

NOMINATION HEARINGS OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION—MARCH 10 THROUGH DECEMBER 2, 2015
SECOND SESSION—FEBRUARY 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Relations



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NOMINATIONS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015

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

John Morton, of Massachusetts, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation
Kenneth Damian Ward, of Virginia, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
Hon. Peter William Bodde, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to Libya
Marc Jonathan Sievers, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman
Elisabeth I. Millard, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tajikistan

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 3:35 p.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Jim Risch, presiding.

Present: Senators Risch, Murphy, and Markey.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JIM RISCH, U.S. SENATOR FROM IDAHO

Senator RISCH. All right. Subcommittee meeting will come to order. And appreciate all of you attending today. Certainly have an interesting agenda.

And I would say this. We will start briefly with some opening statements, and then we will hear from each of you, and then Senator Murphy and I will have deep and probing questions, I have no doubt.

We have an interesting mix of countries and of interest groups represented here. And certainly, I think we will use this opportunity, obviously, to learn more about the areas that you are going to and the challenges that you are going to face here. And I am sure you will have the opportunity to tell us what is the highest thing on your mind as you approach your assignment.

So, as always, we want to thank each and every one of you for your service to the United States.

So, with that, Senator Murphy.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, U.S. SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT

Senator MURPHY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

We are going to cover a pretty diverse array of issues, from keeping the world safe from chemical weapons, to national security interests in the Near East and Central Asia, to our investment strategy abroad.

So, I will match your brevity, Mr. Chairman, and get straight to the statements from our witnesses today. Look forward to the hearing and to their confirmation process.

Thank you very much, Senator Risch.

Senator RISCH. Wise decision, Senator.

Mr. Morton, we will start with you, and—welcome to the committee. We would like to hear what you have to say.

STATEMENT OF JOHN MORTON, NOMINATED TO BE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

Mr. MORTON. Thank you very much. Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Murphy, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am honored to be considered by this committee for the position of executive vice president at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

After spending most of my career in the private sector, I have had the privilege of serving at OPIC for the last 5½ years, first as vice president for policy, then chief of staff, and now as chief operating officer. The agency and its 250 professionals exemplifies efficient and effective government delivering results for the American taxpayer and for the citizens of the world's most challenging and, often, fastest growing emerging markets.

As the U.S. Government's development finance institution, OPIC mobilizes private capital to help solve critical development challenges, advancing U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives at the same time. Simply put, OPIC represents a common-sense solution for development, for U.S. national security, and for America's own economic interests.

With respect to development, OPIC has an outsized impact on global development by bringing the stabilizing and sustaining force of private investment to some of the world's most difficult areas and poorest peoples. Over 40 percent of the agency's financial commitments last year were to projects in the world's poorest countries, like Rwanda, Cambodia, and Haiti. Over 40 percent were to projects in Africa, an agency record. And OPIC also catalyzes critical investment flows to projects in middle-income countries, where the majority of the world's poorest now reside.

In support of U.S. national security, OPIC has increased its lending operations to conflict-affected areas by over 50 percent during my time with the agency. And today, roughly one-third of OPIC's investments are in conflict-affected or buffer countries, such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Jordan, Georgia, Ukraine, and South Sudan.

Investments made by the U.S. private sector, in partnership with OPIC, are critical components of ensuring that we help build solid economic foundations in vulnerable regions of foreign policy priority. In Ukraine, for example, we are working to support U.S. businesses investing in the agriculture, energy, and financial services sector. And in Jordan, one of our strongest partners in a troubled region, we are proud that U.S. companies, supported by OPIC

investments and insurance, are providing nearly one-fifth of the country's power and water supply.

Finally, OPIC delivers strong results for U.S. taxpayers, contributing positively to the Function 150 account for 38 consecutive years. With 80 percent of global economic growth expected to occur in emerging markets over the coming decades, OPIC helps U.S. companies gain footholds in fast-growing markets by crowding in private-sector investment and enabling America's entrepreneurs and business leaders to join the ranks of distinguished Americans, like my fellow nominees here today, representing the best of U.S. values and ideals.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Murphy, on any given day OPIC has far more demand from American businesses than we can answer, far more shared development challenges than we can answer, and far more incoming inquiries for investment support channeled through U.S. embassies than we can answer.

Filling the role of executive vice president would allow us to respond to this demand in a more efficient and effective way at an agency which consistently delivers on its developmental mission.

I thank you again for your consideration of my nomination, and I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Morton follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JOHN E. MORTON

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Murphy, members of the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am John Morton. I am honored to be considered by this committee for the position of Executive Vice President at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

After spending most of my career in the private sector, I have had the privilege of serving at OPIC for 5½ years, first as Vice President for Policy, then Chief of Staff, and now as Chief Operating Officer.

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markets, by "crowding in" private sector investment—and enabling America's entrepreneurs and business leaders to join the ranks of distinguished Americans like my fellow nominees today—representing U.S. values and ideals.

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Filling the role of Executive Vice President would allow us to respond to this demand in a more efficient and effective way at an Agency which consistently delivers on its developmental mission.

I thank you again for your consideration of my nomination and I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Mr. Morton.

My mistake. I should have invited you to introduce any guests you have here, or family.

Mr. MORTON. I do have my wife, Tamar Shapiro, my son, Leo Shapiro Morton.

Senator RISCH. All right.

Mr. MORTON. My daughter is on a camping trip today and could not be here.

Senator RISCH. She is the lucky one.

Mr. MORTON. And my boss, the president of OPIC, Elizabeth Littlefield, is also sitting in the second row.

Senator RISCH. Thank you so much. We appreciate that.

Mr. Ward, we would like to hear from you on your nomination to be Representative to the Organization of Chemical Weapons. Would you like to introduce people you have here with you today?

**STATEMENT OF KENNETH DAMIAN WARD, NOMINATED TO BE
THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR
THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

Mr. WARD. Well, I have no immediate family with me here today, but I would like to introduce the former Ambassador to the OPCW, Dr. Robert Miklak, who is behind me, and also the brother I never had, Robert Kadlik, who is the deputy staff director on the SISI Committee. I am honored to have both of them here with me today.

Senator RISCH. Thank you.

Mr. WARD. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Senator Murphy, it is an honor to appear before you today as President Barack Obama's nominee to be the United States Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons with the rank of Ambassador. I greatly appreciate the trust and confidence that President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry have shown in nominating me for this position.

After decades of negotiation, the Chemical Weapons Convention was signed in 1993, and the Convention entered into force in 1997. Since then, the international organization charged with implementing the Convention, the OPCW, has established itself as an effective and respected international body. OPCW inspectors have overseen and verified the destruction of chemical weapons in Russia, the United States, Albania, Libya, Syria, and other states parties. Inspectors have conducted thousands of routine inspections in national military facilities and commercial enterprises around the world to ensure that states parties are abiding by their CWC obligations.

In the fall of 2013, these efforts toward achieving a world free of chemical weapons were acknowledged by the Nobel committee, and the OPCW was awarded the Peace Prize. Despite the historic accomplishments of the Convention and the OPCW, chemical weapons continue to be a threat to international peace and security.

The ongoing strife in Syria is a stark and tragic reminder that such weapons are not relics of World War I or the cold war. On August 21, 2013, the Syrian Government unleashed a barrage of rockets filled with the nerve agent sarin against opposition-controlled suburbs of Damascus, killing an estimated 1,400 civilians, many of them children. Three weeks later, under international pressure, Syria joined the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Of great concern, there remains compelling evidence that Syria continues to use chemical weapons against its own people. The factfinding mission of the OPCW, an entity created to establish the facts surrounding allegations of the use of toxic chemicals as a weapon in Syria, has concluded, with a high degree of confidence, that chlorine was used in April and May 2014 against opposition-controlled villages in northwest Syria. The factfinding mission is now investigating additional allegations of chemical weapons use in Syria.

In early August, the U.N. Security Council established the joint investigative mechanism for the purpose of identifying those individuals, entities, groups, or governments responsible for these chemical weapons attacks.

Of additional concern, an OPCW technical team has raised a host of issues calling into question whether Syria has declared all of its stocks of chemical weapons and associated munitions. The United States shares these concerns. We have assessed that Syria has not declared all of the elements of its chemical weapons program, and may continue to retain some of its stocks of traditional chemical agents and munitions.

In sum, Syria continues to violate the most fundamental obligations of the CWC against possession and use of chemical weapons. If confirmed by the Senate, I will make every effort to ensure that the people of Syria no longer face the threat of chemical weapons at the hands of their government.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Senator Murphy, the ongoing chemical weapons crisis in Syria, as well as the allegations of the use of chemical weapons by nonstate actors in both Syria and Iraq, is a potent reminder of the essential role of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW in promoting international peace and security. In years to come, the world will continue to look to the OPCW as the repository of technical expertise.

The OPCW will face many challenges in the years to come to achieve the promise of a world filled with chemical weapons—free—excuse me—free of chemical weapons. We must achieve universal membership. We must counter the ongoing threat of chemical weapons terrorism. We must prevent the reemergence of chemical weapons. If confirmed by the Senate, I will work to ensure that the OPCW achieves these goals and remains an effective force for promoting international peace.

