living in or visiting all but 2 of our 50 States.

My Foreign Service career provided me a broad range of responsibilities, working closely with many other U.S. Government agencies in Washington and overseas. I have served twice as Chargé d'Affaires. I was a vocal advocate in Burma for human rights and democracy and hope that I contributed to the opening we are now seeing. I also set up our Embassy in this millennium's first new independent nation, East Timor. Most recently, I was responsible for building political will and capacity around the world to confront critical terrorist threats to our country from actors in Central Asia, East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Sahel. We have developed strong partnerships with many nations around the world, including Mauritius and Seychelles, to eliminate terrorist safe havens, disrupt terrorist plots, and dry up the pools of potential terrorist recruits.

I am very excited at the prospect of serving in Mauritius and Seychelles, should the Senate confirm me. These countries, while small, are geostrategically located along important sea-lanes in the Indian Ocean. As a result of their expansive Exclusive Economic Zones, covering 3.2 million square kilometers, they have vast maritime resources. They share our values in support of democracy and free markets. They are outward looking, which has enabled them to gain prominence on the inter-

national stage by their willingness to exercise leadership on key issues. Their heterogeneous populations reflect their international focus and should make it easy for me, as a product of the melting pot that is the United States, to fit right in.

Mauritius is a thriving democracy that the Democracy Index ranks as the only full democracy in Africa. It also ranks first among all African countries in the 2012 Ibrahim Index based on effective governance that informs and empowers citizens, civil society, and governmental actors. Mauritius has prospered due to its reliance on free market economic principles. The World Bank's 2012 Doing Business Report ranks Mauritius first among African economies and 23rd worldwide. The Heritage Foundation ranks Mauritius first in sub-Saharan Africa and eighth worldwide in its 2012 Index of Economic Freedom.

Mauritius has been one of the leading beneficiaries of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), one of the centerpieces of the administration's policy toward sub-Saharan Africa. As Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson remarked in June, the vision of AGOA to spur economic development, trade, and investment is becoming a reality. If I am confirmed, I would like to increase U.S. exports to this healthy, thriving market economy, expanding upon the links between the two economies forged by Mauritius' imports to the United States under AGOA. In this regard, I would note that congressional extension of AGOA's Third Country Fabric Extension was a great relief to the government and people of Mauritius, is important to regional trade, and politically is very important to our bilateral relationship. We appreciate the bipartisan work and support of this committee, the Finance Committee, and the Senate leadership in ensuring this extension. I think we can make better use of 21st century means of communication and transportation to increase our trade with Mauritius.

Mauritius has been a good partner with us in the United Nations, and has indicated its willingness to provide police as part of U.N. peacekeeping efforts. We should welcome its offer to help build stability in fragile countries and offer to assist in providing the necessary training so Mauritius can help others build the foundations for stable civilian-led government that respects the rule of law. Seychelles has also taken on important leadership responsibilities in confronting a relatively recent challenge to global security: piracy stemming from Somalia that poses serious risks to commercial trade, particularly sea-borne cargo.

Seychelles, more than any other government in the region with the possible exception of Kenya, stepped up to try these criminals and hold them accountable for their crimes, which helps restore maritime security for all. This is particularly notable, considering Seychelles' relatively small size and resources in comparison to most other countries in the region. Through our cooperation on counterpiracy and counterterrorism efforts in recent years, Seychelles has quickly grown to become one of the U.S. Government's strongest partners in Africa.

Seychelles shifted away from one-party rule in 1991 to institute a multiparty system of government. It has also turned away from the socialist policies of the past to pursue market-oriented policies, enacting an economic reform program which has enabled the country to significantly reduce its debt from 98 percent of GDP to 56 percent in 2010, run budget surpluses, and in 2011 grow by 6.2 percent at time when much of the world has been in recession.

If I am confirmed, I will try to encourage Seychelles' continued progress in implementing sound political and economic reforms and protecting human rights. In addition, with the Senate's help, I hope that we can continue to support the efforts of Seychelles to counter piracy and promote better security in East Africa and the Indian Ocean.

In conclusion, I am honored to be nominated to serve as the United States Ambassador to Mauritius and Seychelles. If confirmed, I will do my best to strengthen our partnership with both nations to advance democratic and free market principles, as well as to confront any threats to those principles, thereby increasing U.S. and global security.

Senator UDALL. Thank you. Thank you for your statement.

Mr. North, please proceed.

**STATEMENT OF WALTER NORTH, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE
AMBASSADOR TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA, THE SOLOMON
ISLANDS, AND THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**

Mr. NORTH. Mr. Chairman, thank you so much for having us here this afternoon. I just want to build on Sherry's comments and thank you for the kind things that you said about the Career

Foreign Service and our dedication and service on this rather sad day for many of us.

I am, of course, honored to appear today before you as President Obama's nominee to be the Ambassador of the United States to the Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. I am grateful to President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton for their confidence and trust in me. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the committee and other interested Members of Congress.

I would not be here today if it were not for the strong support of my wife, Dr. Judy Ryon, and our family. And I am happy that a special friend, Carla Barbiero, could be with us as well. They have always encouraged me, and I deeply, deeply appreciate that.

It has been my privilege to serve our country as a career diplomat. Prior to my nomination, I served as the director of USAID's mission in Egypt. This followed several assignments with USAID throughout the world.

Of course, many Americans, as you suggested, Mr. Chairman, know Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu because of World War II. In my own family, my stepfather and two uncles served in that theater. I remember well their stories of the generosity of spirit of the people of the South Pacific.

The events of the Second World War created an enduring bond of friendship between the United States and the people of Melanesia. We continue to benefit from that legacy. Today we are deeply engaged in confronting new challenges and opportunities, including the challenges you mentioned briefly in your opening comments related to climate change.

This is reflected across a broad range of interests. For example, we support economic development and effective stewardship of the region's rich natural resources. We encourage inclusive, sustainable, and transparent growth. We advance the status of women. We work on a troubling HIV/AIDS epidemic. We assist American citizens and promote our business interests. We help our partners build strong, responsive democratic institutions, and we cooperate on regional security issues, and have a strong military-to-military relationship with Papua New Guinea.

Clearly, the United States has many shared interests and values with the government and people of New Guinea, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands. If confirmed, and with your support, I will build on those efforts.

I want to thank you again for this opportunity to appear before you. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have and would like to submit my written testimony for the record. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. North follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF WALTER NORTH

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be the Ambassador of the United States to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

I am grateful to President Obama and Secretary Clinton for their confidence and trust in me. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the committee and other interested Members of Congress.

I would not be here today if it were not for the strong support of my wife, Dr. Judy Ryon, and our family. They have always encouraged me. I deeply appreciate that.

It has been my privilege to serve our country as a career diplomat. Prior to my nomination, I served as the Director of USAID's Mission in Egypt. This followed several assignments with USAID.

Many Americans know Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu because of World War II. In my own family, my stepfather and two uncles served in that theater. I remember well their stories of the generosity of spirit of the Pacific Islanders.

The events of the Second World War created an enduring bond of friendship between the United States and the people of Melanesia. We continue to benefit from that legacy.

Today we jointly confront new challenges and opportunities in the region. Secretary Clinton has emphasized the need to listen carefully to each other and to actively cooperate in addressing the priorities identified by the Pacific Island nations. If confirmed, I will follow this guidance.

The United States has an enduring commitment to the Pacific which is reflected in the depth of our engagement.

This is richly reflected across a range of interests. For example, I am pleased that USAID's new Office for the Pacific Islands, has prioritized natural resource issues. Strong climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies are critical for sustainable, inclusive economic growth. If confirmed, I will work closely with the governments and civil societies of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu to ensure that we support economic development and effective stewardship of the region's natural resources while protecting the fundamental rights and future of those who live there.

The governments of both Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands have prioritized improvements in these areas and have moved to improve their management of their countries' natural resources. Solomon Islands' decision to participate in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative is an important first step. In Papua New Guinea, revenue streams for the government are expected to increase exponentially in large part due to the ExxonMobil-led construction of a liquefied natural gas pipeline.

Their government has already taken critical steps to ensure that these resources are better utilized, including through the creation of off-shore sovereign wealth funds that broadly comply with recommendations of the international financial institutions. As a next step, Papua New Guinea will need to accelerate movement toward full participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. In tandem with this progress, I am excited about the Department's Energy Governance and Capacity Initiative which is expanding Papua New Guinea's ability to manage the resource flows effectively, and in conformity with international best practices.

Realizing this goal depends on the development of strong, responsive democratic institutions that deliver for all citizens. We welcome the commitment of Papua New Guinea's government and civil society to strengthen the nation's Parliament, addressing critical gaps in electoral law, and promoting national dialogue on additional ways to strengthen institutional democracy.

Secretary Clinton has eloquently and consistently reminded us all that a society can only progress if it takes full advantage of the talents of all of its citizens. Nowhere is this more true than in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. For historical, social, and cultural reasons, women have been repeatedly marginalized in both public and professional life. Despite the well-documented problems of violence and economic marginalization, there remains cause for hope. In the recent Papua New Guinean elections, three women were elected to general seats in the nation's Parliament.

