
BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday, May 19, 2016

UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
114th Congress, Second Session

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COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 11:40 a.m. in, Room 166, The Capitol
2 Building, Hon. Bob Corker, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3 Present: Senators Corker [presiding], Risch, Gardner, Perdue, Isakson, Cardin,
4 Boxer, Menendez, Kaine, and Markey.

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

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** This business meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will
6 come to order.

7 On the agenda for today we have one Foreign Service officer list and two pieces of
8 legislation. Today, we will consider all agenda items en bloc, by voice vote.

9 Senator Cardin, do you have any comments you would like to make?

STATEMENT OF HON. BEN CARDIN, U.S. SENATOR FROM MARYLAND

10 **SENATOR CARDIN.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 I support this legislation to grant International Organization Immunity Act
12 (IOIA) privileges and immunities to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The GCC
13 remains a critical partner in ensuring Gulf Security and is a critical lynchpin of the
14 counter-ISIL coalition.

1 This legislation would pave the way for the GCC to open a Washington office,
2 which will enhance U.S.-GCC relations and create a new venue for dialogue.

3 The GCC's opening of a diplomatic mission in Washington will allow the United
4 States to not only further our security dialogue with the Gulf, but also open new
5 channels for discussion on human rights and other issues. I look forward to an
6 enhanced dialogue on important priorities like the promotion of human rights
7 protections, increased respect for women and minorities, and enhanced standards for
8 migrant labor in the Gulf.

9 I want to commend Chairman Corker for his work on this bill, and I urge my
10 fellow Committee Members to support its passage.

11 I also support the resolution before us commemorating the 100th anniversary of
12 the 1916 Easter Rising, and I thank Senators Leahy and McConnell for its introduction.

13 The ties between America and Ireland are indeed extraordinary in their breadth
14 and depth. Millions of Irish immigrants and tens of millions of Americans of Irish
15 descent have had great influence in shaping the destiny of our country. The reverse is
16 also true. 5 of the 7 signatories of the Easter Rising spent significant time in the United
17 States, and the 1916 Proclamation of Independence not only mentioned America, but
18 called for guarantees of "religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities
19 to all its citizens," principles that I am proud to say represent the best of U.S. values.

1 This 100th anniversary offers an opportunity for remembrance and
2 reconciliation, and I am proud to support this resolution commemorating it.

3 We also have before us a Foreign Service List, with six qualified nominees for
4 promotion. I look forward to working together to ensure that their promotions are
5 swiftly confirmed by the full Senate.

6 Thank you Mr. Chairman.

7 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Would any other Senator like to speak on any of the agenda items?

8 [No response.]

9 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If there is no further discussion on these items, I would entertain a
10 motion to approve all agenda items, en bloc, by voice vote.

11 [Senator makes a motion]

12 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there a second?

13 **VOICE.** Second.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** So moved and seconded.

15 The question is on the motion to approve all agenda items, including S. 2942,
16 the GCC privileges and immunities bill, S. Res. 469, the Easter Rising Resolution, and
17 the Foreign Service officer list, en bloc, by voice vote.

18 All those in favor, say aye.

19 Opposed?

20 And with that the ayes have it and the agenda items are agreed to.

1 And that completes the committee's business.

2 I ask unanimous consent that staff be authorized to make technical and
3 conforming changes; without objection, so ordered.

4 And with that, without objection, the committee will stand adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:50 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.]