I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Ward follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF KENNETH DAMIAN WARD

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as President Barack Obama's nominee to be the United States Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) with the rank of Ambassador. I greatly appreciate the trust and confidence that President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry have shown in nominating me for this position.

After decades of negotiation, the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) was signed in 1993 and the Convention entered into force in 1997. Since then, the international organization charged with implementing the Convention—the OPCW—has established itself as an effective and respected international body. OPCW inspectors have overseen and verified the destruction of chemical weapons in Russia, the United States, Albania, Libya, Syria, and other states parties. Inspectors have conducted thousands of routine inspections in national military facilities and commercial enterprises around the world to ensure that states parties are abiding by their CWC obligations. In the fall of 2013, these efforts toward achieving a world free of chemical weapons were acknowledged by the Nobel committee and the OPCW was awarded the Peace Prize.

Despite the historic accomplishments of the Convention and the OPCW, chemical weapons continue to be a threat to international peace and security. The ongoing strife in Syria is a stark and tragic reminder that such weapons are not relics of World War One or the cold war. On August 21, 2013, the Syrian Government unleashed a barrage of rockets filled with the nerve agent sarin against an opposition-controlled suburb of Damascus killing an estimated 1,400 civilians—many of them children. Three weeks later under international pressure Syria joined the Chemical Weapons Convention. Of great concern, there remains compelling evidence that the Syria continues to use chemical weapons against its own people. The Fact-Finding Mission of the OPCW—an entity created to establish the facts surrounding allegations of the use of toxic chemicals as weapons in Syria—has concluded with a high degree of confidence that chlorine was used in April and May 2014 against opposition-controlled villages in northwest Syria. The Fact-Finding Mission is now investigating additional allegations of chemical weapons use in Syria. In early August, the U.N. Security Council established the Joint Investigative Mechanism for the purpose of identifying those individuals, entities, groups or governments responsible for these chemical weapons attacks.

Of additional concern, an OPCW technical team has raised a host of issues calling into question whether Syria has declared all of its stocks of chemical weapons and associated munitions. The United States shares these concerns. We have assessed that Syria has not declared all the elements of its chemical weapons program and may continue to retain some of its stocks of traditional chemical agents and munitions.

In sum, Syria continues to violate the most fundamental obligations of the CWC against possession and use of chemical weapons. If confirmed by the Senate, I will make every effort to ensure that the people of Syria no longer face the threat of chemical weapons at the hands of their government.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my career in government spans over 30 years with 20 of those years dedicated to strengthening our security against the threat of chemical and biological weapons. Since the beginning of 2011, I have headed the State Department's Office of Chemical and Biological Weapons Affairs. In this capacity, I have been directly involved in the international initiative to dismantle Syria's chemical weapons program and have played a central role in efforts to verify the accuracy of Syria's CWC declaration and investigate allegations of CW use. Previously, during the 2004-07 trilateral operation to dismantle Libya's WMD programs, I served as the deputy negotiator, working to achieve the removal or destruction of nuclear, missile, and chemical materials and equipment.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the ongoing chemical weapons crisis in Syria—as well as the allegations of the use of chemical weapons by nonstate actors in both Syria and Iraq—is a potent reminder of the essential role of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW in promoting international peace and security. In years to come, the world will continue to look to the OPCW as the repository of technical expertise on chemical weapons and eliminating the threat they pose. The effectiveness the Technical Secretariat has demonstrated in recent years has been founded on the efforts of a highly skilled and experienced cadre of inspectors. It is essential that the OPCW continue to command the expertise and resources it needs to perform this vital role. It will face many challenges in the years to come to achieve the promise of a world free of chemical weapons. We must achieve uni-

versal membership; we must counter the ongoing threat of chemical weapons terrorism; we must prevent the reemergence of chemical weapons. Indeed, we must ensure that the OPCW retains the political will to confront and surmount each of these challenges. If confirmed by the Senate, I will work to ensure that the OPCW achieves these goals and remains an effective force for promoting international peace, security, and a world free of the scourge of chemical weapons.

Thank you, I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions from the members of the committee.

Senator RISCH. Mr. Ward, that was very comprehensive. Appreciate that. Thank you much.

Mr. Bodde, you have been nominated to be the Ambassador to Libya. Could you enlighten us, please?

**STATEMENT OF HON. PETER WILLIAM BODDE, NOMINATED
TO BE AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA**

Ambassador BODDE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce the members of my family who are here today first.

Senator RISCH. Please.

Ambassador BODDE. I would like to introduce my wife, Tanya, who is a retired member of the Foreign Service; my son, Christopher, who works at USAID; my dad, who is a retired ambassador; and, unfortunately, my daughter cannot be here, because she is accompanying her husband on assignment to our Embassy in Kuwait.

Thank you.

Senator RISCH. A lot of service in your family, Mr. Bodde.

Ambassador BODDE. Yes.

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Murphy, members of the committee, it is a privilege to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the next United States Ambassador to Libya. I am grateful for the trust placed in me by President Obama and Secretary Kerry. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this committee and colleagues from across the U.S. Government to promote a strong relationship between the United States and Libya during this challenging moment in Libyan history.

Four years after the uprising of the Libyan people led to the fall of Qadhafi and his brutal dictatorship, Libyans continue to face enormous challenges as they work to establish a Government of National Accord and build institutions that are inclusive and representative of all Libyans. The Libyan political dialogue has required determination and compromise at every stage, and the process of political reconciliation in Libya will be a long journey.

The recent October 8th announcement of proposed leadership for a Government of National Accord resulting from these Libyan negotiations was a welcome step in the process, and we urge all parties to endorse the agreement as quickly as possible.

The rise of ISIL-aligned groups, human smugglers, and dramatically reduced oil production demonstrate the immediate need for a unified national Libyan Government that can effectively partner with the United States and the international community to begin the hard work of restoring peace and security in Libya.

Over the course of my career, I have led interagency teams in challenging environments, and I understand the difficulties and opportunities ahead. My experience as the U.S. Ambassador to Nepal during and after the tragic earthquake in April, as Assistant Chief of Mission for Assistance in Baghdad, and as Deputy Chief of Mis-

sion in Pakistan confirm my belief that strong interagency coordination and a cohesive country team are the foundations of successful United States missions overseas.

Mr. Chairman, I make it a point to come to the Hill when I am back in Washington, and I believe that regular interaction, whether at post or in Washington, is critical to our continued success. Frank exchanges of accurate information that build trust are essential for the Congress to make difficult resource and policy choices. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing this relationship.

I have always been deeply conscious of the most important duty I have as Chief of Mission: ensuring the safety and security of all Americans in Libya, and particularly those serving under my leadership. While our mission is no longer physically located in Tripoli, balancing safety considerations with a deep desire to engage Libyans will be an essential task, one for which, if confirmed, I will be responsible and accountable.

Libya has the potential to play a vital role in regional security cooperation and trade over the long term. Establishing a safe and secure environment must be the first step Libyans take to move their country forward. Continuing to support the establishment of a stable, prosperous, and democratic Libya is consistent with the values and strategic interests of the United States. If confirmed, I will work with Libyan partners to assist in the establishment of that environment.

In closing, I want to note that anyone who represents the United States abroad has a unique responsibility. More often than not, we are the only nation that has the will, the values, and the resources to solve problems, help others, and to be a positive force for change in our challenged world. Being nominated to serve as an Ambassador representing our Nation is, in itself, an incredible honor. With the consent of the Senate, I look forward to assuming this responsibility again while serving as the next U.S. Ambassador to Libya.

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you. I look forward to answering your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ambassador Bodde follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR PETER BODDE

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Murphy, members of the committee, it is a privilege to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the next United States Ambassador to Libya. I am grateful for the trust placed in me by President Obama and Secretary Kerry. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this committee and colleagues from across the U.S. Government to promote a strong relationship between the United States and Libya during this challenging moment in Libyan history.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce my family this morning—my wife Tanya, a retired career Foreign Service employee, and my son, Christopher, are here with me today. My father, Ambassador William Bodde, is also here with me today. Thirty-six years ago, I sat where he is when he appeared before the late Senator Paul Tsongas during my dad's first confirmation hearing prior to becoming Ambassador to Fiji.

Four years after the uprising of the Libyan people led to the fall of Qadhafi and his brutal dictatorship, Libyans continue to face enormous challenges as they work to establish a Government of National Accord (GNA) and build institutions that are inclusive and representative of all Libyans. The Libyan political dialogue has required determination and compromise at every stage, and the process of political reconciliation in Libya will be a long journey. The recent October 8 announcement of proposed leadership for a Government of National Accord resulting from these

Libyan negotiations was a welcome step in the process, and we urge all parties to endorse the agreement as quickly as possible.

The rise of ISIL-aligned groups and other extremist organizations, the coercive power of militias over Libyan civilians and government institutions, the consistent harassment and targeting of civil society activists, and dramatically reduced oil production demonstrate the immediate need for a unified national Libyan Government that can effectively partner with the United States and the international community to begin the hard work of restoring peace and security in Libya.