During her recent visit to the Pacific Island Forum in the Cook Islands, Secretary Clinton met with leading women from the region. She underscored American support for their ongoing efforts to improve the status of women. To that end, the Secretary joined in the launch of the Rarotonga Partnership for the Advancement of Pacific Island Women. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that all of our assistance and public diplomacy programs in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu maintain their focus on advancing the status of women.

As the Pacific island country with the highest rates of HIV/AIDS infection, Papua New Guinea remains a partner country for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. If confirmed, I intend to work closely with other international donors and to focus our limited funding on models that, in addition to having maximum impact on control and treatment of the disease, can be replicated by other donors and that can have cross-cutting benefits across the government's health care system.

As the most populous Pacific Island state, Papua New Guinea has recognized the unique responsibility that it has for peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. To that end, its military has been a strong partner of the United States, and we

have enjoyed a cooperative security assistance relationship that has focused primarily on joint humanitarian exercises, such as the Pacific Partnership, and the training of Papua New Guinean military personnel through International Military Education and Training and participation in the Asia-Pacific Center for Strategic Studies in Honolulu. Papua New Guinean Defence Force personnel were integral participants, along with Australia and New Zealand, in the Regional Assistance Mission in Solomon Islands. As that successful mission begins to transition security operations back to Solomon Islands government institutions, Papua New Guinea has agreed to take on new responsibilities as full participants in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. Its decision to deploy officers to Darfur and South Sudan in support of these operations is a laudable accomplishment and one that merits American support. If confirmed, I will work closely with the United States Pacific Command to find ways to expand our military-to-military engagement with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force in order to support its continued role in both humanitarian and international peacekeeping operations.

The United States has many shared interests and values with the Governments of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. If confirmed, I will work closely with Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu to build on our existing cooperative efforts and to explore new critical areas of partnership.

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

Senator UDALL. Thank you very much, Mr. North. And your written testimony—all of your written testimonies will be fully in the record.

Mr. North, why do I not start with you? You know, rising sea levels are no joke for the United States. I recently note the New York Times, I think, in the last couple of days talked about New York City, and the rising sea levels there, and what they were doing about it. And obviously no joke for low-lying countries, such as island nations in the Pacific. The Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are two such vulnerable nations.

Los Alamos National Laboratories' Climate, Ocean, and Sea Ice Modeling Project is currently working on modeling to determine how melting ice in Greenland and Antarctica will impact specific regions. While they do not know how sea level will impact specific areas, such as the Solomons, they do know that we are quickly passing the point of no return, and that sea-level rise is occurring, and that the ice melt from Greenland and Antarctica have nearly doubled since 2000.

In your opinion, what should we be doing to help these island nations prepare for sea-level rise, and how will this help prevent instability in the future?

Mr. NORTH. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for that question. These are very critical issues which the administration takes very seriously. As you know, the Secretary has committed to re-engaging more seriously in the South Pacific, with a special focus on that issue. And one of the ways that we most effectively cooperate with those countries on these questions is through some of our investments through our USAID programs that are based in our newly opened USAID office in Port Moresby.

We have a regional coastal adaptation program that has been put in place, and those two countries that you mentioned will be primary beneficiaries of it. I certainly believe that contributions from the scientific community, like the labs in New Mexico, can really make a contribution to a better understanding so that those programs can be effective.

Thank you.

Senator UDALL. Well, I know from our National Laboratories in New Mexico, they really enjoy working all around the world on these kinds of issues. So we look forward to focusing that scientific expertise and moving these countries along in that area.

You know, agriculture is very important for the long-term economic development of Papua New Guinea, but as you are aware, many barriers to development still exist. The May 2010 USAID Enabling Agricultural Trade Project issues the agribusiness, commercial, legal, and institutional reform report, found that the island is endowed with abundant natural resources to support a robust agricultural sector. Yet starting and operating an agricultural business in Papua New Guinea is a risky endeavor. Why is operating an agricultural business risky in Papua New Guinea, and what can you do as Ambassador to encourage reforms to help further economic development and food security?

Mr. NORTH. Thank you for that question, Mr. Chairman. This is a really complicated issue. I think it is ironic that Papua New Guinea's highlands, which were a birthplace of agriculture 9,000 years ago, have not developed along the same path as we have seen in the other centers where agriculture developed initially about 10,000 years ago. There are a number of reasons for that. Some of them related to the extreme biodiversity and biological disparity of the geographical configuration of the island of the Papua New Guinea.

As you may know, there are almost 1,000 ethnic groups living there, and they are mostly separated from each other by mountains and inaccessible terrain. And while in the highland areas that has helped to augment the opportunities for agriculture in many parts, it has frustrated people's attempts to have successful agriculture.

So transportation limitations are ones that farmers face currently. Extreme weather events are another problem. As you may have read in today's paper, there is flooding in the central highlands in Papua New Guinea as a result of some of that extreme weather. There are also high costs that are associated with the extractive industry part of the Papua New Guinea economy, which draws off jobs and has a Dutch disease-like effect on parts of the rest of the economy. There is a lack of education, and there is a huge communal land ownership issue, which frustrates the interests of external investors in investing in the plantation economy.

So it is a complicated issue, but I am thankful that the U.S. Government has engaged with the Papuans in a variety of ways to talk to them about what we can do to make it more transparent, to create opportunities for economic growth, and to see some movement in the sector.

Thank you.

Senator UDALL. Thank you. Some of your descriptions sounds—with the tribal entities and the many languages, sounds a lot like New Mexico. We have 22 tribes, and I have worked for years and years on protecting native languages. And I am wondering, is that an issue in terms of—you know, if you look on a big worldwide basis, indigenous languages are disappearing rapidly. And with indigenous languages disappearing, culture disappears. Do you have any thoughts on that?

Mr. NORTH. Yes, sir, I do. I had the good privilege of visiting your home State and enjoying some of that diversity. I think that one of the things I saw when I was in New Mexico that was most interesting to me, and I think about it in terms of Papua New Guinea, is that oftentimes it is this very interesting relationship between older people and the young that works to preserve those traditions. And that is if you get to a space where the young people have the education, the intelligence, and the opportunity, there is a moment, a sweet spot, if you will, where those two generations can come together and work to preserve the past and protect it.

And you are right, Papua New Guinea has something like 20 percent of the world's languages. And so we need to try, I think, to encourage them to work with the young people to educate them and to do just that.

Senator UDALL. No, you have hit right on the head. What we do in many places in New Mexico on tribal lands is in the Head Start Program, in the early education program, we bring the grandmas and grandpas together with the 3-, and 4-, and 5-, and 6-year-olds. And it is that interaction that allows the language to continue. And it is an interesting—very interesting thing to see.

Thank you very much.

Ms. Villarosa, Mauritius and Seychelles—and the Seychelles are located strategically in the Indian Ocean east of Madagascar and the African Continent, and are playing an important security role protecting global commerce.

As you know, according to some estimates, nearly 16,000 vessels pass through the Suez Canal a year. The canal, which is north of both countries, also carries an estimated 14 percent of the world's shipping and 30 percent of the world's oil supplies. That being said, the ships that traffic the canal are vulnerable to piracy as they pass near the Horn of Africa.

Given that the Seychelles is currently partnering with the United States and other countries to help counter piracy, and that Mauritius is working to try pirates apprehended by allied navies, what should the Embassy be doing to help strengthen this relationship and ensure that Mauritius especially has the judicial capability to prosecute pirates?

Ms. VILLAROSA. Thank you very much for your question, Senator. These are very important issues. And the U.S. Embassy has been very active in working with both countries to build their judicial and prosecutorial capacity to try these individuals.

In addition, we are providing support and training and equipment to their coast guards since you can imagine these small countries with these vast amounts of ocean that they need to patrol. So we have been providing capacity-building in that regard.

They are very welcoming of both assistance from us as well as from other nations in the world. The British are in the process of setting up a rapid action intelligence center based in the Seychelles so that we can get the information out to the various ships patrolling in the sea to take quick action, and as well as preserve evidence that can be used in sound prosecutions.

We are also looking at since—right now Seychelles has prosecuted people and is housing many people, but it has got limitations on how many people they can hold. So we are working to

persuade other countries to take some of these individuals once they are convicted. But we will continue to be very active in supporting the Seychelles, and if confirmed, I look forward to working with you and discussing other ways where we might be able to help.

Senator UDALL. Thank you, and we look forward to working with you. The Seychelles is beginning to recover after the worst of the pirate attacks scared off fishermen from their shores. This had an impact on both the maritime economy, but also the tourist and construction economy. And according to one report, fish supplies at local hotels dried up because local fishermen were afraid to set sail, and a multimillion port was put on hold because foreign fishermen were no longer trawling nearby waters.

