

**NOMINATION HEARINGS OF THE
115TH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION**

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
UNITED STATES SENATE**

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

JANUARY 3, 2017 TO JANUARY 3, 2018

Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Relations



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NOMINATIONS

TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2017

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

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:02 a.m., in Room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Ron Johnson presiding.

Present: Senators Johnson [presiding], Risch, Gardner, Young, Isakson, Murphy, Menendez, Shaheen, Udall, Kaine, and Merkley.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. RON JOHNSON, U.S. SENATOR FROM WISCONSIN

Senator JOHNSON. Good morning. This hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will come to order. I want to welcome everybody. We gather today to consider the nominations of two ambassadorships and two senior positions at the State Department.

Mrs. Callista L. Gingrich is the President's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See.

Mr. Nathan Alexander Sales is the President's nominee to be coordinator for counterterrorism with the rank and status of Ambassador-at-Large.

Mr. George Edward Glass is the nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to Portugal.

Mr. Carl C. Risch is the President's nominee to be the Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs.

I want to welcome the nominees and their families to this committee and congratulate them on their selection by the President. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

I also want to note that we have Congressman Rooney here supporting Mrs. Gingrich. Congressman Rooney was the Congressman from Florida and also the Ambassador to the Holy See during President Bush's term.

This committee is also honored to welcome our distinguished colleagues who will introduce two of our witnesses, the senior Senator from Oregon, Senator Ron Wyden, and an esteemed member of this committee, Senator Portman from Ohio. Thank you both for being here today.

With that, I will recognize Senator Wyden to introduce Mr. Glass.

**STATEMENT OF HON. RON WYDEN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM OREGON**

Senator WYDEN. Mr. Chairman, thank you for your courtesy. As Senator Portman knows, we are right in the middle of debating tax reform, I know a topic of great interest to many Senators here, and I am trying to help out Chairman Hatch, so I will make this a filibuster-free opportunity, Mr. Chairman.

And it is a great privilege to be able to introduce a longtime friend, George Edward Glass. Mr. Glass has been nominated to serve as our next Ambassador to Portugal.

And as we begin this discussion, I am glad that the President has begun submitting more nominees to the Senate for consideration, because we all understand that having a Senate-confirmed Ambassador makes a world of difference when challenges emerge, as this committee knows better than just about anybody.

Knowing Mr. Glass as I do, I am confident that, as all of you get to know him better, you are going to report him favorably to the Senate floor.

As he is going to tell you, George Glass is an Oregonian through and through. He was born in Eugene. He attended college there, graduating from the University of Oregon. Like me, he is a Duck, and he has continued to be involved with the university, with the community, as he has been recognized as a pillar of Portland's financial, real estate, and tech communities.

He has been involved in a number of projects to help our community. I am particularly pleased that he has had a long interest in the Oregon Health and Science University. They are a lifeline in terms of reaching out to our community and to those who have really found it hard to access health care. He has been a trustee for the Oregon Health and Science University, a former president of the University of Oregon Alumni Association, and also a member of the Catholic Business Leaders Association.

I just feel very strongly that as you look to Portugal and to that part of the world, we are going to need people who have demonstrated a track record of stepping up, being involved in their community, someone with expertise in a variety of areas, not just his chosen profession of finance, but health care, with his background at Oregon Health and Science.

And I believe that as you get to know him and confirm him, after you have had a chance to hear from him, you will come to the conclusion I have, which is George Glass has values shared by Americans and by those in the country he seeks to serve, Portugal.

And I very much appreciate my colleagues going out of order to extend this courtesy to me. And my guess is Chairman Hatch is probably grateful to you all as well, as we try to keep matters proceeding in the Finance Committee.

So thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I very much look forward to members of the committee getting to know George Glass, as I have. I think you will come to the same judgment I have, that he will serve and reflect great credit on the United States in this position.

Thank you very much.

Senator JOHNSON. Thanks, Senator Wyden, for the great introduction and your strong support for the nominee.

As long as you are taking a look at my corporate tax reform, I really do encourage you to get out of here and get back to the task at hand.

Senator Portman?

**STATEMENT OF HON. ROB PORTMAN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM OHIO**

Senator PORTMAN. Thank you, Chairman Johnson.

I will be joining my colleague in a minute back on the tax reform front, but I wanted to be here to welcome this distinguished group of nominees.

Thank you for your willingness to serve. And to Mr. Risch and Mr. Glass, you have just gotten a nice accolade from someone who will help you not just in this committee but in the vote on the floor.

To Callista Gingrich, again, thank you for serving. You could have no better person behind you than former Ambassador to the Holy See, Francis Rooney. That means a lot to all of us, and we are looking forward to supporting you.

Finally, Nathan Sales, Mr. Chairman, he is from Ohio.

Senator JOHNSON. I wouldn't have guessed.

Senator PORTMAN. Yes, you wouldn't have guessed. Did I tell you that he was from Ohio?

But we are very proud of him. He is before this committee to be the next coordinator for counterterrorism at the State Department, so, obviously, an incredibly vital national security position that needs to be filled as quickly as possible.

And by the way, in these national security positions, we need to have honorable, capable individuals who understand the importance of that mission, protecting the homeland but also working with our allies to combat the threat of global terrorism. So we are pleased to have you here.

Did I mention he is from Ohio?

Senator JOHNSON. You did. It never hurts to mention it again.

Senator PORTMAN. Okay. Canton, Ohio, to be specific. He also attended Ohio's Miami University. He then, for some reason, headed south and went to Duke Law School. Following law school, he did clerk for the Honorable David B. Sentelle of the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, a very prestigious position.

And he is no stranger to public service. He served in the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice, and then as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy at the Department of Homeland Security during the George W. Bush administration, where I also served. There, he focused on intelligence, information-sharing, terrorist travel.

At DHS, he drafted critical legislation to improve the security of our visa waiver program, something that the chairman and I have had deep interest in, in his other role as chairman of the Government Affairs and Homeland Security Committee.

In the past 2 years, Nathan returned to the private sector and academia. He has been counsel at Kirkland & Ellis here in Washington, but also an associate professor of law at Syracuse University College of Law. By the way, he teaches and writes in the fields of national security law and counterterrorism law, among other areas. So he is perfectly qualified for this position.

So, Mr. Chairman, I look forward to supporting Nathan Sales as our next coordinator for counterterrorism, not only because of his ties to the Buckeye State, which are important. But much more importantly, because of his relevant experience, because of his strong record, and because of his lifelong commitment to our Constitution, our laws, and the security of our country.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in this effort to quickly fill this critically important national security role with an experienced and capable public servant.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator JOHNSON. Thank you, Senator Portman, for that great introduction. Again, by all means, go back to the Finance Committee and start working on that Ron Johnson corporate tax proposal.

Again, thank you for that.

Now, as great as it is to have nominees from Oregon and Ohio, I certainly appreciate the fact that I have the privilege of introducing our nominee from the State of Wisconsin. Although I am chairing this hearing, in my capacity as the senior Senator from Wisconsin, I also have the honor of introducing my fellow Wisconsinite, Mrs. Callista Gingrich, our nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See.

Callista was born and raised in Whitehall, Wisconsin, a particularly beautiful area of the State. Although, as I have driven through it, it is an area where you drop cell coverage frequently. It is hard to do radio interviews as you are driving through that region.

She graduated from Whitehall Memorial High School as the valedictorian, and served as an organist at St. John's Catholic Church. Callista attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where she was a Regent Scholar and honors graduate.

Almost 3 decades ago, Callista came to Washington to intern for her hometown Congressman, Steve Gunderson. She became a member of Congressman Gunderson's personal staff and later served as the chief clerk of the House Committee on Agriculture.

After 18 years of service, Callista left Capitol Hill to found Gingrich Productions, a multimedia production consulting company. She has been the president and CEO of Gingrich Productions for the last decade, producing documentary films, writing books, and advising clients. Callista also works to support many charitable causes through her role as the president of the Gingrich Foundation.

Callista is a lifelong Catholic and has been active in her faith community for many years. She has sung for 21 years in the choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here in Washington.

As part of her work with Gingrich Productions, Callista collaborated with church leaders to produce and host "Nine Days That Changed the World," a documentary about Pope John Paul II's historic 1979 pilgrimage to Poland. She also produced a documentary about Pope John Paul II's canonization.

Callista's interests in Pope John Paul II is fitting, given her nomination. President Reagan's friendship with Pope John Paul II led

to reestablished formal relations with the Holy See in 1984, and together, they helped orchestrate the fall of the Soviet Union.

Since then, Popes and American Presidents have collaborated on a wide range of issues, including promoting human rights and respect for human dignity, interreligious understanding, and economic progress in the developing world.

Callista's understanding of the Catholic Church, her considerable experience in government and business, and her talents as a communicator make her an ideal choice to represent U.S. interests at the Holy See. I support her nomination and urge my colleagues to support her as well.

So thank you, Mrs. Gingrich, for your willingness to serve.

I am also delighted to introduce Mr. Carl C. Risch of Pennsylvania, the President's nominee to be Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs. Mr. Risch is a highly regarded Pennsylvania attorney and current acting Chief of Staff in the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. He was previously the field office director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at the American Embassy in Seoul, South Korea.

A senior immigration official abroad and in Washington, D.C., for over a decade, and a former consular Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State, Mr. Risch is an expert on responsibilities and challenges of managing Consular Affairs worldwide.

With that, I would like to recognize the distinguished ranking member for his comments, Senator Murphy.

Senator MURPHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have, actually, a good full house of members here, so I am going to defer my opening remarks.

I thank all of you for your service. Mr. Sales and I had a chance to sit down and have a very productive conversation yesterday. I am very glad for your testimony and for us to engage in a dialogue.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator JOHNSON. Thank you, Senator Murphy.

The order of our nominees' opening remarks will be Mrs. Gingrich, Mr. Sales, Mr. Glass, and then Mr. Risch.

Mrs. Gingrich?

**STATEMENT OF CALLISTA L. GINGRICH OF VIRGINIA, TO BE
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE HOLY SEE**

Ms. GINGRICH. Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Murphy, and distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I am honored to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Holy See.

I am thankful to President Trump for the confidence and trust he has placed in me to be his representative at this important Embassy.

In addition, I want to express my gratitude to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson for supporting my nomination.

It is a special honor to be introduced by Chairman Johnson from my home State of Wisconsin. Thank you.

I am also grateful to appear before this committee today with the full support of my husband, Newt. As veterans of Capitol Hill, we

both have great respect for your role in assessing and confirming those who represent the American people abroad. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with the members and staff of this committee.

Like the United States, the Holy See is active on a global scale. It is engaged on every continent to advance religious freedom and human rights, to fight terrorism and violence, to combat human trafficking, to prevent the spread of diseases like Ebola and HIV/AIDS, and to seek peaceful solutions to crises around the world.

Those who serve in the State Department are known the world over for their patriotism and dedication. The professional staff at the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See exemplify these traits. They work tirelessly to leverage the Vatican's global reach and to advance our strong bilateral relationship.

Charge d'Affaires Louis Bono and the Embassy team did an extraordinary job preparing for and hosting the President on his visit to the Vatican in May. During that visit, President Trump and Pope Francis highlighted shared concerns, including the protection of Christian communities in the Middle East.

Pope Francis has powerfully called on religious leaders and people of all faiths to unequivocally reject terrorism and violence in the name of religion. The Vatican and its organizations play an active role in troubled areas around the globe, from Venezuela to South Sudan to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, countries where the Holy See's support for peaceful solutions and democratic institutions directly benefits the interests of the United States.

The Catholic Church is a unique global network, overseeing the world's second largest international aid organization, operating 25 percent of the world's health care facilities, and ministering to millions in every corner of the world.

As global leaders, the United States and the Vatican must continue to work closely to advance our shared values of human dignity and freedom. This can only happen if we maintain and build upon a strong foundation of trust and mutual communication. If confirmed, I will continue this vital dialogue, which has been so important for the people of the United States and the world.

I understand how the United States and the Holy See can act as a worldwide force for good when we work together. Several years ago, I had the honor of producing a documentary film entitled, "Nine Days That Changed the World." It chronicles Pope John Paul II's historic pilgrimage to Poland in 1979, an event that inspired the Polish people to renew their hearts, reclaim their courage, and free themselves from the shackles of communism.

Producing this film required substantial work with key church leaders and other experts in the United States, Poland, and the Vatican. This film has been well-received by the Catholic Church and is used in religious education programs throughout the United States. Most importantly, this film is a powerful example of the invaluable role the Vatican plays in international affairs.

Recently, I produced another documentary film entitled, "Divine Mercy: The Canonization of John Paul II." These projects, along with my decades-long membership in the choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, have given me the opportunity to build relationships with many church leaders,

clergy, and religious scholars. These experiences have instilled in me the highest respect for the Holy See, a deep appreciation for the responsibility of this post, and confidence that the United States-Vatican bilateral relationship is a force for good and one that cannot be ignored.

As a lifelong Catholic, business owner, documentary film maker, author, and former public servant, I am profoundly humbled at the prospect of serving my country as the United States Ambassador to the Holy See. If confirmed, I will work diligently to develop even stronger ties between the United States and the Holy See.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to be before you today and would be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

[Ms. Gingrich's prepared statement follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF CALLISTA L. GINGRICH

Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Murphy, and distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I am honored to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Holy See. I am thankful to President Trump for the confidence and trust he has placed in me to be his representative at this important Embassy. In addition, I want to express my gratitude to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson for supporting my nomination.

It is a special honor to be introduced by Chairman Johnson from my home state of Wisconsin. I am also grateful to appear before this committee today with the full support of my husband, Newt. As veterans of Capitol Hill, we both have great respect for your role in assessing and confirming those who represent the American people abroad. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with the members and staff of this committee.

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If confirmed, I will work diligently to develop even stronger ties between the United States and the Holy See.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today and would be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

Senator JOHNSON. Thank you, Mrs. Gingrich.

Our next nominee will be Mr. Sales.

Mr. Sales?

**STATEMENT OF NATHAN ALEXANDER SALES OF OHIO, TO BE
COORDINATOR FOR COUNTERTERRORISM, WITH THE RANK
AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE**

Mr. SALES. Thank you, Chairman Johnson. Thank you, Ranking Member Murphy. And thank you, members of the committee for holding this hearing today. It is an honor to be with you this morning.