In 2011, the Libyan people summoned the courage to stand up to a brutal dictator after 42 years of manipulative and violent rule. The United States supported Libyans then, and we must stand by our Libyan friends now. With the support of Congress we have allocated resources to enable the United States to support Libya's democratic transition, when conditions allow. We will continue to work with our international partners and the U.N. Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to focus on the key areas that will enable a Government of National Accord (GNA) to respond to the urgent needs of the Libyan people. It will be incumbent on members of the international community and regional partners to assist a new Libyan unity government in its early days while building capacity so Libyans can sustainably take on the tough work of border security, counterterrorism, and effective governance in the future.

In the absence of an effective central government that can secure Libyan territory, violent extremist groups have proliferated. Terrorist groups operate freely in Derna and Sirte and have mounted attacks in Tripoli and other Libyan cities. Parts of southern Libya are plagued by tribal fighting, banditry and general lawlessness. Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Ansar al-Sharia elements, and Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)-aligned groups have all been operating in Libya. These terrorist groups have raided unprotected stocks of weapons, using them in Libya and smuggling them across the region. These groups have also attacked oil facilities and vital economic infrastructure in an effort to undermine a political solution to the instability that allows them to thrive. The presence of ISIL-aligned groups challenges the stability of Libya and our partners in the region and Europe, and is a very real threat to U.S. national security. If confirmed, I will do everything in my power to coordinate resources and strategies across the U.S. Government to respond to the threat ISIL and other terrorists pose to Libya, the region, and our U.S. national security interests.

Human smugglers have also capitalized on the absence of effective law enforcement and Libya's porous borders. In 2015 alone, over 120,000 people have attempted to enter Europe by crossing through Libyan soil, and nearly 3,000 of them have perished in that attempt.

Peace is not just a political imperative, but an economic one as well. In 2011, Libyans exported 1.6 million barrels per day of oil. Today, that number stands at just 430,000, below what a Government of National Accord will need to cover current spending, much less the reconstruction and development that the country will require to recover from this period of strife. Getting back to historic production levels will be critical to rebuilding Libya's economy, achieving national reconciliation, and equipping a Government of National Accord for the many challenges Libya faces.

Over the course of my career, I have led interagency teams in challenging environments, and I understand the difficulties and opportunities ahead. My experience as U.S. Ambassador to Nepal during and after the tragic earthquake in April, as Assistant Chief of Mission for Assistance in Baghdad, and as Deputy Chief of Mission in Pakistan confirmed my belief that strong interagency coordination and a cohesive Country Team are the foundations of successful United States missions overseas. Chairman Risch, I make it a point to come to the Hill when I am back in Washington and I believe that regular interaction—whether at post or in Washington—is critical to our continued success. Frank exchanges of accurate information that build trust are essential for the Congress to make difficult resource and policy choices. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing this relationship.

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Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you. I look forward to answering your questions.

Senator RISCH. Thank you very much, Mr. Bodde.

Mr. Sievers, you have been nominated the Ambassador to Oman. And, please, you have the floor.

**STATEMENT OF MARC JONATHAN SIEVERS, NOMINATED TO
BE AMBASSADOR TO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN**

Mr. SIEVERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

If I may, I would like to introduce my family members—

Senator RISCH. Please.

Mr. SIEVERS [continuing]. Who are here today: my wife, Michelle Huda Rafael; our son, Samuel; my son, David; and my daughter, Miriam. And I am very grateful for their support and their attendance at this hearing.

Senator RISCH. Thank you.

Mr. SIEVERS. Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Murphy, and members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you as President Obama's nominee to serve as Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman.

I am deeply grateful to President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the trust they have placed in me, and, if confirmed, I look forward to working closely with you and other Members of Congress to advance the interests of the United States in Oman.

Mr. Chairman, I have spent much of my 34-year Foreign Service career working in the Middle East. If confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Oman, my highest priority will be protecting the dedicated men and women at our mission, as well as all Americans living in and visiting Oman. I will work with our Omani partners to ensure that American businesses realize the full benefits of the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement. I will engage with a wide range of Omani citizens so that Oman may continue to make strides in establishing an independent civil society. Rest assured, I will employ the full range of diplomatic tools to deepen our cooperation with Oman on counterterrorism and counterpiracy issues.

In recent years, Oman has demonstrated the value of its relationship to the United States by helping to facilitate the nuclear negotiations with Iran, securing the release of American detainees in Yemen and hikers held by Iran, and by assisting the evacuation of American Government personnel from Yemen.

Overlooking the Strait of Hormuz, Oman works closely with the United States, and especially the United States Navy, to promote freedom of navigation in a region through which approximately 30 percent of seaborne global oil exports flow. The United States and Oman maintain excellent security cooperation to ensure that the Strait of Hormuz remains open to international trade.

Since the implementation of the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement in 2009, U.S. private industry has received broad access to the rapidly developing Omani market. The United States held a billion-dollar trade surplus with Oman in 2014. If confirmed, I will work to ensure American private industry enjoys free access to an Omani market eager to purchase American goods and services.

Sultan Qaboos has gradually increased the level of representation Omani citizens hold in government. If confirmed, I will support the efforts of the people and government of Oman to establish a more inclusive and transparent government and to strengthen civil society.

Finally, I would like to once more express my appreciation for this opportunity to appear before the committee today. If confirmed, I look forward to welcoming Members of Congress and congressional staff to Oman.

I have served in a number of war and conflict zones during my career, and I can assure the committee I do not take lightly the responsibility an Ambassador holds to protect the men and women serving our country overseas. If confirmed, my highest priority will always be the safety and security of every American in Oman, as well as the advancement of our national interests, and I pledge to carry out these duties to the best of my ability.

I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you might have.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Sievers follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MARC J. SIEVERS

Chairman Corker, Ranking Member Cardin, and members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you as President Obama's nominee to serve as Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman. I am deeply grateful to President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the trust they have placed in me, and if confirmed, I look forward to working closely with you and other Members of Congress to advance the interests of the United States in Oman. I would like to pause for a moment to recognize my wife, Michelle Huda Raphael, our son, Samuel, my daughter, Miriam, and my son, David, who are here with me today. They have provided unwavering support throughout my career and I am very grateful for their love and understanding.

Mr. Chairman, I have spent much of my 34-year Foreign Service career working in the Middle East, including assignments in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Israel. My previous assignments have provided me with an extensive background in economic and counterterrorism issues that are essential to our partnership with Oman, and a deep appreciation for the importance of political and economic reform to long-term stability. If confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Oman, my highest priority will be protecting the safety and security of the dedicated men and women at our mission, as well as all Americans living in and visiting Oman. I will work with our Omani partners to ensure that American businesses realize the full benefits of the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement. I will engage with a wide range of Omani citizens so that Oman may continue to make strides in establishing an independent civil society and preventing trafficking in persons. Rest assured, I will employ the full range of diplomatic tools to deepen our cooperation with Oman on counterterrorism, maritime security, and counterpiracy issues.

The United States and Oman share a long history of friendship and trade. The bilateral relationship was formalized in an 1833 Treaty of Amity and Commerce. Oman was the first Arab Gulf State to host the United States at its military facilities, and Oman has supported United States Forces during almost every U.S. military operation in the region since 1980.

Oman plays a helpful role in multilateral diplomacy. As a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab League, and the United Nations, Oman maintains close ties with American allies in the region. Oman has helped advance the interests of the United States by serving as a mediator with other countries in the region. In recent years, Oman has demonstrated the value of its relationship to the United

States by helping to facilitate nuclear negotiations with Iran, securing the release of American detainees in Yemen, and the young American hikers held by Iran, and finally, by assisting the evacuation of American Government personnel from Yemen. Since 1997, Oman has hosted the Middle East Desalination Research Center, an institution that brings Israelis and Arabs together to address regional water challenges through science and knowledge-sharing.

Bordering Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, and overlooking the Strait of Hormuz, Oman collaborates with the United States to promote security and freedom of navigation in a region through which approximately 30 percent of seaborne global oil exports flow. Oman provided critical logistical support during both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The United States maintains excellent security cooperation on counterterrorism, countersmuggling, and counterpiracy to ensure the Strait of Hormuz remains open to international trade. As the situation in Yemen has deteriorated, the United States and Oman have worked together to prevent destabilizing nonstate actors such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula from exploiting Yemen's porous border and coastal areas. If confirmed, my priority will remain the safety and security of Americans. Maintaining a strong relationship with Oman on border and maritime security and counterterrorism will keep Americans in Oman and the United States safer.

Economic cooperation between the United States and Oman continues to grow. Since the implementation of the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement in 2009, U.S. private industry has received broad access to the rapidly developing Omani market. The United States held a billion dollar trade surplus with Oman in 2014, and economic cooperation continues to expand. American businesses such as General Cable and GlassPoint Solar have benefited from access to a diversifying Omani economy. If confirmed, I will work to ensure American private industry enjoys free access to an Omani market eager to purchase American goods and services, and benefit from the world's best quality, customer service, and corporate social responsibility programs.

Oman has made dramatic gains since emerging as a modern state shortly after Sultan Qaboos bin Said came to power in 1970. The 2010 U.N. Human Development Report listed Oman first of 135 countries in human development from 1970 to 2010. Omanis have benefited from dramatic increases in access to education, quality health care, and improved living standards. As Oman moves to further diversify its economy in the coming decades, American private industry is well-suited to provide the technical expertise necessary to expand the scope of prosperity in the United States and Oman.