What will the Seychelles need to do to recovery economically, and what can the United States do to work with the Seychelles to ensure that as fishermen return, that future fishing is done sustainably so that the people of the Seychelles can have access to fishing stocks for multiple generations?

Ms. VILLAROSA. Thank you, Senator. Again, this is—tourism and fishing are the mainstays of the Seychelles' economy. Piracy has had a significant impact on both of them, so these are very important issues.

With regard to the fishing, it is my understanding that the shortage was temporary. It was immediately felt because fish is a mainstay of the local diet. But according to our Embassy that visits Seychelles regularly, the fish supplies are plentiful in the markets, in the restaurants.

The Seychelles has actually a very good oversight regime of commercial fishing vessels in its waters and does not have a serious problem with illegal fishing. In fact, I just read a newspaper report that they were able to identify an illegal trawler in their waters and take action. But they are very interested and committed to managing their resources in a sustainable manner.

The artisanal fishermen are more vulnerable to the pirates and are beginning to return now as the incidence of piracy have somewhat abated.

Thank you.

Senator UDALL. Right. Yes, thank you.

Mr. Macmanus, in its latest report, the International Atomic Energy Agency determined that it still has significant problems with access to sites in Iran. After the report, prior Chargé d'Affaires Robert Wood made a strong statement that the agency is still unable to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran and, therefore, cannot conclude that all nuclear material in Iran is in peaceful activities.

I am sure that you will bring a similar strong message to the international community. What in your opinion will be the first steps you will take to help increase the pressure on Iran to open its sites to inspectors, and what can we do in Congress to support you?

Mr. MACMANUS. Thank you, Senator. The Iran issue clearly is the most prominent and the most serious issue confronting the IAEA and, therefore, our representation there.

Senator, the report the Director General issued in August that is being discussed in the current Board of Governors meeting was, in effect, a report card on how well Iran had responded to the Director General's report from approximately a year earlier in November 2011, when the Director General issued a very thorough presentation on the Iran nuclear program, and the questions that attend that program, and the inability of the IAEA, because of lack of access, to fully investigate the Iranian nuclear program to ensure that it, one, Iran was fully representing its nuclear activities to the IAEA, a responsibility that it carries under the statutes of the IAEA itself, and as a treaty member of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

And also to determine what other activities Iran had been or was engaging in that would fall under the heading of a possible military dimension to that program. In that case, some of those activities are not in and of themselves related to the enrichment or reprocessing of nuclear material, but would be activities that would indicate a possible military intent to use the nuclear technology that Iran has available to it.

This report card, which was fairly brief—this was the report that the Director General gave this month—this week, in fact, to the Board of Governors—describes the failure of Iran to take the basic steps that have been laid out. Those steps are not unclear. They are fairly transparent, I think, to anyone who follows this issue. They are easily determined by reading in plain language the U.N. Security Council resolutions that have called on Iran to suspend its enrichment program, suspend its heavy water research and development activities, become transparent in its activities, and allow full safeguards to be applied, which would include the Iranian legislative body ratifying the additional protocol which would permit greater access to locations.

Senator, if confirmed, I would continue to bring both a strong political diplomacy and public diplomacy focus on Iran's responsibility, on the stark difference between Iranian behavior on nuclear issues and the behavior of the majority of other countries who participate successfully and fully at the IAEA, and who follow the guidance and the requirements of Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Senator UDALL. Thank you very much for that answer. During the 2010 nuclear summit in Washington, DC, President Obama stated that, "We will advance our goal of securing all of the world's vulnerable nuclear materials within 4 years." Since the summit, many notable achievements have been met, including the removal of 50 kg of highly enriched uranium from three sites in the Ukraine, a shipment of HEU and plutonium in Kazakhstan from an aging reactor, and a plan to convert an HEU-fueled research reactor in Mexico. In addition, work in the United States included the cleaning of excess nuclear materials from Sandia National Laboratory in New Mexico.

What, in your opinion, will be the biggest challenges to achieving the goal by 2014, and how will you work to make securing vulnerable nuclear materials a priority?

Mr. MACMANUS. Thank you, Senator. Senator, first, if I could, I would frame the President's call for the securing of nuclear material in a 4-year time span as being the necessary call to attention

and to action. Nuclear security, which in the IAEA context, and that is the framework in which I will address my remarks, nuclear security and nuclear safety have traditionally been talked about together as a similar kind of process.

Increasingly, it is recognized that nuclear safety is also a state responsibility, one that does reside with states and should be based on changes that they make to their legislative and regulatory framework in order to truly provide use of safe nuclear technology.

Similarly, nuclear security, which has a much broader implications—nuclear security is not simply limited to the proper handling of nuclear material, but touches on aspects of nuclear terrorism and proliferation. Nuclear security was identified by the President in the 2009 speech in Prague. This became an initiative that resulted in a nuclear security summit here in Washington in 2010, and was followed on by a nuclear security summit hosted by South Korea in 2012.

The IAEA has similarly kept pace with these changes. It understands that it plays an important role in nuclear security and has provided both greater resources and a greater focus for member states in responding to the challenge of nuclear security, and itself will host a high-level nuclear security conference at the IAEA next year.

All of this shows, Senator, a proper focus and development of an international concern about nuclear security. As I stated earlier, these are always going to be state responsibilities. Each state is going to have to address the problems that it has internally, but many of the solutions in the examples that you cited do involve international cooperation, the support of other states in order to secure and remove material from insecure environments.

The 4-year goal is a laudable one. It provided focus and direction and a certain push to approaching these issues. I do not know that a 4-year goal is absolutely rigid. I do know that in that 4-year period, more has been done on nuclear security issues than had previously been done. And I think that as a laudable achievement is one that is worth noting.

Senator UDALL. And I do think it is real clear we have made some real progress on that front.

Employees from the National Labs are permitted to take government service leave of absences to work at the IAEA and other U.N. organizations in Vienna. In addition, IAEA safeguard inspectors are trained at Los Alamos for hands-on instruction in measuring nuclear materials. Just a month ago, a team from the IAEA attended the advanced plutonium verification course. This is an important part of our nonproliferation regime. But as our infrastructure at Los Alamos ages, I am concerned that the training capabilities will waiver unless we make significant investments in our infrastructure at Los Alamos and other sites.

What can you do to ensure this important relationship with the National Labs and IAEA continues, and what, in your opinion, is needed to strengthen this relationship?

Mr. MACMANUS. Thank you, Senator. I appreciate your leadership on this issue. I understand that it would be certainly a purpose of your service in the Senate from New Mexico to raise this

issue. And it is one that deserves the attention that you are giving it.

Our contributions to the IAEA are often talked about in terms of dollars. With international organizations that seems to be the initial focus.

The fact is that our intellectual leadership in this context—both in general nuclear technology, in the areas of safety and security and in nonproliferation, the American experience, the American discipline, and how we address these issues—continues to be pace setting. And so a constant interaction and involvement of American nuclear scientists and those who are representing these various activities in the National Labs is both beneficial to us, but maybe, most importantly—and, excuse me, I will be parochial in terms of the position for which I am being nominated. But certainly the benefit is directly to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Senator, the Americans who participate in positions at the IAEA now, without going into an exhaustive list, are there not just because they are Americans and because they have particular skills, but also because they serve in leadership positions, in important positions in management and in legal affairs, and in safeguards. These are important activities that have to do with the management of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and where American leadership is crucial.

I would welcome the opportunity, if confirmed, to work with you, to work with other Senators who similarly have investments in international labs in their States where this constant conversation between our institutions and our specialists and those at the IAEA is going to benefit both institutions and do so in a way that does deserve full and adequate funding.

Senator UDALL. You know, you mentioned something that leads me to the next question in terms of American serving in IAEA. And apparently, you know, we contribute about 25 percent of the budget, but I think 12 percent of the employees are American citizens. Do you think there is room for improvement there? I mean, I know you talked about what good leadership we provide right now. But is there room for improvement in those numbers?

Mr. MACMANTIS. Well, Senator, of course there is. You have identified it exactly as that, and I agree with you.

Now of course an international organization would, by its nature, seek the broadest possible participation from nations, many of which are either incapable of certainly providing the kinds of resources that we provide. And I am not only talking about financial resources, but I am talking about Americans being placed in jobs at IAEA, and I am talking about our consultancies and no-cost experts, the general flow of intellectual conversation that takes place.

There are meetings hosted throughout the year in Vienna at IAEA where important delegations that include representatives from the Labs, from national security elements of the executive branch, especially the Department of Energy, attend and engage in important work, work that shapes the outcomes that are valuable to our leadership in the IAEA.

Of course, again, I would work, Senator, with you under your leadership and with other members of the committee to ensure that

we were always putting the best candidates forward, that we were seeking opportunity to place people in appropriate and important positions, and that, you know, if at the end of the day we are never going to get the percentage to quite fit, that is all right. That is an impetus for a chief of mission to take a hand at seeing if we can get those numbers to increase.