Let me start by introducing my family, my wife, Margaret, along with our daughters, Anna and Cate. They are the ones with the coloring books and the stickers. My parents, Alex and Marsha, are here. They came out from Ohio. And I would also like to acknowledge my father-in-law and mother-in-law, Charlie and Anna Tretter, who are home in Boston and couldn't be with us this morning.

A special word of thanks to Senator Portman, a fellow Buckeye, for his kind words of introduction. You can take the boy out of Ohio, but you cannot take Ohio out of the boy.

I also want to express my gratitude to President Trump and Secretary Tillerson for putting me forward for this important position. If I am confirmed, I will do everything in my power to earn and pay back the trust and confidence that they have shown in me, and that the Senate will have shown in me.

I came to the field of counterterrorism almost by happenstance. In 2001, I was a young lawyer at the Justice Department. I had been hired to work on administrative law issues. It was the middle of August 2001.

Three weeks later was 9/11. I still vividly recall the chilling rumors that flew that morning as we evacuated Main Justice. I am sure many of the people in this room recall those rumors as well. Car bomb at the State Department. Fires on the National Mall. Another hijacked plane heading for the capital.

Some of those rumors turned out to be false alarms, but that was little consolation. The reality was bad enough.

Suddenly, the Chevron doctrine no longer seemed so important. My job and the job of everybody at the Justice Department, everybody in the administration, everybody in Congress, now shifted to one fundamental and overriding priority: preventing another assault on our homeland. 9/11 was not just an attack on our citizens and our landmarks. It was an attack on our very way of life, our democracy, our commitment to the rule of law, our veneration of individual liberty.

And so our top priority at the Justice Department was to equip our Nation's cops, and spies, and soldiers with the tools they needed to confront this new menace and, just as importantly, to do so in a way that maintained faith with our fundamental values as Americans, our basic national values. We couldn't allow our fundamental values to become a casualty of war.

I took that commitment with me to Homeland Security a few years later. At DHS, I learned the importance of working with our allies around the world to confront the specter of terrorism. And I saw firsthand that our alliances are strong, not just because of our shared economic and military might, but because of our shared values.

Let me also say a few words about the dedicated career professionals that I hope to join at the State Department. Before she became a lawyer, my wife earned a master's degree at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, and many of her classmates went on to serve at State Department. There is a reason they call the West Point of the Foreign Service.

Getting to know them, I have developed a deep appreciation for their extensive knowledge, their commitment to the mission, and the sacrifices they have made for our country. It will be a privilege to serve alongside them, if I am confirmed.

I started with my family and I would like to end there, too. I come from a long line of patriots. My father, Alex, was an ROTC cadet and a Navy officer in the tumultuous Vietnam era. During World War II, my grandfather, Clarence, served in the Army Corps of Engineers. He was stationed in England, which is where he met my grandmother, Agnes, an Army nurse. She actually outranked him, which is a fact that she never let him, or anybody else, forget. My other grandfather, Chic, was an infantry captain. He saw action in Normandy, helped liberate France, and earned a Bronze Star for valor and a Purple Heart.

It was a great honor for me to carry on their tradition of service at Justice and Homeland Security. And it will be a great honor, if I am confirmed, to continue their legacy at State.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, members of the committee. And I look forward to your questions.

[Mr. Sales's prepared statement follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF NATHAN ALEXANDER SALES

Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Murphy, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing. It's an honor to appear before you as the President's nominee to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism.

Let me introduce some family members who are here this morning: My wife, Margaret, along with our daughters, Anna and Cate. My parents, Alex and Marsha,

came out from Ohio. And I'd like to acknowledge my father- and mother-in-law, who are home in Boston and couldn't join us today: Charlie and Anna Tretter.

I'd like to thank Senator Portman, a fellow Buckeye, for his kind words of introduction.

I also want to express my gratitude to President Trump and Secretary Tillerson for putting me forward for this important position. If I'm confirmed, I'll do everything in my power to justify the trust and confidence that they—and the Senate—have placed in me.

I came to the field of counterterrorism and national security almost by happenstance. In 2001, I was a young lawyer, fresh off a judicial clerkship, when the Justice Department hired me to work on administrative law issues. I started in mid-August.

Three weeks later was 9/11. I still vividly recall the chilling rumors that flew as we evacuated Main Justice that sunny morning. Car bomb at the State Department. Fires on the national mall. Another hijacked plane heading for the capital. Some of the reports turned out to be false alarms, but that was little consolation. The reality was bad enough.

Suddenly, the Chevron doctrine no longer seemed so important. My job—indeed, the focus of the Justice Department and the administration as a whole—now shifted to one fundamental and overriding priority: Preventing another assault on our homeland.

September the 11th wasn't just an attack on our landmarks and our citizens. It was an attack on our very way of life—our democracy, our devotion to the rule of law, our commitment to individual liberty. And so our top priority as policymakers was to equip our nation's cops, spies, and soldiers with the tools they needed to confront this new menace, and to do so in a way that affirmed our basic national values. We couldn't allow our fundamental rights as Americans to become a casualty of war.

I carried that commitment with me when I joined the fledgling Department of Homeland Security a few years later. At DHS, I learned the importance of working with our allies around the world to confront terrorism. And I saw firsthand that our alliances are strong, not just because of our shared economic and military might, but because of our shared liberal values.

I also learned the ins and outs of the interagency process, working with key counterterrorism players throughout the Government. Terrorism is a complex threat that requires all tools of national power—the armed forces and the intelligence community, to be sure, and also the diplomatic corps, economic officials, and law enforcement.

Let me say a few words about the dedicated career professionals I hope to join at the State Department. Before she became a lawyer, my wife earned a master's degree at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, and many of her friends and classmates have gone on to work at State. Getting to know them, I've developed a deep appreciation for their extensive knowledge, their commitment to the mission, and the sacrifices they've made to advance our country's interests and values. It will be a privilege to serve alongside them, if I'm confirmed.

I started with my family and I'd like to end there too.

I come from a long line of patriots. My father, Alex, was an ROTC cadet and a Navy officer in the tumultuous Vietnam era. During World War II, my grandfather, Clarence, served in the Army Corps of Engineers. He was stationed in England, where he met my grandmother, Agnes, an Army nurse. She actually outranked him, a fact that she never let him—or anyone else—forget. My other grandfather, Chic, was an infantry captain. He saw action in Normandy, helped liberate France, and earned a Bronze Star for valor and a Purple Heart.

It was a great honor for me to carry on their tradition of service at Justice and Homeland Security. And it will be a great honor, if I'm confirmed, to continue their legacy at State.

Thank you again and I look forward to your questions.

Senator JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Sales. I appreciate you introducing your family. I was remiss in not encouraging everybody to do so.

So, Mr. Glass, if you have members here, please introduce, and then we look forward to your testimony.

**STATEMENT OF GEORGE EDWARD GLASS OF OREGON, TO BE
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PORTUGUESE RE-
PUBLIC**

Mr. GLASS. I will, Senator. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Cardin, and distinguished members of the committee, it is with great humility and honor I sit before you today.

I am deeply grateful to President Trump and Secretary Tillerson for their trust and support in nominating me to be the Ambassador to the Republic of Portugal. If confirmed, I am committed to focusing all my energies to further the interests of the United States of America.

I could take a moment, I would like to introduce my family, for without their support and love, I would not be here today. I would like to acknowledge my wife, Mary, who is sitting here with me who came out from Oregon. I would also like to acknowledge my three sons and their wives, who are supporting me from afar. My oldest, Gordon, and his wife, Gia, currently live in Japan. He teaches English over there. My middle son, George, and his wife, Emily, are not here for the best of all reasons. They are due with their first child here in August, and that is actually our first grandchild. And our youngest, Andrew, is in the throes of his very first job just after graduating from college.

I would also like to acknowledge my mother and step-father, Mary and Jay O'Leary, and Mary's parents, Joe and Laurie Ferguson.

Lastly, I want to thank my father, who is here in spirit. It is his courage and wisdom that brings me strength every day.

I take seriously representing the United States of America to the Republic of Portugal, which includes the Azores and Madeira. Portugal is amongst our oldest and most reliable allies. The history of our two nations has always been one of mutual respect and support. Portugal was the second country to recognize America's independence, and our consulate in the Azores is the oldest continually operating consulate in the world.

If confirmed, I also look forward to working with the outstanding personnel that currently serve our country at Mission Lisbon.

Portugal's traditional and geographic orientation to the Atlantic, the presence of 1.5 million Portuguese Americans living in the United States, and a strong pro-American sentiment across the political spectrum make the relationship between our two countries one of the three focal points of Portugal's foreign policy. This unique relationship has allowed us to turn to Portugal for political and material support in almost every peacekeeping mission the United States, NATO, and the United Nations has led since the end of the Cold War.

If confirmed, it will be my job to lead Mission Portugal to further expand enhance this political and economic relationship.

More recently, the Republic of Portugal was hit especially hard by the 2008 global recession, to the point where a financial rescue package was adopted in 2011. Mary and I were in Portugal for an extended trip in 2014 and saw for ourselves what the wage and spending cuts and tax increases were doing to the business envi-

ronment. At that time, unemployment rates were over 15 percent, and they were double that for young adults.

What we witnessed on that trip endeared us to the people of Portugal for life. Even with that economic backdrop, they were focused on the same values that we hold dear in America, God, family, and the belief that hard work will ultimately help one to succeed. These observations were not unfounded. Merely 3 years later, Portugal is in the midst of a remarkable economic recovery.

The United States is now Portugal's No. 1 trading partner outside the EU single market and the fifth largest trading partner overall. The most recent example of this resurgence in bilateral trade occurred in 2016 when Portugal received the first-ever shipment of liquefied natural gas from the United States to Europe.

It is this newfound momentum in Portuguese business that makes it such an exciting time to engage in commerce between our two countries. Lisbon is currently rated one of the hottest technology startup cities in the EU. Given my former position as president of Pacific Crest Securities, I am uniquely situated to help partner U.S. and Portuguese businesses to build upon the technology boom we are seeing today.

The emergence of small startups, incubators, and boot camps looks a lot like the San Francisco Bay Area did in the late 1980s and early 1990s. If confirmed, I cannot wait to join the 200-strong at Mission Lisbon to help them in their endeavor to support and expand the business ties between the United States and Portugal.

Lastly, if I may, I would like to express my deepest sorrow for the family and friends of the over 60 dead, and hundreds injured in the latest forest fire in Portugal. This has been a tragedy of great proportions, and it is seldom that we see this kind of tragedy today.

Coming from Oregon, where timber and timber-based products have been historically one of our largest industries, I know the pain that a forest fire can render and the burden that an entire people can feel. Mary and I continue to include the families of those who perished and the brave firefighters who battled mightily in our prayers. I hope, somehow, someday, we can help prevent something like this from occurring again in the future.

Distinguished Senators, once again, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your time. Please have confidence that, if confirmed, I will serve our great country, the United States of America, to the best of my abilities. Thank you.

[Mr. Glass's prepared statement follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF GEORGE GLASS

Thank you, Senator Wyden, for your gracious introduction. And thank you especially for your many years of public service to our great State of Oregon. Both Mary and I sincerely value your friendship and thank you for being here today.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Cardin, and distinguished members of the committee, it is with great humility and honor that I sit before you today. I am deeply grateful to President Trump and Secretary Tillerson for their trust and support in nominating me to be the Ambassador to the Republic of Portugal. If confirmed, I am committed to focusing all my energies to further the interests of the United States of America.

If I could take a moment, I'd like to introduce you to my family, for without their support and love, I would not be here today. I would like to acknowledge my wife Mary who is sitting here with me, she traveled out from Oregon to be here. I'd like

to acknowledge my 3 sons and their wives who are supporting me from afar. Our oldest Gordon and his wife Giau are currently living in Japan. Our middle Son George and his wife Emily are not here for the best of reasons. They are due with their first child, and our first Grandchild in August. And lastly Our youngest son Andrew, who has just graduated from College and in the throws of his first job in Dallas Texas. I would also like to acknowledge my mother and step-father, Mary and Jay O'Leary, and Mary's parents Joe and Laurie Ferguson. Lastly, I want to thank my father who is here in spirit; his courage and wisdom bring me strength every day.

I take seriously the responsibility of representing the United States of America to the Republic of Portugal, which also includes the Azores and Madeira. Portugal is among our oldest and most reliable allies. The history of our two nations has always been one of mutual respect and support. Portugal was the second country to recognize America's independence, and our consulate in the Azores is the oldest continually operating consulate in the world. If confirmed, I also look forward to working with the outstanding Foreign Service personnel that currently serve our country at Mission Lisbon.

Portugal's traditional and geographic orientation to the Atlantic, the presence of 1.5 million Portuguese Americans living in the United States, and a strong pro-American sentiment across the political spectrum combine to make the relationship between our two countries one of the three focal points of Portugal's foreign policy. This unique relationship has allowed us to turn to Portugal for political and material support in almost every peacekeeping effort the United States, NATO, and the United Nations has led since the end of the Cold War. If confirmed, it will be my job to lead Mission Portugal to further expand and enhance this political and economic relationship.

More recently, the Republic of Portugal was hit especially hard by the 2008 global recession, to the point that a financial rescue package was adopted in May 2011. Mary and I were in Portugal for an extended trip in 2014 and saw for ourselves what the wage and spending cuts, and the tax increases were doing to the business environment. At that time, unemployment rates were over 15 percent and nearly twice that for young adults. What we witnessed on that trip endeared us to the people of Portugal for life. Even with that economic backdrop, they were focused on the same values that we hold dear in America: God, family, and the belief that hard work will ultimately help one to succeed. These observations were not unfounded.

Merely three years later, Portugal is in the midst of a remarkable economic recovery. Strong export performance and rebounds in private consumption and investment led to a positive GDP of 1.4 percent in 2016. And this year Portugal has posted its lowest deficit since the 1974 revolution, allowing the country to exit the EU's Excessive Deficit Procedure.