Oman has increased the number of opportunities available to women in recent years. Omani women serve in political offices and have held Cabinet-level positions in government. Oman was the first Arab State to appoint a woman, the Hon. Hunaina al-Mughairy, as Ambassador to the United States. Omani women now constitute over 30 percent of the workforce. Oman should maximize the role of women as it builds a modern, diversified economy. If confirmed, I will encourage the development of more opportunities for women in Omani private enterprise, government, and civil society. I will also prioritize our efforts to combat and prevent human trafficking. Human trafficking violates fundamental rights and corrodes a society from within. Oman is primarily a destination and migrant country for men and women who are subjected to forced labor, but Oman is working hard to improve its response to human trafficking. If confirmed, I will partner with Oman to improve its record by prosecuting and convicting human trafficking offenders, identifying and protecting trafficking victims among vulnerable populations, and allowing broader victim access to government shelter care.

Sultan Qaboos has gradually increased the level of representation Omani citizens hold in government. Following Arab Spring-related protests in 2011, Sultan Qaboos empowered the popularly elected portion of the legislature to draft laws. He also appointed members of the elected Council into Cabinet positions. If confirmed, I will support the efforts of the people and government of Oman to establish a more inclusive and transparent government and strengthen civil society.

Approximately 50,000 American tourists visited Oman last year. Oman also serves as a model for tolerance and peaceful coexistence in the region. If confirmed, I look forward to welcoming members of Congress and congressional staff to Oman. Oman is an important partner for the United States in the region, and I hope to have the opportunity to work to expand the scope of our cooperation.

Finally, I would like to once more express my appreciation for this opportunity to appear before the committee today. I have served in a number of war and conflict zones during my career and I can assure the committee I do not take lightly the responsibility an Ambassador holds to protect the men and women serving our coun-

try overseas. If confirmed, my highest priority will always be the safety and security of every American in Oman, as well as the advancement of our national interests, and I pledge to carry out these duties to the best of my ability.

I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you might have. Thank you.

Senator RISCH. Thank you very much, Mr. Sievers.

Ms. Millard, you have been nominated to be Ambassador to Tajikistan, and the floor is yours for introductions.

**STATEMENT OF ELISABETH I. MILLARD, NOMINATED TO BE
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN**

Ms. MILLARD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In the interest of time, I will summarize my statement, but ask that the full statement be submitted for the record.

Senator RISCH. Certainly.

Ms. MILLARD. And I would like to say, of my five children, my oldest daughter, Charlotte, and my youngest son, Richard, were unable to come today, but the other three are here with their spouses: my daughter, Olivia; my daughter, Sasha; and my son, James. And we also have Alex, age 4, who is my granddaughter, here today.

Senator RISCH. Thank you so much.

Ms. MILLARD. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Murphy, it is a great honor and privilege to appear before you today as the United States Ambassador-designate to the Republic of Tajikistan. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to testify this afternoon, and I am humbled by the confidence President Obama and Secretary Kerry have placed in me. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee and all Members of Congress to advance the interests of the United States in Tajikistan.

I would like to recognize the members of my family, without whom my 23-year career in the Foreign Service would not have been possible. Above all, my husband, Vaughan, who retired after serving in the Navy for 30 years and became my most enthusiastic and steadfast teammate during our tours in Prague, Copenhagen, New Delhi, Kathmandu, Casablanca, and Astana. Vaughan, tragically, died after a brief illness last year, but he knew this posting to Tajikistan was a possibility, and was excited at the prospect. And our five children and six grandchildren are a testament to our partnership.

Throughout my career, I have focused on ensuring the security and safety of American citizens and advancing the interests and values of the United States and the American people. Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, I will bring the same dedication to our Embassy in Dushanbe.

Tajikistan is a challenging post in a dynamic region. Per capita, it is in the poorest quarter of countries in the world. It has a porous 800-mile-long border with Afghanistan. And problems like illegal narcotics trade, terrorism, and violent extremism in the region are deeply concerning. If confirmed, I will work to strengthen our partnership with Tajikistan to address these serious challenges.

Tajikistan, given its difficult neighborhood, must maintain its security and stability, goals which the United States strongly supports. But, the security, stability, and prosperity that Tajikistan seeks can only come with a strong commitment to improving human rights and governance, respect for the rule of law, and pro-

tection and promotion of its people's rights and freedoms. These are critical components of security and stability for any country. If confirmed, I will encourage the government to promote and protect the space for civil society and for international and domestic non-government organizations to register and function freely.

Being an American Ambassador is not only a great honor, but also a great responsibility. If confirmed, I will endeavor to be a good steward of the American people's trust and property, and a caring leader for my Embassy colleagues, and a faithful representative of our values and our interests. I will also ensure that our missions continues to provide U.S. citizens residing in or visiting Tajikistan the highest quality of services and our steadfast protection in times of need.

Communication and trust build the best relationships. This applies not only to our engagement with foreign governments and societies, but also to engagement with Congress. If confirmed, I will always be available to this committee, its members and staff, to discuss the—and work with you in pursuit of our national interests in Tajikistan.

Again, I thank you for this opportunity, and I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Millard follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ELISABETH MILLARD

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Murphy, and distinguished members of the committee, it is a great honor and privilege to appear before you today as the United States Ambassador-designate to the Republic of Tajikistan. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to testify this afternoon, and am humbled by the confidence President Obama and Secretary Kerry have placed in me. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee and all members of Congress to advance the interests of the United States in Tajikistan.

For 23 years, I have had the honor to serve as a career Foreign Service officer, and my work has been defined by a strong commitment to advancing U.S. interests, including universal values of democracy, rule of law, and the protection of human rights and dignity.

Having served twice as Deputy Chief of Mission and once as Principal Officer, if confirmed, I will bring years of substantive and management experience to the position of Ambassador to Tajikistan. I have served in Central Asia and covered that area from the Washington perspective as well, and these experiences have prepared me for the unique demands of the region.

I successfully led interagency teams in Nepal, Morocco, and Kazakhstan to further U.S. priorities such as advancing good governance and democracy, strengthening counterterrorism efforts, and promoting American business interests. In these and all my previous assignments, my top priorities were to ensure the security and safety of American citizens and to advance the interests and values of the United States and the American people. Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, I will bring the same dedication to our Embassy in Dushanbe.

Tajikistan is a challenging post in a dynamic region. Per capita, it is in the poorest quarter of countries in the world and its GDP is the lowest in Central Asia. Youth under 24 are 53 percent of Tajikistan's population—a statistic that is only predicted to grow. Tajikistan has a porous 800-mile-long border with Afghanistan, and problems like the illegal narcotics trade, trafficking in persons, terrorism and violent extremism in the region are deeply concerning. If confirmed, I will work to strengthen our partnership with Tajikistan to address these serious challenges.

Tajikistan is a critical partner in the administration's New Silk Road initiative. Through electricity grids and transit corridors, Tajikistan links Central Asia with South Asia and beyond. With almost half of its national income reliant on remittances from migrant workers, Tajikistan must diversify its economy. But Tajikistan cannot succeed on its own. If confirmed, I will encourage Tajikistan to continue building energy, economic, infrastructure and people-to-people connections with all its neighbors.

Tajikistan, given the threats it faces, is fully entitled to take steps to maintain its security. For that reason, the United States has supported Tajikistan's security in a number of ways over the years, including by providing training and equipment to its military and border security forces, police and counternarcotics units. A stable and prosperous Tajikistan is squarely in U.S. national interests.

But we also recognize that the long-term security, stability, and prosperity that Tajikistan seeks can only come through a strong commitment to improving governance, respect for rule of law, and protection of its people's rights and freedoms. Without these essential elements, stability will prove elusive in any country.

If confirmed, I will seek to increase our positive engagement with the government and people of Tajikistan, not only with respect to our shared interest in stability and economic prosperity but also on other important issues such as preventing arbitrary arrests, addressing allegations of torture and mistreatment in prisons, and allowing the free practice of all faiths by all people, regardless of gender or age. I will also encourage the government to promote and protect space for civil society and for international and domestic nongovernmental organizations to register and function freely.

Direct engagement with the people of Tajikistan will also be a priority for me, if I am confirmed. People-to-people contact remains at the core of our diplomatic efforts. If confirmed, I look forward to interacting with people throughout Tajikistan and strengthening ties between the American and Tajik people. Public diplomacy efforts, outreach, and educational exchanges promote mutual understanding and foster deeper bilateral ties.

Being an American Ambassador is not only a great honor but also a great responsibility. If confirmed, I will endeavor to be a good steward of the American people's trust and property, a caring leader for my Embassy colleagues, and a faithful representative of our values and our interests. I will also ensure that our mission continues to provide U.S. citizens residing in or visiting Tajikistan the highest quality services and our steadfast protection in times of need.

Communication and trust build the best relationships. This applies not only to engagement with foreign governments and societies, but also to engagement with Congress. If confirmed, I will always be available to this committee, its members and staff to discuss and work with you in pursuit of our national interests in Tajikistan.

Again, I thank you for this opportunity, and look forward to your questions.

