
BUSINESS MEETING

Tuesday, January 29, 2013

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE
ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

113TH Congress, First Session

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U.S. SENATE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:03 a.m. in Room S-116,
2 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Robert Menendez, presiding.

3 **PRESENT:** Senators Menendez [presiding], Boxer, Cardin, Casey, Shaheen,
4 Coons, Udall, Murphy, Kaine, Corker, Rubio, Johnson, Flake, McCain, Barrasso,
5 and Paul.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY**

6 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Well, let me call the committee to order. I know we
7 called this meeting for 10:00, and I'm sure the members will be on their way here.
8 And let me welcome everyone to the first business meeting of this Congress.

9 And now that the committee resolution has actually been adopted, let me
10 officially welcome all of our new colleagues on the committee who have been
11 actually acting since last week. But now it is official, so we want to welcome you
12 all. And we will have more to say about that when we have a future
13 opportunity.

1 And I want to congratulate Senator Corker as the ranking member and
2 someone who I have a good relationship with, and we look forward to working
3 closely as we pursue the Nation's business here in the days ahead.

4 I hope this will be a brief meeting to ultimately ratify the nomination for
5 the Secretary of State, our chairman, John Kerry. And we are asking members to
6 sign a commemorative resolution honoring Senator Kerry's service in the Senate.

7 And I hope everyone will sign the document, which recognizes many of the
8 contributions Chairman Kerry has made while he was in the Senate, and
9 certainly in the leadership, and as part of this committee. And we hope that he
10 will be with us afterwards to receive it on behalf of all of us.

11 I think everyone can agree that on his confirmation hearing, Senator Kerry
12 exhibited an impressive grasp, and depth, and thoughtfulness of the critical
13 issues --

14 **SENATOR McCAIN.** And long-winded.

15 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Excuse me?

16 [Laughter.]

17 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** As I said, the depth of the numerous complex foreign
18 policy -- this is by the person who helped introduce him, by the way -- challenges
19 facing our country today. And I think his work leading this committee and his

1 insightful comments in the hearing shows why he will be a formidable Secretary
2 of State.

3 The challenges and opportunities confronting our Nation are many, from
4 the transition in Afghanistan, to responding to new terrorist threats, to growing
5 our economy through economic state craft, and given the importance of getting a
6 national security team in place as soon as possible. And Senator Kerry's obvious
7 qualifications, I hope the committee can approve his confirmation now so that the
8 Senate can move on to consider it.

9 I think even in the midst of when any one of us on the committee have had
10 a different view, I think that one of the qualities of Senator Kerry is his openness,
11 his embracing of listening to people's views, and to try to find an accommodation
12 where it is possible. And that will be a tremendous asset as he moves on to be
13 the next Secretary of State.

14 So with that, I do not know. Senator Corker, do you want to say a few
15 words?

[The prepared statement of Senator Menendez follows:]

[COMMITTEE INSERT]

**STATEMENT OF HON. BOB CORKER,
U.S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE**

16 **SENATOR CORKER.** Yes. I want to thank you for the process. I know that
17 Senator Kerry was very anxious to move on with this position. I think something
18 could happen on February the 1st.

1 But I appreciate the process that we have gone through. I think the
2 hearing was very full. A lot of questions were asked. I know we got answers
3 back last night, a second round of QFRs, at about 11:00. And I think people have
4 had people have had time to go through those. But I think the process worked
5 well.

6 I, too, want to welcome the new members. I know we did that last week.
7 And especially as I look over on our side, we have a lot of strong, diverse
8 personalities. And I think that bodes well for this committee. The same is true
9 over on your side, Senator, and I am just glad that people have this much interest
10 in foreign relations issues. They are very important, and I think sometimes in the
11 past have not been focused on quite in the way that they should. But we have an
12 outstanding committee that I know is going to work well together and have a lot
13 of different viewpoints.

14 As it relates to Senator Kerry, I did think he acquitted himself, as you
15 mentioned, very well. I was actually very happy for him that he was able to
16 speak in the wide-ranging way that he did. I view him as a realist, and I do look
17 forward to working with him.

18 And I thank you for conducting this meeting today to have him approved
19 out to the floor this afternoon.

20 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Thank you, Senator Corker. Anyone else?

1 **SENATOR BOXER.** I move the nomination.

2 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** So moved. Is there a second?

3 **SENATOR KAINE.** Second.

4 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Second. All those in favor, say aye.

5 [A chorus of ayes.]

6 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Opposed, say nay.

7 [No response.]

8 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** The ayes have it, and the nomination is favorably

9 reported to the Senate.

10 Thank you, everybody, and may every business meeting be so successful.

[Whereupon, at 10:08 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]