The United States is now Portugal's No. 1 trading partner outside the EU single market and the 5th largest trading partner overall. The most recent example of this resurgence in bilateral trade occurred in April of 2016 when Portugal received the first ever shipment of liquefied natural gas from the United States to Europe. This was followed by a second shipment in February 2017. The Portuguese Government has expressed its eagerness to further expand bilateral cooperation in regards to energy.

It is this newfound momentum in Portuguese business that makes it such an exciting time to engage in commerce between our two countries. Lisbon is currently rated one of the hottest technology start-up cities in the EU. Given my former position as President of Pacific Crest Securities, I am uniquely situated to help partner U.S. and Portuguese businesses to build upon the technology boom we're seeing today. The emergence of small startups, incubators, and boot camps looks a lot like the San Francisco Bay Area of the 80's and early 90's. If confirmed, I can't wait to join the 200 strong of Mission Lisbon in their endeavor to support and expand these business ties between the United States and Portugal.

Lastly, if I may, I would like to express my deepest sorrow for the family and friends of the over 60 dead, and hundreds injured in Portugal's recent forest fire. This has been a tragedy of proportions seldom seen in our world today. Coming from Oregon, where timber and timber based products have been historically one of our largest industries, I know the pain that a forest fire can render and the burden that an entire people can feel. Mary and I continue to include the families of those who perished and the brave firefighters that battled mightily in our prayers. I hope, somehow, we can help prevent something like this from ever happening again.

Distinguished Senators, once again I would like to thank each and every one of you for your time today. Please have confidence that, if confirmed, I will serve our great country, the United States of America, to the best of my abilities. Thank you.

Senator JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Glass.
The final nominee will be Mr. Risch.
Mr. Risch?

STATEMENT OF CARL C. RISCH OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Mr. RISCH. Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Murphy, members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you as the President's nominee to be Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs.

I am joined today by my family, my wife of over 22 years, Wendy Taylor Risch, who has supported me throughout my career and accompanied me on three overseas assignments. Wendy also worked for the Department of State as a spousal employee during two of my overseas tours. I am also joined by our daughters, Anneke Risch, a rising 8th grader, and Ilse Risch, a rising 6th grader.

My family is the center of my life, and instilling in our children a sense of kindness and empathy, as well as a respect for public service, is a priority for us.

I am grateful to the President and Secretary Tillerson for the confidence and trust they have placed in me. It is, without a doubt, the greatest honor of my professional life to be nominated. And, if confirmed, I will devote all of my skills, experience, and attention to performing my duties.

My wife and I are both natives of central Pennsylvania, where we were born, raised, and educated. I practiced law there for 8 years. My father, a veteran of the Korean War, worked for 30 years in a factory, now closed, which made automotive parts. My mother stayed home with me after my adoption.

Being an adopted person, I have felt a special kinship with the abandoned, the orphaned, and the forgotten, and this kinship has influenced me throughout my life. For example, over the past 9 years, I have volunteered to serve on refugee processing trips for my agency, USCIS, in Thailand, Pakistan, Namibia, and Malaysia, where I worked toward resettlement to the United States of hundreds of victims of persecution and torture.

As an attorney and civil servant, I will bring to the Bureau of Consular Affairs the same values and principles that have guided my career for the past 22 years—a commitment to the rule of law, to efficiency, to justice, and to transparency. My entire career has been focused on serving the public, especially Americans living and working abroad, and to the equal and fair application of the law.

I began my government service as a Foreign Service Officer. My consular tour was one of the most professionally enriching and rewarding experiences of my life. I am grateful and honored to have had the opportunity to work with the dedicated men and women of the State Department, especially in the days and weeks after the attacks of 9/11. In 2006, I returned to public service as a civil servant with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

It is at USCIS where I expanded my knowledge of immigration and nationality law. I rose through the ranks at USCIS, first as an appeals officer, then as a manager, and finally as chief of staff of the agency.

In 2013, my wife and I made the decision to return to international service, and I have spent the past 4 years serving USCIS in our embassies in the Philippines and in South Korea. During those years, I had the pleasure of working side-by-side with consular sections throughout the world. I remain a dedicated civil servant to this day.

If confirmed, it will be a privilege of a lifetime to lead the fine men and women of the Bureau of Consular Affairs. Consular officers are a first line of defense in our efforts to protect our country from those who will do us harm, and they are among the hardest working, most dedicated, and bravest employees in government service. They work in dangerous, uncomfortable places, all to serve the American people. This work is both complex and emotionally taxing, and I am immensely proud to say that I was once one of them, even for a short period of time.

Since my days as a consular officer, so much has changed for the better at the State Department. A suite of interagency security review processes, continuous vetting of applicants using updated technology, biometrics capturing, a longer and better training program, a serious commitment to fraud detection, close cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security, and a culture of making national security a number one priority, this has strengthened State's shared mission to protect our homeland.

Every visa decision the State Department makes thousands of times a day is a national security decision. If confirmed, I will strive to make sure our officers continue to have the training, resources, and leadership necessary to accurately adjudicate applications in accordance with the laws of the United States, while also facilitating legitimate international travel and protecting our national security.

Should I be confirmed, I commit to working with members of this committee and to being responsive to your questions and concerns. Thank you for your time and I look forward to your questions.

[Mr. Risch's prepared statement follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF CARL C. RISCH

Chairman Corker, Ranking Member Cardin, members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you as the President's nominee to be Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs.

I am joined today by my family: my wife of over 22 years, Wendy Taylor Risch, who has supported me throughout my career and accompanied me on three overseas assignments. Wendy also worked for the Department of State as a spousal employee during two of my overseas tours. I am also joined by our daughters, Anneke Risch, a rising 8th grader, and Ilse Risch, a rising 6th grader. My family is the center of my life, and instilling in our children a sense of kindness and empathy, as well as a respect for public service, is a priority for us. In the past five years, my daughters have lived in three different countries and, thus, have attended three different schools, all due to my service to the Government. I'm in awe at their resilience and positive attitudes, and we are both very proud of them.

I am grateful to the President and Secretary Tillerson for the confidence and trust they have placed in me. It is, without a doubt, the greatest honor of my professional life to be nominated, and, if confirmed, I will devote myself to serving the American people in this important capacity within the Department of State.

My wife and I are both natives of central Pennsylvania, where we were born, raised, and educated. I practiced law there for eight years, first as an associate attorney and later as a partner in a law firm. My father, a veteran of the Korean War, worked for 30 years at a factory, now closed, which made automotive parts. My mother stayed home with me after my adoption. I had a stable and happy childhood, and my parents encouraged my lifelong interest in—my passion for—international travel and public service. Being an adopted person, I have also felt a special kinship with the abandoned, the orphaned, and the forgotten, and this kinship has influenced me throughout my life. For example, over the past nine years, I have volunteered to serve on refugee processing trips for my agency in Thailand, Pakistan, Namibia, and Malaysia, where I worked toward the resettlement to the United States of hundreds of victims of persecution and torture, so that they could start new lives. My family and I have also served as cultural orientation volunteers for refugees already resettled in the United States.

As an attorney and career civil servant, I will bring to the Bureau of Consular Affairs the same values and principles that have guided my career for the past 22 years—a commitment to the rule of law, to efficiency, to justice, and to transparency. My entire career has been focused on serving the public, especially U.S. citizens living and working abroad, and to the equal and fair application of the law. I began my government service as a Foreign Service Officer in 1999, after four years of private practice as an attorney. Choosing the consular cone was an obvious and easy choice for a young man entering the Foreign Service with an interest in immigration law. My consular tour was one of the most professionally enriching and rewarding experiences of my life, and leaving the Foreign Service to return to private practice and to start a family in Pennsylvania was a difficult career decision. Nevertheless, I am grateful and honored to have had the opportunity to work with the dedicated men and women of the State Department, especially in the days and weeks after the attacks of 9/11, an experience that has profoundly affected me personally and professionally.

In 2006, I returned to public service as a civil servant with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. It is at USCIS where I expanded my knowledge of immigration and nationality law, as well as learned to manage adjudicatory systems and backlog reduction efforts. I rose through the ranks at USCIS, first as an appeals official, then as a manager, and finally as Chief of Staff. In 2013, my wife and I made the decision to return to international service, and I have spent the past four years serving USCIS in our embassies in the Philippines and in Korea, most recently as my agency's director in Seoul. During those years, I had the pleasure of working side-by-side with consular sections throughout the world, from Fiji to Namibia, to address thorny questions of law, policy, and process involving our shared mission of facilitating travel and lawful immigration to the United States. While abroad, I also had the honor of serving the interests of U.S. citizens living and working overseas, especially the men and women serving in the military. Assisting military families with lawful immigration was a highlight of my career, but my greatest honor was administering the oath of allegiance to hundreds of military members and spouses at dozens of overseas naturalization ceremonies. When I was asked by our career Acting Director to serve as Chief of Staff of USCIS, I was honored and immediately put in motion my family's early return to the United States. I remain a dedicated civil servant to this day.

If confirmed, it will be a privilege of a lifetime to serve again in the Department of State and lead the fine men and women of the Bureau of Consular Affairs. Consular officers are a first line of defense in our efforts to protect our country from those who will do us harm, and they are among the hardest working, most dedicated, and bravest employees in government service. They often work in dangerous places, under challenging conditions, all to serve the American people and advance the interests of the United States. Many of those who work with us abroad are foreign nationals, lending their expertise in pursuit of our goals. Domestically, Consular Affairs' employees thoughtfully and promptly adjudicate millions of passports, work with colleagues at USCIS to process immigrant visa documents, and support the Bureau's global enterprise. Together, these talented professionals are responsible for advancing one of the Department of State's core responsibilities: protecting the lives and interests of U.S. citizens. The Bureau of Consular Affairs is committed to crisis management and response, assisting individual U.S. citizens who are imprisoned, injured, or in distress, and working with grieving family members when tragedy strikes. This work is both complex and emotionally taxing, and I am immensely proud to say that I was once one of them, even for a short period of time. If confirmed, I look forward to leading this critical organization in continuing to succeed in its important mission.

Since my days as a consular officer, so much has changed for the better at the State Department and the Bureau of Consular Affairs has proved to be a center of innovation and leadership. An impressive array of interagency security review processes, continuous vetting of visa applicants using updated technology, biometrics collection, an improved training program, a serious commitment to fraud prevention, close cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security, and a culture of making national security a number one priority, has strengthened State's shared mission to protect our homeland. As my predecessor, former Assistant Secretary Michele Bond stated in her testimony before this committee two years ago, "every visa decision we make, thousands of times a day, is a national security decision." If confirmed, I will strive to make sure consular professionals continue to have the training, resources, and leadership necessary to fulfill their duties in accordance with the laws of the United States, while augmenting our national security and facilitating legitimate international travel. As I have noted, CA's number one priority is the safety and protection of U.S. citizens overseas, and, if confirmed, I will make this my number one priority as well.

Should I be confirmed, I commit to working with members of this committee and to being responsive to your questions and concerns. Thank you for your time and I look forward to your questions.

Senator JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Risch.

I want to thank all the nominees for your testimony.

Mr. Glass, by the way, congratulations on your soon-to-be first grandchild. I have three now. They are everything they say, all of the joy with a lot less responsibility.

Mr. GLASS. Wonderful. I am looking forward to it.

Senator JOHNSON. You will enjoy it.

I want to thank all my colleagues for your strong attendance, and in respect of your time, what I will do is I will hold off on my questions until the very end.

Senator Isakson, if you are ready?

Senator ISAKSON. Mr. Chairman, I did not really come for a question. I came to pay tribute to Ms. Gingrich. We have something in common. She married Newt Gingrich. I replaced him in the House of Representatives.

[Laughter.]

Senator ISAKSON. He got the best end of that deal, I can tell you.

But Callista is a lady of great talent. In fact, one of her great, great persuasive talents is to not only convince Newt to marry her but convert him to Catholicism, which will serve him well in the Holy See, as well.

Callista, we are mighty proud of you. We are very proud of Newt. I know you will do a great job, and I just want to be here to cheer you on and tell you how proud we are of you.

Ms. GINGRICH. Thank you so much, Senator.

Senator JOHNSON. Senator Shaheen?

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you to all of the nominees for your willingness to take on these positions and to serve this country.

I want to begin with you, Mrs. Gingrich, because you talked about the important role of Catholic charities and the Catholic mission around the world. I certainly agree with that. I had the opportunity to visit a nursing home in northern New Hampshire on Friday that is operated by Catholic charities in the State providing great care to people.

So I wanted to ask you, I know that Pope Francis has called on America and the rest of the Western world to uphold our tradition of moral leadership by welcoming vulnerable refugees fleeing vio-

lence and oppression into our country. I just wonder how you would argue the United States' position that is taken by this administration that has been less welcoming of refugees, and how will you work with the Holy See on that very critical issue?

Ms. GINGRICH. The President and the Pope should have grave concerns regarding the global refugee and migration crisis, and this is a priority for our President to deal with right now. We have a deep commitment in this country to work to forward peace and stability, so people do not have to become refugees.

The United States has been and will continue to be the largest provider of humanitarian aid in the world. We are not disengaging. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Holy See to emphasize the impact that our foreign assistance will have, and our partners around the world.

Senator SHAHEEN. Well, certainly, we are not disengaging on foreign aid. I agree with that, and I think that we should continue to support that in every way we can, especially in those places where we are seeing famine as the result of manmade conditions.

But this administration has reduced the ability of refugees to come to the country, particularly Syrian refugees who are fleeing violence and a horrible situation in their own country.

Is this something that you think we can work with Pope Francis and the Holy See to try to ensure that we can help those refugees who are trying to get into the country?

Ms. GINGRICH. I think we can communicate our commitment to help those most in need, yes.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you.

Professor Sales, Secretary Tillerson has spoken repeatedly about the possibility of increased cooperation with Russia. In Syria, we have a ceasefire that still seems to be holding in a very small southern part of that country. But time and again, Putin has demonstrated that he is interested in preserving the Assad regime.

So do you believe that we share the same interests and objectives in Syria? And if not, how would you describe our objectives differently?

Mr. SALES. Thank you for the question, Senator.

I think the answer is yes and no. I think we do have some shared objectives in Syria. We face a common enemy in ISIS. We have other interests that diverge, as you well know, Senator.