Senator RISCHE. Thank you very much, Ms. Millard.

I am going to go through and ask questions of each of you, because I have individual questions, and I think there are matters that you have on your mind that are of interest to us and you can probably enlighten us on.

And I want to start, Mr. Morton, with you. You are undoubtedly aware of the fact that a number of us here in the Senate wrote a letter raising concerns about a conflict of interest on a director, and—are you familiar with the letter that I am talking about, the response that was made to it?

Mr. MORTON. I believe I am, sir, yes.

Senator RISCHE. What—first of all, do you think that the concerns that we—were concerned not only about a conflict of interest, but an apparent conflict of interest. And, you know, we, as Americans, as we go around the world, try to persuade people that the only way society can prosper is if, indeed, you get rid of corruption and you get rid of any type of undue influence, and, for that matter, the appearance of it. So, we were concerned not only about what appeared to be a conflict of interest, and could have been a conflict of interest, but also the appearance of it. What are your thoughts on that?

Mr. MORTON. Well, Senator, thank you for the question.

I believe, when we looked into the matter that was raised by you and several other Senators, we were very comfortable with the arrangement that OPIC had supported in this case, and I believe that the director in question had recused himself of all relevant

matters during the course of his time on the—serving on the board. So, I—we took a close look at it and felt that we had followed both process-related matters well, but also we had stayed on the proper side of the perception issue. I would be happy to follow up in more detail with a further conversation if that—if our response was not to your satisfaction.

Senator RISCH. Well, I think probably a little more detail would not hurt. I fully appreciate that the person in question recused himself from the actual vote on something, but, you know, again, the appearance is very difficult to shake under these circumstances, because obviously, if you are a codirector with other directors, you have influence over them, you have access to them that others do not. And so, I would be interested—you do not need to do this now, you can take the question for the record, but I would appreciate some followup on it, because, as I say, that really does not resolve the issue of the appearance versus the actual conflict.

Mr. MORTON. Senator, I would be happy to get back to you. And I would say that, you know, with a portfolio of 600 projects across 105 countries around the world, we are constantly looking at investments that have complex structures, boards of directors, governance structures that we do very, very careful due diligence on to avoid the very issue that you are raising here. So, we take these issues quite seriously, and I would be happy to follow up with you in more detail.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Mr. Morton.

Mr. Ward, you have a responsibility that is enormous, really, when you are dealing with the product or the material that you are dealing with. We are seeing some open-source reporting that mustard gas is being used in Syria. Can you enlighten us any on that? Realizing we are not in a classified setting, but is there anything you can say in an open-source sort of fashion that would talk about that?

Mr. WARD. We certainly have had concerns, for years, that ISIL has been seeking such weapons. And there have been allegations and reports that they have actually used these types of weapons. It is something the United States is looking at very seriously. Because it involves ISIL, as you know, Mr. Chairman, there is an intelligence dimension to all of this.

But, something I can bring to the attention to the committee is that the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, its factfinding mission, one of the missions has focused on the allegations that such chemicals were used in August. And we expect, by the end of this week, for that factfinding mission to issue a public report on the information it has acquired on this subject. It will not address the issue of attribution. The mandate of the group does not extend to assigning responsibility. But, it will seek to either confirm or refute the allegations that these chemicals will be used. And I think you will find their report to be a very helpful open-source document.

If you have seen the previous report that was done by the factfinding mission on the April-May 2014 incidents, you know, it is hundreds of pages long, very detailed information based on interviews and the like. And I know that some of your staff colleagues

have found it to be very, very helpful as an open-source document. Hopefully, by the end of this week, that will be issued and be able to provide you with a much more open type of access that would not involve classified information.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Mr. Ward. I think everyone is aware, because of the reporting of the use of chemical weapons in Syria—after Syria, would be the next country that you would be most concerned about? Obviously, I think—would you agree with me, Syria would be at the top of the list of concern in today's world? Am I right or wrong on that?

Mr. WARD. Absolutely. This is a country that we believe has not fulfilled its obligations to declare and destroy all of its chemical weapons, and there is mounting evidence that it is been using chemical weapons against its own citizens.

Senator RISCH. And so, what country would you go to after that? Is there anybody close to that, or do you kind of drop down the scale quite a ways?

Mr. WARD. Well, you know, what is interesting is, you know, we have concerns about some countries, which are reported in our classified compliance report, but, you know, use of chemical weapons by countries is something that really has not taken place since World War II. The real immediate threat of use, versus the concerns about countries possessing chemical weapons, is nonstate actors. You know, we wonder if a new era of chemical terrorism has come along. And it will be interesting to see if these allegations that ISIL has been using chemical weapons turn out to be true, because we may be worrying much more about terrorists who, when they acquire a chemical weapon, immediately use it, versus countries of concern that acquire a chemical weapons capability, but it sits on the shelf and never becomes an immediate threat to the world community.

So, Senator, I worry most about nonstate actors, and I hope we can put that genie back in the bottle and that we are not seeing a new era now of chemical terrorism.

Senator RISCH. Given the lack of moral turpitude of the people who are doing this in Syria, I would say that I am not very optimistic that some type of moral obligation would drive their decisionmaking.

Let me ask this. As far as—you said no country had used it, no state actors had used it, since World War II. Are you excepting Syria, given the use near Damascus?

Mr. WARD. Actually, no, I am. And let me correct myself. I am forgetting the obvious example of the Iran-Iraq War and the allegations that Iraq, and then later Iran, exchanged large amounts of chemical weapons between 1980 and 1988. Forgive my historical lapse.

Senator RISCH. Appreciate that.

What—do you feel—does your organization feel like they have a—at least somewhat of a decent handle on how much chemical—what is the quantity of chemical weapons that are left in Syria after the supposed removal of the chemical weapons?

Mr. WARD. They do not, Mr. Chairman. But, they believe that the answers that the Syrian Government has provided about what happened to chemicals that they allegedly destroyed a few years

ago—they just cannot document anything, and there are grave suspicions that they have not come clean about all their capabilities. We do believe the bulk of their program was declared, but there remain very serious suspicions that a residual chemical weapon capability has been maintained by Syria.

And, thankfully, the organization established a very dedicated group of experts to focus on this issue. Just a few weeks ago, they reported that they have serious concerns about the veracity of Syria's declaration with respect to chemical agents, to the munitions that would deliver them and the facilities that were involved in research and development and production. So, the international organization has clearly identified a serious problem. Unfortunately, they do not know where the hidden weapons are, but it is important that they put an international spotlight on it. The last thing any of us wants, and most especially myself, is for Syria to hold itself out as a member in good standing of the Chemical Weapons Convention. They are not, Senator.

Senator RISCH. I appreciate that.

Can you comment at all on the transfer—obviously, not voluntarily—from the Syrian Government to ISIS or ISIL or Daesh, whatever you want to call it?

Mr. WARD. In a classified context, that could be addressed.

Senator RISCH. Thank you.

Mr. WARD. But, let me just say that—let us not think that there was any deliberate transfer from—by the—from the Assad regime to ISIL. These are enemies. Obviously, any acquisition that took place was not intended. But, in a classified context, be happy to provide more information, Senator.

Senator RISCH. Mr. Bodde, we all know that the—Libya is attempting to form a government. Can you enlighten us on the status of that?

Ambassador BODDE. Yes. Mr. Chairman, we have been making, with our international partners and our regional partners in the area, some progress over the last few weeks to establish a Government of National Accord. We were very hopeful, on October 8, as I mentioned in my statement, that, when the Special Representative of the U.N. announced the possible officers of the new government, that that would move forward quickly. It has not, but we are still hopeful that this is the direction it will take. We are not there yet. All of the regional partners, our international partners, there is still dialogue going on. My counterpart, Special Representative Jonathan Winer, was just out in the region doing outreach on this stuff. But, our goal is that they will work towards establishing this Government of National Accord.

We feel it is critical, because, without an inclusive government that brings in all the parties, as many parties as possible, we do not see that substantial progress can be made.

Senator RISCH. What is your personal assessment of the prognosis of that? Could they succeed?

Ambassador BODDE. I think it has the potential to succeed, but it is going to be a very difficult road. And, like everything, even reaching it—reaching agreement—my own sense, Senator, is that that will be easier than implementation. But, that is why I am going there.

Senator RISCH. Mr. Sievers, regarding Oman, you did not mention, or refer to in your opening statement, succession. So, could you talk about that for a minute? And your concerns in that regard, if you have any.

Mr. SIEVERS. Yes, Senator, thank you very much.

Succession obviously is a very important question. The Sultan has been in power since 1970. He has established most of the institutions that currently exist in Oman. He is widely viewed as kind of the father of the modern Omani state. And due to his health, there is certainly the potential that he could leave the scene in the near future. There is a mechanism in place. There is something called the Ruling Family Council that would meet if the position became vacant suddenly. And they are to select a successor, because the Sultan has no children of his own. Should they fail to reach a consensus on who that individual would be, there is a sealed letter from the Sultan to the Council that would be opened in the event that they do not reach agreement among themselves.

So, I think we are—I am pretty confident that they will manage this process, but I do acknowledge that it is untested and it could pose a challenge for them.

Senator RISCH. Thank you very much.