Senator UDALL. Great. Great. Thank you. Now I am changing direction just a little bit on you here. As you are aware, the agency you have been nominated for works closely with the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime.

Mr. MACMANUS. Yes.

Senator UDALL. And the United States has embarked on a major new strategy for dealing with Afghanistan's narcotics production problem. At the same time, the UNODC has become increasingly active in Afghanistan. What role do you see for this U.N. Drugs and Crime organization playing in the United States counter-narcotics strategy in Afghanistan?

Mr. MACMANUS. Thank you, Senator. Certainly in Central Asia, the contributions that do derive from our working with UNODC are important. You know, the State Department has always had an active counternarcotics program run out of our Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, INL. That Bureau is certainly the focus for coordinating policy and programs when it comes to international cooperation.

UNODC may not be the sole or best mechanism for cooperation in other parts of the world where we have a strong program. But in Central Asia, we have a good and productive relationship have with UNODC.

These are difficult endeavors politically. They are, I think, aided by international support and not just bilateral activities. And in that sense, the UNODC does contribute to what still remain U.S. national security goals.

Senator UDALL. Thank you for those answers.

And let me thank the entire panel. I think your testimony today and your answers to questions have been excellent. I really look forward to working with you closely on moving these nominations along.

We are going to keep the record open for 24 hours for any questions for the record. And if you can help us with answering those as quickly as possible, we can then move your nominations along.

And so with that, I am going to adjourn this hearing and look forward to visiting with you a little bit.

The hearing is adjourned.

[Applause.]

Senator UDALL. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 3:44 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

RESPONSES OF SHARON ENGLISH WOODS VILLAROSA TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATORS JOHN F. KERRY AND RICHARD G. LUGAR

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued a Report of Inspection of Embassy Rangoon in June 2008 covering the time period for which you served as charge d'affaires at the mission. The "key judgments" section of the report stated as follows:

Leadership and management of the mission by the [chargé d'affaires ("CDA")] and [Deputy Chief of Mission ("DCM")] have been inconsistent and have failed to provide the necessary communication, coordination, problem solving and fairness to foster a genuine sense of teamwork or address morale problems at post.

The "Mission Coordination" section of the report stated as follows:

While most individual elements of the mission function reasonably well and manage to work appropriately with each other, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) team found the absence of a genuine sense of teamwork under a unified command. The embassy holds one country team meeting per week and another meeting of section and agency heads. The CDA and DCM meet or converse numerous times each day, but they sometimes send mixed or conflicting messages to the staff. They have not conveyed a consistent sense of trust or confidence in their staff, but immerse themselves, at times, into the details of an issue in an unproductive fashion. In the personal questionnaire administered by OIG, mission staff assessed that the CDA and DCM were not performing well in the categories of coordination, communication, allowing dissent, problem solving, fairness or feedback. At times of stress, the CDA has berated American and [Locally Employed] staff in public. The DCM has mostly good interpersonal relations with staff but has failed, at times, to accept responsibility for his own statements. In the course of the OIG inspection the CDA and DCM acknowledged the perceived weaknesses in the leadership and began an intensive set of individual consultations with staff intended to listen to staff concerns and staff suggestions on how they might improve mission teamwork.

The "Morale" section of the report stated as follows:

Morale within Embassy Rangoon was mixed, only partly due to living in an isolated post with poor communications, limited opportunities for travel and recreation, and a negative relationship with the host government. In the administrative services questionnaire prepared for OIG, embassy personnel assessed that the attentiveness of the CDA and DCM to morale was low. The CDA and DCM did not effectively address morale problems at post because of unclear communication with staff and perceived indifference of the CDA to family members in the embassy community. The CDA has organized and hosted a number of community events, but she has at times not included family members or international school staff in such events. The CDA told the OIG team that she recognizes the importance of doing more to demonstrate her interest and support for American staff and the community.

Question. Do you believe the conclusions reached by OIG in its report are accurate? If not, please comment.

Answer. I appreciate this opportunity to respond to the above questions and to detail efforts I have since made to strengthen my leadership and management abilities. I fully understand that, as the chief of mission in Burma and—if confirmed—Embassy Port Louis, morale and leadership are my primary responsibility. The OIG report on Rangoon made legitimate criticisms that served as a powerful wake-up call to me on the need to make certain changes. Based on the OIG's findings and suggestions, I immediately took steps to adjust my approach, starting by acknowledging to my staff that I had not been the leader they deserved and committing myself to improve. The DCM and I moved quickly to better clarify our respective roles, and I increased my communications with my staff and their families. I believe that these efforts paid off 2 months later, after OIG inspectors had departed, during the mission's response to the massive 2008 cyclone. However, I did not stop there and have since used my time in Washington to further improve my leadership skills. I am committed to making improvements on a continuing basis so that everyone who works with me realizes how much I respect their efforts. I will detail further background in my responses below.

The OIG conclusions accurately identified morale as a serious issue, but I believe they failed to describe the difficult circumstances that we faced or our efforts to address the problem. I knew that morale was a serious problem and had requested a Crisis Management Exercise months before the inspection in order to get a better handle on the problems. Unfortunately the Exercise leaders could not obtain visas. I also flagged morale as an issue in my Memorandum to the inspectors in the hopes that they would have constructive advice to offer.

I did try repeatedly to take steps to address morale. For instance, I worked with the Embassy Information Management Officer to set up an Internet cafe at the American Club for family members and teachers to have access through our State Department system to get around the filters, slow speeds, and blackouts that the military regime imposed on Internet access. This is not generally done elsewhere in the world and required special permission from the State Department. Additionally, in order to empower our more junior staff, I let them take the lead in developing proposals for our small grants program and followup on the implementation and results.

I fully understood the high anxiety caused by the military regime's refusal to grant or renew visas for more than 6 months, not because people were worried that they could not leave, but because they were worried that if they had to leave for any reason they might not be able to get back into Burma. I frequently spoke to many staff members individually during the 6-month visa hold regarding these frustrations and was able to secure assistance for several. I understood their tremendous dedication our mission's role in Burma and their desire to be part of it.

Further, throughout my 3 years in Rangoon, I hosted at least five social functions a year that included families and the broader American community in Rangoon. In addition, I arranged for regular presentations to the broader American community by our Regional Medical personnel to address health concerns and organized well-attended townhall meetings with the entire American community to answer all questions after the September 2007 demonstrations and the 2008 cyclone.

In addition to our attempts to improve morale, I believe the mission's performance in handling multiple crises over time provides a more positive example of my leadership of a unified mission team. It is important to understand that the mission was under constant surveillance and high levels of stress by a hostile military regime. Yet we managed to keep people motivated and highly productive despite the stress level. I am very proud of the outstanding collaboration and teamwork shown by every member of our mission team, which went well beyond what duty required. They deserve the lion's share of the credit, but I believe that my leadership was also important.

For example, our move into a new chancery in September 2007 required careful leadership by both the DCM and me because we had to ensure that we accomplished our move in 1 day, while still continuing to cover massive pro-democracy demonstrations that had begun a few days earlier. The day of the move was further complicated by torrential rains and fallen trees that shut streets throughout the city and blocked the entrance to the new chancery. After talking with our staff—who were most interested in covering the demonstrations—we arranged for them to trade off responsibilities so they could both escort classified shipments and cover the demonstrations. Their reports enabled us to report back the latest developments to Washington even though most of our communications were down. The DCM and I had listened to our staff and came up with a fair way to divide the work that satisfied everyone. This team effort helped build everyone's sense of pride and accomplishment. I considered this was the most impressive display of teamwork that I had ever seen until the following May.

Rangoon and the southern delta were hit by a cyclone in May 2008, 2 months after the inspection. This was a massive storm unlike anything experienced in over 100 years. Several of the American staff sustained major damage to their homes and many of our Locally Employed Staff were hit much harder. My first focus was to ensure the safety and well-being of my team and our mission. The DCM and I convened a meeting with key staff the next morning to elicit status reports, assess the damage, and guide our cleanup. We recognized that communication was critical and that most phone lines were down, so we utilized the Embassy radio system to communicate frequent updates to our entire staff throughout the coming days. The entire staff and family members could listen, nonstop, to our discussions if they wished and could ask questions and raise concerns as they arose. Guards stayed at their posts for up to 3 days straight before replacements could reach them.

After moving families to safer quarters, we quickly turned our attention to helping the millions of Burmese who suffered terrible losses. Since the military regime initially rejected offers of international assistance, and our American and Burmese staff wanted to respond, I encouraged them to organize private relief efforts and permitted them to deliver the relief supplies to remote villages. We also organized a relief fund to help our Burmese staff most harmed by the cyclone that served as a model for subsequent efforts elsewhere. Finally, overcoming military resistance to outside assistance, we moved quickly to show U.S. leadership of relief efforts with almost 200 U.S. military C-130 flights over 6 weeks delivering relief supplies. This ended up being a massive undertaking that involved the entire mission. We had first-tour officers directing unloading operations at the airport to make sure they

were not diverted to the military. Our staff accompanied relief shipments to the devastated villages, so that we could report back to Washington on the ultimate destination of the deliveries. The USG response to Cyclone Nargis required a dedicated, motivated, and cohesive team to sustain this effort over 3 months. There was no way our response could have been effective without strong leadership, clear communications, and careful coordination to overcome the numerous obstacles the Burmese military tried to put in our way. It was an honor for me to lead our outstanding dedicated staff and keep them motivated over time to creatively overcome the many obstacles we faced.