As to what we can do with Russia or other members of the international community to achieve our objectives in Syria, our number one priority, I think, as the administration has made plain, is to defeat ISIS. What that means is taking their leaders off the battlefield and their foot soldiers off the battlefield, liberating the cities that they have seized, defeating their ability to recruit foreign fighters from around the world, particularly Europe, and drying up their sources of funding.

The key question after that goal is accomplished is what comes next? I think one important thing that has to happen is a political process involving all of the relevant stakeholders that can produce stability, such that the people of Syria can chart a way forward.

That is something that cannot be accomplished entirely by military force. It is something that is going to require sustained diplomatic engagement.

And, Senator, if I am confirmed to this position, that is going to be a priority of ours.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you. One of the benefits that we have in fighting terrorism at home is engagement from the communities that terrorists have often come from. In the Muslim community, for example, making sure that there are good relations with people in the Muslim community here has been very helpful here.

How would you see our promoting those kinds of positive relationships?

Mr. SALES. I could not agree with you more, Senator. It is absolutely critical to maintain strong relationships with domestic populations, as well as international populations, because oftentimes, these are the groups of people who have the first insight into the fact that a problem may be taking place. It is critically important for us to have open lines of communication, such that our friends are confident that they can tell us we think that something amiss may be afoot without fear of stigmatization or any other sort of negative repercussion.

So I strongly agree with the sentiment behind that question and look forward to maintaining those strong relationships, Senator.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you. I have other questions for the panelists, but my time is up, sadly.

Senator JOHNSON. Senator Kaine?

Senator KAINE. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Thanks and congratulations to all the witnesses for your nominations.

To Mr. Glass, the U.S.-Portugal relationship is a very important one. I do a lot of work in the Iberian Peninsula in my work on this committee, and I applaud you for that nomination.

Mr. Risch, consular officials have very tough work. They really do. When I travel for the Foreign Relations Committee, I always ask to meet without the Ambassador with FSOs on their first or second tours, and they are almost always out of the consular section.

I basically say, congratulations, you have achieved a wonderful job working for the State Department. What will be the difference as to whether you make it a career or whether you leave after a few years. That is usually all I have to say to engender about a 2-hour conversation. I really enjoy visiting with our consular officials. And your work will be very important.

A question or comment for each Mr. Sales and Ms. Gingrich.

Ms. Gingrich, I am very happy with your answer to Senator Shaheen's questions about refugees. I was at the Vatican in February and had an opportunity to meet briefly with the Pope and with other Vatican officials purely on the refugee issue. In my conversation with the Pope, I thanked him for his leadership.

Obviously, a key aspect of his speech to Congress in 2015 was about refugees. He had given a speech the day before my visit in Rome focused on refugee issues. And he was pleading with the United States to please be a leader on these issues. I was thanking him for his leadership, but he was not just going to accept the thank you. He wanted to put an ask on our shoulders. And, as you know, there are so many issues in this important bilateral relationship, and I know that that will be an important one.

You are not the budget official, so I completely get this. You play the hand that you are dealt by a President's submitted budget, and also the budget that Congress comes up with. But the cut to the refugee bureau proposed in the President's budget, the refugee bureau within the State Department, is 31 percent.

I think that sends a very loud message. Rhetoric sends a message, and budget sends a message. Probably the two most significant messages you can send are with the rhetoric and with the budget. We are sending a message.

I hope that it is the will of this body to do some repair on the budget, so that the message that we send is not one that we are reducing America's traditional commitment to those issues.

I take you, because of your background, the comment that you made to Senator Shaheen, that you will do all you can to advance our longstanding policy of being a Statue of Liberty Nation that welcomes people who are oppressed, I appreciate your commitment to that.

Mr. Sales, let me just ask you this. I am on the Armed Services Committee as well. Last year, we were able to get something done in the NDAA that I thought was pretty good, and my colleagues agreed. We enabled, through the NDAA, the DOD to transfer funds to State or USAID on the say-so of the SecDef for countering violent extremism, if the SecDef felt like, "Well, I think State or USAID can do a better job at this than us."

So, in particular areas, it really has been more in the expertise of State or USAID to do particular programs that can counter violent extremism, and sometimes the State and diplomatic touch is better than the military touch.

So if the SecDef agrees, there is no transfer authority. I hope that that is something that you will look at.

But I have noticed there has been some discussion of stripping away some CVE aspects of the administration's counterterrorism strategy.

To your knowledge, and I know we are not presuming nomination, so you are not there yet, but will CVE remain a strong priority of the CT Bureau at the State Department?

Mr. SALES. Yes, Senator. If I am confirmed, it will continue to be a top priority for me and for the bureau that I would lead.

I think all counterterrorism has to involve a countering violent extremism component. Terrorism is a global problem that presents all sorts of different facets, and some of those facets require different kinds of solutions. Sometimes military solutions are required. Sometimes law enforcement solutions are required.

But it is not just hard power that has to be deployed to counter ISIS, Al Qaeda, and other like-minded groups. We also have to use the softer tools in the national toolkit, such as moral suasion, such as engaging at the community level, such as providing off-ramps for those who might be tempted to take a path toward radicalization.

So I am grateful for this capability that you and others have worked to build into the State Department. And if confirmed, I will continue the good work that has been done, Senator.

Senator Kaine. And, Ms. Gingrich, if I can just go back, because you have a communications background, too, and, of course, CVE is an important priority of the Vatican, as well.

Could you talk a little bit about, to my last question, how you see your role as Ambassador to the Holy See and what you could do in the bilateral relationship with the Vatican to counter extremism?

Ms. GINGRICH. Well, it is very exciting to have the opportunity, if confirmed, to be working at an Embassy, to lead an Embassy, that has a global influence and works on a global scale.

I am very interested in working on projects to advance religious freedom, to fight terrorism and violence, to combat human trafficking, to fight diseases like HIV/AIDS and Ebola, and to work on—to seek peaceful solutions to crises around the world. So this is an awesome opportunity, if I am confirmed.

There are many issues on which we do agree. We have a very strong bilateral relationship with a shared agreement on many issues. Of course, there are always issues where diplomatic partners do not agree. But I look forward to working on those issues of our shared policy opportunities.

Senator Kaine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator Johnson. Senator Menendez?

Senator Menendez. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Congratulations to all of you.

Mr. Risch, in 2007, you appeared before the House Subcommittee on the Civil Service, Census, and Agency Organization of the Committee on Government Reform in a hearing titled, "Strengthening America: Should the issuing of visas be viewed as a diplomatic tool or security measure?"

You said, and I quote, "During my tenure as unit chief, I adjudicated approximately 25,000 visa applications. I resigned in May 2002, even though I received top evaluation in a challenging on-board assignment. While I longed to return to my private practice, I was also discouraged by the State Department's lack of dedication to the effective enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States. I took my job very seriously. The State Department did not."

So, Mr. Risch, do you believe the State Department is not committed to the rule of law and the national security of the United States?

Mr. Risch. Thank you, Senator, for the question, and for the opportunity to address that testimony.

I will point out that the testimony was in 2002, not in 2007, so it was 15 years ago that that testimony took place. It was during the time when the Department of Homeland Security was just being stood up. It was in the almost immediate aftermath of 9/11.

I believe a lot has changed at the State Department in 15 years, and I am very enthusiastic about the future of the way the Bureau of Consular Affairs will be fulfilling its function. With interagency cooperation and continuous vetting.

Senator Menendez. I do not want my time to expire. We have a lot of candidates here.

Do you believe the State Department is committed to the rule of law and the national security of the United States?

Mr. RISCH. Currently, Senator, I absolutely do.

Senator MENENDEZ. All right. Let me ask you, you went on in the same hearing to say, "The fact that even I was terrified by State's incompetence and apathy toward law enforcement proves just how far this problem has progressed. I urge the Congress to support the transfer of the visa-issuing function from State's Bureau of Consular Affairs to the new Department of Homeland Security, a department that will be committed to the rule of law and the national security of the United States."

Now, PRM's mission is to provide life-staining assistance to those who are persecuted, uprooted people, by working through multilateral systems, to build global partnerships, promote best practices in humanitarian response, ensure that humanitarian principles are thoroughly integrated into U.S. foreign and national security policy. For example, refugees and migration are important policy issues in our bilateral relations with countries like Turkey and Iraq.

So do you believe that the Department of Homeland Security, which is notoriously bloated with a whole host of dysfunctional components, should be responsible still to have the visa, the very essence of the department you are being nominated to, to be transferred to the Department of Homeland Security?

Mr. RISCH. Well, 15 years ago, Senator, I stand behind my testimony. It was a completely different time, and there was a lot of talk about consolidating different things into the Department of Homeland Security.

Currently, I watched the Deputy Secretary testify yesterday that it is currently not the intent of the Department of State.

Senator MENENDEZ. I am not asking what their intent is. I am asking you your view. You are being nominated for this position.

Mr. RISCH. My view is I would follow the leadership of the Department of State, if confirmed. But as of today, I intend to lead the Bureau of Consular Affairs as it is currently formed. I believe that I will be, if confirmed, a strong leader of all functions of the Consular bureau, including the visa function.

Senator MENENDEZ. Mr. Sales, since 9/11, the United States has been developing and redeveloping strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremism. Our experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan lead very little doubt that extremist ideologues and terrorists flourish and find the best recruits in areas of conflict and poverty and where people have no hope for the future.

The 2016 State Department and AID joint strategy on countering violent extremism outline five objectives. In those objectives, they talk to those very issues that I just spoke about.

So my question is, how do proposed cuts to the State Department and USAID programs that are the foreign assistance tools that advance the goals of combating terrorism and violent extremism actually align with our very own policy?

Mr. SALES. Thank you for the question, Senator. I spent some time in academic bureaucracies. I have spent some time in government bureaucracies. In my experience, it is usually the case that they can afford to tighten the belt a bit.

Now, as far as the overall State Department budget is concerned, Senator, Congress has the power of the purse under the Constitu-

tion, so Congress will have to decide the levels at which it wishes to fund these activities.

Senator MENENDEZ. My problem with these answers is that you all want to kick the ball to someone else, but your nominations are, in essence, going to be part of policy decision-making. You will be in a room to be able to advocate at the State Department and inter-agency.

So simply saying that Congress has the power of the purse, I am fully aware of that. The question is, what is your advocacy at a given point in time? Are these the essential programs that are necessary, as Secretary Mattis has said, that this is how we fight these ideologues? This is a guy who is a general.

So I would like to get better answers.

Finally, if I may, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Glass, we have a lot of Portuguese-Americans in New Jersey and from the Azores, an extraordinary group of citizens that have done extraordinary things in communities.

Have you visited Portugal?

Mr. GLASS. I have.

Senator MENENDEZ. Do you speak Portuguese?

Mr. GLASS. At this time, no. I have had some Spanish, and I am working on Portuguese and will certainly utilize the experts that are in the Embassy to help us learn the language.

Senator MENENDEZ. I ask that question, because, in the past, these questions have been asked, when I was the chairman, of the nominees. And for some, it was disqualifying. For me, it is not. But I just wanted to know.

Thank you very much.

Senator JOHNSON. Mr. Glass, why don't you take this opportunity right now to provide some comfort to Senator Menendez. Talk about your experience on your trip to Portugal that you conveyed to me in my office.

Mr. GLASS. The trip that Mary and I took to Portugal was 3 years ago. We were on a pilgrimage to Fatima. When we got there, it truly transformed our lives. It transformed the way we look at each other. It transformed the way we look at our religion.

As we traveled throughout the country, we realized the hospitality of the people there was extraordinary. And this was at a time, 3 years ago, that they were under a very severe recession. They had an austerity program that was enacted, so there was a lot of unemployment. Yet, that did not stop everybody from welcoming us there.

So we knew at the time when we left that we, frankly, left a big piece of our hearts there and that we wanted to come back. We certainly had no idea that we would possibly be coming back, if confirmed, in this role.

But Portugal is very important to us, and we look forward to serving the United States in Portugal.

Senator JOHNSON. Senator Udall?

Senator UDALL. Thank you very much, Chairman Johnson.

New Mexico, my home State, has one of the oldest Catholic traditions in the country, and it has been over 400 years since the Catholic Church was first established in the State of New Mexico,

which obviously was not a State at the time. Those traditions still run very strong in the State.

Like Pope Francis, many New Mexicans have a strong reverence for St. Francis de Assisi. In fact, the Catholic missionary efforts in New Mexico were started by the order named for him, the Franciscans.

The full name of my hometown of Santa Fe, the oldest capital city in the country, is also named for St. Francis. Its full name is La Villa Real de la Santa Fe de San Francisco de Assisi, the Royal Town of the Holy Faith of St. Francis of Assisi. The traditions of St. Francis run strong in New Mexico.

The Pope honors the saint by taking his name and working in his tradition, writing in his encyclical, "Laudato Si," or "Praise Be to You," and it was subtitled, "On Care for Our Common Home," Pope Francis stated, "I believe that St. Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable, and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast."

Those are the words of the Pope. The Pope gifted his encyclical on climate change to President Trump when he visited the Pope at the Vatican.

Pope Francis in "Laudato Si" and on many other occasions has called on Catholics and people from every faith to work together to address climate change and protect the environment.

In New Mexico, my constituents are at the frontlines of global warming, and we are already beginning to see the impacts of extreme weather events.

Ms. Gingrich, could you share your thoughts on "Laudato Si" and how you would dialogue with the Holy See regarding climate change and what Pope Francis calls a dialogue about how we shape the future of the planet?

Ms. GINGRICH. Well, the Pope and the President share a great concern about our environment. President Trump wants to maintain that we have clean air and clean water, and that the United States remains an environmental leader. As President Trump said, we will disengage and pull out of the Paris Agreement, and either we enter the Paris Agreement or an entirely new agreement, one that is fair to Americans.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Holy See as the United States pursues a balanced approach to climate policy, one that promotes American jobs, American prosperity, and energy security.

Senator UDALL. I really believe the essence and core of diplomacy is listening and having an open mind, and I hope that you will go over there with that approach and listen to the Pope.

The Holy See has played an important role, along with the United States, to engage Cuba and to improve relations with our island neighbor. Cardinal Ortega in Cuba and Pope Francis have used the dialogue to help resolve differences between the United States and Cuba.

What are your views on this dialogue? And would you be willing to work with the Vatican to increase ties between the United States and the Cuban people?