Mr. SIEVERS. You are welcome, sir.

Senator RISCH. Finally, Ms. Millard, I think one of the things, for those of us that serve on both Foreign Relations and the Intelligence Committee, is the flow of fighters from Tajikistan to ISIS. What can you tell us about that and what—you know, what is the prognosis of stemming that?

Ms. MILLARD. Mr. Chairman, it is, indeed, a worrying phenomenon. The number that the Tajiks have given to us is about 600, as of now. And if confirmed, I would be focusing on this important issue, and to deepen our already robust relationship with the Tajik government to address issues such as this one.

Senator RISCH. Do the Tajiks have any system in place to do anything about this?

Ms. MILLARD. My understanding is that some of the recruitment is actually happening in Russia. The guest workers—as you may know, many, many young Tajiks actually are guest workers in Russia. And so, the issue—the problem is mostly happening in Russia. But, as far as what the Tajiks themselves are doing within Tajikistan, I will be looking into that, and hopefully become smarter on that once, if confirmed, I get to Dushanbe.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Ms. Millard.

Senator Murphy.

Senator MURPHY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

As the father of a 7-year-old and a 3-year-old, let me remark on how remarkably well behaved—

[Laughter.]

Senator MURPHY [continuing]. The youngsters are, that are here with us. Frankly, they will do more credit to the United States in these new roles than their parents, given their disposition.

Thank you all for being here today. Let me sort of go down the row in the same order to let everybody catch their breath.

Mr. Morton, you and I had the chance to talk about this a little bit, but in open session. You know, I am intrigued by the messages

that we send as China stands up the AIIB, providing new access to capital, new pathways to alliances and partnerships with countries all around the world, and we sit here today still with the inability to simply reauthorize the Eximbank. Tell us a little bit about what this new Asian development bank means for the United States, what this new competition may mean for the work that you do, and recommendations for how we should be thinking about it. It sort of bewilders me that we do not understand that the military is not the only way that you project your power as a nation abroad, that, these days especially, your economic reach matters as much, if not more, than your military reach. And you have limited resources. But, tell us what we should be learning from what the Chinese are doing.

Mr. MORTON. Thank you for the question.

You know, I think the creation of the AIIB is only the latest in a longer series of developments that have occurred within the development-finance arena over the last decades. Just briefly, for context, you know, when OPIC was carved out of USAID 40 years ago, the vast majority of U.S. flows overseas was in the form of official development aid or grants—seven to one, grants to foreign direct investment. Now it is the exact opposite—10 times more U.S. foreign direct investment flows out than does official development assistance. So, the interaction that the U.S. economy and the U.S. nation is having with developing countries is very much driven now by foreign direct investment and by the business ambassadors that are our businesses and our companies that are investing overseas.

So, even before you had the creation of the AIIB, you had governments like Germany, the Netherlands, et cetera, significantly enhancing the ability of their development finance institutions to promote foreign direct investments overseas.

Now, I think the AIIB is certainly the latest and probably the most consequential of these developments. And it is one that I think we need to understand—we need to look at carefully and understand. The amount of liquidity that China will be injecting into overseas markets will be—is already significant, and will continue to grow. And I think there is a question of what, if any, U.S. response there might be.

I will say that, when OPIC invests alongside U.S. companies in overseas markets, we do so with a set of environmental, labor, social, human rights standards that have been set by Congress and that are far superior to those that are—than those that are being promulgated currently by the Chinese banks. And I really do think that we lead by example when we invest overseas.

Senator MURPHY. But, does that pose the risk of a race to the bottom? As you have more entrants into these global capital markets that come with, sort of, political agendas rather than simply financial agendas, the expectation that they will get their money back with return, does that jeopardize the high standards that we traditionally have set?

Mr. MORTON. So, I mentioned before that over 40 percent of our portfolio last year was in Africa, and I have probably spent more time in Africa during my 5½ years with the agency than on any other continent. There is not a country or capital that you can go to on the African Continent where the government is not crying out

for U.S. investment and U.S. standards and U.S. values and U.S. leadership. And so, there is always a temptation, I think, for a race to the bottom, but I think that countries that have come into contact with U.S. investors and U.S. capital understand the different standards that come with that, and crave it. And there really is a strong desire, in embassy after embassy that we have spent time with, for U.S. companies to be actively investing into these markets.

Senator MURPHY. Thank you, Mr. Morton.

Mr. MORTON. Thank you.

Senator MURPHY. Mr. Ward, tell us a little bit more about chlorine and about the role of OPCW in addressing these new reports of the use of that chemical inside Syria.

Mr. WARD. What is interesting is that the first major use ever in World War I of a chemical weapon was chlorine. In April 1915, the Germans, at Ypres, released many cylinders filled with chlorine gas. It is heavier than air. It went across No Man's Land and down into the trenches, killing thousands. But, very quickly thereafter, both the allies and the axis powers developed much better chemicals than chlorine to use—phosgene, mustard, lewisite—and then eventually, of course, later came nerve agents after World War II.

So, chlorine, we all think of it as the thing associated with your pool. It is a cleansing agent. It is used around the world in order to sanitize the water, to turn it into drinking water. So, it is ubiquitous, and it is all over Syria for that purpose.

Well, the Syrians evidently decided to take chlorine canisters, wrap detonation cord around them, and turn them into improvised barrel bombs, which we believe were very likely rolled out of helicopters. There is strong evidence, from the factfinding mission report from April and May of 2014, that all of the witnesses who survived the attacks with the chlorine bombs, helicopters were overhead whenever this happened. Well, only the Syrian government has helicopters. The opposition does not. And it is a very strong incriminating indicator.

What happens, though, is, you know, when the bombs start to drop, people naturally go into the basement, and the chlorine being heavier than air goes down into the basement. It has not killed in hundreds or thousands, the way nerve agent can, but the systematic and repeated use—the number of casualties is accumulating more and more over time, and it has become a terror weapon to be used by the Syrian Government.

Senator MURPHY. And so, to your role, this is not on the list of—educate me as to what your organization can do and what role you play.

Mr. WARD. There is a list that goes with the treaty, and that list of chemicals defines not what a chemical weapon is, but what types of facilities around the world will be subject to routine inspections. What happens is that chlorine is so ubiquitous, the organization would spend an enormous amount of time just inspecting chlorine facilities around the world, so it is not on the list for inspection purposes. However, anyone—any country that uses a toxic weapon to kill people has violated the Convention. The Convention covers all toxic chemicals. The inspection regime, of necessity, had to narrow itself down to the most likely suspects. And chlorine, being a

chemical that quickly became outdated as a chemical weapon even in World War I, was not included on the list. But, you know, in the case of Syria, they have found a use for it once again, a very lethal one.

Senator MURPHY. Mr. Bodde, sort of a common saying around here that there are not military solutions to many of the problems we face in the Middle East. And that probably oversimplifies the fact; there are military components to most of these fights. But, our military action in Libya is probably as good an example of our failure to understand that you cannot have a military solution without a political component and political plan underlying that military action, given that it was our military action that led to the fall of Qadhafi that created this vacuum that still exists today.

This is probably an unfair question to ask somebody who is not on the ground yet, but you are studying your new post. What lessons have we learned about our military engagement in Libya that, at the time, was not partnered with a political plan that was realistic on the ground? Is the lesson that we just should not get into the business of trying to use military power to depose brutal dictators if we do not have a political plan? Is the lesson that you need to do more planning ahead of time? What should we be thinking about as the lessons coming out of our, I think, at this point, failed military intervention in Libya?

Ambassador BODDE. Senator, I will not characterize your question as an unfair question, but I think it is a question I have been asking myself in a different fashion, and it is one that I think I am going to be finding the answer out over the months to come.

It does take me back, though, to a—what we are looking to do right now, as I think one of the things that is happened, post what happened 4 years ago, is the lack of governance, the lack of rule of law, the lack of security. The sum total of all this has created a situation that is untenable, and that is why I think it is so important that we continue our efforts on this Government of National Accord. Until we can have some form of inclusive government, until we can bring as many of the parties in Libya together to get things back on a new normal, all of the problems that—will continue to exist.

But, what I would like to do is take that question, come back to you in a few months after I am on the ground, and give you a much more realistic and an answer based on my experience there.

Senator MURPHY. I think that is fair.

Mr. Sievers, talk to me about the potential role that Oman plays in the Syrian political process. This is a government that prides itself on trying to be a broker, or at least put themselves in the position to be a broker. We have heard some optimistic testimony from the administration about a political process that is going to kick off at the end of this week. What role may Oman be able to play as that continues?

Mr. SIEVERS. Senator, I believe that there was a meeting a couple of days ago between the Omani Minister for Foreign Affairs, Yusuf bin Alawi, and President Assad. That was the first Omani contact that I am aware of at that level. So, it does appear that they are stepping up their engagement. They have not been, so far, a major player in regional efforts to find a negotiated solution, but

it does appear that they are now becoming more engaged as various elements of diplomacy come into play.

So, I think it is something that we need to engage with them on very intensively in the days ahead, but it is a—it is actually a pretty new development. Their role elsewhere has been to promote diplomatic solutions to regional crises, when they have been able to do so.

So, that is their approach.