In sum, I agree that morale was a serious problem and I tried my best to make improvements. The ultimate responsibility for mission morale is the chief of mission and, before the OIG inspectors had even departed, I assumed personal responsibility before the entire mission and reiterated my personal desire to do better at boosting staff morale in my individual sessions with them. If confirmed as chief of mission to Mauritius, I will do my utmost to support staff morale at all times by making sure that I am aware of my staff's concerns, input, criticisms and thoughtfully discuss with them our approach forward. Although we have a much friendlier relationship with Mauritius than we do with Burma, our staff will still be far from their families and friends. During my consultations, I have learned about the resources—medical, psychological, personnel, education—that are based in the region which I can call on for support. I am determined that my leadership will provide the necessary communication, coordination, problem solving and fairness to foster team spirit and high morale.

Question. Please describe any steps that you took while serving as chargé d'affaires at Embassy Rangoon to address the issues raised by the OIG report.

Answer. I immediately convened a Country Team meeting at the conclusion of the inspection and congratulated the entire mission staff for their outstanding work as evidenced by the relatively few recommendations. I explained that the inspectors' primary concerns were focused on the Front Office and pledged to improve communication and clarity, and stated my intent to sit down with everyone individually to listen to his or her concerns. The DCM and I were able to quickly agree on our respective roles and responsibilities, which we then communicated jointly to the staff. In addition, we met jointly as needed with individuals to ensure we gave no mixed messages.

Listening to concerns and discussing morale with my American staff, and several family members, proved very informative. I learned that most of our American staff, and near all of our local staff, had no discussions with the inspectors about morale and/or the Front Office. My individual discussions reinforced my positive impression of extremely dedicated individuals. They were all very proud of their contributions to our mission and pleased to be part of the team. Many offered suggestions on how we could do more. Their realization of my openness to their suggestions paid dividends later on, perhaps best evidenced during our response to the May 2008 cyclone. The staff readily responded during that crisis that affected us all with many great ideas on how we could help our families and the Burmese people devastated by the cyclone, which we then implemented while publicly recognizing the individual initiatives. We also circulated materials for dealing with stress and obtained increased support from the Regional Medical Office in Bangkok to attend to health concerns. We also revised bidding materials to give a clearer picture of the some of the hardships at Post.

During these individual meetings, I specifically asked about perceptions of favoritism or unfairness, and only one gave those assertions any credence. Several did inquire about my reasoning on particular decisions, which I explained and requested their feedback on how I could have done better.

Finally, I learned that I should engage more with individual staff about decision-making and our policies, rather than relying on supervisors to brief their staff on my behalf. Accordingly, I made more of an effort to speak regularly to individual staff members and actively solicit questions.

Question. Has your management style changed since you left Embassy Rangoon? If so, please describe the specific steps you have taken in this regard.

Answer. Thank you for the opportunity to address this issue, as I have worked hard to strengthen my management and leadership styles since serving in Embassy Rangoon.

I now make it a point to meet often with my staff on an individual basis in order to listen to their concerns and views and to seek out their opinions and feedback. I meet almost daily with individual staff members and I make a point of proactively seeking them out for conversations. My staff also often regularly drops by my office,

as I have made it clear that they do not need to make an appointment to do so. My staff has welcomed the access and my receptivity to their thoughts, which has empowered them as they meet with other agencies and bureaus. In addition, these personal contacts have given me a much better sense of their concerns and challenges, thus allowing me to step in early on to help address any problems. My current office is a talented mix of civil servants, Foreign Service officers, and detailees from other agencies. It is an actively sought-after place to work because people have heard that I am a good person to work with. My staff regularly solicit career advice from me and I have helped several obtain positions that advanced their career aspirations.

In addition to increasing my outreach to staff, I have also sought out courses to help improve my leadership skills. I recently completed a crisis leadership course that emphasized the importance of clear communications and listening carefully to the concerns of the staff. I also enrolled in an executive mentoring program which provided an in-depth look at my leadership and management style as viewed by subordinates and peers, and which identified areas where I could further refine my skills. In the course of further reading, I have also learned that I should treat everyone as unique individuals and utilize a variety of leadership skills depending on the needs of the particular individual.

I will always be open to suggestions on what more that I can do to lead the talented Americans and local employees on my staff.

Question. You are currently serving in a management position at Main State Department headquarters in Washington DC, which is a considerably different environment for employees than serving in isolated posts such as Rangoon or Port Luis. If confirmed, what steps will you take to ensure that Embassy Port Luis does not suffer from the same sorts of mission coordination and morale problems that were identified by OIG as being a problem in Embassy Rangoon?

Answer. I believe that there are key differences between a post like Burma, where we must deal with a hostile regime that has actively sought to hinder the mission's activities, and a post like Mauritius with a friendly democratic government.

That said, I can cite several examples of my successful leadership in small, isolated posts, as well as high stress posts before I served in Burma. For instance, in 2002 I put together and managed a team of relatively junior officers and volunteers to help set up our new Embassy in East Timor. Our team successfully organized the visit to East Timor of former President Clinton, Richard Holbrooke, and then-Assistant Secretary of State Kelly. We followed that successful endeavor by securing in a matter of months several key agreements which ordinarily take years to negotiate, including a Status of Forces agreement.

Additionally, the Economic Section I ran in Jakarta in 2001–2004 was broadly viewed as having the best morale of any section in the Embassy despite losing two-thirds of our staff due to multiple evacuations in response to serious terrorist threats over 2 years.

Some of the lessons that I learned from these experiences, as well as my time in Burma, is the importance of clear communication—not just saying something, but asking questions to see what message was received and also asking for suggestions so that the individual feels invested in the decisions. I also liberally include all the interested officers on internal e-mails and transmit policy decisions to the entire staff so they have a better idea of other issues that we are working on. This later leads to lively discussions with individuals and the group about the other factors that led to the decisions, so they have better insight into senior policymaker thinking.

I also learned that, rather than just proposing solutions for problems, I must also make sure to clearly indicate my sympathy and understanding for the challenges individuals who work for me face. To improve teamwork and cohesiveness, I have learned that it helps if individuals take on different tasks than their usual ones to both broaden their expertise and so they better understand the challenges their colleagues face.

Finally, as a manager of people I have learned that different people require different styles of management. Some individuals desire a great deal of autonomy while others require more hands-on guidance. I have learned to tailor my management style to each individual.

In the course of my Department of State consultations to prepare for my proposed assignment, I have learned that the current Charge in Port Louis is very highly regarded and presides over a contented, productive Embassy staff. My main responsibility is to keep it that way. I have no plans to overhaul a well-functioning operation. I am sympathetic to the isolation factor there and have explored the possibilities of exchanges with other embassies in the region in order to provide more oppor-

tunities for staff to broaden their experiences and learn how larger posts operate. Because we have a small staff, everyone will have to cover for each other, which also provides further opportunity for the staff to demonstrate their versatility and make them more attractive bidders for their followup assignments. I have also learned about the resources available in Washington and at other posts in the region that I can call upon as needed in the areas of medical and psychological care, educational opportunities, and personnel issues. Fortunately they will be able to travel easily should the need arise since visas will not be an issue.

RESPONSES OF WALTER NORTH TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED
BY SENATOR JOHN F. KERRY

Question. The U.S.-Pacific Islands Multilateral Tuna Fisheries Treaty has been a major success in fostering a better dialogue between the United States and Papua New Guinea (PNG). The recent treaty negotiations in Vanuatu were an important step forward and the negotiations appear to be moving in the right direction, but the treaty is set to expire in 8 months. Given that Papua New Guinea is a key Pacific Island nation in these negotiations and on fishery issues, what steps do you plan to take to engage the PNG Government in support of continued progress under this treaty and to help conclude negotiations in a timely manner?

Answer. For most Pacific Island nations, including Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands, the fishery resources in their waters, in particular tuna, provide a key natural resource to support their economic development. The United States has a long history of cooperation and collaboration with the Pacific Island States to protect these resources for current and future generations, while ensuring access to American fishermen. Since 1988, the United States tuna purse seine fleet has operated in the Western and Central Pacific under the terms of the South Pacific Tuna Treaty. This mutually beneficial treaty has provided access to Pacific fisheries for the U.S. tuna fleet and has served as a vehicle for the Pacific Island countries to receive hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues, U.S. Government economic development funding, and assistance with sustainable fisheries management as well as combating illegal fishing. The United States is negotiating with the Pacific Island Parties to extend the treaty beyond the June 2013 end date.