Ms. GINGRICH. Well, we certainly appreciate the Holy See's concern for a better relationship between the United States and Cuba. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Holy See to advance religious freedom and human dignity and human rights in Cuba.

Senator UDALL. Do any of the other panelists have a view on the Pope's encyclical on climate change?

I take that as no? No, no, no, all three.

Okay, thank you very much.

Senator JOHNSON. Senator Murphy?

Senator MURPHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you all for being here.

I wanted to follow up on Senator Menendez's line of questioning, especially to you, Mr. Risch, and to you, Mr. Sales, because it is an important point. You are going to be asked for your opinion. In fact, you are being nominated to your positions because of your policy expertise in both of these areas.

So he is right. It is simply not enough to suggest that you are going to follow orders. It is important for the nominating committee and for the Senate to know what advice you are going to be giving.

So, Mr. Risch, let me just drill down to ask you a question that you have not answered yet, which is, if you were asked for your opinion as to whether State should retain function over visa responsibilities, or it should be shifted to the Department of Homeland Security, what will your advice be?

Mr. RISCH. Thank you, Senator.

This has been a subject of debate for quite some time. My understanding is, currently, the debate is framed around government efficiency. When I have seen this proposal bubble up, usually, it has been in the context of these efficiency initiatives and brainstorming sessions.

I cannot speak to whether or not it would bring a certain efficiency to move that function from one department to the other. I do not intend to advocate for that. I am simply not in the position to make that efficiency call around that function.

My concern in the past in criticizing the State Department was around a lack of respect for consular work, around national security concerns, and around the rule of law. I believe those issues have been addressed, so I do not intend to advocate for that change based on any concern around the way the State Department does its job.

Senator MURPHY. Okay. I think that is fairly clear. It is important for us to understand whether you are being nominated to this position to effectively end the functionality. And I hear you to be saying that that is not your intent.

Mr. RISCH. It is not my intent, Senator. I do not intend, if confirmed, to lead a diminished Bureau of Consular Affairs. I intend to lead a bureau that I believe will probably be gaining responsibility and importance in protecting our country.

Senator MURPHY. Thank you.

Mr. Sales, I appreciate your answer around efficiency. I do not think any of us disagree that every bureaucracy can get more efficient. But that is not what is happening to the Department of State.

This is a strategic focus on a greatly diminished capacity, and specifically some of the biggest cuts happen under your portfolio. So there is a 10 percent cut in funding for the counterterrorism bureau. But then more damaging, there is a 30 percent cut to NADR funding proposed in the President's budget, and that is foreign aid for counterterrorism activities at State. That budget request moves a \$1.1 billion fund down to a \$680 million fund.

So do you think that you can effectively carry out on the set of responsibilities you are given with a 30 percent cut to NADR funding, which seems to go beyond just those savings that can be captured by efficiency?

Mr. SALES. Thanks for the question, Senator. I will answer it as best I can from my vantage point as an outsider, somebody who has not yet gotten a great deal of visibility on the internal deliberations on these very important questions.

So with that caveat, what I can tell you is, if I ever thought—we talked about this yesterday in your office, Senator, so I can assure you that if I ever thought that I did not have the resources I needed to do the job to which I had been confirmed, I would have no hesitation whatsoever about raising that concern with my superiors and advocating for what I deem to be necessary.

Senator MURPHY. I appreciate that answer. I think if that is your sincere answer, you will be in a position of advocating very vigorously very early.

The hiring freeze that at first applied to the entirety of the Federal Government now applies to only one agency, and that is the State Department. And you will all feel that, because you will not be able to hire individuals that you need in order to perform the tasks at your departments and your embassies. Extraordinary measures have been taken to prevent lateral transfers within the Department of State. Thus, you will see certain functionalities hollowed out because of the traditional ways in which State moved people back and forth are no longer available.

There is something extraordinary happening right now, and many of us cannot derive the motivation for it. But you are all going to feel the brunt of it. I hope that all of your answers would be the same as Mr. Sales, that if you felt that you did not have the resources, that notwithstanding the decisions that have been made by the White House, you would argue for more resources.

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. If we have a second round, I might have more one or two more.

Senator JOHNSON. Before I turn to Senator Merkley, as long as we are on the subject, Mr. Sales, talk about your experience at DHS and the coordination that is going to be incredibly important between the Department of State and DHS. I think that is a legitimate discussion point, in terms of where these activities are best carried out.

Mr. SALES. Thank you, Senator.

In my experience at DHS, one of the most important areas of international engagement that bears real fruit, in terms of counter-

terrorism, is information-sharing. It is really critically important for our international allies to tell us if they know about a known or suspected terrorist who might be trying to travel to the United States, to tell us if they know about somebody who has a criminal history as long as your forearm trying to travel to the United States.

We have made some great strides toward ensuring more effective sharing of that kind of information since 9/11. Here in the United States, we have pioneered information-sharing. After 9/11, one of the refrains that we constantly heard was the need to tear down the wall. Well, there are not just walls in our domestic law. There are also walls in our international relations that impede the effective sharing of information.

So if I were confirmed to this position, that would be, I think, a top priority of mine, working with our allies around the globe to talk about ways to share that information to enhance our counter-terrorism effectiveness on both sides of the transaction.

Senator JOHNSON. Okay, I just wanted to give you that opportunity, because I think when you take a look at this massive Federal Government, with the results of the 9/11 commission talking about the stovepipes, it is a legitimate management discussion and, quite honestly, an initiative to take a look at where best these functions should reside.

So I do not see any problem whatsoever in having this administration do a top-to-bottom review and take a look at that. And where it all shakes out, there is a second branch of government here, and Congress will certainly engage in that. Certainly, under my other committee, chairman of Homeland Security and Government Affairs, will be discussing these things. But this is what effective management does. You are always doing postmortems. You are always taking a look at what is the most effective way to spend the money to get the best result.

So with that, Senator Merkley?

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

It is a pleasure to join my colleague, Senator Wyden, in welcoming our fellow Oregonian, George Edward Glass, nominated to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Portugal. Mr. Glass has probably been introduced in terms of the details, that he is a native Oregonian, a proud graduate of the University of Oregon, but I want to emphasize those things again, and that he certainly has tremendous Oregon passions, like the love of Oregon's outdoor spaces and Ducks football—hopefully a good season ahead.

I am grateful that he is willing to put those loves on hold to be overseas to serve our country.

A warm welcome to Mr. Glass's wife, Mary. Thank you for joining us today.

Ambassadorial posts are necessarily family affairs, so I appreciate the fact that Mrs. Glass is willing to join her husband in traveling and representing the United States in Portugal.

Portugal has been a very important ally, and we have seen a very intriguing and successful economic story unfold there. I think nurturing this relationship will be of great service. I thank you, Mr. Glass, for being willing to undertake that mission.

Mr. GLASS. Thank you, Senator Merkley. Thank you for serving the great State of Oregon in the United States Senate. We really appreciate it.

Senator MERKLEY. You are welcome.

And, Ms. Gingrich, I wanted to follow up on the question that was asked in regard to the Pope's encyclical. He gave it as a present to President Trump when he was there. Has President Trump had a chance to read or digest that encyclical?

Ms. GINGRICH. I am not aware whether or not he has read the encyclical.

Senator MERKLEY. In your preparation to serve, have you had a chance to take a look at it?

Ms. GINGRICH. I have looked at some of it, sir.

Senator MERKLEY. Are there pieces of it that particularly resonate for you?

Ms. GINGRICH. Well, I think we are all called to be stewards of the land. You know, as I said earlier, President Trump cares for our environment. He wants to sustain our clean air and our clean water, and he wants the United States to be an environmental leader.

We are not backing off of that. But we are looking to increase the security of this country, to promote more jobs for Americans, and to have better prosperity. So the focus is slightly different, but we do want to remain an environmental leader.

Senator MERKLEY. The Pope has indicated that he feels that there is a huge urgency to acting quickly to address the basic factors driving climate disruption. Do you share that sense of urgency?

Ms. GINGRICH. Well, I do believe that climate change exists, and that some of it is due to human behavior. But I think as the President pursues a better deal for Americans, we will, indeed, remain an environmental leader in the world.

Senator MERKLEY. I appreciate your confidence in that. I must say I must have missed a few of the President's statements that have given you that have faith. I wish it were so. I am not persuaded, but perhaps we will see more unfold in that regard.

What other two or three things do you see as the key to your particular responsibilities, should you hold this post?

Ms. GINGRICH. If confirmed, I am looking forward to working with the Holy See to combat human trafficking. This is a horrific offense that threatens our global security. The President has made it a priority to combat human trafficking. Chairman Corker and other members of this committee have made it a priority as well. The Holy See is a valued partner in this regard, and the Pope has lent international focus to this issue.

So if confirmed, I look forward to working with the White House, the Congress, and the Holy See to combat human trafficking around the world.

Senator MERKLEY. My appreciation to all of you for putting yourselves forward in what can be a complex, difficult, and trying nominations process.

With that, I will yield back the rest of my time.

Senator JOHNSON. Thanks, Senator Merkley.

Looking at my list of questions, when I did some follow-ups to some of the other Senator's questions, I have pretty well covered it and questioned everybody except for Mrs. Gingrich, my fellow Wisconsinite.

So let me just give you an opportunity. George Santayana, I am probably mispronouncing it like I did "basilica" earlier, a senior moment, made the famous statement that those who do not remember history are condemned to repeat it. I know both you and your husband are serious students of history.

In particular, your study of Pope John Paul II, your documentary, "Nine Days That Changed the World," from my standpoint, that really puts you in a very good position to understand exactly the power of leadership. And I believe, as I am sure you do to, I think America has been a phenomenal force for good in the world. I think the Catholic Church has been a phenomenal force for good in the world.

In my own community, one of the things I got involved in that got me involved in public service was trying to save the Catholic school system there as a private-sector alternative.

So can you just talk a little bit about your study that produced those documentaries and how that leadership—what you learned in terms of leadership and how America and the Holy See can work together to really help change the world?

Ms. GINGRICH. Our movie, "Nine Days That Changed the World," highlights this exact topic.

In 1979, Pope John Paul II traveled to Poland on a historic pilgrimage to see the Polish people, and it was against the wishes of the communist government. Millions of Poles came out to greet the Holy Father. It was really seen as the beginning of the end of communism in Poland and Eastern Europe.

Pope John Paul II worked very closely with President Reagan. Ten years later, you had the first free elections in Poland.

So it is so important that we reach out to places like the Holy See to forward good in this world and to make it a better place to advance our peace and our freedom and our human dignity.

Senator JOHNSON. I think an ambassador that understands that history, understands the power of that leadership, is perfectly suited for this position.

Senator Murphy, do you have any further questions?

Senator MURPHY. Just an additional two questions.

One for Mr. Risch. We have been talking about this administration's policy toward refugees. Multiple courts have held that the policy is illegal, in part because it appears discriminatory, given that it is targeted only to refugees of certain countries, when we have security vulnerabilities that still exist in many other refugee programs, in many other immigration programs, I would argue visa waiver at the top of that list.

Can you speak to whether you believe that the only means of protecting this country is an outright ban on refugees? Or whether you believe that, at some point, there is going to be an amendment of this policy by the administration, may be advocated by you once you are in place, to provide additional screening within the program to allow it to restart? Do you need the ban or can you make

changes to the program that satisfy the concerns that many people have about it?

Mr. RISCH. Thank you, Senator.

As for refugee policy, I will point out that that really is not something that would fall underneath the Bureau of Consular Affairs. It would really be under PRM and their relationship with my agency now, USCIS.

As for vetting, at least in the refugee context, I can speak as someone who has done refugee interviews over many years that the interviews are very detailed and go into great detail about their persecution story, biographic data. And every one of them is spoken to by an American officer.

So as for whether or not refugees are screened, they most certainly are, in the sense that they are spoken to at great length about their qualifications.

As for the current situation with a travel pause of certain countries and the way that is playing out, I certainly support any kind of steps that are necessary to review our national security posture and take a look at whether or not our vetting processes are sufficient to protect the United States.

Senator MURPHY. Mr. Sales, let me ask you one specific question, and then I will defer to written questions for the remainder.

We talked a little bit in my office about some of the current conflicts in the Middle East today. The most recent intelligence estimate provided to Congress shows that AQAP, which has always been the most lethal and most homeland-oriented arm of Al Qaeda, is growing stronger and stronger inside Yemen because of the civil war. Under the Obama administration, there was a robust political process that Secretary Kerry was leading to try to end that violence and to try to end the benefit that was being provided to AQAP.

I have talked to all of the players inside that conflict, and none of them see that political process happening today. It is, by and large, dead, in part because Saudis feel empowered by the green light that they interpret as having been given through the President's visit there.

Can you just speak to the importance of a political process inside Yemen and the danger of allowing for this civil war to persist, given the growth of AQAP during that time?

Mr. SALES. Senator, I could not agree more with the premise of your question that a purely military solution is never going to achieve the counterterrorism gains we need.

What is needed is a stable environment, because as you point out, terrorists thrive in political vacuums. That is the lesson of Afghanistan. That is the lesson of Libya. That is the lesson of Iraq.

So diplomatic engagement, I think, is absolutely essential to ensure that we have a durable and stable status quo in Yemen to bring the fighting to an end and empower local players to gain control over territory and borders.

That is the only way you are going to get AQAP under control, Senator.

Senator MURPHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator JOHNSON. Thank you, Senator Murphy.

Again, I want to thank all the witnesses for your testimony. Congratulations again on your nominations. I want to congratulate the President. I really think that the selection here, your unique backgrounds and capabilities I think suit you well for the positions to which you have been nominated.

Thank you for your willingness to serve. I want to thank your families. You will probably be seeing less of your loved ones. These are serious responsibilities.

But again, thank you very much.

With that, I have to find the secret words here.

For the information of the members, the record will remain open until the close of business on Thursday, July 20.

Senator JOHNSON. This hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:19 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

Additional Material Submitted for the Record

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO CALLISTA GINGRICH BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Question 1. What are the most important actions you have taken in your career to date to promote human rights and democracy? What has been the impact of your actions?

Answer. For the past 10 years, my work as a documentary film producer and author has highlighted the fundamental importance of liberty and democracy in American history, and in America's exceptional place in the world.