Senator MURPHY. Do they have a position on whether Assad has to go, has to stay, has to stay for an interim period of time?

Mr. SIEVERS. As far as I am aware, they have not taken a public position yet on that. But, I think we should get a more detailed readout from the Omanis about this meeting, and hopefully we will know more about that. I would be happy to arrange for a briefing for you on that once we have that information, but I do not know, at this time.

Senator MURPHY. Ms. Millard, was a really touching tribute to your husband, and we are very sorry for your loss.

You talked—I thought it was very interesting, your response to Senator Risch about the location of some of this recruitment. And it speaks to this dependence that Tajikistan has on Russia, a country that has potentially massive undeveloped economic capacity—natural resources, potential for hydro power. Sort of linking you to the guy at the other end of the table here, what is the opportunity for U.S. aid and U.S.-backed development to try to bring this country to a point where it is not so reliant on Russia for the economic well-being of so many that travel across the border to bring home a paycheck for their family?

Ms. MILLARD. Thank you for the question, Mr. Senator.

Certainly, the links that Tajikistan has with its immediate neighbors and Russia, we—are there; they are historic fact. That said, Tajikistan wants a multivector foreign policy, and that gives us an opportunity to work with them on—in a number of different areas. And there are a lot of needs there, so in our assistance program, we focus on a broad range of areas, including, you know, improving the investment climate, you know, food security, education, health, women, girls. So, I think there are a lot of opportunities for us, and I will be sort of taking an inventory of what we are doing, if confirmed, and seeing where there might be more opportunities for us.

Senator MURPHY. Mr. Chairman, if I could ask just one last question. It is actually for all three of you.

You know, I have just been in this role on the Foreign Relations Committee for 3 years, but I have had the chance to travel to a lot of posts around the world which are difficult places for foreign officers, especially young foreign officers, to serve. And that would be the category of all three of your posts. So, as you have served in a variety of leadership capacities, what have you learned about the ways in which you can create a—and, Mr. Bodde, you are going to, you know, a place that everyone who gets assigned will think twice about, given the history—what have you learned about the way in which you can create a positive working environment and culture for your employees, despite the fact that it is pretty tough territory?

Ambassador BODDE. Mr. Chairman, if I can answer first.

One of the things I have learned, Senator, is, the tougher the post, the—usually the higher the morale is. And it speaks to the dedication of my colleagues, particularly my young colleagues, in the Foreign Service. But, young colleagues are new colleagues, and they need nurturing, they need mentoring. And I have found that, for every moment I spend mentoring, the payoff both to the mission, to the post, and to the State Department, writ large, is so large, it is just something we all have to do. It is something, even as an Ambassador—normally, in a post, this falls to the Deputy Chief of Mission, who has the line responsibility for this. In Nepal, I spent an hour every 2 weeks, after our country team meeting, with all of my untenured officers, all the specialists, talking about a leadership issue and then talking about a life experience, just trying to teach them the lesson that, “Here is how I did it, here is the mistake I made. You are going to make different mistakes, but at least you have the benefit of mine.” And what I found is, they are like sponges, they soak it up.

The other thing, sir, is, we are blessed with—I think all of us would agree, we are in one of the best careers and jobs in the world. And most people in the Foreign Service, once they realize the interesting work they get to do, that is a motivation itself, and it is our job, as leaders, to keep that spark going and to give them real responsibility and get them out there.

Mr. SIEVERS. Senator, if I may, these are really tough questions, particularly in areas of the world where posts are often going unaccompanied, people cannot plan very well. They go into a post, expecting one set of circumstances, and then it changes and families are evacuated. I think the State Department is investing enormous efforts in helping people cope with these situations, but it is very tough. It varies considerably from place to place.

I feel very fortunate that Oman is a country that—where we still—we have families, we have an excellent American school, we have very good morale, by all indications that I have received. But, that obviously—maintaining that is something that has to be a very, very high priority.

I agree with my colleague, Ambassador Bodde, that we are attracting excellent people to the Foreign Service in all of our agencies. And I have also worked very closely with colleagues in the military and in other agencies. And, across the board, I think people feel a sense of commitment to American values and to representing the United States abroad and to promoting American interests.

But, they want to hear from us, from those of us in leadership position, how we see things, where we see things going. They want a certain amount of transparency about the challenges that we face. And so, it is incumbent on us, as leaders, to share that information with them on a regular basis and to try to address their questions as often and as accurately as we can. Sometimes, they are things that we cannot talk about, but most of it can be shared, and I think that pays a great deal of benefit.

Ms. MILLARD. So, Senator, both of my colleagues have mentioned a number of things that have been certainly high on my agenda, such as mentorship, leadership. I would like to add, in a—isolated,

difficult posts, I think people-to-people contacts can be tremendously rewarding for everyone at the Embassy, from the most junior person, to feel that they can get out and perhaps give a presentation on some aspect of American life or American culture. And these kind of presentations can be tremendously rewarding for the young person giving them, but also give wonderful new contacts for us as we represent the United States abroad. So, that is something I have observed and something I hope to continue in Tajikistan, if confirmed.

Senator MURPHY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator.

I am going to wrap up, here, in just a minute, but, before I do, I want—one of the line of questioning for you, Mr. Ward—and if you are uncomfortable in going down this road, please say so and we can pursue it in a different setting. You talked about the—and I think it is fairly well accepted by the international community—that the Assad regime has used chemicals, even after they said they would not, even after they joined the CWC, even after they made all the commitments, and—they have a partner today: Russia. What role does Russia play in the organization? And, you know, when you are standing on this side of it, these things are stunning, because—I mean, if the United States was involved with a partner that was doing this sort of thing, I mean, we would wash our hands of it very quickly, or stop it, one or the other. And they obviously are not lifting a finger, and yet they would have the same information that you would, that the international community has.

What can you tell us about that?

Mr. WARD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your question.

You know, this has been a bit of an education for me in international diplomacy, because what you learn sometimes is that, even though we might disagree with a country on a whole host of issues, sometimes we can find common cause on an issue. And I know when Secretary Kerry and Foreign Minister Lavrov got together in September 2013, and basically found a way to at least remove chemical weapons from the Syrian civil war equation, even though they probably could not agree about anything else about that civil war, both of them saw the value in removing chemical weapons from it. And Russia has been a good partner in helping to address this dimension of the problem.

When the factfinding missions came out and said use has taken place, Russia—they were a little resistant at first, but they came along, and, in August, a U.N. Security Council resolution was adopted, with Russian support, Resolution 2235, which established a mechanism, the joint investigative mechanism, to actually attribute responsibility for the attacks that had been confirmed by the OPCW. Russia actually supported that step. And that process is just coming up and running now, and the allegations from 2014, as well as any new confirmation of use that comes along, is going to be investigated by this U.N. group and then reported to the Security Council.

So, I went into this process with your skepticism. You know, “We are having issues with them in other areas. How can they be a good partner here?” But, the time I have spent traveling from my current job to The Hague and working with Russian colleagues,

they have been cooperative on this issue, and pushing this forward, and now we are in a position to actually try to hold people accountable, governments accountable, for the use of chemical weapons in Syria. It is a remarkable achievement, given, as you have emphasized, the other areas where there really is a complete disconnect between the United States and Russia.

Senator RISCH. Well, let me say that—I am not going to be as generous as you are to the Russians. First of all, I appreciate them supporting the resolution. And that was the right thing to do, and they should have done it. Having said that, everything we get is, they have got virtual control, jointly with the Iranians, over the Assad regime, which could not survive a day without those two supporting them. It would seem to me that, if they are as serious and as—acting in good faith as you perhaps suggest, it would not take but a phone call from an individual—you know who I am thinking of—to Assad, saying, “This is not going to happen again, or we are out of here.” And so, I am not going to be as generous to them as you are. And we will—you know, I have got some other questions in that regard, but probably a different setting is appropriate for it.

So, with that, thank all of you for your service. Thank you to your families for supporting this service to the people of the United States. These things are incredibly important to our success around the world.

And, with that, we are going to close the hearing. The record will remain open, however, for questions, until the close of business on Friday. So, you may get some more probing questions.

But, you have been very generous with your time and, I think, very candid with your answers. And Senator Murphy and I both deeply appreciate that.

So, with that, the hearing will be adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 4:40 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

RESPONSES OF JOHN MORTON, NOMINATED TO BE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

JOHN MORTON'S RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM SENATOR RISCH

Question. Given the development of more advanced financial instruments to price risk in developing economies, do you believe the role of OPIC should change, and what should it focus on?

Answer. In the more than 40 years since OPIC was created, financial markets in emerging countries have continued to evolve. An early example of this was the rise of a competitive, private sector political risk insurance (PRI) industry. Indeed, at OPIC's creation, no such market existed and OPIC is credited with having created modern day PRI.

For the first two decades of the OPIC's existence, political risk insurance accounted for the majority of the Agency's business. Then, having created and catalyzed this market, OPIC stepped back as the private PRI market began to take hold. Today, political risk insurance accounts for less than 15 percent of the Agency's total portfolio and, consistent with our statutory mandate, OPIC PRI is limited to countries and sectors where the private PRI market is not present.