At the most recent round of negotiations to extend the South Pacific Tuna Treaty, held September 5-8, 2012 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, U.S. negotiators made good progress in closing the gaps on a number of remaining issues. This progress, in addition to the agreement reached in Auckland on access for the U.S. fleet and the associated financial package, brings us closer to a final agreement. If confirmed, I will engage heavily with the governments of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu to press for a successful conclusion to the treaty at the next negotiation round in Solomon Islands in November.

Question. Papua New Guinea comprises over 28 million hectares of rainforests. It is home to over 200,000 species and boasts a rich and diverse ecosystem. Forest degradation in particular is a critical concern in the region. Forestry and agriculture account for 90 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the country. Extensive logging and removal of forests for agricultural use are a significant driver of this forest degradation and source of emissions. How do you plan on engaging in addressing the drivers of forest degradation as well as conservation of the forest biodiversity in Papua New Guinea? How do you plan to work with private sector, nongovernmental groups, and other key stakeholders in your efforts?

Answer. Papua New Guinea (PNG) is one of the most richly diverse places on earth. There are millions of hectares of rainforests, as well as abundant marine resources. These rich resources provide the livelihoods for a significant portion of the population and are particularly important to the poor.

Regrettably, there are multiple causes driving forest loss and degradation in PNG. These include invasive species, slash and burn agriculture, and local conflicts related to land use and access. The most challenging issue is weak governance. Because of weak governance, there has been extensive overexploitation and poor management of forest interests. I believe that there are a number of ways in which the United States can work with the government and people of PNG on these issues, and, if confirmed, I will work hard to advance the following efforts.

The United States is addressing the drivers of deforestation in a number of fora, from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to the Forest Investment Program (FIP) and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), to bilateral programs. Most relevant is a new alliance announced at the Rio+ 20 meeting (June 21, 2012) by the United States and the Consumer Goods

Forum to bring together governments, the private sector, and NGOs to address deforestation associated with commodity production. The first meeting of this alliance will be held later this fall; both palm oil and pulp and paper, which are important issues in PNG, will be priorities for this alliance. PNG will also submit a Readiness Preparation Plan in the next few months to the FCPF, where the United States is an active donor and participant; this plan includes strategies to address the drivers of deforestation.

The United States will also continue to work regionally and with key countries such as PNG to combat illegal logging and associated trade, and more broadly to promote sustainable management of forests, through cooperation in the International Tropical Timber Organization, the U.N. Forum on Forests, and APEC.

Bilaterally, we are working to encourage commitments by the Government of PNG to strengthen democratic institutions to reduce corruption, expand inclusiveness, and strengthen law enforcement. In this regard, the intention of the PNG Government to join the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative is a very positive development. If confirmed, I will encourage the PNG government to sustain and build on improvements in the management of rich biodiverse protected areas, including stimulating ecotourism. I will work to advance the PNG Government's commitments under the representations that it has made to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on forest protection and will work with them and NGO partners to monitor progress toward those objectives.

Finally, the United States will continue to make direct investments through USAID. A new Coastal Management Program will focus on PNG's rich coastal forest resources and work with communities in those areas on sustainable management of terrestrial and marine resources. Resources permitting, we would augment this with support for active on-the-ground monitoring and scientific research. Meanwhile, ongoing programs through the Coral Triangle Initiative engage NGOs, local communities, government, researchers and academics in increasing the scale of and better managing protected areas, getting local buy-in to these approaches, and working in surrounding areas to better manage them.

If confirmed, I will seek opportunities to work with NGOs, the private sector, academia, the people of PNG, and other governments to explore further ways to enhance conservation and protection of Papua New Guinea's incredible biodiversity.

Question. Climate change poses devastating risks to small island nations that are particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise because of their geography. By 2008, the sea level surrounding the Carteret Island, an atoll of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, had risen to a point where residents began to relocate to higher ground and/or neighboring islands. The impacts of climate change and the threat it poses on small island nations is an important issue for our diplomatic missions to address. Please describe what you consider to be effective ways to diplomatically address climate change. What in your previous experience lays the foundation for you to be successful in working on these issues?

Answer. The United States recognizes that climate change is an urgent environmental, economic, development and security issue for the Pacific region. The United States will continue our efforts to assist the people of the Pacific in finding workable adaptation solutions to the challenges of climate change. We stand behind our pledges in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to take prompt, substantial action to help vulnerable countries adapt to climate change and, if confirmed, one of my priorities is to work with Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu on ways to tackle the problem of climate change. Existing programs provide an avenue to open enhanced regional dialogue and cooperation on this difficult issue. I hope to develop those channels during my tenure, if I have the honor of being confirmed as Ambassador. In addition, the newly opened USAID office in Port Moresby extends added opportunities to bring together regional and U.S. experts on climate change and environmental degradation. The United States currently provides significant climate-related assistance to the region, with \$40.5 million in appropriated and requested funds for climate programs between fiscal year 2010 and 2013. At the Pacific Island Forum Post Forum Dialogue on August 31, Secretary Clinton announced a \$25 million USAID program to help vulnerable coastal communities in the Pacific region to withstand extreme weather events in the short term, plus sea-level rise in the long term.

As a long-time USAID mission director, I have overseen the development and implementation of successful programs to address a number of comparable challenges, particularly in Indonesia where I worked on the Coral Triangle Initiative and significant bilateral terrestrial and marine programs. If confirmed, I will draw on that experience in reaching out to actors in the region to do all that we can to build on the serious commitments made by the administration.

We want to ensure that our programs in the region not only support adaptation efforts related to food security, water resources, coastal infrastructure, and ecosystems, but also address critical governance issues that will help the region build institutional and human capacity to access adaptation funds and to understand, forecast, and use climate information. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the committee on these issues.

RESPONSES OF WALTER NORTH TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED
BY SENATOR RICHARD G. LUGAR

Question. Mr. North, you have extensive background on a wide range of development issues. What are "lessons learned" during your time in Indonesia that may be helpful as you consider development opportunities and challenges in Papua New Guinea?

Answer. If confirmed, I believe that I will be able to build on my experiences in Indonesia and elsewhere. In Indonesia, by listening carefully to a variety of partners, we were able to build alliances for sustainable change on education, the environment, jobs, food security, health, disaster risk reduction, and democratic governance. We relied heavily on our committed local staff of Indonesians who cared deeply about their country and its future. They and our dedicated American team helped us reach out to local communities, the Government of Indonesia, nongovernmental partners, academia, business, and faith-based organizations to build interventions that could be implemented on a broader scale. The Embassy's power to bring together stakeholders, the contributions of a number of other U.S. Government entities, and the support of successive strong, creative, and dedicated Ambassadors was a huge plus. That combined with ability to draw on the best of American know-how and first-rate technical assistance kept the momentum going forward. Finally, we had excellent counterparts in the Government of Indonesia who shared a commitment to regular monitoring and rigorous evaluation. When things were not working, we changed course or stopped them. And when they did do well, the Government of Indonesia was ready to expand them using their own resources. I expect that elements of this approach will be useful in Papua New Guinea, too. I am particularly committed to using the influence of the Embassy and my position as Ambassador, if confirmed, to advance existing and future initiatives to advance development and address critical issues, such as public health, climate, and the environment.

Question. What is the status of the \$1.5 million-per-year U.S.-funded HIV/AIDS project in Papua New Guinea? Please provide details of the latest evaluation of this program's effectiveness.

Answer. USAID and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) jointly implement the U.S. Government's HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment programs in Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea suffers from the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the Pacific, and U.S. Government efforts are targeted to reach the most at-risk populations in the country. The geographic focus of U.S. Government-funded programs is carefully coordinated with the programs of other bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as with the Papua New Guinea Ministry of Health and National AIDS Council, to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize coverage. USAID programs focus on building the capacity of the host government to scale up public and community-based, fully integrated HIV prevention, care, and treatment programs in defined geographic areas to halt the spread of the disease and mitigate its negative effects on society. CDC works closely with the Ministry of Health to improve its laboratory testing and surveillance capacity to enable better understanding of the epidemic and support a fact-based public health response.

U.S. Government programs have been instrumental in raising awareness of HIV/AIDS transmission patterns, establishing treatment protocols, and pioneering work in promoting voluntary testing and counseling among at-risk groups. Indeed, many of the approaches adopted by U.S. Government programs have served as models for other donors and the national Ministry of Health. Comprehensive reviews of the initial 5-year program, which will be completed in December 2012, have been uniformly positive. In accordance with the recommendations of the review, the next 5-year program will increase focus on the intersection between HIV/AIDS and violence against women, while still maintaining the overall focus on an integrated model of prevention, care, and treatment in targeted geographic areas. In FY 2012, Papua New Guinea received \$5 million from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) for its HIV/AIDS response.

Question. Please provide details of the model or approach you utilized as USAID mission director in Indonesia to review the effectiveness of U.S.-funded assistance.