In our documentary film, *Nine Days that Changed the World*, we explored the quest for freedom and democracy in an international context, focusing on Pope John Paul II's historic pilgrimage to Poland in 1979—an event that inspired the Polish people to renew their hearts, reclaim their courage, and free themselves from the shackles of Communism. *Nine Days that Changed the World* is frequently used in religious education programs throughout the United States—helping to instill a strong appreciation for liberty and democracy in the next generation.

My *Ellis the Elephant* American history series for children features the pivotal moments that have shaped our great nation. These books also highlight our American values of liberty and democracy and have reached a wide-ranging audience.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Holy See to support and promote human rights and democracy throughout the world.

Question 2. Do you commit to bring to the committee's attention (and the State Department Inspector General) any change in policy or U.S. actions that you suspect may be influenced by any of the President's business or financial interests, or the business or financial interests of any senior White House staff?

Answer. I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question 3. Do you commit to inform the committee if you have any reason to suspect that a foreign government, head of state, or foreign-controlled entity is taking any action in order to benefit any of the President's business or financial interests, or the interests of senior White House staff?

Answer. I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question 4. Do you or do any members of your immediate family have any financial interests in the Holy See?

Answer. No.

Question 5. Research from private industry demonstrates that, when managed well, diversity makes business teams better both in terms of creativity and productivity. What will you do to promote, mentor and support your staff that come from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups in the Foreign Service?

Answer. I strongly believe that those who represent the United States abroad must represent the full beauty, strength, and diversity of the fabric of American so-

ciety. As the State Department's Statement on Diversity and Equal Employment Opportunity notes, "Our commitment to inclusion must be evident in the face we present to the world and in the decision-making processes that represent our diplomatic goals."

As a small business owner, I have made it a priority to build a strong, mutually supportive team. If confirmed, I will take the same approach to managing each member of the Embassy Vatican team, taking special care to ensure that each individual is able to draw upon his or her unique background and experience to contribute to the goals of our mission. I am fully committed to equal employment opportunity principles.

Question 6. What steps will you take to ensure that each of the supervisors at the Embassy are fostering an environment that's diverse and inclusive?

Answer. Just as I take seriously my own responsibility, if confirmed, to lead a diverse and inclusive mission, I am committed to ensuring the managers and supervisors at Embassy Vatican fully uphold equal employment opportunity principles and promote the success of each member of our embassy community. If confirmed, I will clearly and consistently articulate these principles as chief of mission, and I will ensure our embassy supervisors consistently prioritize them in their interactions.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO NATHAN SALES BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

Question 1. Hezbollah remains one of the world's most deadly terrorist organizations and is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Americans. In addition to the funding it receives from Iran, Hezbollah runs a sophisticated network of criminal activities to fund its terrorist operations in Lebanon and throughout the world, including in the Western Hemisphere. Do you have recommendations on how the United States can better confront the threat posed by Hezbollah? Do you agree with long-held U.S. policy that there is no distinction between military and civilian wings of terrorist groups like Hezbollah or Hamas? If confirmed, will you press our EU allies to designate all of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization?

Answer. Hizballah is a U.S. designated foreign terrorist organization whose global terrorist operations, and illicit activity and military operations in Syria and elsewhere, threaten global security and contribute to regional instability. If confirmed, disrupting Hizballah's far-reaching terrorist and military capabilities will be one of my top priorities. I will continue engaging in a range of efforts to counter Hizballah, including using designations tools and working closely with the Departments of Treasury and Justice and other U.S. Government entities to improve capacity and increase awareness in regions where Hizballah is most active, including Eastern Europe, the Arabian Peninsula, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and West Africa.

The United States does not distinguish between Hizballah's different wings. This approach is based on a careful review of all available information, which indicates that Hizballah's numerous branches and subsidiaries share common funding, personnel, and leadership, all of which support the group's violent actions.

Question 2. Although ISIS is steadily losing territory, it will remain a terrorism threat for years to come. Its foreign-born fighters will return to their homelands, including the United States. ISIS will also continue to have an online presence that will allow it to inspire and support potential homegrown terrorists. How do you believe ISIS will evolve after it loses its territory in Iraq and Syria? Once ISIS is stateless, how should the U.S. combat the group? Where will America be most vulnerable?

Answer. As ISIS continues to lose territory, the group has had increasing difficulty attracting foreign terrorist fighters to travel to Iraq and Syria. Additionally, Coalition-backed military operations in Iraq and Syria are being conducted simultaneously both to accelerate the defeat of ISIS and to ensure that foreign fighters already on the battlefield are unable to escape. Nevertheless, we expect the group to continue to rely on its global networks and branches to carry out and inspire attacks beyond Iraq and Syria. ISIS will likely continue to urge its followers to carry out attacks in their home countries, including the United States, rather than calling for followers to travel to Iraq and Syria—a message the group began to disseminate last year when it began to lose large swaths of territory.

In response, the United States has made important strides to defeat ISIS and reduce the number of terrorist safe havens around the world. If confirmed, I will con-

tinue to work with partners to improve information sharing; increase law enforcement and judicial capacities to detect, deter, investigate, and prosecute terrorists and terrorist financing; strengthen borders; and improve our ability to counter terrorist narratives.

Question 3. What do you see as the most urgent counterterrorism issues for the U.S. Government to address? What would be the most important counterterrorism issues for you as the Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the State Department?

Answer. Today's terrorist landscape is more complex, multifaceted, and localized than ever before and we should expect ISIS to adopt new tactics and targets as a result of Coalition success in Iraq and Syria. But we must also remain vigilant against threats posed by al-Qa'ida and its regional affiliates as well as by Iranian-backed terrorist groups.

Anticipating new terrorist threats by ISIS outside of Iraq and Syria, the CT Bureau and its interagency partners will have to ensure that police, border security officials, prosecutors, and other civilian-led entities in foreign partner countries are prepared to counter more attacks by battle-hardened foreign terrorist fighters and homegrown violent extremists operating in places like Southeast Asia, Western Europe, Africa, and potentially the homeland. If confirmed, I will employ diplomacy and targeted programmatic assistance to ensure that our partners have the will and capacities to address evolving terrorist threats, tactics, and travel.

If confirmed, I would carefully consider and prioritize which efforts the CT Bureau could lead or support to address the long-term drivers of extremism. Specifically, I would coordinate closely with other departments and agencies to coordinate the Department's international countering violent extremism (CVE) efforts.

Question 4. Do you believe that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps—not just the Qods Force—should be designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization?

Answer. My understanding is that the Department of State is committed to a whole-of-government approach that ensures appropriate action against the IRGC's illicit activities. The administration is currently reviewing its overall Iran policy. This review presents the U.S. Government with an opportunity to identify additional actions the U.S. can undertake to counter the IRGC.

As an entity of the Iranian Government, my understanding is that the IRGC is currently subject to a range of restrictions and sanctions that derive from Iran's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism (SST). There are other restrictions and sanctions that impact the IRGC, to include: numerous Executive Orders that collectively block Iranian property and interests from the U.S. commercial and financial systems, and which can have secondary sanctions consequences.

I am aware that the administration is aggressively targeting Iran's destabilizing activities around the world, including its support for terrorism, by imposing sanctions on individuals and entities related to the IRGC-Qods Force and Iranian proxies like Hizballah and Al-Ashtar Brigades, as well as individuals and entities connected to Iran's ballistic missile program. Additionally, the State Department has recently announced multiple designations and sanctions targeting people and entities affiliated with Iran and the IRGC.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO NATHAN SALES BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Question 1. What are the most important actions you have taken in your career to date to promote human rights and democracy? What has been the impact of your actions?

Answer. Promoting human rights and democracy has been a top priority of mine, both during my government service and as a law professor; I believe that it is essential to preserve a durable balance between national security needs and the fundamental rights that are a bedrock of our democracy. For example, as a policymaker at the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security, I worked to ensure that new counterterrorism initiatives included concrete and specific protections for privacy and civil liberties, such as judicial review, congressional oversight, internal audits, and similar safeguards. During my time as a law professor, I have sought to instill in my students a deep appreciation for this country's basic constitutional values, especially the many foreign students I have taught over the years. I also have promoted those values overseas, by teaching classes and giving to lectures to students, lawyers, and other audiences around the world—including in post-Communist countries like Georgia, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia—about

the rule of law, judicial review, and judicial independence. If confirmed, I would bring this enduring commitment with me to the State Department.

Question 2. What are the most pressing human rights issues related to counterterrorism? What are the most important steps you expect to take—if confirmed—to promote human rights and democracy with respect to counterterrorism? What do you hope to accomplish through these actions?

Answer. Respect for human rights while combating terrorism is an essential part of any successful and sustainable counterterrorism strategy. If confirmed, I will ensure that principles of democracy, good governance, and human rights protections for all members of society are embedded in the CT Bureau's policies and programs.

An effective approach to countering violent extremism (CVE) requires developing an understanding of the factors that may be driving individuals towards radicalization and violence. The denial of human rights and the inability of citizens to gain redress for grievances peacefully are some of the factors that can feed terrorist propaganda that seeks to justify violence. Conversely, freedom of speech and freedom of religion are important components in efforts in countering violent extremism.

In addition to ensuring the protection of basic human rights, it is also important to make sure that the criminal justice system promotes and adheres to the rule of law in the course of detecting, disrupting, and prosecuting terrorist offenders. Countries need clear legal frameworks that are consistently and uniformly applied to all citizens. Criminal justice actors, who implement the law, must conduct their work in an accountable and transparent manner. Oversight mechanisms must be in place to ensure that criminal justice actors and institutions operate in accordance with domestic and international laws, including protections for human rights.

In recognition of the important nexus between human rights and counterterrorism efforts, if confirmed, I will use diplomatic and foreign assistance tools to continue to press for well-functioning law enforcement agencies that respect citizens' basic rights; I will ensure that human rights are integrated in criminal justice efforts; and I will stress the importance of using a range of stakeholders to combat terrorism and counter violent extremism.

Question 3. If confirmed, what are the potential obstacles to addressing the specific human rights issues you have identified in your previous response?

Answer. Political will is critical to ensuring that counterterrorism measures are carried out in accordance with human rights standards. Should I be confirmed, I will make it a priority in my dealings with foreign partners to emphasize the importance of a strong and enduring commitment to human rights. Another potential obstacle may be an insufficient understanding of the critical role that human rights play in a sustainable and effective counterterrorism approach. A government that regularly transgresses broadly accepted human rights standards in its approach to countering terrorism could contribute to radicalization. Given the U.S. experience balancing security and strong human rights protections under law, we can assist governments to improve their understanding and practice on this essential issue. If confirmed, I intend to marshal the diplomatic weight and resources of allied and other like-minded countries to underscore that counterterrorism efforts must be carried out with respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Question 4. If confirmed, what steps will you take to pro-actively support the Leahy Law and similar efforts, and ensure that provisions of U.S. security assistance and security cooperation activities reinforce human rights?

Answer. U.S. Government-funded security assistance initiatives must reinforce essential American principles and values, including respect for and promotion of human rights. All beneficiaries of such assistance must be fully vetted per the guidelines of the Leahy amendment. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that the Counterterrorism Bureau fully complies with Leahy vetting requirements. I also will emphasize, in my diplomatic outreach to counterparts globally, that a commitment to strong human rights protections is vital to effective counterterrorism practice.

Question 5. Do you commit to bring to the committee's attention (and the State Department Inspector General) any change in policy or U.S. actions that you suspect may be influenced by any of the President's business or financial interests, or the business or financial interests of any senior White House staff?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise any concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question 6. Do you commit to inform the committee if you have any reason to suspect that a foreign government, head of state, or foreign-controlled entity is taking

any action in order to benefit any of the President's business or financial interests, or the interests of senior White House staff?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise any concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question 7. Research from private industry demonstrates that, when managed well, diversity makes business teams better both in terms of creativity and in terms of productivity. What will you do to promote, mentor and support your staff that comes from backgrounds and underrepresented groups?

Answer. I agree strongly that a diverse team is a stronger team. If confirmed, I will promote diversity across the organization and ensure full and equal opportunity for all individuals and voices no matter what their backgrounds. In so doing, I will remain committed to the following core principles: (1) respect for the dignity of the individual, (2) integrity, (3) trust, (4) credibility, (5) continuous improvement, and (6) robust and open lines of communication. In setting these expectations, I believe this will help to build a well-rounded organization. Ensuring access to, interaction with, and opportunity for employees of different backgrounds will bring their unique perspectives, experiences, and skills to bear on the challenges the CT Bureau will face, thereby improving our workforce.

Question 8. Women have a key role to play in combatting terrorism and violent extremism. Unfortunately, women continue to be underrepresented in our security sector institutions. What do you plan to do to better include women in the security sector and bring in their ideas to more effectively counter terrorism?

Answer. I strongly believe that women play a critical role in combatting terrorism and violent extremism, whether as community leaders, civil society members, or government officials and security sector practitioners. As a father of two young girls, I believe we cannot afford to allow women's roles in preventing and countering violent extremism to go untapped. Whether as observers, supporters, facilitators, preventers, or victims of terrorism, one thing is clear: we do a disservice to women, and all of society, if we disregard their perspectives in the analysis, research, advocacy, and partnership-building that is so essential to the work we do every day to counter terrorism and violent extremism. If confirmed, I would lead the CT Bureau's efforts to involve women in all of these arenas, particularly in key frontline states with active terrorist threats.

Question 9. How will you ensure that soft power tools are sufficiently funded and properly implemented within our overarching CT and CVE policies?

Answer. Countering terrorist narratives, messaging, recruitment, and inspiration to violence are critical soft power tools for defeating ISIS and other terrorist groups and networks. If confirmed, I am committed to working internally, with the interagency, and especially internationally to secure support and resources to fund these tools and efforts.

When I feel it is warranted, I will not hesitate to advocate for resources to support these tools from within our own government. I also plan to encourage other donor countries, host-country governments, and local partners to take more responsibility for leading CT and CVE efforts; they are best positioned to ensure sustained success. Already, the State Department has leveraged hundreds of millions of dollars over the last several years from Western European and other donors to fund many CVE initiatives and programming around the world. I look forward to continuing that work to ensure we and our partners are committed to these soft power tools.