As financial markets continue to evolve, OPIC is committed to ensuring that we remain as catalytic a force as possible for private capital mobilization. A central con-

ceru in every OPIC-supported project is providing maximum catalytic impact with the least financial exposure to the Agency and the U.S. taxpayer.

Based on my 5½ years at this agency, I am confident that OPIC plays a critical role in promoting positive developmental outcomes, at no net cost to U.S. taxpayers, in some of the world's poorest countries and regions—countries and regions which are otherwise largely untouched by the growth of financial markets in the more advanced economies.

OPIC's congressionally mandated mission to bring the private sector into international development is more timely today than at any time since the Agency was created. There are simply not sufficient public funds to solve the world's daunting development challenges. Food and energy scarcity, water shortages, infrastructure needs, and limited access to credit and banking services—are all issues where private-sector-based solutions are emerging, but still require a small amount of risk mitigation from development finance institutions like OPIC to take root in the most challenging emerging markets.

Up to 80 percent of global economic growth over the coming decades is expected to occur in these emerging markets. Private capital will flow to the most stable countries, regions, and sectors. OPIC's role is to catalyze that flow in promising but challenging countries, regions, and sectors. In carrying out this mission, OPIC will maintain its focus on low-income countries, on underserved populations, and on working with small and medium-sized U.S. enterprises.

RESPONSE OF KENNETH DAMIAN WARD, NOMINATED TO BE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

KENNETH WARD'S RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM SENATOR RISCH

Question. The increasing use of very different chemical weapons around Islamic State territory seems to indicate that IS has developed at least a small-scale chemical weapons program, and may be able to manufacture low-quality blister agent or obtained chemical arms from undeclared Syrian Government stocks. How do you assess the proliferation risk in Syria right now?

Answer. We are very concerned about allegations that ISIL has been producing and using chemical weapons. Syria continues to be a country of significant proliferation concern. We monitor its proliferation activities closely and have worked with like-minded countries for years to sensitize the international community to the proliferation risks of exporting dual-use items to Syria. We are equally concerned with two of the October 29, 2015, reports of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Fact-Finding Mission. One report confirmed with the "utmost confidence" that mustard agent was used in Syria near the Turkish border. The other concluded that several incidents that occurred in Idlib, Syria, likely involved the use of one or more toxic chemicals as a weapon.

We would be pleased to provide a classified brief on this issue. In conjunction with this response, the State Department is providing the committee with the three OPCW Fact-Finding Mission reports issued on October 29, 2015, regarding alleged chemical weapons use in Syria.

RESPONSES OF PETER WILLIAM BODDE, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE BODDE'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR RISCH

Question. Even if the parties to the Government of National Accord are able to finalize an agreement, what is your assessment of the institutional capacity of the country to move from getting an agreement to actually implementing one?

Answer. The political crisis in Libya has lasted over a year. The existence of two competing governments has weakened Libyan institutional capacity. The level of engagement by all sides, especially over the past month, is a testament to the importance stakeholders attach to ensuring a new Government of National Accord (GNA) meets the needs of its constituents and is politically sustainable in the future. Implementing the proposed framework for a GNA will be challenging on several levels, and we will do what we can to support and build the institutional capacity of the new government. The new GNA will need to devote significant attention

to promote economic recovery, improved security, and progress on the political transition.

Question. Under what conditions could you see a return of U.S. personnel to the country?

Answer. Once a GNA is seated in Tripoli, our diplomatic engagement will be critical to bolster its legitimacy. A GNA must secure the support of major actors in the security sector to govern effectively.

Assuring the safety and security of the people under Chief of Mission authority will be my priority, if confirmed. When it is clear that Tripoli is sufficiently secure for returning members of the international community, the State Department will explore the possibility of re-establishing our Embassy in Tripoli.

However, personnel will return to Tripoli only when a thorough, rigorous, deliberate policy and operational planning process conducted in accordance with Accountability Review Board recommendations determines that it is safe for them to do so.

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE BODDE'S RESPONSES
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR PAUL

Question. In your testimony you stated you were going to coordinate resources and strategies across the U.S. Government in response to the terrorist threat in Libya. Specifically, how do you plan on coordinating resources with no U.S. presence in Libya and no dependable neighboring allies? By what mechanism will the U.S. transport arms to pro-U.S. factions in Libya to regain order? Will the U.N. or the U.S. be the primary partner in assisting in promoting a civil government and will that require a U.N. or U.S. presence on the ground in Libya?

Answer. It is certainly challenging to maintain continued engagement and delivery of assistance to the Libyan people. However, the Department of State is actively engaged in coordinated efforts to protect U.S. interests in Libya by combating terrorism and supporting programs to improve Libya's security climate. Regional states are deeply concerned and affected by instability in Libya and have played important roles in encouraging negotiation and a final agreement.

The U.N. arms embargo establishes a stringent notification and approval process for weapons transfers to Libya. At this time, our focus is to encourage parties to establish a Government of National Accord (GNA) as the best vehicle to achieve consent from all regions in the country. No one faction can project sovereignty across the whole of Libya or deal effectively on its own with the security and counterterrorism challenges Libya faces. Under current conditions, sending more weapons to one faction could fuel additional civil strife and exacerbate the threat of terrorism. Libya needs a stable, inclusive government capable of uniting the country against ISIL affiliates and other terrorist groups. Coordinating with the United Nations Special Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) will continue to be a key aspect of responding to Libya's political and security challenges.

Establishing a permissive environment for a GNA in Tripoli will be essential to the government's success. We are working with our Libyan and international partners to identify methods to secure such an environment. When it is clear that Tripoli is sufficiently secure, we will explore the possibility of reestablishing a diplomatic presence in Tripoli through a rigorous, deliberate policy and operational planning process conducted in accordance with Accountability Review Board recommendations.

Question. In Libya there have been years of constant tribal fighting and general civil unrest due to the U.S.'s and broader coalition military intervention in the overthrow of Qaddafi. Libya is now a breeding ground for ISIL and other extremist organizations operating across North Africa. Libya's current ruling body has no mandate to govern. What needs to occur in Libya by way of a functioning government and a dependable domestic security force before you would recommend to the President that the United States is ready to reestablish an embassy in Libya?

Answer. Libya needs a stable, inclusive government capable of uniting the country against ISIL affiliates and other extremist organizations in order to address terrorism effectively. Tribal rivalries are a longstanding feature of Libya's political landscape. If a Government of National Accord (GNA) is to succeed, it will have to secure support from the many sources of tribal, religious, militia, and institutional defense leadership in the country. Libyans will need to work together, with international support, to establish a secure and permissive environment in Tripoli that allows a GNA to govern free from the threat of coercion. When it is clear that Tripoli is sufficiently secure for returning members of the international community, we

will explore the possibility of reestablishing our diplomatic presence in Tripoli through a rigorous, deliberate policy and operational planning process conducted in accordance with Accountability Review Board recommendations.

RESPONSES OF MARC JONATHAN SIEVERS, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE
SULTANATE OF OMAN, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE SIEVERS'S RESPONSE
TO A QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR RISCH

Question. Given that Oman has always maintained a close relationship with Iran while allying itself with the United States and the Gulf Cooperation Council, do you believe a future leader of Oman would maintain the country's current foreign policy?

Answer. Oman's foreign policy is pragmatic and deliberate and the Omanis have emphasized that their intent is to maintain working relations with every country in the region. We anticipate the future leader of Oman will maintain this traditional policy.

As a result of this policy, Oman has been able to mediate on several thorny issues, producing important results. In 2010 and 2011, for example, Oman helped secure the release of three American hikers who had been held in an Iranian prison since 2009.

RESPONSES OF ELISABETH I. MILLARD, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE
REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN, TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE MILLARD'S RESPONSES
TO QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR RISCH

Question. China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative has seen them push into Central Asia as they seek to create bridges to Europe and access to Central Asian energy. How concerned do you believe we should be about rising Chinese influence in Tajikistan?

Answer. Central Asia is one of the least economically integrated regions in the world. There is a pressing need for both infrastructure investment and harmonization of border regulations to improve regional economic connectivity.

The State Department's New Silk Road initiative focuses on "soft" infrastructure in the five Central Asian countries, including support to harmonize customs and regulatory regimes, institute international best border practices, reduce barriers to trade, and facilitate transit of people through the region. These efforts are critical to help Central Asian economies connect more efficiently and diversify. The State Department also supports the development of a regional energy market linking Central Asia and South Asia, through projects like CASA-1000.

China's focus in Central Asia over the last few years has largely been on investments in "hard" infrastructure such as pipelines, rail, and roads. Improved "hard" infrastructure could complement these New Silk Road efforts to increase economic connections in the region. In Tajikistan, China has focused on improving transit corridors such as a cross-country highway system and pipes carrying gas and oil from Turkmenistan. The State Department will urge China to utilize global standards and best practices in order to ensure sustainable economic growth.

The State Department encourages our Central Asian partners to maintain close ties with all their neighbors, in keeping with their multivector foreign policies. Tajikistan does not have to choose between good relations with the United States and other regional powers. By working together with our Central Asian partners, other influential countries including China, and a wide range of other international actors, the State Department can collaborate to create prosperous economies, including in Tajikistan, that are not overly dependent on any one country.