Answer. In Indonesia, U.S. investments benefited from a legacy commitment to evaluation that had been instilled and nurtured in the mission culture over successive directors. This meant that there were staff with requisite skills, tracking and monitoring systems in place, resources set aside for monitoring and evaluation, and a consideration of monitoring and evaluation at every step of an activity's cycle. Regular portfolio reviews and consultations with counterparts reinforced the importance of the issue. Consequently, when USAID Administrator Shah's AID Forward reform agenda focused on evaluation, we welcomed the commitment and were well positioned to participate in it.

Question. Having worked in Indonesia, you are familiar with efforts between the United States and Indonesia, to study tropical diseases. Is such a collaborative project presently underway in Papua New Guinea? If not, what do you see as prospects for the United States and Papua New Guinea to work together so that tropical diseases and other public health issues connected to the country's biodiversity may be studied?

Answer. The National Institutes of Health currently partners with the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research in Goroka through a Malaria Center of Excellence. This initiative brings together researchers from both countries to examine collaboratively new ways to control the spread of this tropical disease, which is endemic throughout Papua New Guinea. Both the National Institutes of Health and USAID are examining ways to increase this collaborative work in Papua New Guinea through expanded tropical disease research, prevention, and treatment. CDC is working to strengthen laboratory and disease surveillance systems in the country. The addition of a public health specialist from the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery to the Embassy staff in October 2012 will help facilitate expanded Department of Defense engagement in this area. If confirmed, I will work closely with all elements of our health diplomacy team in Port Moresby to identify areas for closer partnership and collaboration on tropical diseases and public health challenges in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

Question. When did the latest review of security at the U.S. Embassy in Papua New Guinea occur? Were there recommendations for improvement? If so, have the recommendations been implemented?

Answer. The last Diplomatic Security Program Management review for Embassy Port Moresby was published on June 8, 2011. Two of the recommendations contained in that report have not yet been fully implemented. The outstanding recommendations deal with timekeeping and communication equipment that the local guard force contractor has not yet provided to local guard force employees. Embassy Port Moresby has been in regular contact with the local guard force contractor to press for the deployment of the recommended equipment. The local guard force contractor is working to procure its equipment—a difficult exercise in Papua New Guinea—and intends to deploy it in the near future. In the interim, Embassy Port Moresby has provided U.S. Government-owned equipment to local guard force employees to ensure that there are no gaps in security coverage.

Question. To what degree are the people of Papua New Guinea reliant upon fish for their food supply? To your knowledge, have any studies been conducted regarding the longevity of the fish stock supplying Papua New Guinea for domestic consumption as well as export?

Answer. Fish and seafood are an important source of protein in the diet of coastal communities in Papua New Guinea. Numerous studies have been conducted both by governmental and nongovernmental sources analyzing the sustainability of Papua New Guinea's fish stocks, particularly migratory fish stocks, including various tuna species, the country's principal fish export. In addition, a number of governmental and nongovernmental studies have been conducted to determine the impact of climate change on Papua New Guinea's fish stocks, focusing primarily on various species of reef fish, which are important for domestic consumption. These studies have all highlighted the need for careful conservation of Papua New Guinea's fish stocks in order to ensure their long-term viability, as well as the need for measures to protect Papua New Guinea's coral reefs from the impact of climate change.

The Government of Papua New Guinea has been a credible partner in efforts to ensure the sustainable management of migratory fish stocks in the Pacific. Papua New Guinea's waters contain about 10 percent of the world catch of tuna, the biggest tuna resource base of any country on earth. The South Pacific Tuna Treaty and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC) are the two major treaties regulating tuna fishing in the South Pacific region. Earlier this year Papua New Guinea revoked its prior withdrawal from the Tuna Treaty, and since then has been a constructive partner in the ongoing negotiations on its extension. The United

States looks forward to working with Papua New Guinea to conclude the remaining steps to extend this agreement.

Both Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands receive USAID support as members of the six-nation Coral Triangle Initiative, which also includes Indonesia, Philippines, Timor-Leste, and Malaysia. The Coral Triangle Initiative—which is also supported by other bilateral donors, multilateral development banks, and international NGOs—works to protect mangroves, coasts/coral reefs, fisheries, and other coastal resources within a 5.7 million square kilometer area of ocean and islands with the highest marine biodiversity on earth. To complement this work, USAID, as part of the regional climate change work being done through its Pacific Islands Office in Port Moresby, is establishing a coastal mangrove planting, protection, and management program that will assist coastal communities in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in protecting reefs and fish breeding grounds. In addition, as part of its program to assist communities in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu to adapt to the realities of climate change, USAID intends to assist with sustainable fisheries management in coastal communities.

Question. According to the U.S. Department of State's Background Notes for Papua New Guinea, "petroleum and mining machinery and aircraft have been the strongest U.S. exports. Looking to the future, do you see opportunities for expanded categories of U.S. exports to the country? Please elaborate.

Answer. Given the projected expansion of Papua New Guinea's petroleum and mining sectors over the next several years, it is very likely that U.S. exports to the country will continue to be dominated by machinery related to these industries. There is potential for immediate growth in other categories, however, particularly renewable energy technology and construction machinery. The potential for increased export of U.S. food and consumer products to Papua New Guinea also exists. The export of such products has, however, been hampered by Papua New Guinea's stringent sanitary and phytosanitary regime and weaknesses in intellectual property protection. To address these barriers to increased U.S. exports, the United States has agreed to begin bilateral discussions on trade matters with the Papua New Guinean Government.

If confirmed, I will work closely with all elements of the U.S. Government to identify ways to broaden our exports to Papua New Guinea and will engage with Papua New Guinean Government authorities to reduce barriers to the entry of U.S. products in their market.

RESPONSES OF JOSEPH MACMANUS TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED
BY SENATOR ROBERT MENEDEZ

Question. Mr. Macmanus, as you assume a key role as the lead U.S. Representative to the IAEA, what are the administration's top priorities? Where do IAEA priorities differ from those of the United States? Where differences between U.S. and IAEA priorities exist, do you have a plan to bring those priorities more in line with our own?

Answer. The administration's top foreign policy priority at the IAEA is to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to support the IAEA's efforts to monitor and inspect both Iranian and Syrian nuclear activities, as the international community continues to pressure these countries to comply fully with its international nuclear obligations. As set out by U.N. Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) 1696, 1737, 1747, 1803, 1835, 1929, and 1984, such cooperation entails access for the IAEA to sites, materials, and persons relevant to the effort to ascertain the true nature of Iran's nuclear program, including the possible military dimensions of that program. If confirmed, supporting IAEA's efforts to gain full access to Iranian and Syrian nuclear programs and to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon will be my top priority.

Another priority is to support the IAEA's efforts to maintain readiness to reestablish a long-term presence to effectively monitor and verify the cessation of nuclear activities in the DPRK. UNSCR 825 concerns the DPRK's nuclear activities and requires access for IAEA inspectors.

The 2011 Fukushima tragedy in clearly demonstrated the critical importance of international cooperation on nuclear safety and incident response. The administration is committed to supporting IAEA initiatives in this area, including implementation of the Agency's Nuclear Safety Action Plan which was adopted by member states in September 2011.

Keying off U.S. leadership on nuclear security matters, the IAEA is also exploring how it can play a strengthened role in promoting nuclear security and keeping

nuclear materials out of the hands of terrorists. This effort reinforces President Obama's Nuclear Security Summit Initiative and will help to sustain and strengthen international focus on this issue beyond the planned 2014 summit to be held in the Netherlands.

The administration is committed to supporting the Agency in its unique and indispensable role in implementing nuclear safeguards, which provide the technical and substantive case for U.N. Security Council and other actions and sanctions. To that end, if confirmed, I will do all I can to ensure that the IAEA has the resources to carry out the infrastructure improvements and technical upgrades it may need to maintain its effectiveness.

In the same vein, the United States has long been the greatest supporter of the Agency's role in promoting the availability of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy through its program of Technical Cooperation. Technical Cooperation projects promote food security, human health/cancer treatment, water management and other benefits, particularly for the developing world. U.S. support was demonstrated most recently in President Obama's commitment to the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative, which was announced by the Secretary at the 2010 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference and which seeks to raise \$100 million to expand and accelerate Technical Cooperation. The Peaceful Uses Initiative has made possible such quick-reaction projects as the IAEA's study of the marine environment effects of Fukushima in the Pacific Islands region.

The administration also strongly supports the IAEA's ongoing work to set up an IAEA LEU fuel bank, which gives substance to member states' commitment to making the peaceful uses of the atom accessible to all and helps to reduce incentives for member states to develop the enrichment and reprocessing capabilities that can contribute to proliferation risks.

Despite overall strong management within the Agency, I believe that more progress could be made with respect to transparency and accountability. In 2012, the Agency took a welcome advance in transparency by publishing the first ever annual activity report for the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). The Agency has expressed reservations about public disclosure of individual OIOS internal audits reports due to concerns that it could impede access to member states' sensitive technical information and capabilities.