Question 10. Do you believe these tools to be important in our fight against terrorism?

Answer. These tools are a critical part of U.S. counterterrorism efforts. CVE is a whole of government and whole of society effort. Non-law enforcement, civilian agencies of government play a role in this effort—as do cities and municipalities. Women, youth, families, educators, social workers, religious leaders, and the private sector also need to be engaged in countering violent extremism. Bringing to bear the expertise of these diverse elements of society is critical for the design and implementation of CVE programming.

Question 11. Do you agree with the administration's cuts to critical components of State's soft-power portfolio?

Answer. Countering terrorist narratives, messaging, recruitment, and inspiration to violence is a critical part of defeating ISIS and other terrorist groups and networks. If confirmed, I would work internally at the State Department and with the interagency to secure support and resources to fund appropriate tools and efforts. In addition, my understanding is that the State Department encourages other donor

countries, host-country governments, and local partners to take more responsibility for leading CT and CVE efforts; they are best positioned to ensure sustained success. In fact, the Department has leveraged hundreds of millions of dollars over the last several years from Western European and other donors to fund many countering violent extremism initiatives and programming around the world.

Question 12. We are entering an era where our counterterrorism programs and activities have to be both more comprehensive and more flexible. The classic al-Qaeda model of centralized direction and financing of massive and complicated terror attacks against the West is largely obsolete, yielding to ISIL's decentralized, inspirational and entrepreneurial model. How should the U.S. adapt to meet these new challenges?

Answer. Today's terrorism landscape is more complex, multi-faceted, and localized than ever before. I believe that the evolving terrorist landscape, especially given the Defeat-ISIS Coalition's military success in Iraq and Syria, will place a new premium on combatting terrorism through non-military approaches and will require that our partners in key areas have the will and capacities to address decentralized, regional terrorist threats. The State Department generally and the CT Bureau specifically will have an outsized role to play in this effort. If confirmed, I will work to improve the civilian-led capabilities—police, border security, prosecutors, and others—of key partners to ensure they are able to more effectively confront new terrorist trends and tactics. In particular, we and our allies must be prepared to address threats by foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) returning from Iraq and Syria as well as by homegrown violent extremists (HVEs). Identifying and addressing these types of individuals, in the wake of our Coalition's success, will require improved capabilities and information sharing among front-line partners. If confirmed, I would invest the time and resources to ensure the United States and its allies increasingly coordinate and develop non-military approaches to identifying and addressing these and other emerging threats.

Question 13. What can the CT Bureau and the State Department do to push for those changes?

Answer. Anticipating new terrorist threats by ISIS and other terrorist groups outside of Iraq and Syria, the CT Bureau, working with interagency partners, will have to ensure that police, border security, prosecutors, and other civilian-led entities in foreign partner countries are prepared to counter more attacks by battle-hardened foreign terrorist fighters and homegrown violent extremists operating in places like Southeast Asia, Western Europe, Africa, and potentially the homeland. If confirmed, I will employ diplomacy and targeted programmatic assistance to ensure that our partners have the will and capacities to address evolving terrorist threats, tactics, and travel.

If confirmed, I would carefully consider and prioritize which efforts the CT Bureau could best lead or support to address the long-term drivers of extremism. Specifically, I would coordinate closely with other departments and agencies to coordinate the Department's international CVE efforts.

Question 14. The administration is attempting to slash the resources for US diplomacy and foreign assistance for development across the board. Such actions deeply undercut any comprehensive strategy and effort to support and inoculate at-risk countries from terrorism and extremism. How should the CT Bureau and the State Department compensate for that?

Answer. Secretary Tillerson has made clear that countering terrorist narratives, messaging, recruitment, and inspiration to violence is a critical part of defeating ISIS and other transnational terrorist networks. Protecting U.S. national security and countering terrorism is the administration's top priority and the CT Bureau's budget request reflects this. This funding is critical to sustaining gains from the surge of assistance in FY 2016 and FY 2017 and will allow the Department to continue to address the rapidly evolving terrorist threat. If confirmed, and if I determine that additional resources are needed in the future to meet our global counterterrorism objectives, I would not hesitate to advocate for them.

RESPONSE TO ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO GEORGE GLASS BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

Question 1. Portugal is a NATO ally and houses U.S. forces in the Azores. Still, NATO estimates that Portugal spent less than 1.4 percent of its GDP on defense,

far below the NATO guideline of 2 percent. If confirmed, do you intend to encourage the Portuguese Government to increase its defense spending?

Answer. If confirmed, I will press Portugal to meet the 2 percent defense spending pledge made at the 2014 Wales Summit and reaffirmed at Warsaw in 2016, to spend two percent of GDP on defense, with 20 percent of total defense expenditures on major equipment.

I look forward to seeing Portugal's national plan later this year, which should articulate how Portugal will reach the Wales goals.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO GEORGE GLASS BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Question 1. What are the most important actions you have taken in your career to date to promote human rights and democracy? What has been the impact of your actions?

Answer. My wife, Mary, and I have served on numerous Educational Boards because we both feel deeply that Education is the fundamental tool used to defend human rights. (K-12, University, and Medical School). However, there are two missions that we serve now that have most profoundly affected our lives. We have recently begun working with the Catholic Charities organization in Portland Oregon in their Refugee Relocation Program and the Backpack for Kids program. In the refugee relocation program, hearing the accounts of numerous families and what they've been through to finally reach our shores is gut wrenching. The dangers, the loss of life, and the struggles of their journeys sets everything in perspective regarding how we live and govern in America. The impact of our efforts is never enough, but we have been trying to help individuals learn English, obtain housing, and find jobs. In the backpack for kids program, what we found was in some of the lower income level grade schools many kids were showing up Monday morning literally starved from lack of food over the weekend. The school we work in consists of a high percentage of migrant working families and in the off season work for their parents is difficult to find. The program consists of the children picking up a backpack Friday afternoon's loaded with enough square meals to feed both them and their siblings over the weekend. (The backpack is provided so that there is no public stigma for the kids regarding "getting a hand out" of food). This program has gained both religious and corporate sponsorship and is now feeding over 70 families at this school alone.

Question 2. What are the most pressing human rights concerns in the Republic of Portugal today? What are the most important steps you expect to take—if confirmed—to advance human rights and democracy in the Republic of Portugal? What do you hope to accomplish through these actions?

Answer. Portugal has a strong record on human rights, but—like in any country—there are areas where improvements can be made. The biggest human rights problems in Portugal include excessive use of force and abuse of detainees and prisoners by police and prison guards; poor, unhealthy, and overcrowded prison conditions; and violence against women and children. Some of these issues have been brought to light in an ongoing case involving 18 officers of the Portuguese Public Security Police (PSP) and their alleged abuse of six black youths.

Other problems include the incarceration of juveniles with adults, denial of legal counsel and family contact to detainees, disregard of detainees' rights by the Judiciary Police (PJ), lengthy pre-trial detention, detention of asylum seekers, some government corruption, the practice of female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) of girls in the Bissau-Guinean and other African communities, societal discrimination and exclusion against Roma, hindrances to labor organizing, trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation and forced labor, and a growing gap between pay for men and women.

If confirmed, I will press Portuguese authorities to work on these issues. I will also make clear the United States' support of human rights through public and private outreach. Through these actions I hope to improve Portugal's already-strong record on human rights.

Question 3. If confirmed, what are the potential obstacles to addressing the specific human rights issues you have identified in your previous response? What challenges will you face in the Republic of Portugal in advancing human rights, civil society and democracy in general?

Answer. In general, Portugal has a strong record on human rights. Still, management mechanisms within the justice system need to be improved and cultural norms

are largely to blame for ongoing violence against women and children. Portugal has a good record investigating and prosecuting these crimes but, if confirmed, I will work with my Portuguese contacts to improve their work in this area.

Question 4. Are you committed to meeting with human rights, civil society and other non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and with local human rights NGOs in the Republic of Portugal?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I am committed to meeting with all of these organizations and, if confirmed, I will continue Mission Portugal's close work with these groups. I will also ensure that Mission Portugal continues to support the Leahy Law and other provisions by maintaining stringent vetting standards and closely monitoring all security assistance and cooperation activities.

Question 5. Will you engage with Portuguese Government officials on matters of human rights, civil rights and governance as part of your bilateral mission?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I will look to continue and expand Mission Portugal's proactive interactions with the full spectrum of government officials and NGOs dealing with human rights, civil rights and governance.

Question 6. Do you commit to bring to the committee's attention (and the State Department Inspector General) any change in policy or U.S. actions that you suspect may be influenced by any of the President's business or financial interests, or the business or financial interests of any senior White House staff?

Answer. I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question 7. Do you commit to inform the committee if you have any reason to suspect that a foreign government, head of state, or foreign-controlled entity is taking any action in order to benefit any of the President's business or financial interests, or the interests of senior White House staff?

Answer. I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question 8. Do you or do any members of your immediate family have any financial interests in the Republic of Portugal?

Answer. No. Neither I nor any members of my immediate family have any financial interests in the Republic of Portugal.

Question 9. Research from private industry demonstrates that, when managed well, diversity makes business teams better both in terms of creativity and in terms of productivity. What will you do to promote, mentor and support your staff that come from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups in the Foreign Service?

Answer. If confirmed, I would foster an open environment by encouraging hiring from diverse backgrounds. Enable individuals to connect with affinity groups at State to share experience and opportunities. Encourage officers with diverse backgrounds to take greater leadership roles within the community.

Question 10. What steps will you take to ensure each of the supervisors at the Embassy are fostering an environment that's diverse and inclusive?

Answer. If confirmed, some steps that I would take to ensure that each of the supervisors at the Embassy are fostering an environment that's diverse and inclusive include encouraging supervisors to enroll in diversity training and being aware of and addressing unconscious bias in the workplace.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO GEORGE GLASS BY SENATOR EDWARD J. MARKEY

Question 1. For decades the United States has maintained an air force base at Lajes Field in Portugal's Azores Islands as a strategic refueling point in the mid-Atlantic. The base's location and extensive infrastructure have been essential to the movement of U.S. forces to and from Europe and the Middle East.

This capability remains strategically critical today, but over the past several years the Department of Defense has sharply reduced the U.S. operations at Lajes. Today there are only about 160 Americans there. Portuguese Government officials have said they want the U.S. presence to remain. However, Portuguese officials have said that if the Pentagon does not continue to use the facilities they could be opened to American, European, or Chinese institutes for scientific research.

Last year Portugal's Prime Minister said that the Azores are "very important both logistically in the Atlantic Ocean but also in terms of technology and research, in the field of climate change and deep water research."

The United States has a historic opportunity to capitalize both militarily and economically on a facility that we built in one of the most strategically important locations on earth. A U.S. withdrawal could open new opportunities for China to gain a political, economic, and security foothold in the Atlantic.

- If confirmed, what will you do to work with the Government of Portugal to ensure that the United States does not lose the opportunity to make full military and civilian use of the facilities we have built in the Azores?

Answer. If confirmed, I intend to make this issue a priority as I believe it is in dire need of attention. While the United States Air Force Europe (USAFE) streamlined its presence at Lajes Field, the United States remains there. USAFE currently has 165 Americans and 417 Portuguese working at Lajes Field, for a total of 582 personnel.

We remain committed to our strategic relationship with Portugal, which is far broader and deeper than our presence at Lajes Field. We are proud of the increased bilateral military engagement and training in recent years, and we support initiatives to continue this positive trajectory. We appreciate Portugal's contribution to transatlantic and global security.

We will continue to work with the Department of Defense to ensure an open and transparent dialogue with our Portuguese partners in order to assist Portugal in addressing economic and political challenges caused by the downsizing.

Question 2. In an effort to cut costs, the Trump administration has indicated an interest in examining small diplomatic and consular posts with a view to possibly consolidating or eliminating some of them.

- What will be the impact of this process on the U.S. Consulate in Ponta Delgada?

Answer. I understand that State Department staffing and resources are under review. If confirmed, I would make the best use of the resources and staffing provided to Mission Portugal in order to serve the American people and the interests of the United States.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO CARL RISCH BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Question 1. What are the most important actions you have taken in your career to date to promote human rights and democracy? What has been the impact of your actions?

Answer. My most important actions to promote human rights and democracy would be my participation in six refugee processing circuit rides in four different countries as an officer with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). In this capacity, I conducted hundreds of interviews of refugees being resettled to the United States. As part of this process, I recorded hundreds of instances of human rights abuses, persecution, and torture on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, and membership in a particular social group. The impact of these actions was the permanent resettlement of victims of persecution to the United States, where they could start new lives and contribute to our nation.

In addition to my refugee work, I have promoted democracy through my cooperation with the U.S. military to naturalize hundreds of active duty service members, and their spouses, during their service overseas. Working with the military, we provided new citizens with information on voting, travel, and other rights and obligations associated with being citizens of the United States.

Question 2. Do you commit to bring to the committee's attention (and the State Department Inspector General) any change in policy or U.S. actions that you suspect may be influenced by any of the President's business or financial interests, or the business or financial interests of any senior White House staff?

Answer. I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question 3. Do you commit to inform the committee if you have any reason to suspect that a foreign government, head of state, or foreign-controlled entity is taking any action in order to benefit any of the President's business or financial interests, or the interests of senior White House staff?

Answer. I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question 4. Research from private industry demonstrates that, when managed well, diversity makes business teams better both in terms of creativity and productivity. What is your plan to ensure that the workforce in your Bureau, at all levels, is diverse, and how do you plan to ensure supervisors and managers are equipped to manage their teams effectively?

Answer. The Department of State's Statement on Diversity and Equal Employment Opportunity underscores that our workforce must reflect the rich composition of our citizenry. "The skills, knowledge, perspectives, ideas, and experiences of all its employees contribute to the vitality and success of the global mission," it continues. I agree that diversity improves businesses and teams in many ways, and, if confirmed, I intend to ensure that the Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA) continues and enhances its current focus on the importance of diversity and inclusion in our workforce.

In accordance with the Department's Diversity and Inclusion Strategic plan, CA's Executive Office (CA/EX) has taken steps to promote diversity, not only in recruiting and hiring qualified candidates from a multitude of backgrounds, but also in providing opportunities for career advancement for all employees. Further, CA's Bureau Training Team held a training session on diversity and inclusion in partnership with the senior leadership of the Office of Civil Rights in January of this year.

