

**Statement of Dr. C.S. Eliot Kang**  
**Nominee to be Assistant Secretary of State**  
**For International Security and Nonproliferation**  
**U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**September 15, 2021**

Chairman Coons, Ranking Member, and Distinguished Members of the Committee; thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I am grateful to President Biden for nominating me to be the Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation. I am also grateful to Secretary Blinken for his trust and faith in supporting my nomination.

Crossing the Pacific as a nine-year-old immigrant almost a half-century ago, my only ambition was to taste a real hamburger. No doubt, my mother and father who made the fateful decision for our family to start a new life in the United States had more lofty hopes for me and my sister, Myung. However, I'm sure they never imagined the honor of me appearing before this august body to be examined for my worthiness to serve this great nation as an Assistant Secretary of State. If confirmed, I pledge to continue working tirelessly for the American people.

Indeed, public service is in my DNA. I have been following the footsteps of my late father, a decorated combat pilot and government official, and my mother, a life-long educator and recipient of New Jersey Governor's Award for Outstanding Teaching. I started my career in my mother's profession, but the events of September 11th, 2001 led me to my father's path of government service. It has not been an easy path to tread but unwavering support from my wife, Michelle, and the understanding of my two sons, Gregory and Wesley, have strengthened my steps and resolve.

In 2003, I first joined the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs and then Bureau of Arms Control as a William C. Foster Fellow, which was a congressionally established program for bringing academics into the Department's arms control and nonproliferation work. I became a career civil servant in 2005, and since 2006, I have held various leadership positions in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation working to protect the American people from the dangers posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. As a career officer, I have endeavored across four presidential administrations to minimize the threat of nuclear, chemical, biological,

and advanced conventional weapons and the destabilization these weapons can cause. However, despite tremendous bipartisan efforts and the steadfast leadership of this committee to stem the tide of these most destructive and horrible weapons, the challenges only appear to be growing. Indeed, the explosion of technology seems to create as many problems for our security as it solves for our society. In the late hours of the evening, I reflect upon the increasing challenges we face; and I arrive to work every morning resolved and determined to do something about them.

In this commitment, I am not alone. I am privileged to serve the American people alongside a remarkable group of colleagues who share my dedication: the men and women serving in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, who frustrate our adversaries and are respected by our allies and friends throughout the world. I am inspired by these public servants who gladly accept personal sacrifices to serve our nation. The President's confidence in me, a career officer, is an honor for me and my family, but it is also a testament to the expertise and ability of the remarkable professionals in the Bureau. Indeed, the Bureau is an extraordinary collection of civil servants, foreign service officers, and contractors with expertise in the physical sciences, engineering, intelligence, military sciences, communications, and program administration. Many are leading subject matter experts with international reputations. I am in awe of the tremendous skills and knowledge and dedication they bring to tackle some of the most pressing security problems facing the nation and the world. If confirmed, I will work even harder to empower my colleagues to tackle the challenges this committee expects us to meet.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee for your time and attention today and for your consideration of my nomination. I look forward to answering your questions.