If confirmed, I will continue to press the IAEA to continue to work to enhance fiscal and management accountability. Given the Agency's positive track record in revising procedures for vetting Technical Cooperation projects, and a strong relationship of openness and candor, I remain very optimistic that we will be successful in our efforts to encourage the IAEA to continue to review and reform itself and its procedures in a way that benefits the overall efficiency and accountability of the organization.

Question. Can you tell us more about the IAEA Iran Task Force? Beyond the name, how will this task force change the short-term interaction and long-term approach that the Agency takes on Iranian nuclear issues? Has the IAEA had a similar task force before? If so, do you think it was effective, and if not, what will you do to ensure that the Iran Task Force produces results?

Answer. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has stood up an Iran Task Force. This is the first such Task Force organized to handle an ongoing investigation of a specific country in noncompliance with its safeguards agreement. Given Iran's ongoing and increasing intransigence and failure to cooperate with the IAEA, we consider the Task Force to be a positive development and an example of both the commitment of the Director General and the seriousness of the IAEA in resolving this issue. Among the first jobs of the task force should be the successful conclusion of discussions leading to a structured approach to resolving outstanding issues concerning Iran's nuclear program as articulated by the Director General's report of November 2011 and subsequent reports.

The Task Force will consolidate Iran experts into a single unit that will allow them to more deeply analyze the information available to the IAEA. This will allow the IAEA to put together an even better picture of the Iranian nuclear program and, among other things, be better poised to implement a structured approach when Iran agrees to doing so. It could also make additional information available to the international community through the Director General's reports to the IAEA Board of Governors.

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that both the IAEA and the Task Force produce positive results on this issue.

Question. Mr. Macmanus, as you know the IAEA plays a critical role in standards setting and information-sharing with regard to nuclear energy safety. Following the Fukushima disaster this role is more important than ever. What role do you think

the United States should play in shaping the IAEA's response to this disaster and what lessons, if any, do you think the United States can learn from other member nations' responses to the disaster?

Answer. The United States, along with many other member states, played a key, and I believe appropriate, role in supporting the efforts of the IAEA to share information during the Fukushima crisis. During the crisis, the IAEA was somewhat constrained by its regulations that do not permit dissemination of information to other member states or the public without the consent of the Government of Japan and other countries concerned. While these governments were forthcoming in providing such consent, the additional requirement caused unavoidable delays in some announcements and briefings by the IAEA.

I would note that member state support in the form of extra-budgetary contributions, Cost-Free Experts, and additional technical information and resources provides the IAEA with the considerable expertise and capability it needs. Moreover, other organizations also contributed valuable assistance. For example, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) provided real-time seismic data that greatly assisted the IAEA and the international community in predicting tsunami and other activities during this crisis period.

The Fukushima disaster and member states' responses underscored two important aspects of nuclear safety: First, that preparation for and response to nuclear safety incidents remain first and foremost responsibilities of the individual state; and second, that international standards of regulation, practice, and response bring needed transparency and predictability to disaster preparedness.

Moving forward, the United States will continue to play an active role in shaping the IAEA's continued response to the Fukushima disaster. The administration commended the efforts of the Agency and its member states in implementing the Action Plan for Nuclear Safety and absorbing lessons from the Fukushima Daiichi accident. Among the many actions taken, the United States believes self-assessments by national regulators and efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and thoroughness of international peer review missions have been especially helpful in assessing and providing insights into how national regulatory programs can be strengthened. For example, the United States is actively compiling lessons learned from assessment mission programs such as the Integrated Regulatory Review Service, which aims to make these peer reviews more robust. In addition, under IAEA auspices, the Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety held an Extraordinary Meeting on August 27-31, where they identified a number of actions in the "Action-Oriented Objectives" document that I understand can and should be taken immediately to enhance nuclear safety worldwide.

These actions focus on implementing IAEA Safety Standards broadly and effectively, strengthening the independence and transparency of national regulatory bodies, employing international peer review missions (such as those already offered by the IAEA) to consult with member states on their safety regimes, and increasing transparency and public involvement with respect to nuclear safety activities. To be truly effective, in my view, states must implement these identified actions in an expeditious, thorough, and continuing manner.

No nuclear program can be verifiably safe without a robust, effective, and independent regulator, like the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that operates in an open and transparent manner. Contracting Parties to the IAEA Convention on Nuclear Safety are committed to reviewing their national regulatory programs to implement the lessons learned after the Fukushima accident, and to develop regulations and other mechanisms to anticipate, prevent, mitigate and effectively respond to events in the future.

Immediately following the Fukushima accident, the NRC established a task force to review data and actions taken by Japan. The objective of the task force was to better understand the accident itself, and to also make recommendations on how to enhance the safety of the U.S. nuclear program. The NRC has also participated in ongoing consultations with counterpart regulators in Europe to study the criteria established for, and the results of, the nuclear power plant "stress tests" initiated for European countries. NRC has had similar consultations with regulators with mature nuclear programs elsewhere in the world to ensure that the recommendations provided to the Commission are informed by actions taken by other countries.

As I understand, governments are committed to assisting and learning from the Fukushima accident as they develop technical and regulatory approaches to their nuclear activities. If confirmed, I will work to see that this focus on safety remains in the forefront of IAEA activities.

RESPONSES OF WALTER NORTH TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED
BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

Question. The State Department's 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report lists Papua New Guinea as a Tier 3 country for trafficking due to its failure to meet minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and failure to make significant efforts to combat trafficking. Papua New Guinea is a source, transit and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor. Papua New Guinea had been listed as a Tier 3 country since the 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report.

- If confirmed, what would be your new strategy to engage the government in beginning to seriously combat this crime?

Answer. In the 2012 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, Papua New Guinea (PNG) was ranked Tier 3 for the fifth year in a row. If confirmed, I will work closely with PNG authorities to reverse that trend by adopting and implementing tools required to address human trafficking.

For example, with U.S. assistance the Government of PNG has drafted anti-trafficking legislation and has taken tentative action toward enacting this legislation. If confirmed, I will urge the PNG Government to enact this legislation. The next step will be to work with the PNG Government to ensure that it enforces this legislation by investigating, prosecuting, and punishing trafficking offenders, including government officials complicit in trafficking. I will also work with the Government of PNG to encourage the development and implementation of procedures to identify trafficking victims among vulnerable groups and ensure they receive protective services.

In addition, the State Department's Office of Trafficking in Persons has provided grants between 2010 and 2012 to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to assist PNG in designing and implementing antitrafficking legislation and to help launch PNG's first antitrafficking awareness campaign. If confirmed, I intend to work closely with the government and with the IOM to ensure that the legislation is implemented effectively and other antitrafficking measures are adopted and implemented.

Question. What specific benchmarks must Papua New Guinea meet to earn a Tier 2 Watch List designation? How do you plan on reaching these?

Answer. Each country narrative in the TIP Report includes a list of recommendations, providing governments with a roadmap for addressing deficiencies in their antitrafficking efforts and improving their performance and their tier ranking. The 2012 TIP report on the PNG provided a number of recommendations, such as enacting legislation prohibiting and punishing all forms of trafficking; investigating, prosecuting, and punishing trafficking offenders; instituting a formal procedure to identify victims of trafficking among vulnerable groups; training law enforcement officers to proactively identify victims and refer them to protective services; ensuring that victims of trafficking are not arrested, deported, or otherwise punished for acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked; and acceding to the 2000 U.N. TIP Protocol.

If confirmed, I will ensure that the Embassy regularly engages with the PNG Government to discuss the recommendations, to evaluate progress made to date, and to encourage additional actions as needed.

RESPONSE OF SHARON ENGLISH WOODS TO QUESTION SUBMITTED
BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

Question. The State Department's 2012 Trafficking In Persons Report lists Seychelles as a Tier 2 Watch List country for trafficking. Seychelles is a source and destination country for sex trafficking. Currently there are contradictions in existing laws relating to the sex trafficking crimes of child prostitution and forced prostitution of adults.

- If confirmed, what steps will you take to ensure that Seychelles passes clear and comprehensive antitrafficking legislation?

Answer. Secretary Clinton has spoken out forcefully against sexual slavery as a crime that cannot be tolerated in any culture. If I am confirmed, I will give this critical issue increased attention and urge the Seychelles Government to take immediate action to enact clear and comprehensive antitrafficking legislation. I will also seek to mobilize Seychelles civil society to protect women and children from this pernicious crime. The Seychelles economy is very dependent on tourism, and absent

clear legislation, the type of tourists it risks attracting, could negatively impact its reputation for high-end tourism.

To assist in these efforts, if I am confirmed, I will work with Congress and the State Department to provide assistance on legislative drafting, and follow that up with training of police, prosecutors, judges and civil society to protect women and children from further victimization. Our mission in Mauritius has collaborated with the Department of Justice to conduct training for the Mauritian judiciary, and I believe a similar training program could have significant benefits in combating trafficking in the Seychelles once the appropriate legislation is in place.