With regards to hiring, Human Resource Specialists and all hiring managers in the Bureau currently are required to complete training on federal hiring procedures such as the Merit System Principles (MSP) and Prohibited Personnel Practices (PPP), ensuring that CA adheres to federal regulations in promoting diversity among prospective candidates. The Bureau has utilized special hiring programs such as Veterans' Recruitment Appointment (VRA), Schedule A appointments, and the Pathways Programs to recruit and retain employees from a diverse array of backgrounds. Currently, CA's workforce is 55 percent female, 61 percent white, 22 percent African American, 10 percent Hispanic, 6 percent Asian, and 10 percent have a disclosed disability, making the Bureau one of the most diverse bureaus in the Department. In addition, CA prides itself on its regional diversity, a benefit of having passport agencies and visa and passport centers across the country.

CA aims to promote diversity in supervisory and managerial positions through offering professional development opportunities and training to all levels of its bureaucracy. The Bureau accomplishes this not only through the Department's Foreign Service Institute, but also through its own Training Team located in the Human Resources Division, working directly with employees and leadership to address the Bureau's unique challenges with creative training solutions. By offering a multitude of learning and development opportunities across the Bureau, CA strives to offer career advancement for all CA employees and encourage diversity in senior-level positions. Furthermore, CA actively pursues diversity and sensitivity training for its current supervisors and managers, primarily through its Consular Managers Human Resources Workshop which highlights inclusion, sensitivity training, and promoting the benefits of diversity in the workplace.

Question 5. The federal workforce has made progress in hiring diverse professionals in most agencies. There is, however, work that remains to be done in order to cultivate work environments where all employees feel valued and included. What plans do you have to ensure your Bureau leverages the diversity of its employees and develops an inclusive work environment?

Answer. The Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA) recognizes, and I personally firmly believe in, the benefits of a diverse and inclusive workforce. If confirmed, I will build upon the groundwork already laid to enhance and further leverage the diversity and inclusive work environment of the entire Bureau.

In line with the Department's Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan, CA has taken tangible steps to promote diversity in both hiring and learning and development. In addition to hiring a diverse workforce, CA's Bureau Training Team works to highlight the benefits of workplace diversity through various learning and development opportunities. This includes providing hiring managers training on the Merit System Principles and Prohibited Personnel Practices, coordinating diversity and inclusion training opportunities with the Department's Office of Civil Rights, and providing supervisors with ample training on proper management, workplace sensitivity, and promoting inclusion in their offices. In addition, employees are encouraged, and in some cases mandated, to take Foreign Service Institute (FSI) courses that foster diversity and inclusion. For example, FSI offers trainings to help managers identify the commonalities and differences across generations that in turn promote creativity and differing ideas within the Department.

CA has created Leadership and Management Tenets that set forth clear expectations to guide all aspects of our work and in the way we interact with our colleagues. CA strives to ensure all consular supervisors hold themselves accountable for modeling these tenets and consular professionals at all levels are encouraged to cultivate the qualities embodied in these tenets and integrate them into their approach to work.

Question 6. Members of the Foreign Service who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and Intersex (LGBTQI) do not receive the same equal treatment as their fellows Foreign Service personnel when they are assigned to countries that do not recognize same-sex marriage. The spouses and partners of these FSOs are unable to attain spousal Visas, even though the State Department provides full benefits to the diplomats coming to the United States from these countries. If you are confirmed, will you commit to producing a report on countries not issuing visas to the spouses or partners of all Foreign Service personnel posted overseas due to their sexual orientation? Additionally, will you work to find a solution to this problem, including eliminating visa reciprocity with countries found to be instituting these practices against the spouses of Foreign Service personnel in order to ensure that all spouses of Foreign Service personnel receive visas for the country to which their spouse is assigned, regardless of sexual orientation?

Answer. As Secretary Tillerson said in a statement recognizing LGBTQI Pride Month, "Dignity and equality for all persons are among our founding constitutional principles, and these principles continue to drive U.S. diplomacy." If confirmed, I will work to continue the push for dignity and equality for all persons, including our LGBTQI Foreign Service personnel who face reciprocity issues with host nations as we deploy our personnel around the globe. I will work with the Department's Bureau of Human Resources—the leader on LGBTQI accreditation issues—Congress, social groups, and the LGBTQI community of Foreign Service personnel to seek ways to ensure their rights are respected.

As a matter of current practice, the Department seeks to accredit same-sex domestic partners from countries that reciprocally accredit U.S. same-sex domestic partners. If confirmed, I will ensure the Department continues to keep reciprocity at the center of its response to this important issue for the Foreign Service community.

Question 7. Will you commit to ensuring that the core operations and functions of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, particularly the visa-issuing functions, remain with the State Department and the Bureau, and will not be transferred to another department or agency?

Answer. I do not support moving the core operations and functions of the Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA), out of the State Department. As the Secretary has noted, CA is vitally important to our mission at the Department of State, and consular work is essential to the Department's mission highest priority—to secure our borders and protect the American people.

The Department's unique experience and skills in dealing with foreign governments, cultures, and languages add a critical layer to our border security. Decisions on passport and visa operations can have profound implications for foreign and economic policy in addition to security. By having a seat at the table on border security issues, the Secretary of State can ensure all equities are presented for the President's consideration. The Department's cadre of language qualified Foreign Service Officers, Consular Fellows, Civil Servants, and Local Employees bring broad knowledge of regional and local cultures to visa and passport decisions. It would be costly, time-consuming, and duplicative to develop a separate corps in another department or agency to do this work when State is already proficient in this field. Transfer of these functions would also weaken the Secretary's ability to fulfill the responsibility for the security of U.S. citizens abroad.

U.S. border security depends on a system of "layered defense" for maximum effectiveness, and the current system of vetting and adjudicating visas has built-in checks and balances that strengthen our national security. DHS sets visa policy, CA vets applicants' biometric and biographic data against U.S. law enforcement and intelligence community databases, and Consular officers review the vetting results and use their expertise to interview applicants and determine their eligibility for a visa, seeking input from CA, as appropriate. For example, when a visa applicant raises potential security concerns, consular officers are required to request Security Advisory Opinions. That process involves a hands-on review by a Visa Office analyst, after the analyst has collected input from relevant interagency partners and other components of the State Department, as appropriate. When an application raises legal questions or questions about the appropriate visa classification, the adjudicating consular officer may reach back to a team of lawyers in the Visa Office

who are dedicated to addressing those questions. When fraud is suspected, in addition to fraud prevention expertise and tools available at the overseas post, consular officers may reach back to CA's Office of Fraud Prevention Programs analysts and subject matter experts to assist with complex or multinational fraud cases.

If the intending traveler is found eligible and issued a visa, DHS then vets inbound passengers before they board flights, and at U.S. ports of entry. Visa and passport data is widely shared with law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and all visas are subject to continuous interagency vetting, which can lead to the Visa Office revoking the visa at any time, if information arises after issuance suggesting the visa holder may no longer be eligible for the visa. This layering and sharing of responsibilities ensures complete and careful attention to security, foreign policy, economic and other dimensions of visa-issuance decisions.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO KRISHNA URS BY SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Question 1. What are the most important actions you have taken in your career to date to promote human rights and democracy? What has been the impact of your actions?

Answer. Over the course of 31 years in the Foreign Service, I have worked to promote human rights in many different contexts and countries. At one point in my career, I advocated for and prepared a statement issued by the Department of State calling for an end to spiraling political violence involving security forces and a specific political party in one country. In several countries, I worked with national and local governments to establish safe houses for victims of human trafficking and to step up awareness campaigns about trafficking in persons. At my urging, the U.S. Government ended all assistance to a national police force in one country in which I served due to our concerns about the use of extrajudicial killings as a crime prevention tactic. In several countries, I advocated public statements by the Embassy to highlight areas of eroding respect by foreign governments of democratic institutions and norms.

My actions in support of human rights over the course of my career produced concrete results. To provide just a few examples—our statement decrying spiraling political violence involving security forces resulted (at least temporarily) in fewer exchanges of gunfire involving the police. After we cut off assistance to the police in another country, the Government replaced the police chief (who had been linked to human rights abuses) with another official publicly committed to protecting human rights. Our statements in support of democracy served as encouragement to like-minded allies in the local society, helping to protect institutions and norms.

Question 2. What are the most pressing human rights concerns in the Republic of Peru today? What are the most important steps you expect to take—if confirmed—to advance human rights and democracy in the Republic of Peru? What do you hope to accomplish through these actions?

Answer. Our close relationship with Peru is built on shared interests and values, including the importance of human rights. Peru has made significant strides in support of human rights since the end of its 20 year internal conflict in 2000. Human rights challenges, however, persist in the areas of violence against women and children, trafficking in persons, and discrimination against Afro-Peruvians, Indigenous persons, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTI) persons. Corruption enables an environment allowing these and other human rights challenges to exist.

If confirmed, I will use all the tools at my disposal to assist Peru in addressing its human rights challenges.

By working together to promote human rights, social inclusion, and poverty reduction, we can achieve a more prosperous, inclusive, and democratic future for Peru.

Question 3. If confirmed, what are the potential obstacles to addressing the specific human rights issues you have identified in your previous response? What challenges will you face in the Republic of Peru in advancing human rights, civil society and democracy in general?

Answer. The Peruvian Government has shown a commitment to address many human rights challenges. If confirmed, I will encourage the Peruvian Government to continue its efforts to improve social inclusion and respect for human rights, seek opportunities for public-private partnerships toward this end, and cooperate with non-governmental organizations to multiply the effect of our assistance.

I will work with Peru's Government to combat corruption, which can exacerbate social conflict, enable human rights abuses, and undermine confidence in government institutions.

If confirmed, one of the challenges I will face will be to help the Peruvian Government and civil society find new ways to include the country's historically marginalized communities in Peru's economic success story.

Question 4. Are you committed to meeting with human rights, civil society and other non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and with local human rights NGOs from the Republic of Peru?

Answer. Yes. Developing strong relationships with human rights advocates, civil society, and non-governmental organizations is one of the cornerstones of our partnership with the Peruvian people. If confirmed, I will continue the United States' longstanding practice of closely engaging Peruvian civil society to ensure I am fully attuned to Peru's human rights landscape. I will work closely with the Peruvian Government, civil society, and all relevant agencies of the U.S. Government to ensure every dollar of U.S. assistance is used wisely and in accordance with our human rights goals and the Leahy Law.

Question 5. If confirmed, what steps will you take to pro-actively support the Leahy Law and similar efforts, and ensure that provisions of U.S. security assistance and security cooperation activities reinforce human rights?

Answer. As a U.S. Government employee with 31 years standing, I am firmly committed to implementing all relevant U.S. laws and regulations, including the Leahy law, when fulfilling my duties. If confirmed, I will work to ensure no assistance is provided to foreign security force units where the Department has credible information that such units engaged in gross violations of human rights, in accordance with the Leahy law. I will also work to ensure the U.S. Mission in Peru works with the Government of Peru to help them take effective steps to bring those responsible for any violations of human rights to justice.

Question 6. Will you engage with Peruvian Government officials on matters of human rights, civil rights and governance as part of your bilateral mission?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I will engage the Peruvian Government and civil society on human rights, civil rights, and democratic governance. Peru has a critical role to play in encouraging regional stability and is an important partner of the United States.

Question 7. Do you commit to bring to the committee's attention (and the State Department Inspector General) any change in policy or U.S. actions that you suspect may be influenced by any of the President's business or financial interests, or the business or financial interests of any senior White House staff?

Answer. I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question 8. Do you commit to inform the committee if you have any reason to suspect that a foreign government, head of state, or foreign-controlled entity is taking any action in order to benefit any of the President's business or financial interests, or the interests of senior White House staff?

Answer. I commit to comply with all relevant federal ethics laws, regulations, and rules, and to raise concerns that I may have through appropriate channels.

Question 9. Do you or do any members of your immediate family have any financial interests in the Republic of Peru?

Answer. No. Neither I, nor any members of my immediate family, have financial interests in the Republic of Peru.

Question 10. Research from private industry demonstrates that, when managed well, diversity makes business teams better both in terms of creativity and in terms of productivity. What will you do to promote, mentor and support your staff that come from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups in the Foreign Service?

Answer. I am a strong believer in the value of diverse teams in identifying, analyzing, and addressing issues and problems. Diversity helps prevent "groupthink," ensuring that issues get a thorough examination from all possible perspectives and making sure that all viable options are explored. If confirmed, I can assure you that I will take diversity into consideration in filling high level positions at the U.S. Mission in Lima, as I have done in past assignments. I am committed to mentoring for all staff members, but especially for those from diverse backgrounds and under-represented groups.

Question 11. What steps will you take to ensure each of the supervisors at the Embassy are fostering an environment that is diverse and inclusive?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with each member of my country team to ensure they are giving proper consideration to assembling a diverse and representative team. I will also ensure country team members understand their responsibility to provide mentoring and guidance to mid-level and junior members of their teams, with specific emphasis on diverse and under-represented groups.

Question 12. Earlier this year, Peru issued a new decree to establish a payment process to service longstanding debt related to agrarian reform bonds. Numerous U.S. firms and citizens hold an interest in these bonds, including several Maryland pension plans. If confirmed as the next U.S. Ambassador to Peru, will you commit to working with the Peruvian Government to achieve a final resolution of this issue? Will you work with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of the Treasury to ensure that they have accurate information about the amount owed on the bonds?

Answer. If confirmed as the next U.S. Ambassador to Peru, I look forward to learning the details of this complicated case. I fully commit to engaging with the Government of Peru to press for a fair and timely resolution of these complex issues. I understand the independent regulator with jurisdiction over Peru's U.S. law bonds, the Securities and Exchange Commission, has been asked for views on this case, and I will follow up. I will also engage Treasury for its views on the appropriate treatment of these particular domestic obligations in national economic statistics. I understand there is considerable debate on the appropriate valuation of these securities, the resolution of which could impact on the value of other U.S. investors' holdings of Peru's domestic and international debts, and I will press for a speedy resolution of the related methodological issues.
