
BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, February 13, 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 3:40 p.m. in Room S-116, The
2 Capitol, Hon. Robert Menendez, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3 **PRESENT.** Senators Menendez [presiding], Boxer, Cardin, Casey, Shaheen,
4 Udall, Murphy, Kaine, Corker, Risch, Johnson, and Flake.

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

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** This meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will
6 come to order. And for all of our guests here, this is not normally the setting for
7 the committee. I don't want anybody to think that is the way we operate. But
8 since, in fact, we had the Secretary General of the UN right before in a working
9 coffee with members of the committee, we did not have time to change the
10 setting, so just for clarification.

11 This is an opening business meeting of the committee. There are several
12 items on the agenda, and I think we have agreement for the most part. We have
13 one request that I will refer to in a moment.

14 The first two items are required at the beginning of every Congress. We
15 have the proposed committee rules for the 113th Congress. I have worked with

1 Senator Corker to make some minor changes to the proposed rules. The overall
2 framework, however, remains identical to that of the last several Congresses. It
3 has served us well, and I expect will continue to do so.

4 We are also considering the proposed subcommittee membership and
5 jurisdiction for the 113th Congress, and the only proposed change from last
6 Congress is moving the Peace Corps from the Western Hemisphere
7 Subcommittee to the International Development Subcommittee. Along with
8 Senator Corker and myself, I understand that both of the affected subcommittee
9 chairs and ranking members support the change.

10 So I want to thank each and every one of you for your willingness to serve
11 on these important subcommittees. I will look forward to and expect each
12 subcommittee to be active, and I look forward to working with the respective
13 chairpersons and ranking members to help make that happen.

14 And before moving on the rules, I would like to recognize Senator Corker
15 for any comments he would have.

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

16 **SENATOR CORKER.** Thank you for the way you and your staff have worked
17 with us, and I would second your thoughts and comments.

1 **THE CHAIRMAN.** So I would like to, if there is no discussion on the rules and
2 subcommittee jurisdiction, I move for a voice vote on the proposed rules and
3 subcommittee jurisdiction.

4 **SENATOR BOXER.** Second.

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Moved and seconded.

6 All those in favor, say aye.

7 [A chorus of ayes.]

8 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed?

9 [No response.]

10 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it, and the rules and subcommittee
11 jurisdiction are approved.

12 Finally we have two substantive items on the agenda. One is with
13 reference to North Korea (S. 298, the North Korea Nonproliferation Act of 2013).
14 At the request of one of our colleagues, as per procedures of the committee, we
15 will hold it over for the next business meeting to work on some language items
16 within the resolution that we hopefully can achieve.

17 And so by agreement between the ranking member and myself, we will
18 hold a business meeting tomorrow to move the North Korea resolution,
19 hopefully with unanimity, as we work towards accommodating our colleague.

1 But it is a timely issue, and it is an issue that we think should have a vote of the
2 committee before the recess takes place.

3 Senator Shaheen?

4 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Can you just point what the language is that there is a
5 concern about?

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Paul has a concern about the section of the language
7 that refers to any military preparation which may already be under way by the
8 executive branch as it relates to being in the position to secure the national
9 interests and security of the United States. And those would be page 9 and 10 for
10 the record.

11 **SENATOR CORKER.** If I could, I think he wants to ensure that this is not
12 viewed as an authorization of force, and I think that is a responsible request to
13 have, and my sense is that we can work that out.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** So that will be held over to a meeting that we will notice to
15 all of you for tomorrow.

16 Finally, we are considering S. Res. 12, which was introduced by Senator
17 Nelson and co-sponsored by Senators Boxer, Cardin, and Durbin. It recognizes
18 the third anniversary of the tragic earthquake in Haiti on January 12th of 2010. It
19 honors those who lost their lives. It expresses continued solidarity with the
20 people of Haiti.

1 And certainly I support the resolution, and I hope that it is approved by
2 the committee unanimously and then subsequently by the Senate, and sends a
3 unified message of support to the people of Haiti.

4 And so – first, Senator Corker, do you have any comments you want to
5 make on that?

6 **SENATOR CORKER.** No.

7 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Anyone who wants to speak to the resolution?

8 **SENATOR BOXER.** I move the resolution.

9 **THE CHAIRMAN.** So moved. Is there a second?

10 **SENATOR KAINE.** Second.

11 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Second. Moved and second.

12 All those in favor, say aye.

13 [A chorus of ayes.]

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed?

15 [No response.]

16 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted.

17 And that brings the committee to adjournment. We will see each other
18 tomorrow, and hopefully have a good solid North Korea bill.

[Whereupon, at 3:45 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]